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Indian depredations in Texas. Memorial of three hundred and fifty citizens of the north-western frontier of Texas relative to Indian depredations, and prayer for relief.

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INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS IN TEXAS.

MEMORIAL

OF

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY CITIZENS OF THE NORTH-
WESTERN FRONTIER OF TEXAS

RELATIVE TO

Indian depredations, and prayer for relief.

MAY 28, 1870.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CONNER, on leave, introduced the following memorial:

The citizens of the frontier counties of Northwestern Texas in petition to the Congress of the United States.

Petitioners aver that they are citizens of the government of the United States and in obedience to the laws of the government; and that they are entitled to protection, as citizens, to wit, security for person and property. Petitioners complain to the Congress of the United States that they are insecure in person and property; that Indians in hostile bands infest their country, killing and scalping their citizens, and frequently carrying off their women and children into a hopeless captivity.

Petitioners feel their condition to be most deplorable, and that it demands the sympathy and protection of the government. Petitioners further state that the country has vastly declined in population, caused by the rapine of the savages; that hundreds of their citizens have been made destitute and driven from their homes.

Petitioners further state that they have the best of reasons to charge that the depredations and crimes committed upon them, the citizens of the country, are done by the Indians situated on the government reservation at Fort Sill; that they have been pursued by many of the petitioners from the frontier of Texas to the government reservation, and found in possession of a large amount of horses and mules belonging to petitioners.

Petitioners would further state that many of their citizens, and some of petitioners, have requested of the authorities at Fort Sill to assist them in recovering their horses and mules that had been stolen by the Indians, and then under their notice and in possession of the Indians; and that they have been treated with indignant insults and positive denials, to which petitioners make evidence. Petitioners feel that they are greatly aggrieved and outraged by those in authority, Indian agent

and traders, situated on the government reservation at Fort Sill. Petitioners charge them with having placed government arms in the hands of the savages, to wit, Spencer carbines, six-shooting pistols, and ammunition, with which they murder the frontier citizens of Texas. Petitioners charge the government of the United States with feeding, clothing, and protecting a savage enemy while in open hostility and waging war against the citizens of the government.

Petitioners charge those in authority at Fort Sill of being protectors of the savage in his lawless pursuits, and against the distressed and humble citizens of the frontier of Texas; further charge, that they protect the savage holding a large amount of stolen property, to wit, thousand of heads of horses and mules, belonging to petitioners, to which petitioners offer evidence. Petitioners aver that many of the savages, committing acts of barbarity and crimes of the most brutal nature, are dressed in soldier's clothing, to wit, soldier's pants and blouses, and armed with Spencer carbines, to which petitioners offer evidence.

Petitioners further state that the small amount of soldiers sent upon the frontier of Texas is wholly insufficient to afford protection to the country; that the probable number stationed at Fort Richardson is about one hundred and twenty-five, and three parts of companies holding the post at Fort Griffin, consisting of about one hundred; and those situated at the two posts under embarrassing circumstances to effect any good for the country—circumstances of the prohibition of the pursuit after the savages when they have committed murder and rapine upon the citizens of Texas, of being prohibited from entering upon the government reservation and punishing them whenever they may be found, and seizing upon the stolen property that may be found in possession of the savages, and returning it to the rightful owner. Petitioners charge that when the reserve Indians have committed the most startling crimes of murder and escaped with stolen property to the government reservation, that they find shelter under the wing of the government, to wit, protection by government officers and soldiers.

Petitioners knowing the right to be vested in the Congress of the United States to hear their complaints and provide means for their relief, petitioners prayerfully present themselves in petition before the Congress of the United States, asking Congress to vouchsafe to them the constitutional guaranties of the government, to wit, security for person and property.

Petitioners prayerfully ask Congress to make such enactments of laws as to prevent the Indian reservation lines from being an embarrassment to them and the United States soldiers situated on the frontiers of Texas in crossing into government reservations in pursuit of Indian bandits, and punishing them wherever they may be found, as a public enemy to the government, under the rules and regulations of war.

