

20656
COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS.

ACT MARCH 3D, 1871.

No. 20656

CLAIM

OF

James Holmes

(sold)

OF

Liberty Co

State of Georgia

SUMMARY REPORT.

Amount Allowed, \$120

SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

187

Liberty Co. in the State of Georgia

No. 20656
The Claim of Jane Holmes (old)

little of the meat - It is doubtful whether the corn & rice was
anything more than rations - We recommend the payment of \$120

A. D. Allison Comr
D. Ferris of
W. H. Howell Claimant

No. of Item.	NATURE OF CLAIM.	AMOUNT CLAIMED.		AMOUNT ALLOWED.		AMOUNT DISALLOWED.	
		Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.
1	One horse	150		90		60	
2	8 cows & calves	160		15		145	
3	5 Hogs	40		15		25	
4	20 Bushels corn	20				20	
5	20 " rice	40				40	
6	20 fowls	5				5	
7	10 pair Ducks	5				5	
8	20 Lires of honey	30				30	
9	One jar of butter	2	50			2	50
10	Kitchen furniture	30				30	
11	Bidding quilts &c.	10				10	
		492	50	120		372	50

REMARKS.

The claimant is a widow - was a slave & a field hand - she belonged to Joseph Bacon - Her husband was living during the war & was overseer for Rev. Dr. C. C. Jones -

This claim & many others filed by the colored people of Liberty Co. Ga - former slaves have been thoroughly investigated by agents of the commission - But few of these claims have been found meritorious - In this case we think the claimant had such a title to the property taken by the federal Army for supplies, as will justify a favorable report - We refer to the report of our agent Mr. Army & the testimony in the case -

Most of the items of the claim are not army supplies and unfortunately the soldiers, as claimant testified pointed up her cattle with others & wantonly shot them down leaving the carcasses for the buzzards - using but very

PETITION.

To the Honorable Commissioners of Claims,

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

The Petition of (1) Jane Holmes

respectfully represents:

That she is a citizen of the United States, and reside at present at or near (2) Brier Bay Plantation Liberty County

and that she resided when this claim accrued at or near (3) Brier Bay Liberty County

That she has a claim against the United States for property (4) Taken for the use of the army of the United States during the late rebellion at (or near) Brier Bay, near No 3 Albany & Gulf Road, in the county of Liberty, and State of Georgia

That the said claim, stated by items, and excluding any and all items of damage, destruction, and loss, (and not use,) of property; of unauthorized or unnecessary depredations by troops and other persons upon property, or of rent or compensation for the use or occupation of buildings, grounds, or other real estate, is as follows:

No. of Item	QUANTITIES AND ARTICLES.	VALUE
1	2 Park Saddle Horses	\$ 150 00
2	8 Head of Cows & Calves	100 00
3	5 Head of Hogs	40 00
4	20 Bushels of Corn	20 00
5	20 Bushels of Rice	40 00
6	20 Head of Poultry	5 00
7	10 pair of Tanned	5 00
8	20 Hides of Horses	30 00
9	one Jar of Butter about 10 lbs	2 50
10	Wife's Furniture	30 00
11	Building Ints &c	10 00
Total,		\$ 492 50

Note 1. Give full names of all the petitioners.
 2. Give the residence of each petitioner.
 3. Give the former residence of each petitioner.
 4. "Taken," or "furnished."

That the property in question was taken or furnished for the use of a portion of the army of the United States, known as ⁽⁵⁾ *Sherrmans Army* and commanded by *Richard B. K. Cavalry General* and that the persons 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

That the property was removed to ⁽⁶⁾ *The camp of the Army* and used for or by ⁽⁷⁾ *The Troops of the Cavalry*, and all this on or about the *15th* day of *December*, in the year 186*4*.

That ⁽⁸⁾ *no* voucher, receipt, or other writing, *was* given for the property

That your petitioner verily believe that the property described was ⁽⁹⁾ *Taken* under the following circumstances, or one or more of such circumstances, viz:

- For the actual use of the army, and not for the mere gratification of individual officers or soldiers already provided by the Government with such articles as were necessary or proper for them to have.
- In consequence of the failure of the troops of the United States to receive from the Government in the customary manner, or to have in their possession at the time, the articles and supplies necessary for them, or which they were entitled to receive and have.
- In consequence of some necessity for the articles taken, or similar articles; which necessity justified the officers or soldiers taking them.
- For some purpose so necessary, useful, beneficial, or justifiable as to warrant or require the Government to pay for it.
- Under the order or authority of some officer, or other person connected with the army, whose rank, situation, duties, or other circumstances at the time authorized, empowered, or justified him in taking or receiving it, or ordering it to be taken or received.

That ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ of _____ the original owner of said claim, and that _____ of _____ the present owner of the same ⁽¹¹⁾ _____

That your petitioner remained loyally adherent to the cause and the Government of the United States during the war, and *was* so loyal before and at the time of the *Taking* of the property for which this claim is made, and he solemnly declare that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, *his* sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that *she* never, of *his* 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 *she was* 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 *her* means and power, and the circumstances of the case, permitted.

- Note 5. Describe the organization as fully and particularly as possible.
 6. State as well as can be done the place to which the property was conveyed.
 7. State as fully and minutely as possible, the particular persons or commands using the property, and to what particular use it was applied or intended to be applied.
 8. If any vouchers or written papers were given, attach the originals or copies, or state where the originals are to be found and give the substance of them.
 9. "Taken" or "furnished."
 10. The loyalty of the owner of the property when taken or furnished, and of all persons having a present beneficial interest in the claim, must be established by proof.
 11. If any other persons than the original owner now own or have an interest in the claim, state how such ownership or interest was acquired.

That said claim has not before been presented to ⁽¹²⁾ *any Branch or Department of the Government,*

That *Mr James M. Sumner* is hereby authorized and empowered to act as Attorney for the prosecution of this claim. Wherefore your petitioner pray for such action of your Honorable Commission in the premises as may be deemed just and proper.

Witnesses: ⁽¹³⁾ *James M. Sumner*
Joseph Johnson

STATE OF *Georgia*
 COUNTY OF *Liberty*
 (14) *James M. Sumner*
 being duly sworn ⁽¹⁵⁾

deposes and says, that he is _____ the petitioner named in the foregoing petition and who signed the same; that the matters therein stated are true, of the deponent's own knowledge, except 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 said 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.

Witnesses: *James M. Sumner*
Joseph Johnson

Sworn and subscribed in my presence, the *14th* day of *September*, 187*2*
Joseph Johnson [L. S.]

Names and residences of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove loyalty:
Samuel Bacon of Liberty county
Jully Bacon of Liberty county

Names and residences of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove the other facts alleged in the foregoing petition:
Samuel Bacon of Liberty county
Jully Bacon of Liberty county
 Post office address of claimant: *Box A & G. Rail Road*
 Post office address of attorney: *Lawrence B. Georgia*

- Note 12. If the claim has heretofore been presented to any branch of the Government, state when and where presented, and what action was taken upon it.
 13. Claimants sign here.
 14. Give the names of all the petitioners.
 15. If more than one petitioner, insert the words, "each for himself," and in the next line insert "one of" in the proper blanks.

That, as stated in the Petition referred to, the property in question was taken from or furnished by Jane Holmes of Brier Bay in the State of Georgia for the use of a portion of the army of the United States, known as Sherman's Army, and commanded by Genl. K. P. Taylor and that the persons 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.

That the property was removed to (4) _____ and used for or by (5) _____; all this on or about the 15 to 21 day of December, in the year 1864, as appears by the petition presented to the Commissioners.

That by the following named persons, the claimant expects to prove that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, his sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that he never, of his 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 he was 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 his means and power, and the circumstances of the case, permitted.

Jamison Bacon of Liberty County
J. J. Bacon of Liberty County
Priscilla Stephen of _____
 _____ of _____
 _____ of _____

That, by the following named persons, the claimant expects to prove the taking or furnishing of the property for the use of the army of the United States:

As above of _____
 _____ of _____
 _____ of _____
 _____ of _____
 _____ of _____

The claimant now prays that the testimony of the witnesses just designated be taken and recorded, at such place and at such time as the Special Commissioner may designate, at the reasonable cost of the said claimant; and that due notice of the time and place of the taking thereof be given to the Claimant, or to his counsel.

Submitted on this third day of June, 1873

Jane Holmes
 Claimant.
W. H. Taylor
 Attorney.

P. O. Address of Attorney:

Savannah

Submitted

No. 20656

CLAIM OF

Jane Holmes

OF

Richmond Liberty County,

State of Georgia

\$ 547.50

TESTIMONY OF

Jane Holmes	Page 3
Samuel Bacon	11
Prince Stephens	18

TAKEN BEFORE

Virgil Hilliger
Special Commissioner
State of Georgia

Notaries
of Washington
August 5/73
Attorneys.

W. H. Sykes Atty
Savannah Ga

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

32

closed July 21
written

[FRONT PAGE.]

Before the Commissioners of Claims.

ACT OF CONGRESS, MARCH 3, 1871.

Case of Jane Holmes
No. 20656

It is hereby certified, that on the 21 day of July
1873, at Riceboro in the county of Liberty
and State of Georgia, personally came before me the following
persons, viz:

Jane Holmes Claimant,
W. H. Sykes Counsel, or Attorney,
and Sampson Bacon
Prince Stewart
Claimant's Witnesses,

for the purpose of a hearing in the above entitled cause.
Each and every deponent, previous to his or her examination, was properly
and duly sworn or affirmed by me to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing
but the truth, concerning the matters under examination; and the testimony of
each deponent was written out by me, or in my presence, and as given before me,
and subsequently read over to said deponent, by whom it was also subscribed in my
presence.

