Mr. Means, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 2011]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2011) for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass without amendment.

The facts are fully set forth in House Report No. 215, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, which is appended hereto and made a part of this report.

[House Report No. 215, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2011) for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to redeem in favor of William D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, United States coupon bonds numbered 39675, 39676, and 39677, in the denomination of $100 each, of the 3 per centum loan of 1908–1918, with interest from date of issue to August 1, 1918, the date of maturity, at the rate of 3 per centum per annum, without presentation of the said bonds or the coupons representing interest thereon from the date of issue to the date of maturity thereof, the bonds, with all coupons attached, having been lost or destroyed: Provided, That the said bonds shall not have been previously presented for payment, and that no payment shall be made hereunder for any coupons which shall have been previously presented and paid: And provided further, That the said William D. McKeefrey, shall first file in the Treasury Department a bond in the penal sum of double the amount of the bonds and the interest payable thereon, in such form and with such surety or sureties as may be acceptable to the Secretary of the Treasury to indemnify and save harmless the United States from any loss on account of the lost or destroyed bonds hereinbefore described or the coupons belonging thereto."

STATEMENT OF FACTS

As it is customary to grant relief in cases of lost coupon bonds, and especially as the bonds matured several years ago, and no claimant other than Mr. McKeefrey has appeared, your committee recommends favorable consideration of H. R. 2011. The Government is fully protected in the filing of a bond in the penal sum of double the amount of the bonds lost. The form of this bill as amended has the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Attached herewith is the correspondence from the Treasury Department, which is made a part of this report.
WILLIAM D. McKEEFREY

Treasury Department, Washington, January 8, 1926.

My Dear Mr. Chairman: I have received your letter of December 21, 1925, transmitting for report a copy of H. R. 2011, a bill for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, on account of the loss or destruction of United States coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, for $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918, with all coupons attached.

In accordance with your request, there are inclosed herewith copies of the papers on file in this department in regard to the case.

The bonds and all coupons, which were attached thereto, are still outstanding, according to the department records.

As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except that contained in the above-mentioned papers. These show that Mr. McKeefrey filed a claim for relief under the provisions of sections 3702–3703 of the Revised Statutes, but was unable to submit the clear and unequivocal proof of destruction required by the said statutes and the claim was denied.

On May 16, 1921, and again on January 3, 1925, the department was requested to report on a bill for Mr. McKeefrey's relief (H. R. 5274, 67th Cong., and H. R. 11142, 68th Cong., respectively), and a favorable report was submitted on both bills, neither of which was passed. The department will not, at this time, oppose a bill for his relief. However, it is noted that H. R. 2011 is in the same form as the previous bills, and as stated in the reports on those bills, the department prefers a bill of a somewhat different form. A suggested redraft similar in every respect to that inclosed in my letter of January 15, 1925, to Hon. George W. Edmonds, chairman of the Committee on Claims of the House, is inclosed herewith.

A copy of this letter is also inclosed.

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. CHARLES L. UNDERHILL,
Chairman Committee on Claims, House of Representatives.

Treasury Department, Washington, January 15, 1925.

My Dear Mr. Chairman: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of January 3, 1925, requesting a report on H. R. 11142, a bill for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, on account of the loss or destruction of United States coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, for $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918, with all coupons attached.

In accordance with your request, there are inclosed herewith copies of papers on file in this department in regard to this case. The above described bonds and all coupons representing interest thereon are still outstanding according to the department records.

As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except as shown in the papers above referred to. These show that Mr. McKeefrey submitted a claim for relief under the provisions of sections 3702–3703 of the Revised Statutes, but was not able to furnish the clear and unequivocal proof of destruction required by said statutes. On May 16, 1921, your committee requested a report on a bill for Mr. McKeefrey's relief (H. R. 5274, 67th Cong.), and a favorable report was submitted under date of May 23, 1921, but the bill was not passed.

In view of the fact that the bonds matured several years ago, and that so far as the department is aware no claimant other than Mr. McKeefrey has appeared, the department will interpose no objection to the granting of relief by means of a special act at this time.

However, the department now prefers a somewhat different form of bill from that used in H. R. 11142, and a suggested redraft thereof is accordingly inclosed herewith.

A copy of this letter is also inclosed, together with a copy of the suggested redraft of the bill.

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. GEORGE W. EDMONDS,
Chairman Committee on Claims,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.
WILLIAM D. McKEEFREY

House of Representatives, Committee on Claims, Washington, D. C., January 3, 1925.

SECRETARY OF TREASURY.

Sir: Inclosed herewith I hand you copy of bill (H. R. 11142) for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, now pending before this committee.

Kindly cause to be forwarded, for the use of the committee, all papers, or copies of same, on file in your department relating to this claim, with your opinion as to its merits, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

G. W. EDMONDS, Chairman.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Washington, May 23, 1921.

MY DEAR CONGRESSMAN: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 16, 1921, inclosing a copy of bill H. R. 5274 for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, of the village of Leetonia, Ohio, by the redemption of the principal and unpaid interest on United States coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, in the denomination of $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918, alleged to have been lost or destroyed.

