

COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS,

ACT MARCH 3D, 1871.

No.

21186

HS. 423

CLAIM

OF

Spencer Hall

OF

Amperess Co

State of

Va

SUMMARY REPORT.

Amount Allowed, \$ 260.

SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS

December 5, 1877

No. 21186
The Claim of Spencer Hall

of Langston Co., in the State of Va

No. of Item.	NATURE OF CLAIM.	AMOUNT CLAIMED.		AMOUNT ALLOWED.		AMOUNT DISALLOWED.	
		Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.	Dollars.	Cts.
✓	Hay	30		30			
✓	One cow	30		30			
✓	One steer	40				40	
✓	40 Bushels Corn	120		100		20	
✓	18 Hogs	144				144	
✓	One Horse	125		100		25	
	Total	489		260		229	
		✓		✓			

REMARKS.

The Claimant is a Col
ored man freeborn - his loyalty is
established by the testimony -
He was a farmer and rented
land and raised crops during
the War, and the testimony is
that he was an industrious man.
He and his wife, and two sons
testify to the taking of the property
worth by Gen Sengels and Rob
ertson's Commands - He allowed \$260.

Ad Aldis
J. B. Howell
O. Ferris

✓
Com.
of
Claims

Submitted. Mo. 31, 1877
No. 21, 186

CLAIM OF
Menner Hall
(Colored)
OF
Langston County,
State of *Virginia*
\$ 489=

TESTIMONY OF

	Page
<i>Claimant</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Rich^d Thomas</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Wm Thomas</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>John Hall</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Eli Hall</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Elizth Hall</i>	<i>18. 19</i>

TAKEN BY
Isaac P. Balaunin
Special Commissioner

Actual Fees and Costs, \$ 6.00

AGENTS OR ATTORNEYS AT WASHINGTON :
Wm H. Beck.

Dec 18/76 -

Directions: This certificate, with accompanying printed questions, goes in front of the depositions. A single sheet, marked "Last Page," accompanies this double sheet, and goes at the end of the depositions, having on its outside a printed form of endorsement to be filled up by the special commissioner.

ACT MARCH 3, 1871.

BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Claim of Spencer Keall (Colored)
of the County of Fauquier and State of Virginia
numbered 21.186

It is hereby certified that on the 27th day of January, 1875, at
Guineville in the County of Prince William and
State of Virginia came personally before me, for the purpose of a hearing
in the above-entitled cause, the following persons, namely:

Spencer Keall, Claimant.

_____, Counsel.

Richard Thomas William Thomas
John Keall, Eli Keall and
Elizabeth Keall } Witnesses.

Each and every deponent, previous to his or her examination, was properly and duly sworn or affirmed to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth concerning the matters under examination; the claimant's witnesses were examined separately and apart from each other; the testimony of each deponent was written out by me in presence of such deponent, who signed the same in my presence after having the deposition read aloud to such deponent, and the signature of such deponent was by me attested at the time it was affixed to the deposition.

Witness my hand and seal this 27 day of January, 1875.

Isaac P. Babarini

Special Commissioner.

STANDING INTERROGATORIES.

The following questions will be put to every person who gives testimony :

1. What is your name, your age, your residence and how long has it been such, and your occupation?
2. If you are not the claimant, in what manner, if any, are you related to the claimant or interested in the success of the claim?

The following questions will be put to every claimant, except claimants who were slaves at the beginning of the war :

[Note—If the original claimant be dead, these questions are to be answered by each of the heirs or legatees who was not less than sixteen years of age when the war closed.]