Witness my hand and seal this 21 day of July
1873.



Virgil Milligan
Special Commissioner of the Commissioners of Claims,
State of Georgia

Deposition of Jane Holmes

In answer to the First General Interrogatory, the Deponent says:
My name is Jane Holmes, my age 60
years, my residence Riceboro, in the State of
Georgia and my occupation a field hand.
I am ~~related to~~ the claimant,
and have beneficial interest in the claim.

[NOTE: The Claimant should always be first examined when present, in which case the words "related to" as printed immediately above, should be stricken out.]

Testimony of Claimant.

- Interrogatories by Special Commissioner.
- 1 My name is Jane Holmes. I was born in Liberty Co Ga, a slave; became free when Sherman's Army came here. I think I am over 60 years old. I reside at Mrs. Lopez's plantation Rainbow Liberty Co. I work in the field. I saw the claimant in this case.
 - 2 I lived at Brick Bay Liberty Co from the 1st of April 1861 to the 15th of June 1864. While the Yankee Army came here then I followed the Army to Savannah.
 - 3 A H. I. deponent.
 - 5 to 28 inclusive to each & every question the claimant answers No! after hearing the questions read to her.
 - 29 I cooked for the soldiers after they came in here with the Army & did anything else for them that they wanted me to do.
 - 30 to 39 inclusive to each & every question the claimant answers No!
 - 40 At the beginning of the war rebellion or as soon as I heard of it my feelings were all the time with the Union cause & when I heard the guns I used to go & pray for them & I always prayed for them night & day.
 - 41 In conclusion I solemnly declare that I my feelings were with the cause of the

United States & I am afraid to the Yankees
till I die. When they called us we come &
we said you come & they said, we is come
& we couldn't be rejoiced enough we were
so glad. I never done anything against
the Yankees, we did pray for them that God
would help them.

43 At the beginning of the rebellion I was a
slave & became free when the Union Army
came through here. I went right to farming
as soon as I became free I came out of Sa-
vannah in July & went right to farming
& then farming ever since. I labored for
this property. I worked by tasks. My mas-
ter gave us tasks & when we done we worked
for ourselves. I raised chickens & hogs &
got a cow & by raising & increasing I got
my horse. For more than 30 years before
the Army came here I was working & raising
in this way. It is more than 30 years since
I bought my first mare, I raised 4 horses
from her. I sold one to Peter Harder, I
sold one to my brother Deanda Bird, &
one to Cato Holmes, & the Rebels stole
one from me that makes 4 I forgot to
tell that when you asked me if the Rebels
took any of my property, I sold the rest
to other parties. My master would allow
me to buy & sell ^{& raise} anything except cotton

he wouldn't allow us to raise cotton. Joe Beau-
rows, my master's name. I am not now in his
employment. I live on Med Lyons land
now, since the Army came through. I mean
I work on his land, but I bought an acre
of him to build my house on. I do not
owe my master anything. No one but my-
self has an interest in ^{this} claim. I am
a widow my husband died it will be 4
years in September. I did not get any
property by either one of my husband's.
I left the property my husband had when
the said came & for his son to attend to
I had no children by him so when he
died his property went to his son. I had been
married to my first husband about 20 years
before the said came, & when it came I
was legally married to him. He settled
me on this same place I am on now.
I had not of interrogation by Special Com-
1st I was present when they took this property
from me I was standing right up in the
yard then.
2 I saw them take the property.
3 They come up in the morning right across
the field & the first thing they did they
took the hogs out of the shed, & went un-
der the house & caught the ducks, & went in
& got a jug of honey & some butter & they

put them in the buggy & they took the horse
to the first day. They said they was looking
out for a boat, & the boat didn't come
& they must live till it come in. They
fed their horses of the corn & rice the 2nd
day & after that they went on & took some
thing till it was all gone.

4 This property was taken from my house at
Brier Bay on my master's place. I think
it was in Dec about the 1st day of Dec
I think. I don't know the year but it was
when the Union Army came here in Dec.
that this property was taken. There were
about 10 come the first day but they did
not take anything & the next day about 20
came & they kept on coming in gangs till
they had taken all the property. They kept
coming & going about a week.

5 Samson Bacon, Dolly Bacon, Prince Stephen,
Briston Fleming, Lilla Stephen, Willoughby
Bacon, & myself, were there at the taking
of the property.