In response to your request, there are inclosed copies of all papers received in this department in regard to the case.

As to the merits of the claim, the department has no information before it except that contained in the papers above referred to. In view of the fact that the bonds in question have matured, and that, so far as the department knows, no claimant has appeared other than Mr. McKeefrey, the department will interpose no objection to the granting of the relief sought.

Suggestion is made that the bill be amended by substituting at line 6 the words "interest remaining unpaid on August 1, 1918, the date of maturity," in lieu of the words "unpaid interest."

Very truly yours,

A. W. MELLON,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. George W. EDMONDS,
Chairman Committee on Claims, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

Sir: Inclosed herewith I hand you copy of bill (H. R. 5274) for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, now pending before this committee.

Kindly cause to be forwarded for the use of the committee all papers, or copies of same, on file in your department relating to this claim, with your opinion as to its merits, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. EDMONDS, Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Committee on Claims, Washington, D. C., May 16, 1921.

Hon. FRANK MURPHY,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

SIR: Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of May 5, 1921, inclosing one to you from Messrs. Billingsley & Moore, attorneys at law, Lisbon, Ohio, and requesting that affidavits filed on behalf of William D. McKeefrey in his claim for the redemption of coupon bonds Nos. 39675 to 39677, inclusive, for $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918, be sent to you.

Since the affidavits form a part of the permanent records of the department and will be needed when a report on bill H. R. 5274, introduced on April 26, 1921, for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, is called for by the Committee on Claims,
WILLIAM D. McKEEFEKY

your request can not be complied with. The report of the committee will include copies of all papers on file.

The letter of Messrs. Billingsley & Moore is returned herewith.

Respectfully,

W. R. KELLEY,

*Acting Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.*

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**TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**

*Washington, D. C.*

**GENTLEMEN:** I am inclosing herewith a letter I have this day received from Billingsley & Moore, of Lisbon, Ohio, such letter being in response to a request made by me for evidence sustaining a claim for relief of William D. McKeefrey. If the affidavits referred to, which were filed with you in connection with caveat case No. 3274, are available, will you kindly send them to me with return of the inclosed letter and oblige.

Very truly yours,

**FRANK MURPHY,**

*Member of Congress, Eighteenth District of Ohio.*

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**HON. FRANK MURPHY,**

*House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

**DEAR SIR:** We have your letter of April 28th inclosing copy of H. R. 5274 for the relief of William D. McKeefrey, and note your request that we forward any evidence we may be able to procure.

We made as strong a case as we could with the Treasury Department in caveat case No. 3274 coupon bonds Nos. 39675-7, inclusive, $100 each, 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918; and we assume that the original affidavits that we there filed are still applicable. Copies of these affidavits were returned to you with our last letter, which also inclosed proposed form for this bill. The copies forwarded you of course were not executed.

If you deem it necessary that we have these affidavits reexecuted we will of course be very glad to have the same done. It occurs to us, however, that probably the copies you now have, together with the originals on file with the Treasury Department, will be sufficient for this purpose.

We will, of course, follow your judgment in the matter, but we will not be in position to furnish any additional proof of loss.

Yours truly,

**BILLINGSLEY & MOORE,**

*Attorneys at Law.*

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**TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**

*Washington, February 18, 1921.*

*In re caveat case Nos. 3274, coupon bonds Nos. 39675-77, inclusive, $100 each, 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918; destruction alleged; W. D. McKeefrey, claimant.*

**Messrs. BILLINGSLEY & MOORE,**

*Attorneys at Law, Lisbon, Ohio.*

**Sirs:** Referring to your letter of January 27, 1921, requesting information relative to the date of issue of the coupon bonds described above, you are advised that the bonds in question were issued under authority of the act of Congress approved June 13, 1898, and the loan is known as the "3 per cent loan of 1908-1918," the year 1908 indicating the year in which the Government reserved the option to redeem the bonds before maturity, and the year 1918, in which they became payable.

Respectfully,

**C. N. McGROARTY,**

*Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.*

**Countersigned:**

**C. HAMILTON MILLER,**

*Assistant Comptroller, Claims Department.*
WILLIAM D. McKEEFREY

Lisbon, Ohio, January 27, 1921.

Re caveat case No. 3274.

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Division of Loans and Currency,
Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: Will you kindly furnish us date of issue of bonds Nos. 39675-7, inclusive, 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918?

We would also like to have the title of the act under which these bonds were issued.

This information will enable us to straighten out some confusion which has arisen on account of the fact that the bonds are referred to as being of the loan of 1908 and were as a matter of fact purchased by our people in 1898.

Yours truly,

Mr. W. D. McKEEFREY,
Leetonia, Ohio.

SIR: Referring to your application for the redemption of coupon bonds Nos. 39675 to 39677, inclusive, for $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918, being caveat case No. 3274, and to your letter dated July 2, 1920, you are advised that under the provisions of section 3702 of the Revised Statutes of the United States no relief can be granted on account of a missing coupon bond unless the destruction of such bond is established by clear unequivocal proof.

