

Claim of Lazarus Dempsey - dated January 8, 1872 for \$875.00. P.O. address of Claimant, Smyrna, GA. Property taken July 15, 1864 by the command of General William T. Sherman.

WITNESSES LISTED TO PROVE LOYALTY:

James W. Keheley and William Wooton of Cobb Co., GA.

WITNESSES LISTED TO PROVE THE TAKING OF THE PROPERTY:

A. G. Dempsey and R. P. Dempsey of Cobb Co., GA.

POWER OF ATTORNEY to Samuel Sheats of Atlanta, dated May 9, 1873.

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS**

It is hereby certified, that on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1873, at Smyrna, in the county of Cobb, State of Georgia, personally came before me the following persons, viz: Lazarus Dempsey, Claimant, Samuel Sheats Counsel, or Attorney, and Alvin G. Dempsey, William Wooten, James W. Keheley, & Reuben P. Dempsey, Claimant's witnesses, for the purpose of a hearing in the above entitled cause...

S.A. Darnell

Special Commissioner of the Commissioners of Claims.

DEPOSITION OF Lazarus Dempsey. In answer to the First General Interrogatory, the Deponent says:

My name is Lazarus Dempsey, my age 82 years, my residence in Cobb Co., in the State of Georgia, and my occupation a farmer. I am the claimant, Lazarus Dempsey and have a beneficial interest in the claim.

Claimant says, I resided where I now live from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1861 to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1865. I owned a farm of 40 acres, about ten acres in cultivation, the balance in woods situated on the Western & Atlantic Rail Road fifteen miles from the city of Atlanta, the Rail Road runs through it. My occupation during the war was farming. I never changed my residence or business during that time, but when the fighting between the two armies commenced around my house, I went over into DeKalb County but came back as soon as things got quiet again.

I never passed beyond the military or naval lines of the United States and entered the rebel lines. I never took any oath of allegiance to the Confederacy or any state in rebellion.

I do not remember that I ever took any amnesty oath after the war.

I never held any office in my life of any sort.

I never held any office of any sort whatever under the Confederate Government.

I never held any clerkship or agency of any kind under the Confederacy.

I never had anything to do with it in any shape measure of form.

I never was in any military or naval service of any sort whatever during the war.

I never was an officer or soldier in the Confederate army.

I never was in any state militia subordinate to the Confederacy. I never was in any military service of any kind since 1812, I was in that war.

I never was in the homeguard, vigilance committee or committee of safety during the war.

I never was conscripted into the rebel service.

I never furnished a substitute for the rebel army.

I never was employed in any of the Departments of the Confederate Government during the war in any way whatever.

I never was in any Rail Road service never aided in the transportation of soldiers or supplies, munitions of war for the Confederacy during the war.

I never had charge of anything whatever for the Confederate Government.

I never was in any service or employment of the Confederate Government

never furnished any stores or supplies whatever to the Confederate Army or Navy, Militia, homeguards or any other person connected with the Confederacy during the war. I never gave

any information to any body of any kind which might aid in any military operation carried on against the Government of the United States.

I never was employed in the manufacture of anything for the Confederacy.

I never had anything to do with it. I never assisted others in doing anything for the Confederate Government.

I never was employed in any -----?----- or purchase or sale of stores or supplies for the Confederate army or navy or any other military or naval organization subordinate to the Confederacy. I never was interested with others in such operations.

I never was engaged in blockade running. Never had anything to do with anything in the way of trade between the lines of the two armies. I had no interest in anything run through the blockade during the war.

I never left the Confederacy during the war. I was in Cobb & DeKalb Counties through the struggle. I never left my home during the war except when I went over to DeKalb County. I was ordered to leave when the armies came to my house and commenced throwing up entrenchments around my house. Gen'l Johnston of the Confederate Army ordered me away three times before I went, they fought all around the place where I lived and I could not remain. I never had any interest in any vessel, boat or anything else used on the waters of the Confederacy during the war.

I never was arrested by anybody during the war or during my life.

I do not know that anything was taken from me by the rebels except some hogs which I think they got and a field of wheat which they took, also the growing corn in the field, they just turned their stock in on it and it was destroyed. I never got any pay for any of it from the Confederate government. Never asked them for any pay.

I never was interrupted or threatened by the rebels during the war.

I never was molested or injured by the rebels on account of my Union sentiments during the war.