6 When the big gangs come to take the prop-
erty there were officers with them, but not
when the small gangs come. I didn't know
one officer from another, I know they were
officers by their stripes. I don't know
whether they ordered the property taken
or not they were there when it was taken.

7 They came in gangs & catch the horse out
of the stable & took my harness, ^{I put} on him
& put him in my buggy & put the duck,
& butter & clothing & bedding & a jug of
honey in it & drove off with it. They
drove the cows & calves out of the pasture
& took them off. The rice & corn were in
my house where I lived, they went in
the house & took that out & fed the
horses with it right there.

8 They moved all my property away in my
buggy except what they drove off & fed
put there & drove off & moved my horses.

9 They moved what they didn't feed there,
to their camp hardly a mile from there
where I lived. I did not follow it.
They went right toward the camp & there
was only one road & low ground each side
they couldn't have gone anywhere else.

10 I know what use the Army took this
property for. They used it to feed
their horses, & they had some broken down
horses & they took the fresh ones to take
their places, & they used them to haul the
stuff to camp.

11 I shall not make any complaint to any of-
ficer or anybody on account of the taking
of this property.

12 I did not ask anyone to give me a receipt

in condition for this property.

- 13 This property was all taken in the day.
- 14 When this property was taken the Army were encamped there about 3 or 4 miles from where they took the property. There had been no battles or skirmishes near there. I heard it was Gen Sherman's & Kilpatrick's Army there. I heard of the guns that all I know about the fighting. I did not know the quartermasters or any of the other officers, except I knew them by their stripes that they were officers.
- 15 This property was in good condition. The rice & corn gathered & in the house & the horse & cow & the cows & calves in good order.
- 16 Item No 1. This mare was about 5 years old: a large nice & fat. They took the horse & put it in the buggy & loaded up the buggy with things & drove off.
- Item No 2. I had 8 cows & 8 calves. They were not any of them old, but some had had more than one calf. Some had had 2 & some 3 calves. They were large cows for this country. The calves were some spring calves & some two spring, 2 years old. I don't know how much the cows or calves would weigh. They were in good order for killing.

it was in the time of the year when cattle were in good order. They placed all the cows & calves away.

Item No 3. They were not Bacon hogs a little over a year old, in good order for fresh meat. There were 5 or 6 of them. They would weigh over a 100 lbs dressed. They just drove the hogs up in the lane & cut the heads off & put them on their horses & went off with them.

Item No 4. I had 20 bush of corn in the ear. It was measured. I count 2 bush of ears made 1 of shelled corn. This was counted what would make 20 bush shelled. They fed the corn right out there to the horses.

Item No 5. 20 bush of rough rice, it was measured. The rice was stored in my house, they took it & fed it to the horses & put some of it in pillowcases & took it away with them.

Item No 6. I had 20 head of fowls & more but I put it down 20. They took them together & hung them on their horses & put some in the buggy.

Item No 7. I had 10 pr of ducks. 20 head. They took them as they did the chickens.

Item No 8. I had 20 bins of honey. They just broke them open & took out the best.

10
of the honey & put it in pails & took it off
to the camp.

Item No 9. I had one jar of butter I
never weighed it, but I think it would
hold 1 gal & it was full of butter. They
took it off to camp in their hands in the
jar.

Item No 10. Kitchener furniture. They
took 1 big tub & 1 tin & 1 piggins & a
pan & a coffee pot & pails & buckets. I don't
remember that they took any thing else

Item No 11. I had 2 quilts & bolster &
2 pillows, they made bags of them.

Item No 12. This was a spring baggy. I
had had it a good while & had just had
it repaired & painted when the Yankees
took it. It was a nice baggy.

Item No 13. This was not new but a
pretty good leather harness. It was bought
when the baggy was. They took my harness
& put it on my horse & hitched it into
my baggy & took them all away together.
This property all belonged to me & I own
all the one interested in it. I saw the sol-
diers take all this property. I did not see
any of it wasted except what the horses
wasted in eating of the ground. I never
received any pay from anyone for any
part of this property. This is the first

5
I only claim I have ever made against the
Government. ^{Mr} Justice Holmes
Witness ^{Mark}

(E. E. Adlington)

Sworn to and subscribed before me
Virgil Hillier
Special Commissioner
State of Georgia

