

William Stokes
Claim

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Southern Claims Commission
Approved Claims, 1871-1880: Alabama

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By Delanie Alcorn-Jones

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CLAIM

of

William Stokes

of

Larissa, Winston Co, Ala

SUMMARY REPORT

Amount allowed \$832=

Dec 1874

No 2185

The Claim of William Stokes of Winston Co., in the State of Alabama

No. of Item	NATURE OF CLAIM	Amount Claimed		Amount Allowed		Amount Disallowed		Remarks
		Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	Dollars	Cts	
1	One Mare	175	00	125	00	50		<p>Mr. Stokes is a farmer, is 62 years of age & has resided for twenty three or four years in Winston Co., Ala. The rebels threatened to kill him & to burn his property. He fed soldiers & men who were lying out in the woods to evade the conscription laws & aided them to get into the federal lines. He "toted" mean nine miles to the Union prisoners who had escaped from the rebel prison at Tuscaloosa. His loyalty was positive & unquestionable. His property was taken by Union forces commanded by Gen. Wilson who were encamped in March 1865 about one & half miles from the claimant's residence. It was mostly packed on horses or loaded in wagons & removed to the camp. The quantity taken is estimated in many of the items & the prices overstated. We have allowed the full amount as feel warranted in allowing upon the proof & recommend the payment of \$862.===</p>
2	350 bushels of corn	700	00	350		350		
3	3000 lbs of fodder	37	00	30		7		
4	2000 " " Bacon	500	00	200		200		
5	100 " " lard	25	00	20		20		
6	750 " " Pork	75	00	50		25		
7	One barrel of syrup	30	00	30				
8	One barrel of flour	7	00	7				
9	10 bushels of sweet potatoes	10	00	10				
10	One bridle & saddle	10	00	10				
		\$1569	00	\$832		\$737		

PETITION

OF

William Stokes

TO THE

COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS.

Residence of Claimant *Larissa,
Winston Co., Ala*

Nature of Claim *Quartermaster
Stores and Commissary Supplies*

Amount Claimed \$ 1569

Amount Allowed \$

Filed

STILSON, BUNDY & WEBSTER
480 ½ Louisiana Avenue
Washington, D. C.

Loyal

PETITION.

To the Honorable Commissioners of Claims,

Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1871, Washington, D.C.:

The Petition of *William Stokes*

Respectfully represents:

That he is a citizen of the United States and resides at present Winston County Alabama

That he has a claim against the United States for Provisions and property taken during the month of March 1865 by Genl. Wilsons' Command and used by the N. S. Army.

as follows:

1865 March 25	1 first class sorrel mare 14 hand?	175	00
	350 bushels corn	700	00
	3000 lbs fodder	37	00
	2000 lbs Bacon value 25	500	00
	700 lbs Lard	25	00
	750 lbs Pork at 10 ct	75	00
	1 bbl Syrup	30	00
	1 bbl flour	7	00
	10 bushel sweet Potatoes	10	00
	1 Bridle & saddle	10	00
	Total value of Property	1569	00

That all items in the above schedule were of the full value therein set forth and were taken from the residence of your petitioner for the use of and were used by the United States army at and near my residence by Genl. Wilson raid and the mar? were conveyed on there [sic] march south on the 25 day of March 1865 by soldiers whose names were unknown to petitioner.

That no voucher, receipt other writing was given therefore by the Reasons taking the same as aforesaid or rec'd at any time by your petitioner.

That your petitioner resided at the time his said claim accrued Winston Co Alabama.

That William Stokes was the original owner of said claim, and that he has never traded the same or any part these off [sic] and is the present owner of the same.

That your petitioner remained loyal adherent to the cause and the Government of the United States during the war, and was loyal before and at the time of the taking of the property for which this claim is made.

That said claim has not before been presented to the commissioners of claims or any part of the government.

That STILSON, BUNDY & WEBSTER, of Washington, D.C., are hereby authorized and empowered to act as his Attorneys for the prosecution of this claim.

Wherefore your petitioner prays for such action of your Honorable Commission in the premises, as may be deemed just and proper.

