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Heirs of Robert Laughlin

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Report No. 467.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

HEIRS OF ROBERT LAUGHLIN.

MARCH 30, 1848.

Laid upon the table.

Mr. MORRIS, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Mary Howell, report:

The petitioner states, under oath, that she is one of the children and heirs of Robert Laughlin, deceased, and that her father settled in Westmorland county, Pennsylvania, before the commencement of the revolutionary war, and opened out his farm, built a mill, a house, a barn, and planted an orchard; that he had valuable horses, silver spoons, and considerable amount of money; in all, amounting to the value (without land) of more than five thousand dollars.

The petitioner further states, that every thing that could be was burnt, carried off, or destroyed by Indians, under the command of a British officer, of the name of Johnston, about the 10th of May, 1781; and she now asks compensation for the destruction of said property. She further states that her father was taken prisoner by the Indians at the same time, and kept in captivity for thirteen months and fifteen days, and returned with a broken constitution. The petitioner produces the affidavits of several persons, all tending to prove the same as stated in her petition.

It does not appear from the petition or testimony that the property of the said Robert Laughlin was ever occupied by the American army as a place of rendezvous, or for any other purpose.

The committee are of opinion that the petitioner has not made out such a case as entitles her to the relief prayed for, and they

think it would be bad policy to open the treasury to claims of this description after so great a lapse of time.

Your committee, therefore, report against the prayer of the petitioner.