3. Where were you born? If not born in the United States, when and where were you naturalized? Produce your naturalization papers if you can.
4. Where were you residing and what was your business for six months before the outbreak of the rebellion, and where did you reside and what was your business from the beginning to the end of the war? And if you changed your residence or business, state how many times, and why such changes were made.
5. On which side were your sympathies during the war, and were they on the same side from beginning to end?
6. Did you ever do anything or say anything against the Union cause; and if so, what did you do or say, and why?
7. Were you at all times during the war willing and ready to do whatever you could in aid of the Union cause?
8. Did you ever do anything for the Union cause, or its advocates or defenders? If so, state what you did, giving times, places, names of persons aided, and particulars. Were the persons aided your relations?
9. Had you any near relatives in the Union army or navy? If so, in what company and regiment, or on what vessel, when and where did each one enter service, and when and how did he leave service? If he was a son, produce his discharge paper, in order that its contents may be noted in this deposition, or state why it cannot be produced.
10. Were you in the service or employment of the United States Government at any time during the war? If so, in what service, when, where, for how long, under what officers, and when and how did you leave such service or employment?
11. Did you ever voluntarily contribute money, property, or services to the Union cause; and if so, when, where, to whom, and what did you contribute?
12. Which side did you take while the insurgent States were seceding from the Union in 1860 and 1861, and what did you do to show on which side you stood?
13. Did you adhere to the Union cause after the States had passed into rebellion, or did you go with your State?
14. What were your feelings concerning the battle of Bull Run or Manassas, the capture of New Orleans, the fall of Vicksburg, and the final surrender of the Confederate forces?
15. What favors, privileges, or protections were ever granted you in recognition of your loyalty during the war, and when and by whom granted?
16. Have you ever taken the so-called "iron-clad oath" since the war, and when and on what occasions?
17. Who were the leading and best known Unionists of your vicinity during the war? Are any of them called to testify to your loyalty; and if not, why not?
18. Were you ever threatened with damage or injury to your person, family, or property on account of your Union sentiments, or were you actually molested or injured on account of your Union sentiments? If so, when, where, by whom, and in what particular way were you injured or threatened with injury?
19. Were you ever arrested by any Confederate officer, soldier, sailor, or other person professing to act for the Confederate government, or for any State in rebellion? If so, when, where, by whom, for what cause; how long were you kept under arrest; how did you obtain your release; did you take any oath or give any bond to effect your release; and if so, what was the nature of the oath or the bond?
20. Was any of your property taken by Confederate officers or soldiers, or any rebel authority? If so, what property, when, where, by whom, were you ever paid therefor, and did you ever present an account therefor to the Confederate government, or any rebel officer?
21. Was any of your property ever confiscated by rebel authority, on the ground that you were an enemy to the rebel cause? If so, give all the particulars, and state if the property was subsequently released or compensation made therefor.
22. Did you ever do anything for the Confederate cause, or render any aid or comfort to the rebellion? If so, give the times, places, persons, and other particulars connected with each transaction.
23. What force, compulsion, or influence, was used to make you do anything against the Union cause? If any, give all the particulars demanded in the last question.
24. Were you in any service, business, or employment, for the Confederacy, or for any rebel authority? If so, give the same particulars as before required.
25. Were you in the civil, military, or naval service of the Confederacy, or any rebel State, in any capacity whatsoever? If so, state fully in respect to each occasion and service.
26. Did you ever take any oath to the so-called Confederate States while in any rebel service or employment?
27. Did you ever have charge of any stores, or other property, for the Confederacy; or did you ever sell or furnish any supplies to the so-called Confederate States, or any State in rebellion; or did you have any share or interest in contracts or manufactures in aid of the rebellion?
28. Were you engaged in blockade running, or running through the lines, or interested in the risks or profits of such ventures?
29. Were you in any way interested in any vessel navigating the waters of the Confederacy, or entering or leaving any Confederate port? If so, what vessel, when and where employed, in what business, and had any rebel authority any direct or indirect interest in vessel or cargo?
30. Did you ever subscribe to any loan of the so-called Confederate States, or of any rebel State; or own Confederate bonds or securities, or the bonds or securities of any rebel State issued between 1861 and 1865? Did you sell, or agree to sell, cotton or produce to the Confederate Government, or to any rebel State, or to any rebel officer or agent, and if so, did you receive or agree to receive Confederate or State bonds or securities in payment; and if so, to what amount, and for what kind and amount of property?
31. Did you contribute to the raising, equipment or support of troops, or the building of gunboats in aid of the rebellion; or to military hospitals or invalids, or to relief funds or subscriptions for the families of persons serving against the United States?

32. Did you ever give information to any person in aid of military or naval operations against the United States?
33. Were you at any time a member of any society or organization for equipping volunteers or conscripts, or for aiding the rebellion in any other manner?
34. Did you ever take an oath of allegiance to the so-called Confederate States? If so, state how often, when, where, for what purpose, and the nature of the oath or affirmation.
35. Did you ever receive a pass from rebel authority? If so, state when, where, for what purpose, on what conditions, and how the pass was used.
36. Had you any near relatives in the Confederate army, or in any military or naval service hostile to the United States? If so, give names, ages on entering service, present residence, if living, what influence you exerted, if any, against their entering the service, and in what way you contributed to their outfit and support.
37. Have you been under the disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution? Have your disabilities been removed by Congress?
38. Have you been specially pardoned by the President for participation in the rebellion?
39. Did you take any amnesty oath during the war, or after its close? If so, when, where, and why did you take it?
40. Were you ever a prisoner to the United States authorities, or on parole, or under bonds to do nothing against the Union cause? If so, state all the particulars.
41. Were you ever arrested by the authorities of the United States during the war? If so, when, where, by whom, on what grounds, and when and how did you obtain your release?
42. Were any fines or assessments levied upon you by the authorities of the United States because of your supposed sympathy for the rebellion? If so, state all the facts.
43. Was any of your property taken into possession or sold by the United States under the laws relating to confiscation, or to captured and abandoned property?

The following questions will be put to all male claimants or beneficiaries who were not less than sixteen years of age when the war closed:

44. After the Presidential election of 1860, if of age, did you vote for any candidates, or on any questions, during the war, and how did you vote? Did you vote for or against candidates favoring secession? Did you vote for or against the ratification of the ordinance of secession, or for or against separation in your State?
45. Did you belong to any vigilance committee, or committee of safety, homeguard, or any other form of organization or combination designed to suppress Union sentiment in your vicinity?
46. Were you in the Confederate army, State militia, or any military or naval organization hostile to the United States? If so, state when, where, in what organizations, how and why you entered, how long you remained each time, and when and how you left. If you claim that you were conscripted, when and where was it, how did you receive notice, and from whom, and what was the precise manner in which the conscription was enforced against you? If you were never in the rebel army or other hostile organization, explain how you escaped service. If you furnished a substitute, when and why did you furnish one, and what is his name, and his present address, if living?
47. Were you in any way connected with or employed in the Confederate quartermaster, commissary, ordnance, engineer, or medical department, or any other department, or employed on any railroad transporting troops or supplies for the Confederacy, or otherwise engaged in transportation of men and supplies for the Confederacy? If so, state how employed, when, where, for how long, under whose direction, and why such employment was not giving "aid and comfort" to the rebellion.
48. Did you at any time have charge of trains, teams, wagons, vessels, boats, or military supplies or property of any kind for the Confederate government? If so, give all the facts as in previous questions.
49. Were you employed in saltpetre works, in tanning or milling for the Confederate government, or making clothing, boots, shoes, saddles, harness, arms, ammunition, accoutrements, or any other kind of munitions of war for the Confederacy? If so, give all the particulars of time, place and nature of service or supplies.
50. Were you ever engaged in holding in custody, directly or indirectly, any persons taken by the rebel government as prisoners of war, or any persons imprisoned or confined by the Confederate government, or the authorities of any rebel State, for political causes? If so, when, where, under what circumstances, in what capacity were you engaged, and what was the name and rank of your principal?
51. Were you ever in the Union army or navy, or in any service connected therewith? If so, when, where, in what capacity, under whose command or authority, for what period of time, and when and how did you leave service? Produce your discharge papers, so that their contents may be noted herein.