Witness:

William Goodsons
A. J. Ingle

his
William X Stokes
mark

STATE OF Alabama }
COUNTY OF Winston } ss.

I William Stokes

Being duly sworn_____

*deposes and says, that he is _____ the petitioner named in the forgoing petition, and who signed the same; that the matters therein stated are true, of the deponent's own knowledge, expect as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters he believes them to be true; and deponent further says that he did not voluntarily serve in the Confederate army or navy, either as an officer, soldier, or sailor, or in any other capacity, at any time during the late rebellion; that he never voluntarily furnished any stores, supplies, or other material aid to said Confederate army or navy, or to the Confederate government, or to any officer, department or adherent of the same in support thereof, and that he never voluntarily accepted or exercised the functions of any office whatsoever under, or yielded voluntary support to, the said Confederate government.

Witness:

William Goodsons
David?. Ingle

his
William X Stokes
mark

Sworn and subscribed in my presence, the 13th day of May 1871

William H. Willbanks Justice of the peace

Names and residences of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove loyalty.

John Dodd of Larissa P.O. Winston C. Ala
R. L. Guthrie “ “ “ “ “

Names and residences of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove the other facts alleged in the forgoing petition:

John Dodd Larissa Winston Co Ala
R. L. Guthrie “ “ “ “

Post office address of claimant, Larissa Winston County Ala

*This oath must be made in writing. The claimant should copy it in his own handwriting, and subscribe and swear to it before the clerk of a court of record, who should attach his seal; or if administered by any other officer, the official character of such officer should be certified to by the clerk under the seal of the court. If the claimant cannot write, some one else should write it for him, and he should this attach his mark, witnessed by two persons, and the officers swearing MUST certify that the contents were read over, explained to, and understood by him, before so making his mark.

No 2185

CLAIM

of

William Stokes

of

Larissa, Winston Co, Ala

\$1569--

APPLICATION TO HAVE TESTIMONY TAKEN BY SPECIAL COMMISSION.

R. P. Baker

*Transmitted to the Commis. Of Claims, Washington
D.C. April 9th 1872*

R. P. Barker

Submitted for Com? Ala

STILSON, BUNDY & WEBSTER

Attorneys

Washington D. C.

Rec'd April 16 72

No. _____

Before the Commissioners of Claims.

In the matter of the Claim of William Stokes of Larissa, in the County of Winston and State of Alabama

COMES NOW THE CLAIMANT, and represents that he has heretofore filed with the above-named Commissioners a Petition for the allowance of a claim for property taken for the use of the Army of the United States.

That the said claim, stated by items, and excluding there from all such items in aforesaid petition as are now believed to refer to the SDAMAGE, DESTRUCTION and LOSS and not the USE, of property; to unauthorized or unnecessary DEPREDATIONS of troops and other persons upon the property, or to RENT or compensation for the occupation of buildings, grounds or other real estate, is as follows:

1865

March 25

No. of Item	QUANTITIES AND ARTICLES.	VALUE	
		Dolls.	Cts.
1	One First class sorrel mare 14 hands high	175	00
2	350 Bushels corn @ ¢2 pr bush.	700	00
3	3000 lbs Fodder	37	00
4	2000 lbs Bacon @ 25¢	500	00
5	700 lbs Lard @ 25¢	25	00
6	750 lbs Pork @ 10¢	75	00
7	one bbl Syrup	30	00
8	one bbl flour	7	00
9	10 Bush. Potatoes	10	00
10	one Bridle & saddle	10	00
	Total,	\$1569	00

That, as stated in the Petition referred to, the property in question was taken from William Stokes of Larissa Winston County in the State of Alabama, for the use of a portion of the army of the United States, known as General Wilson's Cavalry, and commanded by Genl. James H. Wilson, and that the person who took or received the property, or who authorized or directed it to be taken or furnished, were the following:

NAME.	RANK.	CO.	REGIMENT, CORPS, OR STATION
<u>Men of the command of Genl James H. Wilson</u> <u>Names unknown</u>	unknown		unknown

That the property was removed to the army on the march – and used for or by their? Troops and to subsist troops & for other necessary purposes; all this on or about the 25th day of March, in the year 1865, as appears by the Petition presented to the Commissioners.