I never contributed anything in aid of the Union army or cause during the war. I never had anything to give.

I never did anything for the United States army or cause during the war. I was not able to do anything if I had tried.

I had one son in the Confederate army, Alvin G. Dempsey, he lives now in Cobb County, Ga. I had no other near relatives that I know of in the Confederate service. I never furnished him with any equipment, clothing or money. I did send him a box of provisions, while he was in service. He wrote to his mother for something that she had cooked herself and we sent it. I did not do it to aid rebellion, but from feelings of humanity for my child. I was opposed to his going into the service and persuaded him not to go, did all I could to prevent it, but he went. My son was a man of age, had a family of his own before the war commenced.

I never owned any confederate bonds, had no interest in them, never contributed in loans to the Confederate government. I never gave them any support any way, never did anything to sustain the credit of the Confederate government in any way.

I never give any aid and comfort to the rebellion. When they got the rebellion up I said I never would have anything to do with it and I never did.

I never was in Canada in my life.

Never was engaged in keeping persons in custody of any kind during the war. I never was engaged in holding persons in custody for any thing or of any character during the war.

I never was a member of any society whatever for the persecution, imprisonment or expulsion of any person during the war for any cause whatever. I never assisted others in such acts.

I never was a prisoner of the United States.

I never held any office in the army or navy of the United States. Never was educated by the United States.

I never had a pass from any confederate officer [of] the Confederate government or from any person acting or claiming to act for them.

I never held an office in my life. I never aided the rebellion and never was under any of the disabilities imposed by the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

At the beginning of the rebellion all my sympathies were with the Union cause. I thought the war would ruin the country. I thought of what Gen'l Washington said about breaking of the Union. I felt that when we divided, the country was ruined. I never said much and never voted at all. It

was an exciting time. I was old and never went about elections. Men holding the views I did about the war were not safe in giving out much. After the ordinance of secession was passed, I still adhered to the Union cause. I never seceded myself. I was a Union man then and I am a Union man now.

I do solemnly swear that from the beginning of hostilities to the end, my sympathies were constantly with the union cause and I never of my own free will and accord did anything by word or deed to injure the cause of the Union or to retard the success of its armies and I was at all times ready and willing to aid and assist the Union and its supporters so far as the circumstances by which I was surrounded would permit.

Deposition of claimant as to the taking of the property and in answer to interrogatives put to him by counsel, claimant says, I was present when some of the property was taken. I saw some bacon taken, that was all I saw taken, they got it out of my dwelling house in DeKalb County where I had gone when I was ordered away from my house in Cobb County, part of the bacon I took with me and part I bought after I got over there. I do not know exactly how much there was but I think there was between one & two hundred pounds. I do not know what command it was that took it. It was a part of Gen'l Sherman's army, they were camped within half a mile of my house 48 days and nights, the pickets were in 20 yards of my house. I was inside of their lines during that time. I lived at that time two miles north of Decatur, they took the bacon the first or second day after they got there, it was taken in the day time, they took it off towards their camps on their mules, they were all over the country around there like black birds, they took the bacon in a few minutes. I do not know how many soldiers were present there was any quantity of them, they first came in and took the meat and carried it off with them. I do not know whether there were any officers along, there were three corps of the army camped in the neighborhood of my house. I never followed the soldiers with the meat. I asked them to leave something for my family but they paid no attention to me, they were taking everything in the country. I paid 25 cts. a pound for the bacon I bought. I think what I had of my own was worth as much as that, the bacon was good sound dry bacon, the mule they took from me was taken in DeKalb County. My grandson was riding the mule to mill and they came on him in the road and took the mule away from him. I think the mule was between nine and twelve years of age, the mule was sound in every way, a good work mule and was about fifteen hands high, had had sw----?--ey, but got over it, would have made a good cavalry or wagon mule. I think the mule was worth two hundred dollars. I am a judge of good mules and this was a number one mule, this is all I know about the mule, the mule was taken after the bacon was taken, the year of the surrender I think. I never saw the mule after it was taken that I know of, they took the wood off of my land in Cobb County. When I left my house in Cobb County when the army came I left all my timber standing and in good condition. Johnston fell back from where I lived towards Atlanta at the time I went. My family was already gone when I left my place my timber was not cut down, when I came back it was nearly all gone, all the good timber was gone, the only means I have of ascertaining the quantity of wood taken is by the number of acres of land. Nearly all the timber off of thirty acres was cut down, the good timber was taken, the thirty acres was pretty well timbered. An acre of land in this place would make on an average twenty-five cords of wood. I think I am a judge. My land would have averaged twenty-five cords to the acre. Wood at that time was worth in the woods or in the tree three dollars a cord, a good deal of the timber was suitable for crossties for the Rail Road, they - crossties - were worth then forty-five or fifty cents a piece, the three room frame house was in good condition when I left. When I came back it was torn down and gone, it was a frame house weatherboarded and covered with short three feet boards, had one chimney, an eight foot entry and three doors, the rooms were about 9 feet high and 18 feet square, the entry was 8 feet wide & the same height of the rooms, the entry was planked up making another room 18 X 8 feet in dimensions, the house was just framed and weatherboarded, was not ceiled, there was plank enough on the oft to make a loft for one room 18 X 8 feet, the rooms were all floored with inch flooring. I built the house myself, the sills to the house were about ten inches square, the plates about 8 inches square, the studding was common size & around the corners and windows and door posts were 4 X 6 inches, the studding 2 x 4 inches, the joists were sound about 3 X 6 inches I think. I think I split the rafters out of the woods & I never made any calculation about the amount of lumber in the house. When I built the house lumber was worth a