The following questions will be put to every person testifying to the loyalty of claimants or beneficiaries:

52. In whose favor are you here to testify?
53. How long have you known that person altogether, and what part of that time have you intimately known him?
54. Did you live near him during the war, and how far away?
55. Did you meet him often, and about how often, during the war?
56. Did you converse with the claimant about the war, its causes, its progress, and its results? If so, try to remember the more important occasions on which you so conversed, beginning with the first occasion, and state, with respect to each, when it was, where it was, who were present, what caused the conversation, and what the claimant said in substance, if you cannot remember his words.
57. Do you know of anything done by the claimant that showed him to be loyal to the Union cause during the war? If you do, state what he did, when, where, and what was the particular cause or occasion of his doing it? Give the same information about each thing he did that showed him to be loyal.
58. Do you know of anything said or done by the claimant that was against the Union cause? If so, please state, with respect to each thing said or done, what it was, when it was, where it was, and what particular compulsion or influence caused him to say or do it.
59. If you have heard of anything said or done by the claimant, either for the Union cause or against it, state from whom you heard it, when you heard it, and what you heard.
60. What was the public reputation of the claimant for loyalty or disloyalty to the United States during the war? If you profess to know his public reputation, explain fully how you know it, whom you heard speak of it, and give the names of other persons who were neighbors during the war that could testify to his public reputation.
61. Who were the known and prominent Union people of the neighborhood during the war, and do you know that such persons could testify to the claimant's loyalty?
62. Were you, yourself, an adherent of the Union cause during the war? If so, did the claimant know you to be such, and how did he know it?
63. Do you know of any threats, molestations, or injury inflicted upon the claimant, or his family, or his property, on account of his adherence to the Union cause? If so, give all the particulars.
64. Do you know of any act done or language used by the claimant that would have prevented him from establishing his loyalty to the Confederacy? If so, what act or what language?

65. Can you state any other facts within your own knowledge in proof of the claimant's loyalty during the war? If so, state all the facts and give all the particulars.

The following questions concerning the ownership of property charged in claims will be put to all claimants, or the representatives of deceased claimants:

66. Who was the owner of the property charged in this claim when it was taken, and how did such person become owner?
67. If any of the property was taken from a farm or plantation, where was such farm or plantation situated, what was its size, how much was cultivated, how much was woodland, and how much was waste land?
68. Has the person who owned the property when taken since filed a petition in bankruptcy, or been declared a bankrupt?

The following questions will be put to female claimants:

69. Are you married or single? If married, when were you married? Was your husband loyal to the cause and Government of the United States throughout the war? Where does he now reside, and why is he not joined with you in the petition? How many children have you? Give their names and ages. Were any of them in the Confederate service during the war? If you claim that the property named in your petition is your sole and separate property, state how you came to own it separately from your husband; how your title was derived; when your ownership of it began. Did it ever belong to your husband? If the property for which you ask pay is wood, timber, rails, or the products of a farm, how did you get title to the farm? If by deed, can you file copies of the deeds? If single, have you been married? If a widow, when did your husband die? Was he in the Confederate army? Was he in the civil service of the Confederacy? Was he loyal to the United States Government throughout the war? Did he leave any children? How many? Are any now living? Give their names and ages. Are they not interested in this claim? If they are not joined in this petition, why not? State fully how your title to the property specified in the petition was obtained. Did you ever belong to any sewing society organized to make clothing for Confederate soldiers or their families, or did you assist in making any such clothing, or making flags or other military equipments, or preparing or furnishing delicacies or supplies for Confederate hospitals or soldiers?

The following questions will be put to colored claimants:

70. Were you a slave or free at the beginning of the war? If ever a slave, when did you become free? What business did you follow after obtaining your freedom? Did you own this property before or after you became free? When did you get it? How did you become owner, and from whom did you obtain it? Where did you get the means to pay for it? What was the name and residence of your master, and is he still living? Is he a witness for you, and if not, why not? Are you in his employ now, or do you live on his land or on land bought from him? Are you in his debt? What other person besides yourself has any interest in this claim?

The following questions will be put to all colored witnesses in behalf of white claimants:

71. Were you formerly the slave of the claimant? Are you now in his service or employment? Do you live on his land? Are you in his debt? Are you in any way to share in this claim if allowed?