That the Claimant is unable to produce the witnesses hereafter to be named before the Commissioners at the City of Washing for and because of the following reasons, to wit: by reasons of the smallness of the claim and the poverty of the claimant.

That the following are the names of the witnesses, their respective places of residences, the points most convenient for the taking of their testimony, and separate, full and detailed statements of what each particular witness is expected to prove; all matters of time, place and circumstances being set forth as explicitly as is possible:

By John Taylor & his wife Eliza Taylor of Larissa, Winston County, in the County of Winston and State of Alabama – whose testimony should be taken at or near Larissa in the State of Alabama the Claimant expects to prove that they will know the Sorrel mare taken from claimant and think she was worth when taken at least the sum of \$150-- that they saw her taken from the premises of claimant on or about the 25th day of March 1865 by detachment of men belonging to the command of General James H. Wilson, and put into the use and service of the U. S. army and taken away by them on their march South. That as the same day they were eyewitnesses of the taking of the Corn, Fodder, Bacon, Lard, Pork, Syrup, Flour, Potatoes and saddle and Bridle charged in claimants petition, and that all of said articles were taken from the premises of claimant at Larissa Alabama, by the same detachment of men from General Wilson's command, and used and consumed by them during that day and the next, and that the prices charged for said articles respectively are not greater than the regular market price at that time and place.

By John Dodd and R. S. Guthrie of the same place (both honorably discharged soldiers) he expect to prove that he was loyal to the Union and Government of the United States, both before, during, and since the War, and that during the War when they were lying near their homes waiting out for arrived rebels the Claimant often brought out provisions and fed them upon? his plantation at the risk of his life and that he never allowed a U.S. soldier to want for anything, where it was in his power to supply their wants.

By John Taylor also of the same place he expects to prove substantially the same facts as by the last named witnesses and many other acts which prove his loyalty during the War to have been genuine and true.

The claimant now prays that the testimony of the witnesses just designated be taken and recorded, at or near the places named, before such person or persons, and in such manner as the Commissioners may direct, at the reasonable cost of the said Claimant; and that the persons so directed to take and record such testimony be required to give due notice of the time and place of the taking thereof to the Claimant, or to his counsel.

Submitted to the Commissioners of Claims under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1871, on this 25th day of July, 1871.

William Stokes

Claimant

Stilson Bundy & Webster

Attorneys

P. O. Address of Attorney

Washington D.C.

William Stokes, Claimant,

Vs.

UNITED STATES, DEFENDANT.

In pursuance of the Commission issued by the Commissioners of Claims at Washing City, D. C., to the undersigned, on the 18th day of November, A. D. 1871, I, ROBERT P. BAKER, have called and caused to come before me at Larissa, in the County of Winston, and State of Alabama, on the 18th day of March, A. D. 1872, William Stokes (claimant), John Taylor, Eliza E. Taylor, John Dodd and Robert L Guthrie witnesses in behalf of claimant in the cause now pending before said Commissioners in the City of Washing, in which William Stokes, of Winston Co., Ala, is claimant, and the United States is defendant.

The said William Stokes, being first duly sworn, says, in answer to the Interrogatories propounded to him, That he is sixty two years of age and a resident of Winston County, Alabama and by occupation a farmer

[The following questions are not included in the actual file – just the answers. The questions have been found and added from another source to enhance the information. William Stokes' answers will be in underlined italic.]

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY CLAIMANTS UNDER OATH

1. Where did you reside for six months prior to the 1st of April, 1861?
Where were you in person during the said six months?
What was your business or occupation during that period?

I was on my plantation attending to my farming.

2. Where did you reside from the 1st of April, 1861, to the 1st of June, 1865?
Where were you *personally* during that period?
What was your business or occupation during that time?
Did you change your residence during that time? If so, when, and where was your new residence?

I was at home on my place where I have resided for the last twenty three or four years.