dollar a hundred. When the house was taken I think the price of lumber was a dollar and a quarter a hundred. The thousand feet of lumber taken was piled up in the yard at my house outside of the gate that was to build another house when I went off my timber, my house and the lumber were all in good condition. When I came back it was gone.

### **CROSS EXAMINED BY SPECIAL COMMISSIONER**

Cross examined by sp. comm. claimant says, the rebel army never took any of the property mentioned in my petition that I know of, the only way I know the property was taken by the Federal army is from the statements of reliable neighbors, they told me when I came back home the Yankees got it. I never got any voucher, paper or receipt for the property, I never asked for any. I thought taking everything into consideration I might as well let it go, the two armies fought all over my land. I never have been paid any part of this claim. I was born in the state of South Carolina, never have gone into bankruptcy or passed through any bankruptcy proceeding.

(Signed X)

Signature witnessed by Spec. Comm. S. A. Darnell.

Alvin G. Dempsey sworn, in answer to questions by claimant's counsel says, I live in Cobb County, GA, my age about forty years. I am the son of Lazarus Dempsey the claimant. I had a family before the war and was living by myself four miles from my father's. I talked with my father repeatedly about the war, he was opposed to it, he was opposed to breaking up the government, he never changed that principle during the war that I know of, he was before during and since the war a Union man, always the same thin, he never changed. I do not know that I ever heard him say anything in favor of the rebellion. I was in the rebel army two years. In all the conversations I had with my father while I was in the service, he expressed himself as having no confidence in the confederacy. He was opposed to my going into the service but he could not help himself. I went into the war before the conscript law was passed. My principal duty while in the service was that of Chaplain. My father never furnished me with anything while I was in the service. In every conversation that I remember having had with my father about the war, he expressed himself as against it, he was all the time the friend of the Union & the United States government. At one time I had to protect my father from insults of the rebel soldiers it was on account of his opposition to the Confederacy and too freely expressing his Union sentiments it was not safe for a man to talk as he did at that time, he is an old man and what he thinks he says and what he feels he shows, said he never would have anything to do with the war his forefathers fought for the union and he never intended to go against it, the conscript law was so rigidly enforced by conscript officers that it was unsafe for a Union man to express himself freely and I have known Union men to express disloyal sentiments to save their lives from the fury of these men and also to do disloyal acts for the same reason. My father's Union sentiments and the position he took in elections or rather in not going to elections had something to do with my going into the war, it was known that he was a Union man and I could not have remained at home on that account so I went. I know men in this county (Cobb) who were arrested and put in prison for their union sentiments, Henry G. Cole and George Davis, both of Cobb County were kept in prison for about ten months.