The following questions will be put to claimants and witnesses who testify to the taking of property, omitting in the case of each claimant or witness any questions that are clearly unnecessary:

72. Were you present when any of the property charged in this claim was taken? Did you actually see any taken? If so, specify what you saw taken.
73. Was any of the property taken in the night time, or was any taken secretly, so that you did not know of it at the time?
74. Was any complaint made to any officer of the taking of any of the property? If so, give the name, rank and regiment of the officer, and state who made the complaint to him, what he said and did in consequence, and what was the result of the complaint.
75. Were any vouchers or receipts asked for or given? If given, where are the vouchers or receipts? If lost, state fully how lost. If asked and not given, by whom were they asked, who was asked to give them, and why were they refused or not given? State very fully in regard to the failure to ask or obtain receipts.
76. Has any payment ever been made for any property charged in this claim? Has any payment been made for any property taken at the same times as the property charged in this claim? Has any payment been made for any property taken from the same claimant during the war, and if so, when, by whom, for what property and to what amount? Has this property, or any part of it, been included in any claim heretofore presented to Congress, or any court, department or officer of the United States, or to any board of survey, military commission, State commission or officer, or any other authority? If so, when and to what tribunal or officers was the claim presented; was it larger or smaller in amount than this claim, and how is the difference explained, and what was the decision, if any, of the tribunal to which it was presented?
77. Was the property charged in this claim taken by troops encamped in the vicinity, or were they on the march, or were they on a raid or expedition, or had there been any recent battle or skirmish?
78. You will please listen attentively while the list of items, but not the quantities, is read to you, and as each kind of property is called off, say whether you saw any such property taken.
79. Begin now with the first item of property you have just said you saw taken, and give the following information about it. 1st. Describe its exact condition, as, for instance, if corn, whether green or ripe, standing or harvested, in sheck, or husked, or shelled; if lumber, whether new or old, in buildings or piled; if grain, whether growing or cut, &c., &c. 2d. State where it was. 3d. What was the quantity; explain fully how you know the quantity, and if estimated, describe your method of making the estimate. 4th. Describe the quality to your best judgment. 5th. State as nearly as you can the market value of such property at the time in United States money. 6th. Say when the property was taken. 7th. Give the name of the detachment, regiment, brigade, division, corps, or army, taking the property, and the names of any officers belonging to the command. 8th. Describe the precise manner in which the property was taken into possession by the troops, and the manner in which it was removed. 9th. State as closely as you can how many men, animals, wagons, or other means of transport, were engaged in the removal, how long they were occupied, and to what place they removed the property. 10th. State if any officers were present; how you knew them to be officers; what they said or did in relation to the property, and give the names of any, if you can. 11th. Give any reasons that you may have for believing that the taking of the property was authorized by the proper officers or that it was for the necessary use of the army.
80. Now take the next item of property you saw taken and give the same information, and so proceed to the end of the list of items.

(Colera)

Deposition of Claimant Concerning

Loyalty

Jan 1

To question No 1 the witness answers

My name is Spencer Keel.

I am 63 years old, a farmer. live now in Sangre Co. O.K. on a small place I purchased since the war.

3 I was born in Sangre Co

4 I was living at Thompson where the war began. and worked about at different places during the war

5 I sympathized with the union side I had no use for the rebels. They were no friends of mine. I was a union man all the time, from beginning to end.

6 No Sir never

7 & 8 Yes I was ready and willing and did do anything they wanted me to do that I was able to do. Gen Hancock was camped on Mrs Keises place where I lived in 1863 and occupied part of the house for his head quarters when I done anything I could do.

9 to 11 No Sir.

12 to 14 I was for the union side of course.

16 to 22 No Sir

23 I was once called on by a Confederate

officer to drive a team but I refused to go.

24 to 43 No Sir.

44 to 51 No Sir. I am a colored man and the confederates had no use for me in such capacity.

66 I was the sole owner of all the property named in my petition. I became the owner by working for it and saving it. I rented farms and worked them on shares.

67 The hay, the cow and the steer were taken from the farm of Mr Chapman at Haverhill in the fall of 1862. and the corn, the hogs and the horse were taken from the farm of Mr Keiser at Haverhill also in the fall of 1862. where I was living at that time.

68 No Sir.

70 I was not a slave; I was free born.

72 I was present and saw all my property taken.

73 No Sir. It was all taken in the day time.

74 Yes Sir. My wife went to see Gen Robinson about the troops taking the corn and was told that he was obliged to take it for his horses. He was a Cavalry Officer.

75276 No. 810.

77 They were camped for one night close by my house, and for about two weeks they were camped about a mile from there.

Item 1
Hay

The hay was taken from two stacks at the stable, about 100 yds from the house by the troops of Gen Seigel who were camped about half a mile away for about one week in the fall of 1862. Some of it was carried away on horses and some in large bundles tied up. The stacks contained as I supposed about 2,000 pounds each. Mr Storer a northern man living near me, said there was 6,000 pounds in the two stacks. I cut the hay on shares from a meadow of Mr Boulton Robinson at Broad run station. The meadow contains about 60 acres - It is very rich bottom land and the grass was excellent - I mowed about 8 or 10 acres, and these two stacks was my share of the hay. There was an officer with the men while taking the hay. It was all taken in a short time and carried to their camp which was in sight of the house. I asked the officer to leave me the hay for my own cattle - but he said he was obliged to take it that I could get more

Item 2
Cow

The cow was killed in the field where she was pasturing close by the camp of Gen Seigel by a party of soldiers who dressed her and carried the meat all into the camp. There was a field full of men going about with muskets where she was killed. I went to see the Major about it and he asked me if I begrudged the poor soldiers a cow for fresh meat & I said no more about it to him. She was killed in plain view of the officers quarters who must have known of it, if they did not order it done.