3. Did you ever pass beyond the military or naval lines of the United States and enter the rebel lines?
If so, how often, when, where, and for what purpose, and how long did you stay within the Confederate lines on each occasion?

No Sir

4. Did you ever take any oath or affirmation to bear allegiance to the so-called Confederate States, or to aid or support them in any way, or to "bear true faith", or "yield obedience" to them? If so, when and where? State fully in regard to the same.

No Sir I did not

5. Have you ever taken any amnesty oath? If so, when, where, and under what condition?
Have you been pardoned by the President? If so, when and where, and upon what conditions?

I too amnesty oath shortly after the surrender, administered by Marion Taylor *Justice). I took it in order that might vote, and to attach myself again to the United States

6. Were you ever directly or indirectly, or in any manner, connected with the civil service of the so-called Confederate States? If so, how, when, and where, in what capacity and for what periods?
Was any oath required of you for such service; and if so, what?

No Sir I was not.

7. Did you ever hold any office or place of trust, honor, or profit under the Confederate Government, or under any of the States or territories subordinate thereto? If so, state the nature and character of the office, the place at which and the period for which you held it?

I did not.

8. Did you hold any clerkship, or have any agency or employment of any kind, for, or under, or for the benefit of the so-called Confederate States? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

No Sir

9. Were you ever, in any capacity, in the military or naval service of the so-called Confederate States, or of any State or territory subordinate thereto?

No Sir

10. Were you ever an officer or soldier, sailor or marine of the Confederate army or navy, or did you ever furnish a substitute for the Confederate army or navy, or were you, directly or indirectly, in any way connected with, or employed by or under, or for either the commissary department, quartermaster's department, the medical department, the engineer's department, the ordnance department, the impressment service, the provost marshal's department, or any other bureau, branch, or department of the Confederate service?

Did you at any time have charge of any stores or supplies for the use of the Confederate army, navy, or government, or the charge or care of trains, team or teams, wagon or wagons, vessels, boats, or other craft, or munitions of war for the use of the Confederate army or navy? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

No Sir

11. Were you ever in any service, employment or business of any kind whatsoever for the Confederate Government, or its army or navy?

Did you ever furnish any aid, or any supplies or stores, or property of any kind to or for the so-called Confederate States, or any State in rebellion, or to the army, navy, militia, home-guards, armed forces, or military organizations thereof, or for any officer, soldier, or sailor thereof? If so, state fully in regard to the same.

Did you ever give any information to any officer, soldier, or sailor of the Confederate army or navy, or to any person employed by, or for the so-called Confederate States, or acting on their behalf, or for their benefit, which might aid in any way any military or naval operations carried on against the United States? State fully in regard to the same.

No Sir

12. Were you in any manner employed in the manufacture of munitions of war, of clothing, of boots, shoes, saddles, harness, or leather, of equipment for soldiers, or of any stores or supplies for the use of the Confederate army or navy, or were you in any way employed by, or did you aid or assist others engaged in such manufacture? If so, state when and where, and by or for whom you were so employed, and for what period of time.

No Sir

13. Were you ever, directly or indirectly, employed in the collection, impressment, or purchase, or the sale of stores, supplies, or any property for the use or benefit of the Confederate Government, or any State in rebellion, or the army, navy, or other forces thereof?

Did you have any interest or share in contracts with, or purchases for, the Confederate Government, or its army or navy, or any State in rebellion, or its forces? If so, state fully all particulars.

No Sir

14. Were you ever engaged in blockade running or illicit traffic, or intercourse between the lines, or were you ever in any way interested therein?

Did you ever have any interest or share in any goods, wares, merchandise, stores, or supplies brought into or exported from the so-called Confederate States during the war? If so, state fully all particulars.

No Sir

15. Did you leave the so-called Confederate States between 19th of April, 1861, and 19th of April, 1865? If so, when and how did you leave; where did you go; for what purpose; how long were you absent; in what business were you engaged while absent, and when and to what place did you return in the so-called Confederate States?

No Sir

16. Were you the owner, or part owner, or in any way interested in any vessel used in navigating the ocean to or from any port in the Confederacy, or upon any waters in the Confederacy; if so, what vessels, when and where employed, and in what business.