The Comptroller of the Treasury has ruled that the evidence submitted in support of your claim was not sufficient to establish the destruction of these bonds. In the circumstances, no relief can be granted to you on account of the loss of these bonds under existing law.

Respectfully,

LISBON, OHIO, January 27, 1921.

BILLINGSLEY & MOORE,
Attorneys at Law.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Mr. W. D. McKEEFREY,
Leetonia, Ohio.

SIR: Referring to your application for the redemption of coupon bonds Nos. 39675 to 39677, inclusive, for $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918, being caveat case No. 3274, and to your letter dated July 2, 1920, you are advised that under the provisions of section 3702 of the Revised Statutes of the United States no relief can be granted on account of a missing coupon bond unless the destruction of such bond is established by clear unequivocal proof.

The Comptroller of the Treasury has ruled that the evidence submitted in support of your claim was not sufficient to establish the destruction of these bonds. In the circumstances, no relief can be granted to you on account of the loss of these bonds under existing law.

Respectfully,

S. P. GILBERT, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Leetonia, Ohio, July 2, 1920.

In re caveat case No. 3274; coupon bonds Nos. 39675-7, inclusive, $100 each; 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918; destruction alleged; W. D. McKeefrey, claimant.

Mr. R. L. LINDSAY,
United States Treasury Department,
Assistant Chief, Division of Loans and Currency,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 22d instant is received and I note your remarks concerning my application for the redemption of the bonds referred to.

I am just in receipt of a letter dated the 29th ultimo from Mr. W. S. Elliott, Register of the Treasury, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

It would seem to me that the fact none of the coupons nor any of the bonds have been presented for payment is exceedingly good evidence that the bonds were destroyed by being burned up, as claimed by me.

I hope that the matter may be given further consideration by the Comptroller of the Treasury and your good self.

Hoping to hear further from you at your early convenience, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. McKEEFREY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

W. D. McKEEFREY, Leetonia, Ohio.

SIR: In reply to your inquiry of an earlier date, relative to coupons detached from $100 bonds Nos. 39675-77 of the 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918, you are advised that there is no record of the payment of any coupons clipped from said bonds on the files of this office.

W. S. ELLIOTT,
Register of the Treasury.
In re caveat case No. 3274; coupon bonds No. 39675–7, inclusive, $100 each; 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918; destruction alleged; W. D. McKeefrey, claimant.

Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio.

Str: Referring to your application for the redemption of the above-described bonds and to your letter of June 4, 1920, you are advised that the Comptroller of the Treasury has rendered an unfavorable decision and the bonds can not, therefore, be redeemed.

The following extract from the comptroller's opinion will serve to show the reasons for his decision:

"Section 3702 of the Revised Statutes provides relief for the owners of destroyed United States coupon bonds when the proof of such destruction is shown by clear and unequivocal proof. No relief is afforded to such owners by this statute for lost or stolen bonds. Aside from the expressed belief of opinion of the applicant, for redemption, and his brother that the bonds were destroyed by being thrown in the fire by a person whose whereabouts is unknown, I am unable to find evidence of any character bearing on the allegation of destruction, and belief or opinion only that a thing may or may not have occurred is not clear and unequivocal proof of its occurrence or nonoccurrence. The evidence submitted shows loss of the bonds, not their destruction."

Respectfully,

R. L. Lindsey,
Assistant Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.

Leetonia, Ohio, June 4, 1920.

In re caveat case Nos. 3274; coupon bonds Nos. 39675–39677, inclusive, $100 each; 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918; destruction alleged; W. D. McKeefrey, claimant.

Mr. C. N. McGroarty,
Chief Division of Loans and Currency,
United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 1st instant is received, and I note your remarks concerning my application for repayment of the bonds described in my said application mailed to your division with my letter of August 26, 1919. I hope that the Comptroller of the Treasury will find the evidence submitted sufficient.

Thanking you for your kind attention, I am,
Yours truly,

W. D. McKeefrey.

The honorable the Secretary of the Treasury.

(Division of Loans and Currency.)

Str: I received by your reference of June 1, 1920, the papers in caveat case No. 3274, being the application of W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, for the redemption of United States coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, for $100 each, of the 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918, with all coupons attached, alleged to have been destroyed by fire.

I have examined the evidence submitted in support of the alleged destruction and am of the opinion that it is not sufficient for granting the relief sought. Section 3702 of the Revised Statutes provides relief for the owners of destroyed United States coupon bonds when the proof of such destruction is shown by clear and unequivocal proof. No relief is afforded to such owners by this statute for lost or stolen bonds. Aside from the expressed belief or opinion of the applicant for redemption and his brother that the bonds were destroyed by being thrown in the fire by a person whose whereabouts is unknown, I am unable to find evidence of any character bearing on the allegation of destruction, and belief or opinion only that a thing may or may not have occurred is not clear and unequivocal proof of its occurrence or nonoccurrence. The evidence submitted shows loss of the bonds not their destruction, and the papers are therefore returned with the recommendation that the request for redemption be not granted.

