

COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS,

ACT MARCH 3D, 1871.

No. 1145

H. B. C. O. 11
CLAIM

OF

Gilry Baker

OF

Liberty Co
State of *Georgia*

SUMMARY REPORT. ✓

Amount Allowed, \$ *137*

SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

December 4. 1876

The Claim of Selvy Baker. (Wid.), of Liberty Co., in the State of Georgia

No. of ITEM.	DESCRIPTION.	AMOUNT CLAIMED.		AMOUNT ALLOWED.		AMOUNT DISALLOWED.	
		Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.
✓ 1	One mare	100		100		60	
✓ 2	Buggy harness	100				100	
✓ 3	One Bird son	15		7		8	
✓ 4	12 fowls	6				6	
✓ 5	25 Bush. rice	20		20		30	
✓ 6	10 " corn	15		10		5	
		<u>346</u>		<u>137</u>		<u>209</u>	
		✓		✓		✓	

REMARKS.

The claimant was a slave & lived with her husband on her masters plantation in Liberty Co. Ga. He died about the time the war closed & she files the claim for herself & little children. These persons were loyal during the war & were permitted to acquire & hold some property in their own right - they owned the property for which claim is made - It was taken in Dec. 1864 by the Union Army - One of our agents has investigated the claim & our allowances are based chiefly on his report herewith filed - We recommend the payment of \$137

A. C. Alder
 O. Ferris
 W. A. Howell

Commissioners
 of
 Claims

21,451 - Mch. 3/73
Silvy Baker

No. _____ 187--

PETITION

OF

Silvy Baker

TO THE
COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS.

Residence of Claimant

Liberty County Georgia

Nature of Claim

Army Supplies

Amount claimed,

\$34,000

FILED BY

Raymond Gay Jr
Savannah
Ga

Powell, Ginck & Co., 632 F st., Wash'n, D. C

PETITION.

To the Honorable Commissioners of Claims,
Under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1871, Washington, D. C.:

The Petition of [1] Silvy Ballou

respectfully represents:

That she is a citizen of the United States, and resides at present at or near

[2] Nicotown Liberty County Ga

and that she resided when this claim accrued at or near [3] Nicotown Ga

on the Satter Creek plantation of Raymond Bay Esq

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) Nicotown Ga

on the place of Raymond Bay Esq

Georgia, in the county of Liberty, and State of

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	1 man Horse	\$ 160
2	1 Buggy & Harness	100
3	1 Breed Sow	15
4	12 fowl	6
5	25 Butter	50
6	10 " Cow	15
Total,		<u>\$546</u>

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 (6) 1st Regiment Cavalry and commanded by Genl. Kilpatrick 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.
<u>William</u>			

That the property was removed to (9) Medway Church and used for or by (7) the Cavalry stations there all this on or about the 18th day of December, in the year 1864

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

That your petitioner verily believes 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) Silvy Ballou of Liberty County Georgia the original owner of said claim, and that Silvy Ballou of Liberty County Georgia 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 she solemnly declares that, from the beginning of hostilities against the United States to the end thereof, her sympathies were constantly with the cause of the United States; that she never, of her 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.
- State as well as can be done the place to which the property was conveyed.
 - State as fully and minutely as possible, the particular persons or commands using the property, and to what particular uses it was applied or intended to be applied.
 - 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.
 - "Taken" or "Furnished."
 - 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.
 - 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 of the Government

That Raymond Gay 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.

Witness: A. W. Baker (13) Silvy X Ballou
John Lambert

STATE OF Georgia
COUNTY OF Liberty
(14) Silvy Ballou
being duly sworn (15)

deposes and says, that he is Silvy Ballou 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 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: A. W. Baker Silvy X Ballou
John Lambert

Sworn and subscribed in my presence, the 26 day of November 1872

Names and residences of witnesses who will be relied upon to prove loyalty:
William Roberts Liberty Co Ga
John Gay
Billy Gilman

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

William Roberts Liberty Co Ga
John Gay
Billy Gilman

Post office address of claimant: Liberty Co Ga
Post office address of attorney: Savannah Ga

- 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.
- Claimants sign here.
 - Give the names of all the petitioners.
 - If more than one petitioner, insert the words "each for himself." and in the next line insert "one of" in the proper blanks.