Witness examined as to the property by claimant's counsel, says, I was acquainted with the mule it was a large mare mule a gray mule and in good condition and worth two hundred dollars when taken. I do not remember when I saw the mule last. I think I saw the mule in my father possession not more than a week before the Union army came in, the taking of the mule I know nothing about. I know he had such a mule and I know it was taken. I do not know who took it but I know there was nobody else about but the Union army. I never saw the wood taken, but I am acquainted with my father's place. I know it well, he had forty acres in all, he had about thirty acres in woods. I saw the land between the 15<sup>th</sup> of June & 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1864, the Yankees came to the place about that time, when I saw it last the timber was all standing. No timber nor anything else had been taken or destroyed. I never saw it after that until after the surrender, when everything was gone, house, wood, and all. I think from the best of my knowledge they got from a hundred and fifty to two hundred cords off the land not less than a hundred and fifty cords & I

am quite sure the wood was worth about one dollar a cord in the tree, then, it is worth more than that now. I knew his dwelling well, it had two rooms and an enclosed entry which really made three rooms. I think the house was 36 feet long and 18 feet wide, the entry was 8 feet wide all under the same roof, it was weatherboarded, not ceiled, it was old fashioned substantial framing all mortised up, good common flooring. I do not know how much lumber was in the house, it was of ordinary height. I think lumber was worth about a dollar and a quarter a hundred at the mill, a dollar & a half delivered. I do not know what became of the house, but I know it was torn down and I think they carried it to camps and made tents of it. I saw lumber posts, sills, plates, and such as that in the breastworks about his house and on his land and near it. I know he had a pile of lumber at the gate. I do not know how, but it was gone when I came back. I know nothing about the bacon he had taken.

Cross examined by Sp. Comm., claimant says, I do not think any voucher was ever given for the property taken. Never have talked with claimant about the value of the property. It is my opinion from all the circumstances, from the information of others and from my own personal knowledge of the fact, that the property was taken by United States soldiers and used by them. Claimant never got any pay for this property. I never saw any of the property used by the army, never saw any part of it used by the army. I have no interest in this claim.

(Actual Signature)

William Wooten sworn as to the loyalty of claimant, in answer to questions by claimant's counsel, says, I live in Cobb County, Ga, I am 59 years of age. I am a farmer, I have know the claimant twenty-five years. I have lived in two miles of him during that time. I lived about two miles from him during the war. I was intimately acquainted with him during the war. I saw him I should think once a week. I have talked with the claimant a great many times about the war, he was a union man opposed to secession all the time and never changed during the war, expressed himself the same way all the way through the war. I was a Union man, the conversations I had with the claimant were sometimes public and sometimes private. I do not know that men were in danger overly much for expressing their Union sentiments. I never hesitated to say what I pleased. I heard of men being arrested for their Union sentiments. I think I heard that Henry G. Cole of Cobb County was arrested and imprisoned for being a Union man. I staid at home during the war and attended to my own affairs. Mr. Dempsey continued the same thing all through the war, he was a friend of the old government, that was the way he expressed it. I really forget whether I ever heard him say anything in favor of the rebellion during the war. I never knew him to do anything for the rebellion during the war. I considered him a Union man before the war and during the war. There were not a great many union men in the neighborhood where we lived, the claimant said he believed in Washington's government. I am satisfied in my own mind that he was a true Union man during the war.

Witness states that he knew the lot of land which the claimant lived on.

I remained at home all the time Sherman's army came into the neighborhood in July 1864, they were at my house and all over the country every where. It was a week or so before the Yankees came that I saw the claimant's house and land, it was all in good fix. Gen'l Johnston's army was near the place of the claimant the last time I saw it before he left the place, then it was in good condition. I was on it went right by his house they fought like all thousand night through the neighborhood. I could have picked up a wagon load of bounty on one ridge. I do not know who cut the timber off claimant's land. I do not know who tore his house down. I know his house was standing after Gen'l Johnston's army had passed, I saw it while the Yankees were here, the rear of the army, the Yankee army camped here they were all over the country. I did not see the house taken down but I know it was torn down. I think the soldiers used the house at their camps. I never said anything to the Yankees about taking the property. I saw some lumber at the Yankee camps. I do not know whether the Yankees cut any timber off claimant's place or not, if they did it was while they were running the Rail Road, they were cutting timber all around here. I saw the pile of lumber Mr. Dempsey had at his house, there was a right smart pile. I do not know how much it was gone when the house was. Mr. Dempsey's land was pretty well timbered before they Yankees came, it was nearly cleaned off before they left the place. I know the Yankees tore Mr. Dempsey's house down, they had a large camp near his house and they

had plank there to make beds, tents, and everything else they wanted there was nobody else in the country to get it but the Yankees. I have cut wood and delivered wood to the Rail Road for years, and sold it to them too. I do not know how many cords of wood an acre of land would make. I have cut many a cord but I never measured an acre. Sherman's army took everything in the country as they went, they cleared things out pretty generally as far as ever I have heard or known, Mr. Dempsey is a truthful man, any account he would make out and swear to against the government, I would believe to be correct.