Petitioners prayerfully ask Congress that post commanders on Indian reservations be compelled by law to assist in carrying out the above clause; and that they be compelled, when information is given to them of the reservation Indians having in their possession any stolen property, to make immediate search, and, if discovered, to seize upon the same, and when properly identified, to deliver it into the possession of the rightful owner.

Petitioners pray for further enactments to be passed that any person or persons known to trade for any stolen horses or mules from any of the reservation Indians, or any of the uncivilized tribes, that he or they be holden as principal offenders, and be punished accordingly.

Petitioners further pray that enactments be passed that if any person

or persons be known to trade to any of the reservation Indians, or to any of the uncivilized tribes, any arms or ammunition, or place in their possession any arms or ammunition, that such persons shall be holden as conspirators against the government of the United States, and be punished accordingly.

Petitioners pray that Congress cause to be sent upon the frontier of Texas a much larger amount of soldiers for its protection, and cause to be placed at the county sites of each frontier county known to be invaded by Indians a sufficient amount of arms and ammunition, to be used by the citizens for self-protection against the savages.

And petitioners will ever pray.

W. R. Shannon.
 S. W. T. Lanham.
 Wm. H. Martin.
 H. J. Roberts.
 J. R. Martin.
 S. Hines.
 C. N. Sisk.
 John D. Beckwith.
 Wm. Murray.
 T. V. D. Parrish.
 Seth Wood.
 John Squires.
 Wm. Welch.
 A. J. Hunter.
 G. D. Jones.
 H. A. Frazer.
 D. H. Majors.
 Ira Gray.
 J. S. Sherk.
 J. G. Sherk.
 J. W. Sherk.
 S. J. Hines.
 J. P. Fravier.
 A. J. Stratton.
 D. O. Mance.
 S. T. Lancaster.
 H. J. Ossinyer.
 P. S. George.
 Isaac Beatty.
 L. F. Yancy.
 D. J. Wampler.
 J. B. Tompkins.
 Wm. Wampler.
 C. C. Mills.
 Witt. Speer.
 Wm. H. Clouton.
 S. S. Kuyon.
 D. Stimson.
 B. F. Hoyl.
 J. E. Slover.
 B. J. Tompkins.
 John Bumgarner.
 J. L. Line.
 T. G. Cook.
 Alexander Borden.

J. R. Evans.
 J. A. Brashears.
 M. A. Jackson.
 W. I. Carson.
 M. V. Jackson.
 W. A. Kyle.
 Smith L. Gragg.
 G. W. Tompkins.
 M. Snyder.
 James Gabreaith.
 J. A. Snyder.
 James C. Loving.
 J. W. Hale.
 J. C. Kimbrough.
 J. N. Frazier.
 C. L. Heifrin.
 John Bean.
 George McKibbin.
 J. G. Moss.
 John Garry.
 J. B. A. Evans.
 John H. Harbet.
 H. G. Osborn.
 L. C. Sullivent.
 W. A. Johnson.
 J. R. Neal.
 B. F. Browning.
 I. D. Parrish.
 A. Freeman.
 J. W. Murphy.
 Wm. M. Gragg.
 W. Lee Roy.
 W. M. Cox.
 J. T. Shaw.
 J. M. Higgins.
 Samuel K. Hartsfield.
 W. W. Howard.
 W. M. Dobbs.
 S. L. Weatherford.
 R. G. West.
 J. C. Hensley.
 F. P. Ernest.
 Jack Bailey.
 James Hartsfield.
 Frank Bailey.