No Sir

17. Were you ever arrested by the Confederate Government, or by any officer, soldier, or other person professing to act therefore, or for any State in rebellion; if so, when, where, by whom, and how long were you kept under arrest; how did you get released?

Did you, for the sake of being released, or upon release, take any oath of any kind to the Confederate Government; if so, what?

[Put the same questions as to arrest by the United States Government, etc.]

No Sir – I was taken by an officer of the Federal forces to Pilot them to the Black Swamp, after which I returned home.

18. Was any of your property ever taken by the Confederate authorities, or by any officer, soldier, or other person acting or assuming to act on their behalf, or in behalf of any State in rebellion; if so, what property, when and for what use, and have you received pay therefore?

General Roudy's command too five head of horses and provisions at various times for which I never received any pay either in Confederate money, or United States currency

19. Were you ever threatened with damage, or injury to your person, family, or property on account of your Union sentiments; if so, state when, by whom, and what the threats were?

I was threatened to be killed by them on different occasions and threatened with having my property burned.

20. Were you ever molested or in any way injured on account of your Union sentiments? If so, state fully all the particulars.

Nothing other than above stated.

21. Did you ever contribute anything - any money or property - in aid of the United States Government, or in aid of the Union army or cause? If so, state fully as to the same.

No Sir – nothing other than to feed its soldiers and boys who were lying out to evade the conscript agents and Rebel scouts which was a voluntary act on my part and used my influence in getting them into the Federal lines. I toted meat for nine miles to the Union prisoners who made their escape from the Rebel prison at Tuscaloosa

22. Did you ever *do* anything for the United States Government or its army, or for the Union cause during the war? If so, state fully what you did?

No answer shown

23. Had you any near relatives in either the Union or Confederate armies; if so, state who and how related to you.
Did you contribute anything to supply them with military equipments, or with money? State fully as to the same.

No answer shown

24. Have you owned any Confederate bonds, or any interest or share therein; or had any share or interest in any loans to the Confederate Government; or did you in any way contribute to support the *credit* of the so-called Confederate States during the late rebellion?

No answer shown

25. Have you ever given aid and comfort to the rebellion? If so, state fully all the circumstances.

No answer shown

25. Were you ever engaged in making raids into the United States from Canada, or engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States in the lakes and rivers adjoining Canada?

No Sir

26. Were you ever engaged in holding in custody, directly or indirectly, any persons taken by the rebel Government as prisoners of war, or any persons imprisoned or confined by the Confederate Government, or the authorities of any State in rebellion, for political causes; if so, when, where, and under what circumstances; in what capacity were you engaged, and what was the name, rank, and command of your principal?

No Sir

27. Were you ever a member of any society or association for the imprisonment, expulsion, execution, or other persecution of any persons on account of their loyalty to the United States, or did you ever assist in such acts?

No Sir

28. Were you ever a paroled prisoner of the United States; if so, when and where, and by whom paroled?

No Sir

29. Have you ever held any office in the Army or Navy of the United States? Were you educated by the United States at the Military Academy at West Point, or at the United States Naval Academy?

No Sir

30. Did you ever receive any pass from any officer of the Confederate Government, or from any person having or assuming to have authority to issue the same; if so, who gave you the pass; for what purpose; for what period of time; did you sign or swear to any promise or obligation in order to get it, or swear or promise to "bear true faith and yield obedience to the Confederate States;" did you use the pass, and for what purpose?

No Sir

31. Are you or were you under the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Article of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States?
Have you held any office under the United States Government since the war; if so, what office; and did you take the (so-called) "iron-clad" oath?

No Sir

32. At the beginning of the rebellion did you sympathize with the Union cause, or with the rebellion? What were your feelings and what [was] your language on the subject? On which side did you exert your influence and cast your vote? What did you do, and how did you vote? How did you vote on ratifying the ordinance of secession?
After the "ordinance" of secession was adopted in your State did you adhere to the Union cause, or did you "go with the State?"