Witness cross examined by Sp. Comm. says claimant was regarded as a Union man by both his loyal and rebel neighbors, he was regarded as a very quiet, peaceable old man who attended to his own business and disturbed nobody. I do not know whether claimant could have proved his loyalty to the Confederacy if it had been successful, he could not have proved it by me. I do not think claimant ever had any Confederate bonds, or ever did anything to sustain the credit of the Confederate States, the claimant had two sons during the war. One of them, Alvin G. Dempsey, was in the Confederate service. I do not know whether the other was in the service or not. I think he lived in Alabama during the war, he went there I know, he was a farmer he was forty or fifty years of age. I have no interest in this claim.

Witness says as to the taking of the property, I do not know whether claimant had a mule while he lived here or while he remained here. I heard him say a mule was taken from him but he did not say who took it he said it was taken in DeKalb County. I know nothing about the bacon whatever. Johnston's army left here about the 1<sup>st</sup> of July I do not remember the year. Mr. Dempsey went off ahead of the army, the rebels were so hard pushed they had no time to take anything. I could not swear positively that the rebels did not get the wood, but I do not believe they got it. I believe the Yankees cut it and too it away. I saw lumber at the Yankee camps that looked like the lumber Mr. Dempsey had but do not know that it was his never measured the house and do not know how much lumber was in that. I never saw any of the property taken, never saw any of it used by the United States army. I was at their camps, the camps of the soldiers while they staid it was a part of Sherman's army. I do not know that the Yankees ever took any of claimant's property. I believe they got it, they did not burn his house. I know they carried it off. I saw no sign of any burning about where the house had stood.

(Signed X)

Signature witnessed by Spc. Comm. S.A. Darnell

James W. Keheley sworn in answer to questions by claimant's counsel says: I live in Cobb County, GA. I am 59 years old I am a farmer. I am the son-in-law of the claimant. I have no interest in the claim. I have known the claimant thirty-five or forty years. I have been intimately acquainted with him all the time. I was well acquainted with him during the war. I saw him once a week. I talked a good deal with the claimant about the war he was always a Union man and spoke against the war, was in favor of the old Government. I have heard him say secession would break up the government, he said if we stood together as a nation we would do well but when we undertook to divide we were ruined, he held out that way through the war and is so now. I never knew him to do anything in aid of the rebellion. I never knew him to advocate the rebellion in his conversations he was always opposed to it, he had one son in the Confederate army, he had another son but I do not think he was ever in the service, the old man was old and never talked much during the war, he was a very poor man, he never said a great deal about the war but when he did talk he was opposed to it. I never heard anybody doubt that he was a Union man, he was known as a Union man. I lived where I now live from the commencement of the war until 1864, then we went away. I think Gen'l Johnston gave orders for all to leave. I went with claimant to DeKalb County, Ga. and staid there until the Yankees got to Atlanta. I then went to Gwinnett County, GA but claimant remained in DeKalb County till after the surrender, it was about the last of May or first of June when we went to DeKalb County. From my conversations with the claimant I believed him to have been a true Union man during the war. I was opposed to secession at the beginning, but after the state seceded I went with my state. When we were in DeKalb County, I do not know that claimant had a mule after I left him I understood he go one and I heard them say the Yankees took it. When we left here going to DeKalb, the house of the claimant and the timber on his land was in good condition, he had a right smart pile of lumber at

the gate of the house that was in good condition when we left. I do not know of my own knowledge what became of all this property. I think it was the first if 1865 I came back, everything was gone, the house was gone and timber cut. I do not know who did it, but suppose the Yankees got it, the house, lumber and all were gone when we came back. I know nothing about the bacon.