Testimony of Witness
Helen Foster by Special Commissioner.
My name is Sampson Bacon. I was born
in Liberty County, a slave and made free by
the Yankee when they came into the County.
I belonged to Joseph R. Bacon, I am about
80 years of age. I live at Pine Bay. I am
a farmer. I know the claimant in this case
I am not related to her in any way - I
have no beneficial interest in her claim &
only came here to testify for her - I knew them
Mr Holmes the claimant from a little girl - I
knew she was a good Union woman during
the war & lived on the same plantation
with her, we belonged to the same Master.
I was his driver for 40 or 50 years and when
the Yankee came into the County. My
Master worked all his hands by the
task - & hand who were industrious could
finish their task by 1.2. & 3 o'clock PM

the balance of the time was their own -
to do what they pleased Mr. Nelson was
a good servant and industrious - I know
his husband he was a good servant and
got along well. I know Jane owned the
property charged in her account she had
been raising horses for a long time and
other things, cattle, hogs, poultry, and such
like - her master always allowed her to
raise and own such things and any
thing else she could get time and
money to pay for - he never interfered
with his slave property, I know that -
because I was his driver and knew
all about his business management &c.
The property all belonged to her, her
husband belonged to C. C. Jones and
- she belonged to Joseph R. Bacon -

2^o set out by Special Commissioner -

- 1 I was present when the articles of property
specified in Claimant's account were taken
- 2 I saw the property all taken
- 3 When the first came up they asked
who lived there and what we had got
what stock &c they just turned right in
and went to catching and taking any
thing they could get their hands on.
- 4 The property was taken at claimant's
house on Joseph Bacon Plantation

When the parties came in I think it
was in Dec 1864 I do not remember the
day of the month the property was
taken by the Union Soldiers all horsemen
I do not know whether they belonged to
Sherman or not I heard of Sherman's Army
and Ketchum's Army. They came in
Companies of 3 or 4 I think the first day
and they came in larger numbers I
can't tell how many I don't know ^{how long}
they were taking the things, came and took
what they could take and kept on in
that way till they had got all away

5 I was present at the taking of Jane Nelson,
the claimant Prince Stearns, his wife
and others I don't remember all - I can now
remember Buster Bacon.

6 They were officers or an officer with every
squad - I heard them order the soldiers
to take the property and everything around
like clock work. I took them to be
officers I don't know their rank they
had epulettes on their shoulders I judged
them to be officers from their dress and
from their going around.

7 They went and ~~caught~~ caught the horse
put the harness on to him hitched him
to the buggy and filled it with things
and drove off - They went to the pasture

the cows and calves and drove them off the hog pen in the lane, they killed them cut the heads off put them on to the horses and send off - the corn and rice they fed out there, the other articles they carried off to the camp.

- 8 They moved this property on horses & fed some flour & drove the cows away.
- 9 They moved this property to the camp. I could see the camp from where I lived I had no need to follow it I could see it.
- 10 I could not tell what use they made of it but I think they took it for their own use. I saw them feed the corn & rice there.
- 11 I did not hear the claimant make any complaint to any of the officers, nor account of such taking.
- 12 I did not hear any voucher or receipts what for by claimant.
- 13 They took this property in the day time.
- 14 I can't state what hour in the day but all hours before night they did not come at night.
- 14 The Army were encamped at in that night but I did not see this property was taken about three quarters of a mile from claimant's place. It was the main Army I could not get the name of its commander. There had been no battles or skirmishes in that neighborhood.

wood. I did not know any of the quarter masters or other officers.

- 15 This property was all in good plight when taken from claimant.
- 16 Item No 1. This horse was about 5 or 6 years old it may be older I can't recollect. It was a nice, full horse. This horse belonged to claimant I know because we all belonged on one place & I know what she had & what she had not. Her master never claimed his slave's property or interfere with it, I would not let his children do it, I was the driver & knew the riders grain.
- Item No 2. She had about 8 head of cows & each cow had a calf. My wife nice large cows for Southern cows. The calves were one & 2 years old. The cows were all in the pasture & they just went & drove them right off to the camp.
- Item No 3. They were not put up for fattening hogs but were all ready to be put up. They were not all full grown some were just full grown. They just shot these hogs & cut their heads off & put them on the horses & went off.
- Item No 4. I think she had a little over 40 lbs of ear corn. This corn was of her own raising she raised it by working after her task was over I judged it from the price

I had measured & judged it so much I could just about strike on the head, how much it would be.

Item No 5. She had a little over 20 bus of rough rice. I looked at the pile after she had done thrashing it & put it in the house; we always looked at one another's pile to see what we had made. She cut the rice & they fed out three to the horses.

Item No 6 & 7. She had about 20 head of ducks, & over 20 head of fowls. They caught all they could & those they couldn't catch they killed them then & they laid them all to the horses & went off to the camp.

Item No 8. She had 20 pigs, when the soldiers came, I see them broke them open & take out the honey & carry it off in buckets, piggins, or anything else they could get to put it in.

Item No 9. She had one jar of butter I should judge about a gal jar. I did not know whether it fell or not. It was fresh. I saw them carry the jar off.

Item No 10. She had ovens & pots & pans & pans & piggins. I didn't see them take these things, but just as I come up & laid out they have taken all my furniture, I saw there was nothing left & she had a good supply.