I was with the Union and opposed to the Rebellion, and my language and influence was always in favor of the United States Government and its army. In the election to the State Convention in 1861, I voted for the Union candidate as Representative, C. C. Sheats, and have since voted the Union ticket on all occasions when opportunity offered.

33. In conclusion, do you solemnly declare that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, your sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that you never, of your own free will and accord, did anything, or offered, or sought, or attempted to do anything, by word or deed, to injure said cause or retard its success, and that you were at all times ready and willing, when called upon, or if called upon, to aid and assist the cause of the Union, or its supporters, so far as your means and power, and the circumstances of the case permitted?

I do. I never did. I was and did do it.

[The following are handwritten accounts from witnesses. To make it easier to read, I will not underline the text]

John Dodd, called to prove loyalty, after being duly sworn deposes and says that he is twenty seven years of age, and that he resides in Winston County and a farmer by occupation. I have been acquainted with the claimant from my earliest recollection, residing about seven miles distant, was intimate with him during the war, but never had an opportunity of having any conversation with him until I commenced laying out – when he would bring me and other who were lying out, provisions, and he continued to feed us for three days after which we changed our place, at to great a distance for claimant to get to us. When he would bring us provisions he would converse with us about the war, and I always found him in favor of the Union and opposed to the Rebellion. In 1863 I enlisted in the First Alabama Cavalry, Union, for one year. I was discharged prior to expiration of term of service on account of sickness when I came home, after getting well I returned and re-enlisted in the same Regiment which was in 1864. During my enlistment I saw very little of Claimant, only when allowed to return home, but was informed that he always was true to the Stars and Stripes. Claimant was regarded as a Union man by the citizens generally both by his friends and enemies. He sent his two boys into the Federal lines but I don't know that they ever enlisted. I don't know that he ever had any relatives in the Confederate army. Don't know that he ever was interested in any Rebel bonds or done anything to support the credit of the Rebel Government. But I don't think he was or that he did. If the Rebels had been successful in establishing a separate Government, I don't think they would have allowed him to remain in safety as by them he was regarded as a Tory.

John Dodd

*Robert L Guthrie, called to prove loyalty, after being duly sworn doth depose and say that he is thirty-seven years of age and a resident of Winston Co. Alabama, and by occupation a farmer. I have been acquainted with claimant since 1860 , residing about six miles distant and intimately acquainted during the war – meeting and conversing with him on an average about twice a month, until I enlisted in Company “B” First Alabama *Union) Cavalry – in 1863, until my discharge in 1864, term of enlistment, when I met him as usual. Our conversation was both private and public. He opposed the Rebel party all the while, as bad as any man I ever seen and was always strongly in favor of the Union. I have been fed frequently by him when I was laying out in order to get an opportunity to join the Union Army in company with others with me. He had one son, John Stokes, enlisted in the First Alabama (Union) Cavalry, and assigned to Company “A” and also one son-in-law, Valentine Collins in same regiment and assigned to Company “M.” He had one son-in-law, David Burlison, in the Rebel Army. And don’t know that he ever contributed anything to either party while in the service. Don’t know that he ever owned any Confederate Bonds, or that he ever done anything to support the credit of the so-called Confederacy. He was generally regarded by his loyal neighbors as loyal, and in all our interviews I never saw him “flickering” any the same from first to last. If the Rebels had been successful in establishing a separate Government I have no idea that they would have allowed him to remain among them.*

Robert L. Guthrie

[I can find nothing on Valentine Collins or David Burlison]