The cow was in excellent order for beef: we were milking her at the time.

I considered her ^{worth} \$50. - I paid that for her about a year before to Mr Chas Stover. I paid for her in good money. I don't know what price is charged for any of the articles named in my petition. My attorney fixed the prices.

Item 3
Steer

The steer was taken by the same troops that took the beef and the cow. It was in another field with other cattle belonging to other parties. The pickets were thrown out so as to surround the field

and the farm and nothing could go from the place without passing the pickets.

I did not see the steer killed, but was told of the killing by Miss Sallie Brewer from whom I had purchased him. She told me she saw the soldiers kill and dress the beef and carry it to the camp.

I was out looking for him when she told me this. I bought the steer from her when a calf and raised him myself. He was a three year old, of large size and very fat. He would weigh 500 to 600 pounds dressed. I should think he was well worth \$40.

All the above property was taken by Gen Seigel's Corps who were camped in my neighborhood for about a week or ten days in the fall of 1862.

Item 4

Corn

The corn was taken from the field where it was growing by Gen Robinson's Cavalry in the fall of 1863 who were camped very close by my place and for about two weeks about a mile from me.

There were about 8 acres of the corn. It was on bottom land and was a good crop. It had been cut down and was lying on the ground when the troops

7

came there and turned their horses into the field where they remained one night and part of a day and ate and destroyed the whole crop. I did not save a particle of fodder nor an ear of corn. It was all used up clean by the horses which were turned in the field.

I went to see Gen Robinson about it and he told me his horses had had nothing to eat that day, and he was obliged to take the corn. It was estimated by Mr Mulany before it was cut at 50 Bbls. but I put it in at 40 barrels. and believe there was fully 200 bushels.

Item 5
Hogs

The hogs were taken from an orchard where they were allowed to run for the apples. They were taken by the troops of Gen Hancock's Corps who were camped all around us for about two weeks in the fall of 1863. in October I think.

I had 17 large hogs and fat enough for butchering - and these troops killed and dressed 15 of them - leaving me only 2 - All of them would weigh 200 pounds or more each. I saw them killed and skinned. They were all inside the camp. My house was headquarters for Gen Hancock. at the

time. I spoke to the Genl about it and he said it was impossible for him to look after such a large body of men as he had and for me to put what I had left in a pen and he would put quarters over them - The General treated me very kindly. The hogs were worth at the price pork was worth then in good money, about \$20. each. I don't know what price was charged for them in the petition. They would weigh fully 200 pounds each dressed.

Item 6 The horse was taken by some troops
Heese called the Massachusetts Cavalry. who had been up in London and met with the rebels at Middleburg and had a battle and were on the retreat towards Manassas where they took my horse. He was taken from the pasture near my house while the troops were passing close by and in plain view. They were crippled and cut up badly. They rode my horse away - leaving none in his place - some of the men were dismounted. I said nothing to them about my horse. He was worth about \$100.

And further deponent saith not
 Attest Isaac P. Baldwin Spencer ^{his} Hall
 Special Commr. Clerk

Property

Deposition of John H. H. concerning the

Loyalty
 Q. 1 Deposition of Richard Thomas (Colored) as to the
 of Spencer Heall. (Colored)

My name is Richard Thomas, I am 40 years
 old a farmer, live near Waterfall P.O. River W. Co
 where I have lived nearly all my life.

2 I am not related to the claimant and
 have no interest in the success of this claim.

52 The farm of Spencer Heall. (Colored)

53 to 55 I have known him all my life; lived
 about 4 miles from him during the war
 met him every week or two during
 the whole period of the war.

56 Yes. These were the subjects of our con-
 versation whenever we met. I have
 met him in passing along the road
 and at his house. He always spoke in
 favor of the Union army and seemed to
 want them to whip the rebels. Was glad
 when the Union troops were victorious
 and sorry of their defeat.

57 & 58 No Sir.

59 & 60 I have heard my brothers speak of him
 as talking in favor of the South and the
 Southern army. I have heard colored men
 speak of him as a Union man.

I think the colored people generally
 knew that he was in favor of the Union
 side. The colored people generally were.

61 I don't know of any white union men
in neighborhood that are here now, that
could testify to claimant's loyalty.

62 Yes sir I was a decided union man.
and the claimant knew it. He knew it
from all my conversations - I could not
be anything but union and be true to myself.
I was confident the rebels would have made
shades of my free colored ^{man} if they had been
successful. The claimant thought the same
as I did on these subjects. I think he fully
understood the issues at stake. I believe
he was a sound union man all
through the war.

63 No Sir.

64 He could not prove it by me. He has too
many times denounced the confederacy.
He would speak of the confederate money as
so much brown paper or fodder - or Jeff Davis
shanks.

65 I don't remember anything more.
And further depose to nothing more.

Attest

Richard ^{his} Harrison
mark

Isaac P. Babin
Special Counsel

Deposition of William Thomas Cole concerning
Loyalty of Claimant.

Q. 1 My name is William Thomas. I am
44 years old, a farmer, live near Water
fall P.O. in Prince W. Co. Va.

2 I am not related to the claimant and
have no interest in his claim.

3 I am from Spencer Hall (Colony)

53-54 I have known Claimant all my life
lived about four miles from him during
the war - saw him as often as once a fortnight.