The bedding & quilts were taken at the same time as the furniture & I did not see them taken & know ~~the~~ she had them & they were gone.

Item No 12. This was a good strong spring buggy for one horse. I couldn't tell how long it had been used it was in good working order she drove it every Saturday.

Item No 13. It was a leather harness that they used with the buggy, they harnessed her horse into this buggy & with her harness & drove off.

I saw all of this property taken from the claimant, except the 2 or 3 articles mentioned. I was the driver & knew it was all hers. They all had a little bit of a garden of their own. She commenced raising horses while in the plantation with me, about 20 or 25 years before the raid came there.

Witness Samson His Bacon
E. E. Adlington, Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me
Virgil Killeyer
Special Commissioner
State of Georgia

Testimony of Witness.

Interrogatories, By Special Commissioner
My name is Prince Stephens, I was
born in Liberty Co Ga, a slave; became
free in 1864. I am 38 years old.

I reside at Dr Waj's estate near Rice-
boro about a mile out. I am a farm-
er. I am not related to the claimant.
I have no beneficial interest in the
claim. I have known her some 25
years. She was a good Union woman.

2nd set of interrogatories, by Special Com.
1st I was present at the claimant's home
when this property was taken.

2 I saw all of this property taken.

3 They came up there a large Squadron & said
they came to forage & they burst open
claimant's door which was fastened &
fastened their horses round the house
& fed them. They went right in & took
the corn & rice & poured it on the ground,
& fed their horses & they took the poultry
& ducks, & put it in the buggy & drove off
to camp. The jar of butter they took out
to camp in the buggy with them.

4 They were taken at claimant's house on
Joseph B. Bacon's place sometimes called
Rice Bay. It was taken in Dec 1864.
They were taken by the Army that they call

Shannon & Keelpatrick's Army. There
were so many of the soldiers there taking
the property, there were so many of them,
I could not tell how many. In 2 days time
the property was pretty much taken away.

She kept coming till it was all gone.

5 I saw Samson Bacon, Brister Fleming, Sully
Bacon & myself were there at the taking
of the property.

6 There were so many of them & dressed
in so many ways I could not tell I judg-
ed they were officers from their dress.
I didn't hear any orders given to take the
property. The men sitting on their horses
who looked like officers just put on
their horses & looked on & did not do
anything at all. I did not hear them
give any orders.

7 They came & got the horses & put them
in the buggy. The cattle were all in the
pasture near the house & they went & took
them out of the pasture & the way
they chopped the heads off & split them
open & put them on the horses. They just
put ~~down~~ the corn on ground & fed
it to their horses, & there were so many
of them it wasn't a fair for them &
they took the rice in the same way. The
fowls, ducks, honey, & butter, kitchen fur

nature & bed quilts were taken right there.

8. The corn & rice they fed out there & the ducks & chickens, & besides they put into the buggy, the hogs they cut their heads & lashed them on to the horse and scolded.
9. They went in the direction of the Camp & I suppose went there I did not follow it I could see movement of the Camp from Claimant's house I know they went there.
10. I know the use for which they took the property, because they said what they wanted it for it was for the use of the Army & saw them feed the Corn & rice.
11. I did not hear any Complaint made.
12. I did not hear any voucher or receipt asked for.
13. The property was all taken in the day time they did not come out of Camp at night it was not taken secretly.
14. When the property was taken the Army was encamped about 1/4 of a mile from Claimant's house they were staying about for 3 Miles - I did not hear of any battles or skirmishes just before the property was taken I did not hear the Quartermaster or any other Officers of the Army.
15. The property was all in good trim when

it was taken.

16. Item No 1 The horse ~~was~~ or mare was about 5 year old I know her from out the war a large mare fat sound and in prime condition I saw her taken with the Buggy and harness.

Item No 2 The two best Cows and Calves I think was 16 altogether - 8 head of Cows and 8 head of Calves, the Cows were full grown and good size for Georgia Cows, the Calves were 2 & 3 year old I saw them drive them all off toward the Camp.

Item No 3 She had 5 head killed and taken off I saw them and helped drive up the hogs and kill them they were not bacon hogs - not in the pen - but in fair order running in the field I know some of them ^{would weigh} 130 to 190 net ~~meat~~ they were good healthy hogs and in good order for fresh meat.

Item No 4 I judge from the pit there was 100 Bushels of Corn in the ear equal to 22 or 23 Bar Shells they fed the overnight there and it was hardly a "bite" for them it was used up pretty quick.