DIRECTIONS

- NOTE 1.—Insert number of the Claim, if known.
 2.—"Taken" or "furnished."
 3.—Describe the military organization by name as fully and particularly as possible.
 4.—State as well as can be done, the place to which the property was conveyed for the use of the army.
 5.—State as fully and minutely as is possible, the particular persons or commands using the property, and to what particular use it was applied.
 6.—Give the reasons why the witnesses cannot be brought to Washington.
 7.—The claimant's name should be signed here, either by himself or his attorney.

No. 21437 1

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS,

Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1871 ^(Act)

In the matter of the Claim of Silvy Baiker for estate of Brighton Baker
 in the County of Liberty
 and State of Georgia

Comes now the claimant, before Virgil W. Wadsworth Esq.,
 Special Commissioner for the State of Georgia, and
 represents that he has heretofore filed with the above-named Commissioners a
 Petition for the allowance of a claim for property ² taken for the use of
 the army of the United States, which claim, as stated below, does not exceed the
 sum of three thousand dollars.

That the said claim, stated by items, and excluding therefrom all such items
 as refer to the DAMAGE, 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:

No. of Item	QUANTITIES AND ARTICLES.	VALUE.	
		Dolls.	Cts.
1	one barrel Meats	150.	
2	" " Sugar & harness	125.	
3	" " Salt	15.	
4	25 bush. Rice	50.	
5	10 " Corn	15.	
Total,		350.	

That, as stated in the Petition referred to, the property in question was taken from or furnished by Silvy Baker of Salisbury Co. in the State of Georgia, for the use of a portion of the army of the United States, known as (3) Spencer's Army, and commanded by Wm. K. Patterson 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) McDermay and used for or by (5) Kelso Patrick Army; all this on or about the 17th day of Dec, in the year 1864 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 Washington for and because of the following reasons, to wit: (6)

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.

William Roberts of Rice Run Ga.
Peter Wray of Washington Ga.
Mr R. C. Lee of Washington Ga.

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:

..... of

James A. Adams 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 26th day of Nov, 1872

Silvy Baker Claimant
Raymond C. Lee Attorney

P. O. Address of Attorney:

Rice Run Ga.

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures at the bottom of the page, including "Silvy Baker" and "Raymond C. Lee"]

Silvy Baker

United States

Before Special Commissioner
Riceboro Liberty County Ga

Testimony of Claimant

Interrogation by Special Commissioner.
My Name is Silvy Baker. I was born on
Thomas Bacon Plantation in Liberty County
Georgia, a Slave, and became free when the
Union Army came into the County, I am
about 45 years of age, I reside on Major
William Thompson Plantation, I work at
farming I am the claimant in this
Case

2 From the 1st of April 1861 to the 1st of June 1861
I resided on Raymond Bay's Plantation
I was a field hand I did not change my
residence or occupation between those dates
3+4 irrelevant.

5 to 28 inclusion to each and every question the
claimant answer "No"

29 After the Yankee came into the County
I cooked and worked for them till they
went away, I think they were in our
neighborhood or I could have paid me
for little jobs, I did not make any charge
I was only to glad to do for them. they gave
some little medals, I was satisfied - Some said
if I would do this or that they would pay
me they went away without paying me

I was so glad to be free I could have worked
till this time -

30 to 39 To each and every question the claimant answer "No"

41 At the beginning of the war I sympathized
with the Union Cause or the Yankee Cause
or we called it, but I could not "speak it"
I put all the time for the Yankee when
ever I heard of a battle and did till they
came into the County, I cast all the papers
I had on the Union side, we were talking
about the war all the time among ourselves
in the field and in the woods, we never
spoke loud. we had to think and whisper
when we were hid we were so afraid.

43 In Conclusion I do solemnly declare that from
the beginning of hostilities against the
United States to the end thereof My feelings
were constantly on the side of the United
States that I nor of my own free will and
accord did anything, or offend or neglect
or attempted to do anything by word or deed
to injure said Cause or retard its success &
that I never at all time made any money
when called upon or if called upon to aid
and assist the Cause of the Union or
its supporters so far as I could with
my means and power and the circumstances
of my case permitted