Cross examined by Sp. Comm., witness says, claimant told me the Yankees give him the mule, one of the colonels I think, he carried the mule home, doctored it up, and made a good mule of it, then the Yankees came and took it again. I never saw any of the property taken. I don not know who got it. When we left Cobb County it was a sort of running time, there was great excitement, the Yankees were coming right on, they were at Kennesaw Mountain when we left. I do not know what took place after we left. Claimant left on account of orders from Gen'l Johnston's Headquarters to noncombatants to leave, the thought there would be a fight about where we lived. I never saw any of the property used, do not know where it went, it was there when we left and gone when we came back. I do not think claimant came back until the fall after the surrender, he was in DeKalb County and made a crop there in the year 1865. I do not think the rebels ever took much in our neighborhood, the country was pretty well cleaned out though by one side or the other. I have not interest in this claim. I married claimant's daughter.

(Actual Signature)

Reuben P. Dempsey sworn, in answer to questions by claimant's counsel says: I live in Cobb Count, Ga., I am twenty-one years of age, the claimant is my grandfather. I have no interest in his claim, the Yankees took the mule from me in DeKalb County, Georgia. I had rode the mule from my grandfather's house to the mill, to carry a turn of corn to get some meal. I had been to mill and was returning. I met the Yankees in the road, they were about to take the mule right there but finally decided not to do it and let me go on home with my meal. When I got home they took the mule, there were five soldiers I think, they were [on] horseback. I do not know that the army was camped nearer there tan Atlanta. They carried the mule off towards Atlanta, they led it off, they never said anything about what they were going to do with the mule, said they had orders to take all branded stock, it was a branded mule, this was in October 1865, it was a gray mule. I do not know its age. I never saw the mule any more.

Cross examined by Sp. Comm. witness says: A Yankee Colonel gave the mule to my grandfather. I do not know his name. I lived with my grandfather at the time the mule was taken, the Yankees went home with me when they came on me in the road, they let me take my meal home on the mule, when I got to my grandfathers house they took the mule. My grandfather was not at home at the time they got the mule, the mule was branded, it was branded U.S. when he got the mule it had the swinney, he pretty nearly cured it, it was not entirely well when the soldiers took the mule. It was a large gray mare mule, it was in good order when they took it. I do not know how long claimant had the mule before they took it. Yankees took the mule, there were five of them, they had on blue clothes, they had guns, it was seven miles from Atlanta, it was in October 1865, there were no rebels about there then, they were all gone, the soldiers said they were ordered to take all stock branded U.S. they took the mule off towards Atlanta. I went to live with my grandfather in June 1865. I remained with him until he came back to Smyrna in Cobb County, Ga. I am now living with him, he came back in October 1865, he was gone more than a year. I never heard of the Yankees taking any bacon from claimant while I was with him. I never heard him say anything about the bacon having been taken, the Yankees had been in there some time before I went there. I have no interest in this claim.

(Actual Signature)

Claimant reintroduced by his counsel says, I got the mule in Atlanta. I went there to get one to plow. I wanted to get one for twenty days, they gave me the mule I carried her home, the mule was dreadful lime, I carried her home on Saturday. On the next Tuesday, I took her back to Atlanta and told them the mule was not able to work, the Colonel says to me if you will take the mule out of town you may have her. I wanted the mule at first for twenty days, they told me I could have her if she would work, if she would not work I was to return her in a few days. I took the mule home, found she could not work, had swinney, big shoulders and everything else pretty

nigh. I took her back, and told the Colonel the mule could not work, then the Colonel told me if I would take the mule out of town he would make me a present of her. I took her, doctored her up and made a sound mule of her, had a great deal of trouble to do it, the Yankees were then stationed at Atlanta, it was a Yankee Colonel that give her to me. I got the mule in April 1865 I think and it was taken in October of the same year the bacon was taken the first or second day the Yankees came to DeKalb County or in my neighborhood in the year 1864. I did know the name of the Co. who gave me the mule but have forgotten it.

(Signed X)

### ***SUMMARY REPORT***

December 187?

It is by no means certain that the claimant was an adherent to the Union cause during the war. Without passing on that question the claim must be disallowed.

The taking of only two items is proven Items 1 & 5. The first was a branded mule & was taken in Oct. 1865. Claimant says mule was given to him by a federal Colonel. It was undoubtedly taken as U.S. property, for at that time (Oct. 1865) mules & horses were not being taken for army use. Item 5, the bacon must be regarded as taken without authority or necessity - mere pillage. The wood house & lumber were quite as likely taken by the Confederates, as Federals. The claimant is a farmer & is over 80 years of age, resided in Cobb Co., GA during the war.

The claim is disallowed.

A.O. Aldis	[	Comms.
Orange Ferriss	]	of
J.B. Howell	[	Claims