Item No 5 - I think from the barrels there were 20 Bushels of Rice - I think she had (8) Eight Barrels of Rice - rough

rice - the rice was fed to the horses
just as the Corn was

Stem No 6 She had I should judge on 30
head of Hogs I did not count them
She had them in the coop ready to send
to market

Stem No 7 She had 20 head of Ducks
we would call them ~~Sw~~ Pan they were
in a coop for shipping They took all
of the fowls and all of the Chickens

Stem No 8 I saw them take over
20 of them Ben-horn - She had I think
over 30 of them

Stem No 9 I saw them take the jar of
Honey Butter I should judge it would hold
15 lb Butter at least -

Stem No 10 The Kitchen Kintan I saw
coming out of the kitchen I don't know
how much she had - I know her kitchen
was well supplied with all the necessities
and every thing was taken did not leave
a rag of bedding or anything in her
house -

Stem No 11 The buggy was a Spring
buggy - one horse, iron axletts I do not
know how long it had been used but
was in good condition - good looking good
it was a good strong buggy - the harness
was leather in tolerable good order

I saw them harness the horse using
Claimants harness hitch him to the
buggy load the buggy up with
things from Claimants house and
drive off towards the Camp

The property all belonged to Mr. ~~W~~
at least she always claimed it and I never
heard any body else claim it. I know
she had been raising horses and other
things such as the ~~h~~
charged in her account against the
Government for many years - I have
not been promised anything to come
here to testify

Witness
E. C. Adlington, Price & Stearns
Sworn to and subscribed before me
Virgil Millyer
Special Commissioner
State of Georgia

Duplicate

No 20656 In the case of) State of Georgia Liberty County
Jane Holmes) Before Special Commissioner
v. S) Virgil Hilliges Esq
United States) Resboro Ga

In the above case no 20656 your petitioner and
Claimant beg leave to amend her account by
Adding thereto items No 12 & 13 one Saddle and one
Set of Harness omitted from the original account
and taken and which was taken by the United States
Army and used by them a good Saddle 40⁰⁰
one Set of Harness ————— 15⁰⁰

your petitioner beg leave to introduce witnesses
to prove the taking and raising of said property
all of which is Respectfully Submitted

W. H. Dyke
Claimant's Counsel
Witness
C. C. Addington
Jane Holmes
mark

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this
31 day of July 1873
Virgil Hilliges Esq
Special Commissioner
State of Georgia

[LAST PAGE.]

REMARKS BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

Respectfully Submitted



Virgil Hilliges
Special Commissioner
State of Georgia

No. 20,656.

Jane Holmes, Col'd -
Liberty County, Ga.

Testimony of
Jane Holmes, page 1.
Robt Winn, " 4.
Report spl't agh " 7.

Respectfully forwarded
from Hillsideville, Ga
July, 25th, 1878.
R. B. Aacy, spl't agh



Submitted Aug 26/78

Hilmon & Co.

Testimony of claimant, Jane Holmes, colored
taken under oath at Cross Roads Church,
Liberty Co. Ga. June 6th, 1878:

Q Please repeat this oath.

A I, Jane Holmes, do solemnly swear that I will
tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the
truth, in regard to all matters whereof I may be
questioned: So help me God.

Q Who made out your claim?

A The first claim was taken by Simms and
Mr. Ashmore. I paid Simms \$1.50 and Mr.
Ashmore 50 cents. I paid Mr. Hillier
\$17. right out of my pocket.

Q Where were you living when the raid came?

A In Briar Bay, Joe Bacon owned me. I had
many families belonged to him: 30 or 40. It
is about four miles from here, down near Lee
county.

Q What property did you have when the raid
came?

A I had cows, and had hogs, and had a horse,
and had a buggy, and ducks, fowls, beehives,

Q What kind of a horse did you have?

A A fine large horse, kind of grayish blue, his name
was Dolly. It was a mare. I raised it from
the commencement. I had a horse all my life.
It had one so valuable that the Confederates
my owners took it from me and gave me
a mare. Yes, they were soldiers, and in the
camp, right back of Riceboro. Two of
my young masters was in the camp. That
was a year different. They took my horse
and give me a mare. A heap higher than that

2
horse you have out there. A heap
higher. I could not tell how old it was.
It had a colt after I had it. It was with
colt when they gave it to me, and
it had that colt. When this raid took
the mare, it left the colt with me and all.
I raised that, and got the breed going on yet.

Q Tell me about the buggy?

A When Mr. Hillier was here he told me that
no buggy was on the claim. The first thing
I told Mr. Simms was a horse and buggy.
If it aint on the paper, it aint your fault,
but I can write to my old master and mistress
at Dochester, and they will sustain me.

Q You said you had some cows?

