

WILLIAM SLUSHER.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and also affidavits relative to the depredation claim of William Slusher.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1890.—Referred to the Select Committee on Indian Depredation Claims.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, September 24, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication of the 18th instant from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing affidavits of William Slusher and William Watson relative to the depredation claim of William Slusher, which was transmitted to Congress January 7, 1887.

In compliance with the request of the Commissioner, I have the honor to forward the said affidavits for filing with said claim.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., September 18, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith additional testimony in depredation claim No. 2863, of William Slusher, as follows: Supplementary affidavit of William Slusher and affidavit of William Watson, which testimony has been recently filed in this office by Glen W. Cooper, attorney for claimant. This claim was reported to Congress January, 1887 (H. R. Ex. Doc. 77, Forty-ninth Congress, second session), and I therefore respectfully recommend that the papers herewith be also transmitted to Congress for filing with the claim to which they relate. *It is deemed proper to add that upon examination of the affi-*

davits inclosed nothing appears therein which would warrant this office in changing the conclusions heretofore reached as to the merits of this claim.

Very respectfully,

R. V. BELT,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Affidavit in Indian Depredations Claims—In the claim of William Slusher for Indian depredations.]

STATE OF IOWA, *Fremont County ss :*

Personally came before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county, Eli W. Slusher, of Fremont Co., the State of Iowa, who, being first duly sworn, declares in relation to the aforesaid claim as follows, viz : That on or about the 27th day of October, 1864, property belonging to the above-named claimant as below mentioned was taken by Indians of the Sioux tribe at or near Plum Creek, in the State of Nebraska, under the following circumstances:

The said claimant at the time was a freighter of goods, and was traveling at the time from Idaho Territory to Hamburg, Fremont County, Iowa, and had with him a team of two mules and two mares and one horse. I know William Glover and Perry McLum, who were with claimant at the time the stock were taken. Claimant bought one mule from a man by name of Catron, in Salina County, Missouri, and the other mule claimant bought from a man on the plains whose name is to this affiant unknown. Claimant paid for the first-described mule the sum of \$185 and for the other one the sum of \$200 in gold. The mules were large and about seven years of age and about fifteen hands and one-half high. One of the mares claimant bought from a man in Andrew County, Mo., by the name of Calhoun. She was at the time she was taken about eight years old. The other mare was when taken four years old. The other horse was when taken four years old. The last two described horses were raised by claimant. There was also taken at the same time from claimant two sets of harness, cost \$45 per set, and the same were purchased the summer they were taken, making a total cost of \$90 for the two sets.

I am the son of claimant and am attorney in fact for him, he being too old to look after his business, and the only interest I have in the prosecution is as above stated.

ELI W. SLUSER.

Sworn and subscribed to by Eli W. Slusher this 1st day of June, A. D. 1888, and I certify that I read the foregoing affidavit over to him before signing the same, and I am not interested in the prosecution of this claim, and all interlineations were made before signing.

[SEAL.]

SAMUEL HOLMES,
Notary Public.

[In the matter of the claim of William Slusher for depredations of Indians.]

STATE OF IOWA, *County of Fremont :*

Before me, a notary public in and for the aforesaid county and State, personally appeared William Watson, who deposes and says : That he is the same person who made an affidavit on the 19th day of September, 1865, in the matter of the claim of William Slusher for losses by depredation of Sioux Indians. He states further, that on the occasion of said depredations at or near Plum Creek, Nebraska, the Indians, believed to be Sioux, attacked the claimant and his party where they were camped, about 9 or 10 o'clock in the evening, and killed Mr. Beson and wounded three others of the party, and took three horses and two mules and two sets of harness from the claimant. The horses were large American horses, and the mules were of large size. The mules and horses, being used for freighting, were necessarily of a good size, and were selected, I believe, for their strength. It was a dark, rainy night when the Indians stole up to where the animals were picketed and cut the pickets and drove the animals away. I knew William Glover and Perry McLum, who were with us at the time. I was with the claimant for about eight to ten weeks and became familiar with the animals which were taken.

WM. WATSON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th of July, 1888, and I further certify that the aforesaid affidavit was read to the affiant before he subscribed and made oath thereto. I am in no wise interested in the claim therein mentioned nor concerned in its prosecution.

[SEAL.]

J. P. BEACH,
Notary Public.