James H. Bolen.	J. C. Gardner.
John C. Vineyard.	Gray Gardner.
Pleas Price.	W. G. McCamant.
R. E. McCamant.	A. J. Ball.
W. E. Sawyer.	S. Crawford.
N. Watson.	James Sefton.
W. H. A. Atkins.	Wm. West.
J. D. Cole.	W. H. Stockton.
F. A. Fain.	A. L. Lindsey.
A. S. Fain.	B. C. Tarlington.
John Carson.	S. G. Thompson.
George Price.	W. A. Long.
H. H. Bingham.	Joseph Barkely.
G. W. Castleberry.	H. C. Vardy.
J. Y. Speer.	W. N. McKarney.
John H. Lumis.	J. H. Harbergers.
Wm. C. Green.	E. Kelley.
O. W. Keeler.	Albert Koufner.
J. E. Jones.	H. B. Tarver.
Henry McCoy.	C. L. Lanohens, P. M.
Milton Freeman.	Jacob Landers.
B. R. Wilbett.	W. H. Kingsbury.
L. A. Evans.	G. A. Rucker.
E. A. Leach.	S. T. Busby.
B. R. Milaw.	J. T. Walton.
Sam. H. Milliken.	Caleb Huffstaller.
R. E. Bell.	A. V. Shrojjshire.
John N. Simpson.	J. M. Bateman.
Robt. Turner.	David Nutt.
Wm. B. Miller.	W. B. Raburn.
R. W. Kandel.	Zack. Brooks.
Jas. C. Cox.	Josiah Covington.
J. A. Goodlis.	James Haley.
J. Hays.	R. L. Rayburn.
W. E. Prince.	W. G. W. Powell.
R. J. McKenzie.	D. A. Kerr.
D. C. Haynes.	John Jamieson.
J. P. Follentne.	Jos. A. Lambert.
Wm. Mason.	Lark Prestige.
J. W. Johnson.	Thos. Lambert.
John H. Ross.	R. W. Smeed.
Wiley J. Eddeman.	J. T. Lambert.
M. S. Schneider.	D. S. Lambert.
Wilson Campbell.	Lewis Howard.
D. S. Kerr.	W. C. Gardner.
William Kerr.	W. W. Deghlaw.
J. F. Kerr.	W. Happing.
Henry Kerr.	M. T. Dalton.
Duncan Blue.	J. F. Henderson.
Jesse Thomas.	J. W. H. Blackwell.
H. Shaws.	G. B. Pickett.
James Lamar.	Chas. D. Cates.
W. B. Glenn.	R. G. Cates.
R. P. Crockett.	J. Wallace.
B. F. Welker.	J. W. Hale.
A. S. McCamant.	D. C. Cates.

Wm. Bosiers.	T. C. Terrell.
W. S. Robinson.	M. B. Loyd.
J. N. Mills.	Lawrence Steel.
W. A. King.	Robert L. Hagood.
T. L. Stanfield.	James K. Allen.
R. F. Davis.	G. S. D. Smallwood.
J. C. Cartwright.	Nath. Ferry.
Robt. Sensibaugh.	E. M. Daggett.
R. Cook.	W. K. Overton.
A. H. Shoemaker.	J. F. Ellis.
F. J. McKeen.	E. M. Osrick.
Benjamin Booth.	R. W. Durrett.
E. C. Fullingim.	W. J. Boag.
M. B. Stanfield.	R. Clark.
M. C. Barnes.	A. Clark.
W. W. C. Stanfield.	J. E. Brandon.
J. P. Kellam.	J. W. Bradner.
P. W. Walker.	W. O. Meroney.
E. T. Parsons.	A. J. Smith.
W. H. Clark.	Dr. J. F. Fortson.
G. Harding.	C. D. Johnson.
T. S. Bable.	J. A. Henderson.
J. W. Adams.	John A. Wing.
J. P. Fullingim.	J. H. Ayres.
Jas. Smith.	J. M. Darrett.
Jno. D. Harding.	C. J. Lanck.
Benjamin Hobson.	C. J. Parder.
L. A. Cartwright.	W. F. Bamburg.
R. Sensibaugh.	C. E. Waldron.
S. C. Morrow.	J. T. Furmish.
John Luman.	E. L. Alford.
N. C. Cargill.	J. D. Parker.
T. L. Jennings.	J. A. Petty.
C. W. Wood.	W. M. Robinson.
J. C. Carpenter.	D. P. Terrill.
R. H. Wallace.	W. A. Holland.
G. H. Stevens.	A. H. Dobbins.
Jas. L. Harding.	A. L. Kirk.
J. T. Halsell.	J. R. Pickard.
H. L. Wilson.	Wm. Ramsey.
J. W. Knight.	Thos. Dickerson.
T. S. Burton.	John A. Frey.
James H. Sensibaugh.	G. A. Hill.
W. A. Gotcher.	F. M. Ross.
Jno. L. Lovejoy, jr.	S. V. Edwards.
Matt. Daugherty.	J. S. Baucher.
A. Knight.	H. Schneider.
W. D. Fisher.	J. M. Hays.
J. V. Dickson.	S. C. Cross.
R. H. Bates.	W. W. McNeill.
Jesse Prichard.	W. W. Hickey.
John McMurray.	W. S. Keith.
William Henry.	J. H. Parr.
Sam'l Burritt.	J. H. Roberts.
J. E. Martin.	G. W. Burkong.
Chas. M. Gears.	G. W. Keith.