56 Yes sir I often talked with him on all
these questions. sometimes at his house &
sometimes on the road. After my battles
the rebels would report that the Union
troops were badly cut up and when
we would meet we would compare
reports and often would find that our
side came off better than reported which
was a subject of mutual congratulation.
He spoke in favor of the northern
side - he seemed to want them to
be victorious

57-58-59 I don't remember anything.

60 I can't say as he had any public reputation.
The colony people were generally loyal
men, but not much talked about publicly.

61 Mr Charles Storer (now dead) Charles Whitlock & John Osborn (now dead) all white men from the north - were Union men. Mr Whitlock had to leave - I don't know where he is now.

62 I was a Union man from first to last. and am still. I have no use for rebels. Claimant knew I was a Union man from my conversation.

63 I do not.

64 His language would prevent it. He often expressed a wish that the north would gain the day, and the rebellion be put down.

65 I don't remember any.

Property Dependent says.
In answer to questions concerning

I know that Claimant had some cattle and horses and was a thrifty farmer in a small way, working farms on slaves. that he is an industrious, temperate man. and that he lost his property by the Union army. but I did not see any of it taken and further dependent says not.

Attest Isaac P. Baldwin William ^{his} Thomas
Special Counsel Clerk

Deposition of John Keall concerning
Property

Q. 1. My name is John Keall, I am 25 years old a farmer, live near Houghton Prince of Wales.

2 I am a cousin of claimant - but have no interest in the success of this claim.

52 I was living near the claimant when his property was taken but did not witness the taking of any but the cow and the hogs - tho I knew at the time of the taking of the hay and the steer by the troops of Gen Sigel's command. who were in camp around there for about two weeks. I knew of the taking of the corn also and the horse in the fall of 1863. tho I did not see the property taken.

Item 1
Hay Claimant had two stacks of hay at his stable which he cut on shores on Mr Robinsons meadow at Broad run. I saw him cutting the hay and haul it away and saw it after it was stacked - and should think ^{there} was about 2 tons in each stack. The troops of Gen Sigel were camped close by the place where the hay disappeared I was living near by, but not in sight.

Item 2
Cow

15

The cow I saw butchered and carried to the camp by some of Gen Seigles troops about the same time the pig was taken. She was a large animal and in good order very suitable for beef.

Item 3
Steer

I did not see the Steer taken, but was told the soldiers had butchered him, by Miss Sallie Brewer who said she saw him killed. This was while Gen Seigles Corps was there. He was a fine large Steer and fat.

Item 4
Corn

I know Clairmont raised a crop of corn in 1863 which was destroyed or used by some Cavalry in the fall while in the field. I saw the crop many times it was an excellent crop - would yield 40 to 50 bbls.

Item 5
Hogs

I know Clairmont had a large lot of hogs and that he lost most of them while some Union forces were camped on his place. Which was near part of the camp. I saw some of the hogs killed, and skinned and carried among the tents. They were all large hogs and fat.

Item 6
Horse

I was at Clairmonts house when the horse was taken, by a small party of Cavalry who were retreating towards Manassas. He was rode away by one of the dismounted men. and further dependent I write not

Attest

Isaac P. Baldwin

Spl comm

John ^{his} Hall
mark

Deposition of Eli Hall concerning the Property

Q. 1. My name is Eli Hall, I am 23 years old a farmer, live near Haverhill in Oregon & Co.

2 I am a son of the claimant and have a beneficial interest in the claim.

52 I was present and saw the hay and the cow taken but was away from home when the other things were taken.

Item 1
Hay The hay was in two stacks near the stable and was all carried off in a short time by some union troops who camped near the place where we lived. It was carried off in bundles and on horses to the camp and fed out to the army horses. I was around among the camps and saw the hay fed out. My father cut the hay on Mr Robinsons farm at Brown Run.

Item 2
Cow The cow was killed and dressed on the farm where we lived in a field near the camp. She was carried to the camp by the men who butchered her. I saw her killed. She was shot. we were milking her.

Item 3
Steer I know the steer was taken while these
same troops were camped on and
around the place - tho I did not see him
killed - he was a large 3 year old and
in nice order

Item 4
Corn On the year the corn was taken I was
living with Mr Genter the owner of the
ground on which my father raised
a crop of corn on his place - and my
wages was to pay for the rent of the
ground. There was said to be between
8 and 9 acres of the corn which all be-
longed to my father. This was all used
up by some Cavalry who came there in
the fall of 1863. I saw the corn and know
it was a very good crop. I was not there
to see it taken - but heard that Gen Robinson's
troops took it.

Item 5
Hogs I know my father had a large number
of large hogs which nearly all disappeared
in the fall of 1863 while a Union army
was camped on his place -

Item 6
Horse I know my father lost a horse by
some one in the same fall the hogs were
taken - but don't know who took him -
and further dependent said not.

Attest Isaac P. Balerin Eli. ^{his} Hall
Special Com^{rs} Clerk

Deposition of Elizabeth Hoell concerning
Property

Q. 1 My name is Elizabeth Hoell. I am 48 years
old. I am the wife of the claimant
and live with him.

72 I was present and witnessed the
taking of all the property named
in the petition.

73 I don't know of any being taken at
night.

74 Yes I went to see Gen Robinson once
when his troops were taking the corn.
He told me he must have the corn for
his horses.

75 & 76 Now that I know of

76 Yes they were camped not far off.

Item 1
Hay The hay was some we had cut on shares
on Mr Boulton Robinsons farm at Broad
Run Station and was our share of what
we had cut. It ^{was} taken by the army of Gen
Seigel who were camped about twelve
mile from our house at the time.
We had secured two rice stacks and had
it in the stable lot near our house. It
was all carried away in large bundles
tied up by the men - and all was
taken in a very short time.

