

JOHN MANDEVILLE—REPRESENTATIVES OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 477.]

JANUARY 25, 1838.

Mr. A. H. SHEPPERD, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT :

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Sarah Mandeville, report :

That the claim set up in the petition is for the value of a dwelling-house and out-houses alleged to have been destroyed by the enemy during the revolutionary war, in consequence of their occupation by the American troops.

In support of this claim, a witness, named John Croft, swears that he resided in Peekskill, State of New York, in the year 1777, where John Mandeville, the late husband of the petitioner, owned a large frame dwelling-house, used by said Mandeville as an inn, together with a barn, carriage-house, and sheds; that, during that year, the American army, under General Putnam, encamped on said Mandeville's plantation, and took possession of and occupied the above-mentioned dwelling-house as headquarters, and the barn, carriage-house, and sheds, for the reception of their baggage, ammunition, and provisions; that, during such possession, he frequently passed the premises, and always found sentinels placed around them both by day and night; that, while the houses were thus occupied by our troops, they were all burnt, about the 4th of October, 1777, by a part of the British forces which ascended the Hudson and landed at Peekskill. Witness says that, from an eminence a mile or two off, he actually saw the buildings burning, and that, after the enemy had retired, he approached and viewed the ruins, which were then still smoking. This witness is fully sustained by Henry Thomas, who adds that he was one of the men engaged in driving the British from Peekskill after the destruction of Mandeville's property. The petitioner, Sarah Mandeville, has also given testimony. Whilst her deposition confirms the foregoing statements, she goes farther, and gives the names of General Dougal, General Huntington, Colonel Burr, and Major Platt, who, under General Putnam, occupied her husband's house as headquarters. She says that one room of the house was used as the office of the paymaster, and that another was appropriated to the purpose of holding courts martial. It is stated to the committee, from a very respectable source, that Mrs. Mandeville and Mr. Croft are persons of fair character, and entitled to confidence. The truth of the foregoing statements, made by credible witnesses, is rendered still more probable from the well-ascertained historical fact that General Putnam and his forces did occupy a position at or near Peekskill, and retired to the heights upon the landing of the enemy on the 4th or 5th of October, 1777, the time at which Mandeville's property is alleged and proved to have been destroyed.

Your committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petition is reasonable, and ought to be granted; and they accordingly report a bill.

Thomas Allen, print.

JOHN WASHINGTON

The Committee on the History of the Revolution

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