Respectfully,

C. M. Foree,
Assistant Comptroller.
WILLIAM D. McKEEFREY

Treasury Department,
Washington, June 1, 1920.

In re caveat case No. 3274; coupon bonds Nos. 39675-39677, inclusive, $100 each; 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918; destruction alleged; W. D. McKeefrey, claimant.

Mr. W. D. McKeefrey,
Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: Referring to your application for the redemption of the above-described bonds, you are advised that the papers in the case have been submitted to the Comptroller of the Treasury for his opinion as to the sufficiency of the evidence presented.

When a decision is reached, you will be advised and if it be favorable, a bond of indemnity will be prepared in this office and sent to you for execution with good and sufficient surety.

Respectfully,

C. N. McGroarty,
Chief Division of Loans and Currency.

Mr. S. P. Jacobs,
Acting Chief, Division of Loans and Currency,
United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Referring to your letter of June 21st last, concerning the matter of three $100 United States 3 per cent coupon bonds, 1908-1918, Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, I inclose herewith application for repayment, together with the following affidavits appertaining thereto:

Affidavit of claimant.
Affidavit of N. J. McKeefrey.
Affidavit of R. P. Hartshorn.
Affidavit of Judge James G. Moore.
Affidavit of Judge N. B. Billingsley.

I hope that you will find the papers sufficient proof to establish my claim for refund.

Kindly acknowledge receipt, and oblige.

Yours truly,

August 26, 1919.

W. D. McKeefrey.

Leetonia, Ohio, May 10, 1920.

Re claim for payment destroyed bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, 39677, 3 per cent, 1908-1918, W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, claimant.

Mr. C. M. McGroarty,
United States Treasury Department,
Chief, Division of Loans and Currency,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: If convenient, I would be glad to have you refer to the application for repayment I mailed to your division with my letter of August 26, 1919, a copy of which I inclose herewith, and I would be glad to have you advise me at your early convenience when I may expect refund.

Hoping to hear from you by early mail, I am,

Yours truly,

Leetonia, Ohio, May 4, 1920.

Re claims for payment destroyed bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, 39677, 3 per cent, 1908-1918, W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, claimant.

Mr. Houston B. Teehee,
United States Treasury Department,
Register of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: If convenient, I would be glad to have you refer to the application for repayment I mailed to the Division of Loans and Currency with my letter of August 26, 1919, a copy of which I inclose herewith, and kindly advise me when I may expect refund.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,
W. D. Mc Keefrey, Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: Your letter of May 4, relative to application for repayment, has been referred to the Division of Loans and Currency, Treasury Department, and any further inquiry as to this matter should be addressed to that division.

Respectfully,

W. S. Elliott,
Register of the Treasury.

Leetonia, Ohio, April 16, 1920.

Mr. Wm. S. Broughton,
Chief of Division of Loans and Currency,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: If convenient, I would be glad to have you advise me what action, if any, has been taken with respect to the application for repayment I sent along with my letter of August 26 last to United States Treasury Department, Mr. S. P. Jacobs, Acting Chief Division of Loans and Currency, Washington, D. C.
Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. Mc Keefrey.

Leetonia, Ohio, January 16, 1920.

Reclaim for payment destroyed bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, 39677, 3 per cent, 1908-1918, W. D. Mc Keefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, claimant.

Mr. Houston B. Teehee,
Register of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 11th instant is received, and I assume that the same refers to my application for repayment of the above-mentioned bonds, as referred to in my letter of August 26, 1919, to Mr. S. P. Jacobs, Acting Chief Division of Loans and Currency, a copy of which letter I inclose herewith.
If convenient, I would be glad to have you advise me what action has been taken with respect to my said application for repayment of the value of said bonds.
Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. Mc Keefrey.

Leetonia, Ohio, October 13, 1919.

Mr. Wm. S. Broughton,
Chief of Division of Loans and Currency,
United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: I inclose herewith copy of letter dated the 11th instant I received to-day from Mr. Houston B. Teehee, Register of the Treasury, and also copy of my reply thereto, and if you can give me any advice as to what action I may expect in regard to my application for repayment of the bonds referred to I would be glad to have you do so.
Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. Mc Keefrey.
WILLIAM D. McKEEFREY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 11, 1919.

In re lost coupons, 39675–77 for $100, 3 per cent loan of 1908–1918.

Mr. W. D. McKEEFREY, Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: Relative to the above subject matter, you are advised that notations have been made on our records, and upon receipt of any coupons, will notify you of the time and place of payment.

Yours truly,

HOUSTON TEEHEE,
Register of the Treasury.