Item 2
Cow

The cow was butchered for beef by the same troops about the same time. She was in a pasture near the camp and was killed in plain sight of the camp. She was large and in good order for beef. We paid Mr Charles Storer \$50. for her.

Item 3
Steer

The steer was killed about the same time by the same troops. I did not see him killed. He was in another field. We were all surrounded by pickets at this time.

Item 4
Corn

The corn was taken from a field (where it was grown) by Gen Robinsons Cavalry in the fall of 1863. It was lying on the ground in the fodder. We had about 8 acres of it; all was eaten up and destroyed.

Item 5
Hogs

We had 17 large hogs in the fall of 1863 and 15 of them were killed by Gen Hemmicks troops who were camped nearby for about 10 days or more.

Item 6
House

The house was taken by a small party of Cavalry who were retreating towards Manassas. They had been defeated in a battle with the Confederates and were short of horses. And took ours and rode him away. And further deponent saith that

Attest

Isaac P. Balamin
Special Commr

Elizabeth ^{her} Heall
witness

Thompson

No. 21186

CLAIM

OF

Spencer Hall

OF

Fauquier Co

Virginia

\$ 489

APPLICATION

TO HAVE TESTIMONY TAKEN
BY SPECIAL COMMISSIONER.

FILED BY

William W Beck
Washington
DC

Printed and sold by W. H. Moore, 511 11th st., Washington, D. C.

Thompson

DIRECTIONS.

- NOTE 1.—Insert number of the Claim.
 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.—The claimant's name should be signed here, either by himself or his attorney.

No. 21,186 (1)

Before the Commissioners of Claims,

Under Act of Congress of March 3, 1871.

In the matter of the Claim of Spencer Hall
 of Fauquier, in the County of Fauquier
 and State of Virginia

Comes now the Claimant before Isaac P. Baldwin Esq., Special
 Commissioner for the State of Virginia, 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 five 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 unneces-
 sary 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.	
		Dollars.	Cts.
1	Hay	80	00
2	1 Cow for Beef	30	00
3	1 Steer	40	00
4	40 Bbls corn 200 Bushels	120	00
5	18 Hogs averaging 200 lbs gross 3600 lbs at 4 cts	144	00
6	1 Horse	120	00
Total, ...		489	00

That, as stated in the Petition referred to, the property in question was taken from or furnished by Spencer Hall, of Lauquier County, in the State of Virginia, for the use of a portion of the army of the United States, known as (3)... and commanded by..., 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>Gen Sigel</u>			
<u>" Hancock</u>			
<u>Robertson</u>			

That the property was removed to (4) their camps, and used for or by (5)...; all this on or about the ... day of..., in the year 186 , 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:

Thomas Primus, OF
Hampton Cale, OF
 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 :

Thomas Primus....., OF
Hampton Cole....., 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.....*3d*.....day of.....*March*....., 187 *3*.

(6).....*Spencer Hall*.....
.....*by*.....*Claimant.*

.....*William H Beck*.....
.....*Attorney.*

P. O. Address of Attorney:

.....*Washington*.....
.....*DC*.....

"LAST PAGE."

NOTE.—On this page the special commissioner may enter any explanation, statement, note or comment of his own which may be of service in the examination and decision of the claim at Washington. If there be anything noticeable in the appearance, conduct, or condition of a witness, the fact should be noted on this page. If the special commissioner knows or hears anything, apart from what appears in the depositions, that either confirms or impugns the credibility of the testimony or the merit of the claim, he should state what he knows or has heard, with his means of knowledge, or the names of his informants, as the case may be, in order that formal inquiry may be made, or further evidence demanded, if necessary. It would be serviceable to both sides if the special commissioner were to ascertain and set down the names of the men, still living, who, by general reputation, were leading Unionists of the war-period in the vicinity of the claimant. Comment or opinion based merely on the testimony taken is not desired.

No doubt about Leggett & Clairmont
Isaac P. Baldwin
Special Counsel

90
Claim No.

48723.

Sett. No.

7886,

Spencer Hall

\$

260.00

Due

Wm

OUT OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR

"Claims of Loyal Citizens for Supplies furnished
during the Rebellion."

For amount allowed
by the Southern Claims Com-
mission.

Reported

July 6th, 1878.

Returned

10, 1878.

Requisition No. 8375, dated

July 15, 1878, transmitted for

Warrant

July 18, 1878.

AN

The United States,

To Spencer Hall of Va. D.

For the amount allowed *him* by Act of Congress, Private No. *141*
approved *June 10th*, 187*8*, 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

Two hundred and Sixty dollars — ✓ \$ *260. 00*

✓
\$ *260. 00*

Payable in care of *W. H. Beck*

Alexandria Va

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Second Comptroller's Office,

July 10th, 187*8*.

E. H. March

Clerk.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Third Auditor's Office,

July 6th, 187*8*.

S. White

Clerk.

Submitted

No. 21.186

W.H.B.

CLAIM OF

Spencer Hall

OF

Fauquier

County,

State of

Virginia

\$489 =

TESTIMONY OF

Thos. A. Smith

Page.