J. Roberts.
H. L. Rey.
Wm. Elgin.

A. L. Latham.
R. D. Ross.
J. D. Berry.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Wise :*

E. C. Vick personally appeared before the undersigned authority, and being duly sworn, says that he is the assessor and collector of Wise County, Texas, and that the voting population of Wise County does not exceed three hundred and fifty, and that he has reliable proof that the voting population in said county in the year 1860 was eight hundred, and says that the cause of the decline of the population has been by the frequent raids and many murders committed by hostile Indians that invest the country; and states that his wife was murdered by a party of nine Indians, on the 9th day of October, 1868, and that John Bailey was murdered by the same party, in connection with another party, supposed to be one hundred and fifty, and that on the following day one Frank Cunis was murdered by Indians supposed to be the same party, and that the said Indians were dressed mostly in United States clothing and armed with United States carbine guns. The said party of Indians was pursued for a considerable distance in the direction of Fort Sill, situated on the government reservation for Indians.

E. C. VICK.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of March, 1870.

G. SALMON,
Clerk County Court Wise County, Texas.

To certify which I hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at Decatur, this 18th day of March, A. D. 1870.

[SEAL.]

G. SALMON,
Clerk County Court Wise County, Texas.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Wise :*

John S. Babb personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, and being duly sworn, says that he was present at the burial of the Widow Russel and family in the month of August, 1868, that had been murdered by Indians in Wise County, Texas. The aforesaid Babb says that the aforesaid widow and three children were murdered and scalped by a band of Indians, many Indian arrows being found upon her premises and some being found left sticking into one of her children.

J. S. BABB.

Sworn and subscribed to before me on the 19th day of March, A. D. 1870.

G. SALMON,
Clerk County Court Wise County, Texas.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Wise :*

To which I certify under my hand and seal of office, at Decatur, March 19, 1870.

[SEAL.]

G. SALMON,
Clerk County Court Wise County, Texas.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *Denton County* :

Joseph Murphy, being duly sworn, deposes and says that hostile Indians made a raid in Denton County, about the 10th day of October, 1868, supposed to be about one hundred and seventy (170) head, and murdered a man by the name of Whartonbury, also a young man by the name of Fauster. And that they also took a large amount of horses out of the country; and says that he was with a company of men who pursued said Indians in the direction of Fort Sill government reservation for Indians, and that one of said Indians was killed by the said company, and that he was dressed in soldier's clothing and armed with a United States gun, and that he thinks the most of said Indians were dressed in soldier's clothing.

J. T. MURPHY.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, to which I certify by setting my hand and seal of office, in town of Denton, Denton County, this 22d day of March, 1870.

[SEAL.]

J. E. MARTIN,

*Judge of the County Court of Denton County, Texas.*THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Denton* :

I, W. C. Bobbitt, being duly sworn, say that the foregoing affidavit is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; I being one of the pursuing party myself. So help me God.

W. C. BOBBITT.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, to which I certify by setting my hand and seal of office, March 22, A. D. 1870.

[SEAL.]

J. E. MARTIN,

County Judge of Denton County, Texas.