Questions as to Property

William Stokes recalls in reference to property - states that in March 1865, on the appearance of Gen Wilsons raid in my section, they went into camp about one mile and a-half from my place. When they came to my plantation with wagons and horses and took from me one sorrel mare from the front of the stable about four years old and valued at one hundred and seventy-five dollars. They took from the crib and house three hundred and fifty bushels of corn – the corn from the house was three hundred bushels as I had measured and put it there for safe keeping and that in the crib I regarded as fifty bushel from my knowledge of bulk and the capacity of my crib. Three thousand pounds of fodder from my stable loft and stacks in the field. I had fifteen hundred binds as I counted them when I put them up and each bind would average two pounds and worth about one dollar and fifty cents per hundred. Two thousand pounds of Bacon was taken from my smoke house which was valued at twenty-five cents per pound. I butchered in the fall and winter twelve large hogs which would average two hundred and fifty pounds each. One hundred pounds of lard was also taken from the same place. The lard was poured in a stand that would hold four bushels of meal, and it was full. Five hogs were shot down at my gate that would have averaged one hundred and twenty five pounds each, and fresh meat was worth ten cents at the time. One barrel of syrup was taken from smoke house which was valued at one dollar per gallon. One barrel of flour was taken from dwelling house worth about six cents per pound. Ten bushel of potatoes was taken from my potato bed, which at the time was worth one dollar per bushel. One Bridle and saddle was taken from the entry in dwelling which was valued at ten dollars. The above specified property was packed on horses and loaded in wagons which was removed to their camps. There was officers present with the enlisted men when the property was being taken. I sat in the passage way and talked with the officers begged them not to take everything I had, as I should starve to death. They said that there was a demand for what they had taken and they were obliged to take it and that they had orders to take it. I was present and saw all taken as did my wife, and also Mr. John Taylor and his wife who were visiting my family. I was never paid in part or full for any of the above property, nor did I go to their camps to obtain a voucher. I just felt broken down and low-spirited, as want and starvation stared me and my family in the face, and I could not rally sufficient to look after anything but felt now like giving up to the situation and abiding the fate of the future.

his
William X Stokes
mark

Eliza E. Taylor, being called to prove property after being duly sworn doth depose and say that she is sixty-five years of age and resides in Winston Co. Ala. That in March 1865 Gen Wilson's command camped within an half mile of claimants place and remained but one night, and while there they took from claimant's place one sorrel mare, don't know her age or value. Corn was taken from the Crib and out of the house loft and out of a garner behind the house, don't know the amount but quite a large quantity corn. I think was worth one dollar and fifty cents. Fodder was also taken, don't know how much but he had a stable loft full and a large stack in the field and all of it was taken, don't know the value of the fodder per pound. Bacon was taken out of the smoke house; don't know now much but a right smart lot. Bacon was selling at twenty-five cents per pound. Seven hogs was killed, don't know what they would weigh and don't know what raw meat was worth per pound. One barrel of syrup was also taken which was worth one dollar per gallon. One barrel of flour was taken and was worth at the time Seven dollars per hundred pounds. Also ten bushels of Potatoes was taken which was worth one dollar per bushel. I was visiting claimant's wife at the time, she was my niece and I saw the above property taken which was removed in Wagons and packed on horses, and taken in the directions of their camps. I don't know whether there was any officers present or not when they property was taken. I talked with several of the parties and begged of them to go off and not take everything they had, and they said if the went off and left anything the Rebels would come along and take it, and they did not purpose that they should have anything. They said that they were ordered to take everything, but don't know how true that was, as I did not hear any officers order them to take it. Claimant says he never received any pay for any of the property taken. I do not know that there was any necessity for the taking of the property, no do I know whether they, the soldiers, had authority for doing as they did. I do not know to what use the property was appropriated. All I know is it was taken and I, in the presence of the Claimant's family and my husband, saw it taken.

