

REPORT

Of the Committee of Claims in the case of Gad Pierce.

JANUARY 21, 1822.

Committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

DECEMBER 12, 1822.

Printed by order of the House of Representatives.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Gad Pierce, of Niagara, in the county of Niagara, in the state of New York,

REPORT:

The petitioner alleges, that, during the late war against Great Britain, his dwelling-house was frequently occupied by the troops and military stores, by order of officers in the service of the United States; that it was taken possession of in the spring of 1813, and was constantly used as a military store house, and occasionally as a guard house, by order of John G. Camp, Deputy Quartermaster General; that it was so used and occupied till the British burnt it in December, 1813; that, in consequence of the destruction of said house, with sundry articles of personal property, he has sustained a loss of \$3,080 15, for which he asks Congress to grant him remuneration.

In support of this claim, John G. Camp, late Deputy Quartermaster General, swears that, at the time claimant's house was destroyed, there was deposited in it, by his orders, a quantity of arms and field ammunition; and also, that, at the time it was destroyed by the enemy in 1813, it was used and occupied as a guard house, by the troops of the United States.

Ebenezer Hovey, another witness, swears that the house was occupied as a guard house, under the authority of Major Mallory; that the valuation of the property he believes to be just and true, as he was a near neighbor and had many opportunities of knowing the property; that he was himself in the military service of the United States; was stationed in the house as one of the guard, and remained in it till the enemy entered it; that he believes the house and other property were destroyed in consequence of the military occupation of the former by the troops in the service of the United States.

Samuel Pierce (son of claimant) swears, that he believes the property to be correctly valued; that he fled from the house with his father, carrying nothing with them but the clothes on their backs, and four feather beds, on the approach of the enemy.

Other witnesses testify as to the correct valuation of sundry articles of property, and sworn appraisers testify as to the value of the house.

The committee think the claim ought not to be allowed. In support of this opinion, they refer to report in the case of Eli Hart, and to the several reports therein adverted to. The following resolution is submitted:

Resolved, That the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.