2

TAKEN BY

Isaac P. Baldwin

Special Commissioner

Actual Fees and Costs, \$

AGENTS OR ATTORNEYS AT WASHINGTON :

Mr. H. Becke

June 14/77

Deposition of Thomas A. Smith in regard to the character and standing of Spencer Hall (Colored) and his wife Betsey during the war.

Ques 1

My name is Thomas A. Smith. I am 66 years old, a farmer and live at Haymarket Prince William Co: V.A. I was formerly ^{and am now} one of the Registrars of this County.

2 I am not in any sense interested in the success of this claim.

I have known Spencer Hall and his wife Betsey or as she is sometimes called Elizabeth (both colored) for many years; before the war, during and since the war. They were both free born, and were comfortably situated and doing well when the war began.

During some years of the war, they rented and cultivated a place known as the Walnut Farm situated about four to five miles from Haymarket and raised such crops as are usually grown by farmers.

They were both industrious and saving and comparatively independent before their property was taken. I was told they made very good crops, and were doing unusually well.

They were and are very respectable good people; much better than the general average of colored people. They have the reputation of being very peaceable, temperate and accumulative and of having acquired some property which I understood was taken from them by one of the Federal armies during the war.

I am not able to say what property was taken nor to what amount.

They have now a comfortable amount of property around them saved since the war and are as thrifty as most of the moderate farmers in this country.

I have no doubt but that they lost considerable property by the Union armies during the war.
And further deplored said not.

Attest

Thos A. Smith

Isaac P. Balmain
Special Commr

Thos A. Smith, the subscribing witness, I have known many years. He is a very reliable and truthful person.

Isaac P. Balmain

Special Commr

21/88 Mar 3/73

No., ... 187~~2~~

PETITION
OF

Spencer Hall.

TO THE
COMMISSIONERS OF CLAIMS.

Residence of Claimant Fauquier
County Virginia

Nature of Claim

Amount claimed,

\$ 489.00

FILED BY

William A Beck
att'y at Law
Alexandria Va

PETITION.

To the Honorable Commissioners of Claims,

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

The Petition of (1) Spencer Hall,

respectfully represents:

That he is a citizen of the United States, and reside at present near

(2) Hopewell, Fauquier co Virginia

and that he resided when this claim accrued near (3) the same place

That he 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 Hopewell

Virginia, in the County of Fauquier, 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:

DATE.	QUANTITIES AND DESCRIPTION.	VALUE.
		\$
1	Hay.	30 00
2	one Cow for Beef.	30 00
3	one Steer do	40 00
4	40 Bbls of Corn (200 bushels)	120 00
5	18 Hogs averaging 200 lbs gross at 800 lbs at 4 cts.	144 00
6	one Horse.	125 00
	Total,	489 00

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⁾ _____ and commanded by _____ 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.
<i>Genl Sigel</i>		<i>A</i>	
<i>Hancock</i>			
<i>Robertson</i>			

That the property was removed to ⁽⁶⁾ _____ and used for or by ⁽⁷⁾ _____ all this on or about the _____ day of _____, in the year 186 _____

That ⁽⁸⁾ *the* voucher^s, receipt^s, or other writing^s, *that were* given for the property *taken were destroyed,*

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. In consequence of some necessity for the articles taken, or similar articles; which necessity justified the officers or soldiers taking them.
4. For some purpose so necessary, useful, beneficial or justifiable as to warrant or require the Government to pay for it.
5. 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⁾ *Spencer Hall* of *Lansburg or Virginia* the original owner of said claim, and that *he is now* of *the same place and is* 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* 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 *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.

- 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⁾ Congress nor to any
Committee thereof nor to any Dept of
the government

That William H Beck of Alexandria Va
hereby authorized and empowered to act as Attorney for the prosecution of this claim.

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

Witnesses:

[13]

Spencer Hall
his mark

State of Virginia } ss
County of Pl }

[14]

Spencer Hall

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 be-
lieves 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 adher-
ent 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:

R. P. Pichler
B. H. Jordan

Spencer Hall
his mark

Sworn and subscribed in my presence, the 21st day of February 1872

R. P. Pichler

[L. S.]

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

Thomas Pinnus
Hampton Cal

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

Hampton Cal
Thomas Pinnus

Post office address of claimant :

Spencer Hall

Post office address of attorney :

William H Beck Alexandria Va

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.

Broad Run Farm Co Va
May 30. 1877

I can testify to the general good character, industrious and temperate habits of Elizabeth Hall. I know that she held some personal property cattle, hogs &c when she lived near Thoroughfare gap during the war but can give no particular description of said property -

Thos Henderson

I have been acquainted Spencer Hall and his wife Elizabeth before the war commenced and they were both Free, coloured persons and born free, and had property; I was Commr. of the Revenue for many years before the war and up to the breaking out of the same, and listed personal property of theirs every year and I concur with Mr,

Knows

Henderson in every particular, I doubt any
coloured, who deserve more credit than
Elizabeth Hall, for her honesty, industry
and her perseverance, ~~industry~~
May 30th 1877 R. H. Brown

The foregoing statements of Mrs. Brown
& Henderson I believe to be altogether
correct & I cheerfully subscribe to them
T. B. Robertson.

Abraham Fargus
30. May 1877.

Prince William County to wit—
John H Davis personally came
before me a Justice for the county
aforesaid and made oath that he
knows Elizabeth Hall ^{& Spencer Hall} and further
knows that she had killed & taken
away fifteen hogs two head cattle
one mair taken by the union army com-
manded by Genl Hancock army
Given under my hand this 9th day of
June 1877 J. A. Smith J.P.