AFFIDAVIT OF R. P. HARTSHORN

THE STATE OF OHIO,
Mahoning County, ss:

R. P. Hartshorn, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he resides at Youngstown, Ohio; that in August, 1898, he was cashier of the First National Bank of Leetonia, Ohio; that he recalls that during said year said bank sold to W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, certain 3 per cent 1908–1918 United States bonds, but that he does not remember the serial number or aggregate number of said bonds so sold. He further says that said bonds were delivered to some person for W. D. McKeefrey, but that he does not recall to whom delivery was actually made; that some time after affiant severed his connection therewith said bank was closed by the Comptroller of the Currency, and that the books of said bank are not now available to affiant from which to refresh his recollection of said transaction.

Affiant further says that he has known both W. D. McKeefrey and N. J. McKeefrey for over 20 years, and that he believes the statements set out in their respective affidavits are worthy of belief and of the confidence of the Treasury Department. Affiant says that he knows that the claimant, W. D. McKeefrey, is the identical person named in the application, and that he is the same person to whom the aforesaid bank sold bonds in the year 1898.

Signed at Youngstown, Ohio, August 17, 1919.

R. P. HARTSHORN.

THE STATE OF OHIO,
Mahoning County, ss:

Before me, a notary public in and for said county, personally appeared R. P. Hartshorn, personally known to me, who, being first duly sworn, says that the statements in the foregoing affidavit are true.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal at Youngstown, Ohio, this 13th day of August, 1919.

[SEAL.]

G. W. MANSELL, Notary Public.

THE STATE OF OHIO,
Mahoning County, ss:

I, Jesse G. Francis, clerk of the court of common pleas of Mahoning County, Ohio, the same being a court of record and of general jurisdiction within and for the county and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that George W. Mansell, Esq., whose name is subscribed to the annexed instrument as a notary public, was at the time of executing the same a notary public, within and for said Mahoning County, Ohio, and duly authorized to take the same (and is authorized to take acknowledgments of deeds recorded therein); that said instrument is executed according to the laws of the State of Ohio.

And I further certify that I am acquainted with the handwriting of said notary public and verily believe that his signature hereto is genuine.

Witness my signature as such clerk and the seal of said court at Youngstown, this 13th day of August, A. D. 1919.

[SEAL.]

JESSE G. FRANCIS, Clerk.
The State of Ohio,
Columbiana County, ss:

I, George B. Williams, clerk of the court of common pleas for the county of Columbiana, which is a court of record, having a seal, do hereby certify that W. B. Moore, whose name is subscribed to the certificate or proof of acknowledgment of the annexed instrument and therein written, was, at the time of taking such proof or acknowledgment, a notary public in and for said county, duly qualified and duly authorized to take same, and further, that I am acquainted with the handwriting of such notary public and verily believe that the signature to said certificate or proof of acknowledgment is genuine.

I further certify that said instrument is executed and acknowledged according to the laws of this State.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court and county, at Lisbon, Ohio, this 16th day of August, A. D. 1919.

Geo. B. Williams, Clerk.


Affidavit of N. B. Billingsley

The State of Ohio,
Columbiana County, ss:

N. B. Billingsley, of Lisbon, Ohio, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is an attorney at law; that he has well known W. D. McKeefrey and N. J. McKeefrey, both of Leetonia, Ohio, for more than 25 years; that he believes that both of said parties are worthy of the confidence of the Treasury Department and that the statements which they make relative to the above bonds are entitled to credit; and that he knows that the said W. D. McKeefrey, filing claim herein, is the identical person whom he represents himself to be.

Signed at Lisbon, Ohio, this 9th day of July, 1919.

N. B. Billingsley.

Signed in my presence by said N. B. Billingsley and by him sworn to before me, a notary public within and for Columbiana County, Ohio, this 9th day of July, 1919.

W. B. Moore, Notary Public.

Affidavit of James G. Moore

The State of Ohio,
Columbiana County, ss:

James G. Moore, of Lisbon, Ohio, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Columbiana County, Ohio; that he has been well acquainted with both W. D. McKeefrey and N. J. McKeefrey for more than 20 years; that he believes that the said W. D. McKeefrey who is making claim for payment for the bonds said to have been destroyed is the identical person who he represents himself to be; and that said W. D. McKeefrey and said N. J. McKeefrey are entitled to the confidence of the Treasury Department and that statements made by them are worthy of belief.

Signed at Lisbon, Ohio, this 9th day of July, 1919.

James G. Moore.

Signed by said James G. Moore in my presence and by him sworn to before me, a notary public in and for Columbiana County, Ohio, this 9th day of July, 1919.

W. B. Moore, Notary Public.

Certificate attached in which Geo. B. Williams, county clerk of Columbiana County, State of Ohio, certifies that W. B. Moore is a duly appointed notary public and was in commission at the time the above document was executed and that his signature is genuine.

Dated August 16, 1919.