43 At the beginning of the rebellion I was a slave and became free when the Union Army came into the County. After I became free I kept right on farming - My husband was Manager or driver for our Master and had been for several years before the war, on Christmas his Master would make him present some time would give him \$20. in cash he raised Potatoes, Hops, and Corn and rice to sell for the money & when we got enough together we bought a Mare and raised Colts, the Mare changed in my claim is one we raised from the Mare we bought, we bought the buggy & harness in the same year, I worked "at task work" and got time to do a good deal for myself in that year I could help my husband to "accumulate" many slaves made enough in that year to buy their freedom but they would often get cheated out of their freedom but few would risk it. Raymond Leach was my Master. I am not in his employ I do not live on his land, or land bought of him, I am not indebted to him - he is living, and in Walthamville Liberty County, Ga. - I and my children are the only parties interested in this claim - I have 7 children 3 girls and 4 boys - all the larger ones are living in Darien McIntosh County Georgia.

now named, (My husband died the 2nd year after freedom - he did not owe a cent to any body when he died). - My Attorney is a Son of my old Master - Raymond Gay Jr.
 2^o Set of interrogatories by Special Commission
 1st I was present when the soldiers took the control of property specified in my petition.
 2^o I saw them take all of the property
 3^o When they came up to my house they ordered the boys to catch the horse and to put the saddle and bridle on to him - they were for their hire to do it they did catch them and they mounted them and rode off - they brought their own saddle and bridle, they went on and took all the property from us, and all the rest on the place they made no difference they took it all clean from white as well as from the blacks -
 4^o The property was taken at my home on Raymond Leach Plantation in Decem. in 1864 I can't remember the day of the month it was taken by the Rebels soldiers. I do not know what Company they belonged to they were all on horse, I can't tell how many there were they were so thick I could not count them or see through them they were just like a flock of blackbirds only you could not scare them - they were several days taking the property they came on

- day and then we could jump a day, so kept on till they got all I had, all the other had on the plantation.
- 5 I was present, William Robert, William John, Peter Cary, My husband was present but he is dead.
 - 6 I saw officer there with the soldier I do not know the Company or regiment. I think they said they belonged to Kilsbuck's Army. I did not hear the officer give any order but they were on their horses and looking on while the soldier were taking the things.
 - 7 They saddled & bridled the horse and rode him off they put one of their horses to my buggy using my harness, loaded it up with Corn "Tater" & bacon and drove off. The horse they shot cut her up put it on to the horse and sent off to the camp, the Rice and Corn was in the left of my horse they sacked the Corn and Rice and put it into a bag.
 - 8 The property was removed in wagons & on horses.
 - 9 It was removed to the camp at Midway I did not follow it they went there because they went on that road, and could not go any where else on the road they took.
 - 10 They took the things for their own use they

- would it or a good deal of it right then at my house, I kept cooking for them as long as I had anything left, they killed all of my poultry and cooked it for them about 15 head.
- 11 I did not make any complaint to any one on account of such taking after I understood what it meant I was glad that I had anything for them.
 - 12 I did not ask ^{for} any one for a witness or receipt.
 - 13 The property was all taken in the day time at all hours mostly at mid day.
 - 14 When they took the property the Army was encamped at Midway about 3 miles from my house on Bay Plantation, but Kilsbuck's Army was encamped, they were where it was called, they came to my house I think the next day after they landed in Midway - there had not been any Rice or Skinned near there just before the property was taken - they staid at Midway about 3 weeks it may have been 4 weeks I did not know any of the Quartermaster or any of them or any of the other officers of the Army.
 - 15 The property they took from me was all in very fine condition the Rice had been thrashed and put away for sale or use

4)

The corn bear gathered stowed away in the loft of my house.

16 Stew No 1 The ~~Man~~ was about 10 year old, the Man bear a good medium size animal wear very fat and well broke to work any where. My husband raised her from the first Man he raised the soldier rode her off -

Stew No 2 The buggy bear a good 2 seat buggy on springs. we did not use the buggy only on Sundays, it bear in first rate order the harness was a good leather harness, the soldier came with a horn put the harness on and hitched skin to the buggy loaded it up and drove off

Stew No 3 The sow bear a large fat sow I did not weigh her they killed the sow, cut her up, and put the meat on to the house and went off. I have no judgment on the weight of the sow she was large and fat that is best I can say about it she bear about 2 year old -

Stew No 4 I raised the rice - planted 3 1/2 bales of Rice it bear the wheat measure and put away - it bear in nice order they took it away in sacks and put into kegs and drove off then bear thirty five bushel of it -

Stew No 5 I raised 3 bales of Corn it bear

in the car and measure for 20 bushel of corn the corn bear in the loft of my house & taken by the soldier just as they took the Rice.

