

Samuel Greer territorial loss claim

Report of H.L. Strickler, Commissioner to Audit Claims of Citizens of the Territory of Kansas, contained in the U.S. Congressional Serial Set of congressional and executive documents. Samuel Geer submitted this claim (No. 28) for loss of livestock and damages that occurred between June and August, 1856. Mr. Geer lived in Lykins County. Each claimant had to submit an itemized list and have two witnesses attest to the losses claimed. Even though many of these claims were approved for payment, no funds were ever appropriated or distributed.

Creator: Strickler, Hiram Jackson

Date: 1859

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Samuel Greer territorial loss claim

CLAIMS OF CITIZENS OF KANSAS.

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No. 28.

TERRITORY OF KANSAS, }
County of Lykins, } ss.

Petition of Samuel Geer, of the county and Territory aforesaid, under an act of the territorial legislature entitled "An act to provide for the auditing of claims," approved February 23, 1857.

I, Samuel Geer, of the county and Territory aforesaid, represent unto the honorable commissioner that I have sustained great loss and damage immediately in consequence of, and growing directly out of, the difficulties in this Territory by way of loss of property since the passage of the organic act, which losses occurred in form and manner as follows, to wit: On the 6th day of June, A. D. 1856, when the Territory was in a state of great political excitement, an armed band of marauders, composed, as your petitioner verily believes, of citizens of Missouri, Georgia, and Alabama, and commanded by P. C. Smith, also a citizen of Missouri, entered the storehouse and premises of your petitioner, in the village of Osawatimie, and with force and arms took and carried away the articles charged in the schedule annexed to this petition and made a part thereof under the date of said 6th of June, 1856.

Again, on the 25th of August, of said year, your petitioner sustained a loss of one horse, as charged in the schedule, under the following circumstances, to wit: For greater security against horse thieves your petitioner had taken said horse into the country to the house of a friend three miles distant from said village, where, on the evening of the 25th, he was securely tied, and during the night was stolen.

Again, on the 30th of August, 1856, an armed body of men, in command of one General Reid, of Independence, with force and arms, pillaged and burned the said village of Osawatimie, wherein your petitioner owned the articles charged in the schedule under the said date, 30th August, 1856; all of which were taken and carried away, or destroyed by fire, so as to be utterly worthless. Your petitioner further represents, that the articles charged in said schedule were his property; that the values therein placed upon them are fair, just, and reasonable; and for said losses, or any part thereof, he has never received any compensation or indemnity.

SAMUEL GEER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 19th day of October, A. D. 1857.

H. J. STRICKLER,
Commissioner for auditing claims.



SCHEDULE.

Territory of Kansas to Samuel Geer, Dr.

1857.			
June 6.	To one horse 7 years old, 16½ hands high.....	\$175	00
	one double shot-gun.....	25	00
	sundry articles taken from store, amounting	150	00
Aug. 25.	To one horse.....	135	00
30.	To five houses—one 2 stories, 30 by 30 feet; one 1 story, 18 by 20 feet; one 1 story, 18 by 18 feet; one 16 by 16 feet; one stable, 14 by 24 feet—value.....	2,500	00
	one two-horse wagon, and double harness...	115	00
	household furniture—beds, bedding, steads, &c.....	500	00
	stock of bacon, lard, and other articles in smokehouse.....	300	00
	prime segars, brandies, wines, cherry brandy, molasses, syrups, &c.....	300	00
	drugs, medicines, paints, oils, &c	1,000	00
	dry goods, hardware, queensware, groceries	2,000	00
		<u>7,200</u>	<u>00</u>

SAMUEL GEER.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 19th October, A. D. 1857.
H. J. STRICKLER,
Commissioner for auditing claims.

James J. Holbrook, being duly sworn, says: I was in the store-house of the petitioner, Samuel Geer, as his clerk, in the village of Osawatimie, on the morning of the 30th of August, when an armed mob entered said village, and pillaged and burned it, as stated; and that the property of Mr. Geer was at that time destroyed, as alleged; that his charges for said losses are fair and reasonable. I knew that Mr. Geer had five houses destroyed at that time by fire; I believe they were worth \$2,500; one of them alone, I think, was worth \$1,500—the two story house. I know that he had a wagon and double harness, which were burned at the time. His house furniture was of a fair article; he was keeping entertainment at the time, and his house was furnished for that purpose. The furniture was worth about \$500. His stock of bacon, hams, lard, &c., in the smokehouse was large; worth \$300. His liquors were of good quality, and with the molasses, &c., was worth about \$300. Had a large stock of medicines, paints, and oils, worth, in the aggregate, about \$1,000. Had a large supply of hardware, such as carpenters' tools, building material, &c. Had a very good stock of dry goods on hand. Had a



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small supply of groceries. The charge for dry goods, hardware, groceries, queensware, &c., at \$2,000, at the usual selling prices, is fair and reasonable, and his losses, in the aggregate, would not be less than \$7,000; all of which losses were in consequence of the burning and pillaging of said village by armed mobs. Said Geer is a citizen of Kansas Territory.

JAMES J. HOLBROOK.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the commissioner.

H. J. STRICKLER.

Mary E. Sears being duly sworn, says: I have heard the petition and schedule of William Geer read; I was in the house of said Geer on the 6th of June, 1856, when an armed party of men entered his house and took and carried away from his store sundry articles of merchandise and a number of guns; and that they took and carried away at said time one horse, the property of said Geer. I was residing in the village of Osawatomie on the morning of the 30th of August, when an armed body of men entered said village, and burned five houses belonging to Mr. Geer; I saw them burn the houses. I know that Mr. Geer was doing business as merchant and kept entertainment.

MARY E. SEARS.

Sworn to and subscribed before the commissioner.

H. J. STRICKLER.

Robert H. Sherar being duly sworn, says: That on the evening of August, 1856, I hitched the horse belonging to Mr. Geer near my house—the same horse spoken of in the petition—and during the night it was taken away. I believe it to have been taken by one of the armed bodies of men who were marauding through the neighborhood at the time. I believe the horse was worth \$150. Mr. Geer is a citizen of the Territory.

ROBERT H. SHERAR.

Sworn and subscribed before the commissioner.

H. J. STRICKLER.

I certify that in the foregoing claim of Samuel Geer of \$7,200, there is proven \$7,200 of a private class; and I hereby award to the said Samuel Geer the sum of \$7,200.

H. J. STRICKLER, *Commissioner*.

No. 29.

TERRITORY OF KANSAS, }
County of Lykins, } ss.

To the honorable H. J. Strickler, commissioner, appointed by an act of the territorial legislature, entitled "An act to provide for the auditing claims," approved February 23, 1857.

The petition of Thomas Rice, of the county of Linn and territory aforesaid, respectfully sets forth: That your petitioner is a resident of