Geo. B. Williams, County Clerk.
AFFIDAVIT OF N. J. McKEEFREY

THE STATE OF OHIO,  
Columbiana County, ss:

Before the undersigned, a notary public within and for said county, personally appeared N. J. McKeefrey, residing at Leetonia, Ohio, who being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

That on or about the 7th day of August, 1898, W. D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, brother of affiant, purchased from the First National Bank of Leetonia, Ohio, fifteen 3 per cent bonds, 1908-1918, paying therefor the sum of $1,500; that all of said bonds were delivered to this affiant at the office of said bank by the bank cashier on said August 7, 1898; that affiant removed said bonds from the original envelopes and counted them at the bank, returned the bonds to the envelopes in the bank office and then took them to the office of the Salem Iron Co., in Leetonia, of which company affiant was then the secretary. Affiant then undertook to again take the bonds from the envelopes and, then believing that he had done so, placed the bonds in the safe, in the vault, in said Iron Co. office and instructed one Warren Gillespie, an office employee, to burn the envelopes; affiant saw said Gillespie burn said envelopes outside the Iron Co. office on the same day.

On the following day said W. D. McKeefrey, came to said Iron Co. office and requested to see the bonds; affiant went to the safe where he had deposited the same, brought out the bonds, when it was ascertained that bonds numbered 39675, 39676, and 39677 were missing. Affiant believes that he failed to remove said three bonds from the original envelopes and that the same were burned by said Gillespie.

Affiant further says that no person other than himself had access to the safe in which said bonds were placed; that the 12 bonds which were in the safe were apparently undisturbed; that nothing else was missing from said safe at said time and that all of said 15 bonds were in the original envelopes just prior to the deposit of the 12 bonds in the safe.

That the loss of said bonds was reported to the Treasury Department under date September 26, 1898; that said Gillespie left the employ of said Salem Iron Co. about the year 1900 and that affiant does not know and has no means of knowing where said Gillespie is now located.

Affiant further says that none of the coupons had been detached from any of said bonds when he received the same from the bank, nor were any detached by affiant; that said bonds were not out of affiant’s possession until placed in said safe; that they were the property of said W. D. McKeefrey and had not been transferred, assigned, or pledged.

Affiant says that after the discovery of said loss inquiry was made of said Gillespie and of other office employees of Salem Iron Co. and at said bank respecting said missing bonds but that nothing was developed thereby.

Signed at Leetonia, Ohio, this 14th day of August, 1919.

N. J. McKEEFREY.

Signed in my presence by the said N. J. McKeefrey, to me known, who upon his oath as aforesaid, says that the statements in the foregoing affidavit contained are true.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal at Leetonia, Ohio, this 14th day of August, 1919.

C. E. GREENAMYER,  
Notary Public.

My commission expires March 31, 1920.

Certificate attached in which Geo. B. Williams, county clerk of Columbiana County, State of Ohio, certifies that C. E. Greenamyer is a duly appointed notary public and was in commission at the time the above document was executed and that his signature is genuine.

Dated August 16, 1919.

GEO. B. WILLIAMS,  
County Clerk.
Before the undersigned, a notary public within and for the aforesaid county, personally appeared W. D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, who being first duly sworn according to law deposes and says:

That on or about August 7, 1898, he purchased from the First National Bank, of Leetonia, Ohio, 15 bonds, 3 per cent 1908-1918, paying therefor $1,500; that on said day he requested his brother, N. J. McKeefrey to go to said bank and get the bonds; that on the following day he went to the office of the Salem Iron Co., Leetonia, Ohio, with the management of which affiant was actively identified and of which company said N. J. McKeefrey was secretary, and asked said N. J. McKeefrey to show him the bonds; that said N. J. McKeefrey went to the safe in the vault in said office and returned with bonds which he handed to affiant as being the 15 bonds purchased on the day prior; said bonds were not in the original envelopes; upon counting the same affiant learned that there were but 12 bonds in the bundle; affiant checked the bond numbers with his record of bonds purchased and found that bonds numbered 39675, 39676, and 39677 were missing; this loss was reported to the Register of the Treasury under date September 26, 1898, and affiant was advised that nothing could be done until said bonds were called or matured.

Affiant says that he was and still is the lawful owner of said three numbered bonds; that no assignment or transfer of any of said three bonds has been made by affiant or authorized by him, either in blank or by specific assignment, or in any manner whatever; that none of said three bonds have passed from affiant's custody and control with his knowledge or consent, by hypothecation, pledge, loan, or otherwise; that no person other than said N. J. McKeefrey had access to said safe.

Affiant further says that he believes that said three bonds were destroyed by fire on said August 7, 1898; that his investigation at the time developed that said N. J. McKeefrey had gone to said First National Bank as requested, had received the 15 bonds purchased, from the bank cashier, counted the same in the bank office and took them directly to the office of the Salem Iron Co.; that said N. J. McKeefrey at the Iron Co. office at once removed or attempted to remove said 15 bonds from their original envelopes; that the bonds which were actually removed were placed in the safe from which they were taken for affiant's inspection on the following day; that after N. J. McKeefrey thought he had removed all of the bonds from the envelopes he directed an office employee, Warren Gillespie, to burn the envelopes as waste paper and that said Gillespie did so on the same day.

Affiant believes that said N. J. McKeefrey did not remove all of said bonds from said envelopes, but that he failed to take out the three bonds numbered as above and that said three bonds were burned with the envelopes.