This property all belonged to me and I saw it all taken from my house on Raymond Cay St, Plantation ~~that is the~~ by the Union Soldier they did not pay me anything on ^{it} and ^{by} this is the first and only claim I have ever made against the Government

Witness
E. E. Adlington, ^{her} Wiley + Baker
Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me
Virgil Kilgus,
Special Commissioner

State of Georgia

Testimony of Witness

Interrogation by Special Commissioner.
My name is ^{Wm} Robert. I was born in Seiberg Co Ga, a slave; became free when the Yankees came here. My master was Raymond Cay St. I am about 30. I reside at the same place. My boys place now. I am a farmer & carpenter & blacksmith. I know the claimant & I am not related to her. I have no interest in her claim & have known her some 20 years. She is a widow. I know her husband.

- He died I think 2 years after the war. He was a very good Union man & his wife a good Union woman.
- 2nd set of interrogatories by Special Commissioner.
- 1st I was present when the award of this property was taken from her.
 2. I saw the armoire, & buggy & harness, & the sofa, & side chair, & some of the furniture, & the things out of the house taken.
 3. They said to her that they wanted some provisions, that they come to buy, & she said she didn't think they would take from her, & they said yes, they must take from all, because they had nothing to eat. They went in & commenced to take, said no price, but asked her to cook something for them, & she said went on & did it, & meanwhile I went off to attend to those who were then taking from me. My house was within calling distance from hers.
 4. This property was taken at Claimant's house on Old Bay plantation, on the 15th of Dec I don't know the year exactly but I know it was the year the raid came. It was taken by Union Soldiers of Kilpatrick's Army. They were a cavalry company, I don't know the exact number but there was a large number taking. I think they were taking 2 or 3 days off & on.
 5. The Claimant's husband, Alvin Baker, Union, & Mira Baker, his daughter, ^{were present} & Peter May was a little way off, when this property was taken.
 6. There were officers present. I don't know their

ranch but think they were sergeants & lieut. I saw
2 stripes & 3 stripes. They ordered this property
taken. They just said they must have the property
& went on & took it.

7 They caught the mare & rode her off horse back she
harnes & wagon they put their own harness in there.
They killed the cow & cut it in two & being it to
the saddle & took it to camp. They took the rice &
corn in sacks from up stairs in the loft. he was an
old Sevier & when he took sick they took care for
a dinner.

8 They searched most of the property on horse back
some of it was removed in wagons.

9 They removed this property to camp at Midway
Church I went to Midway myself the first ^{day} with
them & saw them take it there.

10 They said they took it for the horses & themselves
to eat, they said they had nothing for either to eat.
I saw them use a little of it there at the house to take
bread. I did not see any of it used at the camp.

11 I did not hear anyone make any complaint on
account of the taking of the property.

12 I did not hear any one ask for a receipt or a
receipt.

13 This property was taken most of it in the daytime,
about 10 or 11 o'clock.

14 The Army were encamped when this property was
taken at Midway Church, 3 miles from Clainings
house. It was Neil Patrick, Army encamped

there I think they staid there 6 weeks at Midway
Church. They were riding through to Bryan Bo &
back. Midway Church was their head quarters.
They were gathering up supplies all the time here
in these 2 counties Bryan & Sevier. I did not know
any of the quarter masters or other officers of the
Army.

15 This property was in very good condition when taken.

16 Item No 1. - This was a sorrel mare. I think
she was near 2 years old. I guess her age by the
age of my niece. I think they were nearly or over age
He was a medium sized mare, good bodied. He
raised this mare. He bought the mother of this
mare, & raised this one. The soldiers rode the
mare away. I saw them.

Item No 2. - This was a spring buggy, for 2 to
ride in, one seat. He had had this buggy a long
time, it was a good buggy & a strong & a good bear-
ness, he bungle it since he did. The buggy had
was a leather harness. I did not see the buggy
taken away. I saw it there in the room & when I
came back from the camp the old man told me
they took his buggy too.

Item No 3. - One sow. I think she was 2 years
old. She was a large, fat, sow. I think would
weigh 150 lbs. They killed her & cut her up
right there. I saw them kill her & take her off.

Item No 4. She had a good pile of rice I think
he had & planted about an acre but a little