
MRS. SARAH L. LARIMER.

JULY 26, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the Select Committee on Indian Depredation Claims, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2563.]

This committee, after a careful examination, made report on H. R. bill No. 777, in which they recommended the payment of \$10,000 to Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer for services rendered and property destroyed by the Indians. Said report stated it as being clearly established that she rendered valuable services to the United States troops, preventing great loss of life and destruction of property.

The Senate bill under consideration, for reasons stated in the report accompanying said bill, provided for the payment of \$5,000 for services rendered, but does not consider the claim for property destroyed.

The committee, after due consideration, adopt the views expressed by the Senate committee and recommend the passage of the Senate bill, and to their report attach the report of the Senate.

[Senate Report No. 1591, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2563) to compensate Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer for important services rendered the military authorities in 1864 at Deer Creek Station, Wyoming, and for loss of property taken by Sioux Indians, respectfully report:

It is abundantly established by the testimony laid before the committee that the claimant, on the 12th day of July, 1864, while traveling from Iola, Kans., with her husband, Lieutenant Larimer, an honorably-discharged soldier, in bad health, en route to the mountains, was, with one of her children, together with Mrs. Fanny Kelly and other emigrants, attacked by a band of Sioux Indians on the usually-traveled road leading across the mountains and in Wyoming Territory. Three of the party were killed and two were wounded. Mrs. Larimer and her child and Mrs. Kelly and her child were taken captives. The Indians destroyed the property of the party, including, it is alleged, a large stock of gold watches and jewelry, chloride of gold and nitrate of silver, clothing and family jewels, and \$3,700 in money. Mrs. Larimer was carried by the Indians a considerable distance—75 miles or more; and at night, within a day or two after her capture, escaped with her child; and on foot, after great hardship and suffering, she reached the camp of Capt. Jacob S. Shuman's command. The affidavits show—but such evidence would not be needed to satisfy one that her condition when she reached the camp was pitiful.

The committee are satisfied from the evidence that the claimant rendered great service to the commands of Captains Shuman and Marshall by information as to the position and purposes of the Indians which she communicated to the military authorities. This is abundantly established by the affidavit of Levi G. Marshall, late major Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and Jacob S. Shuman, who was the captain of the latter regiment, and was stationed with his command at Fort Laramie, Wyo. These affidavits are subjoined to this report.

It is apparent that the information given by Mrs. Larimer was efficient to prevent great loss of life, and was therefore of great value. The bill proposes to pay her \$10,000 for this service rendered the Government and for property alleged to have been taken and destroyed by the Indians. Mrs. Kelly, who was captured at the same time, and who was held captive for some months and finally ransomed, was paid \$10,000 by acts of Congress, \$5,000 of it being for information giving to the military authorities as to the whereabouts and plans of the Indians, and \$5,000 for property taken and destroyed.

In support of the claim of Mrs. Kelly there was presented a statement signed by Spotted Tail, Swift Bear, and other chiefs and warriors of the Sioux Indians, acknowledging the massacre and destruction of the property of the emigrants, and consenting that payment be made out of funds due, or to become due, to the Indians. Five thousand dollars of the appropriation to Mrs. Kelly for information communicated and service thereby rendered to the Government was made payable, it will be observed, out of the Indian funds. The \$5,000 for property taken and destroyed by the Indians was appropriated out of the general funds of the Treasury. The acknowledgment of the Indians as to the case of Mrs. Kelly clearly applies to the case of Mrs. Larimer, who was captured at the same time.

The committee think that Mrs. Larimer should be paid for the service rendered to the Government by her. If there is a fund available for that purpose due, or to become due, to the tribe of Indians by whom she was captured, and there is no treaty obligation to prevent it, the committee think the appropriation should be paid out of that fund; otherwise it should be paid out of the general funds of the Treasury.

The committee is not satisfied that the property alleged to have been captured and destroyed by the Indians, for which this bill proposes compensation to Mrs. Larimer, was her property. The affidavits establishing the title to have been in her are unsatisfactory. Facts have come to the knowledge of the committee, independent of the affidavits presented in support of this claim, which tend to show that the property for which she claims was in fact the property of her husband, who is still living, but has deserted his wife.

The committee is not willing, in the present state of the proof as to the title of the property, to recommend that an appropriation be made to her therefor.

The committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause, and inserting the following, and that as so amended it do pass:

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer the sum of five thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, in full for valuable services rendered by her to the Government in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, by giving important information to Captain Shuman, in command of the United States troops, and others, of the evil designs of hostile Indians, while she was held in captivity by them."

STATE OF ILLINOIS, *County of Clay, ss :*

In the claim of Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer, for Indian depredations, and pay for information furnished United States troops, personally came before me Levi G. Marshall, of Clay City, county of Clay, State of Illinois, who being first duly sworn, declares in relation to the aforesaid claim, as follows:

On or about the 13th day of July, 1864, property belonging to the said claimant was taken and destroyed by Indians of the Sioux tribe at or near Box Elder Creek, in Wyoming Territory, under the following circumstances: I was captain of company, Eleventh Regiment Ohio Cavalry Volunteers, and with my command was stationed at Fort Laramie, Wyo., at the time (later being mustered out as major); that on or about the 13th day of July, 1864, I was ordered to move against the Sioux Indians with 200 mounted men; Captain Shuman, being the other captain, was ordered with me; that when 115 miles out and at Deer Creek Station, we were met by Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer, who had been carried off by a band of Sioux Indian warriors, but had escaped in the darkness of night from their camp with her child in her arms, and climbed the hills for a distance of 75 or more miles on foot and alone. As commanding officer I procured of Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer very valuable information about the movements of the enemy, as well as of their number and arms and how mounted, so that, being forewarned, I was able to avoid the ambushes and surprise that otherwise would have happened, to the death and destruction of my command. A few of my men, acting contrary to orders, fell into one of the ambushes, where their leader, Lieutenant Brown, lost his life. Mrs. Larimer was now destitute, bare of head and foot, all her property, which I understand had amounted to about (can not tell how much), having been taken or destroyed by the Indians when she and her child were carried off by said Indians. Her husband had been a commissioned officer of a Kansas regiment, but was discharged and in poor health, and now had the addition of a se-

vere arrow wound near the groin. I know that all of her property was destroyed by the Indians; I do not now remember as to the value of said property.