Affiant made diligent inquiry of said N. J. McKeefrey, and of Gillespie and all other office employees of said Iron Co. and at said bank but ascertained nothing other or contrary to what is hereinbefore set out.

Affiant says that said bonds were purchased and were to have been delivered to him with all coupons for interest due after August, 1898, attached and that in so far as he knows or has any reason to believe all such coupons were attached and destroyed with said three bonds on said August 7, 1898.

Affiant says that the other 12 of said bonds were sold to National Bank of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Pa., September 22, 1898.

That said Warren Gillespie worked for Salem Iron Co. for about 18 months after the loss of said three bonds; that said Iron Co. has been out of active business for the past six years, and that affiant does not know nor have the means of ascertaining the present address of said Gillespie.

That said First National Bank, of Leetonia, was closed by the Comptroller of the Currency on November 4, 1907, and its affairs closed up by Frank Michnaard, receiver; affiant does not know where the records of said bank now are.

Affiant believes that he should receive the face value of said three bonds with interest to maturity.

Signed at Leetonia, Ohio, August 14, 1919.

W. D. McKeefrey.
Signed in my presence by the said W. D. McKeefrey, who is personally known to me, and who upon his oath as aforesaid, says that the statements in the foregoing affidavit are true except such as are stated upon information and as to all such statements he believes them to be true.

Witness my hand and seal, at Leetonia, Ohio, this 14th day of August, 1919.

C. E. Greenamyer, Notary Public.

My commission expires March 31, 1920.

Certificate attached in which Geo. B. Williams, county clerk of Columbiana County, State of Ohio, certifies that C. E. Greenamyer is a duly appointed notary public and was in commission at the time the above document was executed and that his signature is genuine.

Geo. B. Williams, County Clerk.

Dated August 16, 1919.

[United States of America, Treasury Department, Division of Loans and Currency]

Re claim for payment of destroyed bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, 39677, 3 per cent, 1908-1918, W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, claimant.

APPLICATION FOR REPAYMENT

Applicant, W. D. McKeefrey, residing at Leetonia, Ohio, hereby applies for payment of bonds No. 39675, No. 39676, and No. 39677, 3 per cent 1908-1918, which bonds were accidentally burned on or about August 7, 1898. There is filed herewith in support of this application affidavits of claimant and N. J. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio, N. B. Billingsley, Lisbon, Ohio, J. G. Moore, Lisbon, Ohio, and R. P. Hartshorn, Youngstown, Ohio.

Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio.

SIR: In reply to your letter of June 9 asking that you be advised as to the method to be pursued in proving your statement that coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, inclusive, for $100 each of the 3 per cent loan of 1908, were burned, you are advised that the extract from the "Regulations of the Treasury Department in relation to United States bonds" gives specific instructions as to the kind of proof required in establishing the destruction of coupon bonds. A copy of this extract is again inclosed. Any evidence which you may be able to present to the department will receive careful consideration, and you will then be further advised in the matter.

Respectfully,

S. R. Jacobs, Acting Chief Division of Loans and Currency.

Mr. W. M. S. Broughton, Chief, Division of Loans and Currency, United States Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 12th ultimo is received, together with copy of extract from "Regulations of the Treasury Department in Relation to United States Bonds."

I note your reply to my letter of April 24, last.

From the information I have since gathered, there is absolutely no question in my mind but that the three bonds, Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, denomination $100 each, of the loan of 1908-1918, were burned, and I should be glad to have you advise me what action I should take, or method I should pursue, in order to prove my statement, and to bring about a return of the value of the bonds.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. McKeefrey.
Mr. W. D. McKeefrey,
Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: Your letter of April 24, with reference to the loss and possible destruction of coupon bonds Nos. 39675–39677, inclusive, for $100 each of the loan of 1908–1918, has been received. You ask instructions as to the necessary procedure in procuring duplicates of these lost bonds.

As stated in department letter of February 2, 1905, there is no authority of law for relief on account of coupon bonds which may have been lost or stolen. Unless it can be shown by clear and unequivocal proof that the bonds have been destroyed there is nothing that the department can do in this matter.

Your attention is invited to the inclosed copy of an extract from the Regulations of the Treasury Department in relation to United States bonds. If the destruction of the bonds can be shown in accordance with the provisions of law and the regulations referred to, the department will carefully consider the case.

Under no circumstances should a bond of indemnity be furnished until the evidence presented in the case has been accepted by the department, at which time instructions in the premises will be given.

Respectfully,

Wm. S. Broughton,
Chief Division of Loans and Currency.

Mr. C. N. McGroarty,
Acting Chief, Division of Loans and Currency,
Treasury Department.

Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 22d instant is received and I note your reply to my letter of the 17th instant concerning bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, denomination $100 each, of the loan of 1908–1918.

In connection with the matter, I beg leave to state that when I purchased these bonds, I also purchased others, and shortly after they were received they were either stolen or burned by mistake, along with envelopes which had contained other bonds.

