

THOMAS VAN PELT.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

Papers in the Indian depredation claim of Thomas Van Pelt.

JANUARY 24, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Depredation Claims and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 20, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of 3d of October from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing certain papers in the Indian depredation claim of Thomas Van Pelt, No. 1153, which claim was transmitted to Congress in January, 1887, as required by law.

The papers referred to were returned to the Indian Office from the House of Representatives, pursuant to the act of March 3, 1885, on September 24, 1889, and are as follows:

Affidavit of claimant; joint affidavit of Anson Burr and E. Mason; office letter of January 2, 1880; and Department letter of February 17, 1880.

The Commissioner states that this testimony would not justify any change in the conclusions heretofore reached by his office in the case, and, in compliance with his recommendation, the papers are herewith returned, with request that they be filed with the above claim.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, October 3, 1889.

SIR: On October 16, 1886, this office presented a report on depredation claim No. 1153 of Thomas Van Pelt, amount \$1,800, and pursuant to Department letter of October 20, 1886, the claim, with all the papers then on file, was transmitted to Congress January, 1887, as re-

quired by law. Subsequently, to wit, on September 24, 1889, the following papers were returned to this office from Congress, pursuant to act of March 3, 1885 :

Affidavit of claimant; joint affidavit of Anson Burr and E. Mason; office letter of January 2, 1880; and Department letter of February 17, 1880.

This testimony would not justify any change in the conclusions heretofore reached in the case, and I have the honor to recommend that the above papers (which are herewith inclosed) be transmitted to Congress, to be filed with the claim.

Very respectfully,

R. V. BELT,
Acting Commissioner.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

United States of America to Thomas Van Pelt, Dr.

For loss sustained by me during the war with the Indians in Chetcoe Valley, State of Oregon, during the years A. D. 1855 and 1856, as follows, to wit:

One dwelling-house and outbuildings.....	\$800
Thirty head of hogs.....	200
One ferry-boat.....	300
Fencing burned up.....	400
Farming utensils.....	100
Total losses.....	1,800

The above-mentioned loss was sustained by me between the 1st day of May and the 1st day of July, in the year 1856, after the breaking out of the Indians. About the 1st day of May Colonel Buchanan, in command of the regular troops, ordered the settlers to abandon their property that was located in exposed positions, as he could not protect them.

My house was occupied by the troops, and upon their abandonment the house and other property was destroyed by the Indians, with the exception of the hogs and fencing, which were appropriated and destroyed by the soldiers.

THOS. VAN PELT.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *County of Del Norte, ss :*

Before me, W. B. Mason, a justice of the peace in and for Crescent Township, county and State aforesaid, personally appeared Thos. Van Pelt, to me well known, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That the matters and facts set forth in the foregoing instrument, to which this is annexed, are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Also appeared before me Anson Burr and E. Mason, attesting witnesses, who, being duly sworn, each for himself says, that he knows Thos. Van Pelt, whose name is subscribed to the foregoing statement, to be the identical person he represents himself to be, and that he is a credible person and loyal to the Government of the United States.

THOS. VAN PELT.

ANSON BURR.
E. MASON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of March, A. D. 1872.

W. B. MASON,
Justice of the Peace.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, *County of Del Norte, ss :*

I, P. H. Pevder, county clerk of the county of Del Norte, State of California, and clerk of the county court of said county (which is a court of record), do hereby certify that Wm. B. Mason, whose name is subscribed to the annexed affidavits, was, at the date of the same, and is now, a justice of the peace in and for said county, duly commissioned and qualified, and authorized by law to administer oaths, and full faith and credit are due to all his official acts as such. And I do further certify that the signature attached to the annexed affidavits is genuine.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed seal of the said county court, at my office in the said county of Del Norte, this 7th day of March, A. D. 1872.

P. H. PENDER,

County Clerk and Clerk of the County Court of Del Norte County.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 2, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a claim for \$1,800 in favor of Thomas Van Pelt on account of depredation alleged to have been committed by the Oregon Indians in 1856. The claimant in his declaration, dated March 6, 1872, alleges that between the 1st day of May and the 1st day of July, 1856, the Indians took possession of his property in Chetcoe Valley, Oregon, and destroyed his dwelling-house and outbuildings, valued at \$300, one ferry-boat valued at \$300, and farming utensils valued at \$100; and that the United States soldiers appropriated and killed thirty of his hogs, valued at \$200, and burned up fencing to the value of \$400.

This declaration is insufficient, and is entirely unsupported by other evidence.

It will be observed that a large proportion of the claim, which was not presented to this office until nearly sixteen years after the alleged depredation was committed, is for property stated to have been taken or destroyed by the United States troops, and not by the Indians. The agent reports the death of all the Indians who took part in the war of 1856; and states that his Indians in council aver that they know nothing of the value or nature of the property destroyed at that time.

In view of the facts presented, and as the meager statements of the claimant are entirely unsupported, I respectfully recommend that his claim be disallowed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. HAYT,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington City, February 17, 1899

SIR: In compliance with the terms of the seventh section of the act approved May 29, 1872, entitled "An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June 30, 1873, and for other purposes," I have the honor to transmit herewith the claim of Thomas Van Pelt, amounting to \$1,800, for compensation on account of depredations committed by Oregon Indians.

A letter inclosed, dated the 2d day of January, 1880, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, reporting the nature, character, and amount of said claim, is accompanied by the evidence presented in support thereof, and shows the action taken by that officer under the rules and regulations prescribed by this department for the investigation of such claims. All which is respectfully submitted for the consideration of Congress, as contemplated by said seventh section of the act aforesaid.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. SCHURZ,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.