I have no interest in said claim and am not concerned in its prosecution.

LEVI G. MARSHALL,

Late Major Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day, by the above-named affiant; and I certify that I read said affidavit to said affiant, and acquainted him with its contents before he executed the same. I further certify that I am in no wise interested in said claim, nor am I concerned in its prosecution.

Witness my hand and official seal this 12th day of March, 1886.

[SEAL.]

E. MCGILTON,
Notary Public.

STATE OF MISSOURI, *County of Pettis, ss :*

In the matter of the claim of Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer for Indian depredation, and for information furnished to the United States troops after her escape from the Sioux Indians, by whom she had been captured and her property destroyed, personally came before me, B. H. Ingram, clerk of the circuit court of Pettis County, Missouri, Jacob S. Shuman, of Sedalia, in said Pettis County, Missouri, who, being first duly sworn, on his oath states that on the 13th day of July, 1864, this affiant, Jacob S. Shuman, was captain of and in command of Company — of the Eleventh Ohio Cavalry, and with my command was stationed at Fort Laramie, Wyo., and that on or about that date, having information that the Sioux Indians had made a raid on the emigrant road, captured and destroyed a train of emigrants, and had carried into captivity the said Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer and her little child, I immediately moved against the Indians up Platte River, in a northwesterly direction about 115 miles, to a place called Deer Creek Station. I there learned that the capture of Mrs. Larimer and her child, and the destruction of her property, and the murdering of several persons who were with the train, had taken place on Box Elder Creek, and as I was about to move against the Indians with the force I had, which consisted of my own company and a force under Captain Marshall, the said Sarah L. Larimer came into camp carrying her little child in her arms, she having escaped from the Indians, after having been carried by them about 75 miles, and returned on foot to the emigrant road, where she met my command.

When she came into our camp her condition was most deplorable; her clothes had been nearly all torn off her body; her arms and limbs were lacerated from making her way through the thorns, bushes, and cactus, on her way after her escape, and she and her little child were nearly famished. As soon as she could be resuscitated by nourishment, which was only a very short time, she gave me a detailed account of the position of the Indians, their plans and movements, and designs against my command, and also their numbers and the positions they occupied, and the ambuscades they had prepared. So that by taking proper precaution my command was enabled in a short time to move forward and thwart their designs, not only against the pursuing troops, but against other exposed points and trains that were on the emigrant road.

And I do most positively and solemnly swear that if it had not been for the information received from the said Mrs. Larimer that the command with which I was about to start out at that hour would have been massacred and destroyed; but by acting under her information, dismounting and arming the teamsters, and gathering in all the available and additional forces within immediate reach, and by following the directions given by the said Mrs. Larimer to avoid an ambuscade, I was enabled to obtain the advantage of the Indians and drive them north, not only saving part of my command from being massacred, and saving the lives and property of others, who would certainly have been captured and murdered if it had not been for the valuable information given to me by the said Mrs. Larimer.

I found the information that she gave as to the position and movements of the Indians exactly as she had given it.

And further, from my own scout's personal observation, and from the further fact that when Lieutenant Brown disobeyed orders a few men fell into an ambuscade, described by Mrs. Larimer, and were killed by the Indians. I also learned at that time that the property taken from Mrs. Larimer consisted of a fine collection of pictures, photograph apparatuses, and stock for that kind of business, and wagons, and mules, all of which, as near as I can now recollect and estimate, was of the value of over \$10,000. I further learned at the time and afterwards, also, that Mrs. Larimer was a photographer and artist herself, and that the property was hers; and I learned the fact that her husband was with her and was wounded and left for dead by the Indians, but afterwards partially recovered; and that he had been a commissioned officer honorably discharged from the Eighth Kansas Volunteers, which I learned from Mr. Lari-

mer himself, whom I saw, and I saw arrow wounds upon his person. And this affiant further says that the above and main facts that I have stated herein as to the information received from the said Mrs. Sarah L. Larimer as to the position, location, and designs of the Indians came under my direct and personal observation; and that I have not the slightest interest in any claim she may have; but that if she has a claim for property lost and for the information furnished me, I can and do say that it is just and deserving.

Owing to the fact that I am suffering from a severe nervous ailment, I am unable to write this affidavit myself and am compelled to dictate it to a stenographer and have it printed on a type-writer for me.

And this affiant further states that I have read this affidavit over carefully, and had the same read over to me, and that it, the same, is true in substance and in fact. So help me God.

JACOB S. (his x mark) SHUMAN,
Affiant.

Attest:

J. G. LINDSAY,
JOHNSON ORR.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 15th day of March, 1886, and I further certify that I have been personally acquainted with the above-named affiant for about fifteen years last past, and know from such acquaintance that he is the identical person he represents himself to be, and I further certify that for several years he has been afflicted with some nervous disease or trouble, thereby incapacitating him of writing his name. I also certify that I am in no way interested in this claim.

[SEAL.]

B. H. INGRAM,
Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pettis County, Mo.

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