her
Eliza X E. Taylor
mark

John Taylor, being called to prove property, after being duly sworn doth depose and say that he is sixty-four years of age, and a resident of Winston County Alabama, and a farmer by occupation. In March 1865, I was on a visit to the place of claimant when the command of Gen. James Wilson on their raid made their appearance and camped ear the property of claimant, when they arrived in camp for one night, while there they visited place of claimant and took from his (claimants) premises one sorrel mare which I think was four years old and valued at one hundred and fifty-dollars. Also corn was also taken from his crib and from the loft in his dwelling and from a garner in the rear of the dwelling. I don't know the amount in the bushels but a large lot it. Corn at the time was worth one dollar and seventy-five cents per bushel. Fodder was taken from his stable loft and from a stack in his field, all was taken. There was no doubt but that there was from fifteen hundred to two thousand bundles averaging two pounds per bundle and was worth two dollars per hundred pounds. Bacon was taken from his smoke house, don't know number of pounds, but bacon was worth at the time twenty-five cents per pound. Seven hogs was killed which would weigh on an average one hundred and twenty five pounds each and worth about ten cents per pound. One barrel of Syrup was also taken which was worth one dollar per gallon. Potatoes were taken; don't know number of bushels, but worth at the time one dollar per bushel. One barrel of flower was taken and valued at about six cents per pound. Did not see Bridle and saddle taken. I was on the place when the above described property was taken, and saw the property taken. I begged one of the officers not to take all the man had, but they replied that they were obliged to forage the county, as they were living off the county as they passed through, and all the property they did take was by order from the commanding officer. The property was removed by being put in wagons and packed on horses and taken to their camps. Saw none of the property used by them. I have reason to believe that there was a necessity for taking of the property from my conversation with the officers. I ??zar of that it was taken for the use of the service and by the authority of officers as officers were present when it was taken, and that such being the facts of the case I regard that it is no more than Just and right that the Government should pay for it. They further asked me of the condition of the county they had to pass through in reference to forage and provisions.

John Taylor

State of Alabama, }

Winston County

I, ROBERT P. BAKER,

Commissioner to take testimony in cases pending before "The Commissioners of Claims," now pending before them against the United States, and as Notary Public in and for the County of Morgan and State of Alabama, do certify, that William Stokes, of Winston Co Ala, the claimant in this cause, and as a witness, and John Dodd, John Taylor, Eliza E. Taylor, and Robert L. Guthrie of Winston Co Ala, as witnesses, and _____ as counsel, came before me at Larissa Winston Co Ala, on the 18th day of March, A.D. 1872, the said witnesses to testify in behalf of William Stokes, the claimant in this cause; that before said witnesses were examined they were each severally sworn by me to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, relative to said claim; that the answer each of said witnesses were taken down; that after same were carefully read over to said witnesses, I caused each of them to subscribe their said deposition. And I further certify, that said depositions have not been out of my possession since they were so taken, nor have the same been in any way altered or changed.

Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of April, A. D. 1872.

(Signed)

R. P. Baker SEAL

Special Commissioner, &c.

2185

Claim of

William Stoakes [sic]

Winston County Ala

\$1569—

E. Richmond

Report

May 1874

Claim of

*William Stoakes [sic]
Winston County Alabama
For \$1569—*

In the above case I have made a full investigation & have interrogated all of claimant's neighbors, and have failed to find any disloyal acts or expressions. It is the general impression here that claimant was strictly loyal all the time the claimant has no middle name and it is evident that it was some other Stokes that subscribed to Confederate bonds. Claimant had property. I cannot find any evidence against claimant.

E Richmond

Special Agent

Houston Ala

May 21st 1874

No 2185

OFFICE OF THE
Commissioners of Claims.

2185

Washington, D.C., _____, 1872

MEMORANDUM

Ferris
W. R. Stokes
Alabama

Rebel Bond holder.

Treasury Records

Claim No. 36981

Sett. No. 5103

William Stokes of

Alabama.

\$832.00

Due him

OUT OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR

**“Claims of Loyal Citizens for Supplies furnished
during the Rebellion.”**

*For amount allowed him by the Southern
Claims Commission.*

Reported March 22, 1875

Returned March 25, 1875

Requisition No. 3698, dated

April 1, 1875, transmitted for

Warrant April 2, 1875

The United States,

To William Stokes of Alabama

*For the amount allowed him by Act of Congress, Private No. 71
approved March 3rd, 1875, entitled “An Act making
appropriations for the payment of claims reported allowed
by the Commissioners of Claims under the Act of
Congress of March 3, 1871:”*

Eight hundred and thirty-two dollars \$832.00

\$832.00

*Payable in case of Stilson, Bundy & Webster
Present*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Second Comptroller's Office,

March 25, 1875

H. Spalding
Clerk.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office,

March , 1875

A. Jackson
Clerk.