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General Robert Anderson

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 31, 1868.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. No. 308.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom were referred the petition of General Robert Anderson, as trustee of his wife, Mrs. E. B. Anderson, and accompanying papers, have examined the same and submit the following report :

The petition shows that the late General Duncan L. Clinch, father of Mrs. Anderson, was the owner of certain lands and premises in the State of Florida, known as the plantation "Lang Syne."

Early in the year 1835, at the commencement of the Seminole war, the government occupied the plantation as a military post, because of its suitability of location, comfortable quarters, proper storehouses for troops, and subsistence for horses. The premises were occupied exclusively for war purposes, and styled "Fort Drane," and so occupied until the sickness of troops and other disasters compelled their evacuation in August, 1836.

It represents that in June, 1836, the Indians attacked the fort and burned some of the buildings formerly used by General Clinch as a sugar establishment, including their contents of stock, tools and appurtenances, amounting in value to eleven thousand dollars, and in April of that year attacked and fired another building within the fort, formerly used as an overseer's summer residence; that during the military occupancy, horses, cattle and other stock of General Clinch, of the value of over fifty-three hundred dollars, were either taken away or destroyed by hostile Indians and forever lost to the owner; and that immediately after the evacuation the Indians entered upon the premises, set fire to and completely destroyed all the remaining property of General Clinch on the plantation, consisting of a distillery establishment, cotton establishment, dwelling-house, with tools, machinery and appurtenances, valued at about nine thousand dollars, and that the cotton and potato crop, valued at about forty-four hundred dollars, were also destroyed.

The petitioner alleges that the destruction of all the property was done by hostile Indians, and solely on account of the war use of the premises by government.

He also represents that another plantation, the property of General Clinch, known as the plantation of "Sweet Water," situated about two miles from the plantation "Lang Syne," was attacked by the Indians the same night they destroyed the sugar establishment within "Fort Drane," and all the buildings on the "Sweet Water" were destroyed with their contents, and were so destroyed because the other property of General Clinch was occupied by the government for war purposes. But the loss to the latter plantation was small.

General Clinch died in 1849, and the entire interest in this claim is now vested in Mrs. Anderson, all the other heirs of General Clinch having duly assigned their respective shares to her.

The petitioner claims a little more than \$30,000, and has stated in the petition his valuation of the property destroyed. The petition is verified in the usual form by both General Anderson and his wife, and shows that no compensation has ever been received by General Clinch or his representatives.

Your committee are satisfied by the testimony that some damages, and considerable in amount, were sustained as stated, but find difficulty, from the principles involved and the proofs presented in the case, in determining definitely what the true measure of damages should be. They have, however, for the purpose of finally liquidating the entire claim, and in consideration of General Anderson's eminent services to the country, agreed in recommending an appropriation of \$15,000 by the passage of the bill herewith reported.