A I had five or six head more than that, but
some was under growth, and I am only talk-
ing about the old cows. I had six head
of old cows. Yes, my master said he could not
afford to give us any thing, and so he allowed
us to raise just what we could. I had three
head of horses, and they only took one. One
was too poor, and the other too young. I
tell you, what I told Mr. Hillier I promise my
God to tell the truth. I only speak of what
they drove up. They drove up six. Some were
steers. When I told you I didn't make any
difference between the cow and the steer,
I speak of them as old. Those they put
in the pen. Then they shoot them down,
they leave them there, no body could eat
them. They so troubles, and the buzzard eat

them. They killed some that they didn't
take any of. They drove in all the nigh
neighbors, and our master's cattle and
all, and shot them down. They didn't
carry none away as I know of. Just
shot them down. Just stroyed the
corn ut up. They done that every where
amash.

Q Did you have any hogs?

A Yes. I saw them shot down five head
of hogs, and cut off the head, and carried
the body away. All five were barrows,
in the two years.

Q Did you have any corn?

A Yes. I didn't measure it, but I judge there
was twenty bushels more than twenty bushels. I
had made corn, and draw corn. Those that
will work make rice, and they eat rice, and
save the corn. We draw corn every week.
They just come there and feed off of it, until
it was done. They just take and throw
in all around in the yard.

Q How many chickens and ducks?

A I had twelve ducks, young and old, and
more than thirty chickens. I never count
the chickens, but I reckon so.

Q Did you have any honey?

A Yes. They broke up 20 hives for me. Broke
them entirely up, and take out the honey.

Q Anything else?

A They took all my piggin and faul, and big
pot and oven and carry them off, and
all my bedding. I had a mattress. They

4
bone it open and made a bag of it. And
my bed clothes, and my old man's clothes,
and a jar of butter, and a jar of lard.

Q How long were the soldiers out there?

A Nearly two weeks, back and forwards,
every day.

Q Well, hear this read, and tell me if it
is correct.

A I didn't raise the more the army took. That
was in the place of the one I raised
from a baby. Except that it is all
right. You has done it exactly.

Attest
R. B. Avery, Sp. C. n. r.
Jane Holmes

Testimony of Robert Winn, colored, taken under
oath, at Cross Roads Church, June 6, 1878:

Q Were you acquainted with Jane Holmes during
the war?

A Yes, sir. She raised me. The day before the raid
came I left the Bacon place, where Jane Holmes
lived. I knew everything she had.

Q What did she have?

A She had an iron gray mare. It had a roan
colt at that time. The colt was left with
her. She had a Bay mare. It was with foal
too, and poor. They did not take that.

Q What cattle did she have?

A She had four very heavy milk cows,
and the rest were steers. I was
there the next day after the raid came
they had my horse and I went for it.

They kept me there a couple of days, helping with forage and drive up the stock. The stock was all driven into a pen, on Sam Rannadon's place, and killed there. It is pen was right on the line. Some was carried away in wagons, and the other just left in the pen.

Q Do you know how many hogs she had?

A She had five barrows and two sows. They didn't get the sows to my knowing, not while I was there.

Q What else did she have?

A A big gang of ducks and fowls, but I never counted them.

Q Do you know anything about the corn?

A Only that she had some in a little house I don't know how much of it.

Attest

Robert ^{Winn} _{Winn}

R.B. Avery, Spal Court.

Claim of June Halmes, Col. 1,
Liberty County, Ga. } No. 20,656.

This claimant is intelligent and honest appearing. Her statement is corroborated by Robt. Winn. W. A. Goldsby swears: "Her husband had two or three horses, but I don't know how much they took from him. They were well off. Her husband was overseer for Rev. Dr. C. C. Jones, and they could have what they wanted." The claimant is a hard worker, and by herself is making a pretty fair crop considering. She tells how she got the mare. The Confederates forced a swap, taking her horse, which was serviceable, and giving her an unserviceable mare in its place. The cattle seem to have been killed out of mere wantonness, and left to rot on the ground. Five small hogs are found. They call them lorge, but none such grow here. The corn is not found in any quantity, and if she had any, it was rations. I believe this claimant's testimony may be relied on in the main, and respectfully refer the Hon. Court of Claims to that.

Very respectfully,

R. B. Avery,

Spal Jgh

Hon. Court of Claims,
Washington, D.C.

The United States,

To Jane Holmes Esq^{D^r}

For the amount allowed her by Act of Congress, Private No. 106 approved June 14 1880, 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."

The sum of One hundred and Twenty (*120⁰⁰) dollars

\$ 120 00

Payable in case of

Kosmer and Co

Washington D.C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office,

June 25 1880

E. M. Bennett

Clerk.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Second Comptroller's Office,

July 1 1880

E. A. Shoup

Clerk.

55015

Treasury Department,

THIRD AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C. June 21 1880

Sir:

Please state whom the Commissionere recognized as the attorney of record in the claim of Jane Holmes of Georgia No 20656

Very respectfully &c

E. W. Beaghtley

Auditor

per E. W.

Hon. John Sherman,
Sec of the Treasury

Kosmer & Co. Atty of record,

N.