I am satisfied, from the fact that none of the coupons were presented, that the bonds were actually burned, and I beg leave to inquire what action I should take in order to have my loss made good.

Thanking you very much for your kind attention and hoping to hear from you further, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. McKeefrey.
Mr. W. D. McKeefrey,  
Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 25th instant, you are informed that the 3 per cent bonds of the loan of 1908–1918 have not as yet been called for redemption.

Respectfully,

Chief, Division of Loans and Currency.

Leetonia, Ohio, March 25, 1912.

Mr. A. T. Huntington,  
Chief of Division of Loans and Currency,  
Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: If convenient, will you please advise me if the coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, loan of 1908–1918, have been called for redemption? Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

W. D. McKeefrey.

Mr. W. D. McKeefrey,  
Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, relative to 3 per cent coupon bonds, loan of 1908–1918, Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, for $100, I have to inform you that same have not as yet been called for redemption by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully,

Chief of Division of Loans and Currency.

Leetonia, Ohio, October 11, 1910.

Hon. J. E. Reynold,  
Acting Secretary, Treasury, dated January 8, 1907.

Dear Sir: Referring to your letter of January 26, 1909, to Hon. James Kennedy, House of Representatives, and letter of Mr. J. E. Reynold, Acting Secretary, dated January 8, 1907, copies of which I herewith inclose, I beg leave to inquire if the coupon bonds Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, loan of 1908–1918, have been called for redemption? Hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

Treasurer Department,  

Hon. James Kennedy,  
House of Representatives.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 23d instant, relative to missing bonds belonging to Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, I have the honor to say that the 3 per cent bonds of the loan of 1908–1918 have not as yet been called for redemption by the Secretary of the Treasury. The department can only suggest that Mr. McKeefrey await such a call for the reasons set forth in a former letter to you dated January 8, 1907.

The bonds are still outstanding, and none of the coupons belonging thereto has as yet been received at this department.

Respectfully,

Assistant Secretary.
WILLIAM D. McKEEFREY

Treasury Department, Washington, January 8, 1907.

Hon. James Kennedy, House of Representatives.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 5th instant inclosing certain correspondence between Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, and this department relative to three United States 3 per cent coupon bonds of the loan of 1908-1918, which were subscribed for by Mr. McKeefrey in 1898 and have mysteriously disappeared.

The records show that the bonds in question were duly delivered to Mr. McKeefrey, his receipt for the bonds, dated August 26, 1898, being in possession of the Register of the Treasury. The records also show that the bonds are all outstanding and that none of the coupons belonging thereto which might have been presented for collection of interest between 1898 and the present date have made their appearance at this department.

Unfortunately, there is nothing that the Treasury can do to aid Mr. McKeefrey in obtaining the value of his bonds. His only recourse is through the special action of Congress. It is suggested, however, that Mr. McKeefrey wait until after the option to redeem the bonds, in 1908, shall have matured. If at that time the department should call the bonds for redemption, and these particular bonds, notwithstanding such call, should remain outstanding with none of the coupons paid, the presumption would be in favor of the destruction of the bonds, and Congress would, no doubt, readily consent to the passage of an act for the payment of the bonds in question and the accrued interest thereon.

The papers inclosed with your letter are herewith returned.

Yours truly,

J. E. Reynolds,
Acting Secretary.

House of Representatives, January 23, 1909.

JAMES B. REYNOLDS, Assistant Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C.

Sir: I respectfully call your attention to the copy of a letter from you to me dated January 8, 1907, in reference to certain bonds belonging to Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, which in some manner have mysteriously disappeared, and I desire to inquire, as suggested by your letter, whether at this time the department can give any additional information in respect thereto.

Thanking you kindly for such information, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

JAMES KENNEDY.

Treasury Department, Washington, January 26, 1909.

Hon. James Kennedy, House of Representatives.

Sir: In reply to your letter of the 23d instant, relative to missing bonds belonging to Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, of Leetonia, Ohio, I have the honor to say that the 3 per cent bonds of the loan of 1908-1918 have not as yet been called for redemption by the Secretary of the Treasury. The department can only suggest that Mr. McKeefrey await such a call for the reasons set forth in a former letter to you dated January 8, 1907.

The bonds are still outstanding, and none of the coupons belonging thereto has as yet been received at this department.

Respectfully,

L. A. Cooledge, Assistant Secretary.

House of Representatives, United States, Washington, D. C., January 5, 1907.

Hon. C. H. Keep, Assistant Secretary Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Sir: I inclose a letter from Mr. W. D. McKeefrey of Leetonia, Ohio, a constituent and close personal friend, respecting three bonds owned by him which
have been lost, and also copies of letters written to him by you in reference to them about two years ago.

I would be very glad if something could be done to help Mr. McKeefrey, and if you can suggest what course should be taken I will be very much obligated to you.

Very sincerely yours,

JAMES KENNEDY.

Mr. W. D. McKeefrey, Leetonia, Ohio.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo asking what you should do to obtain duplicates of certain United States coupon 3 per cent bonds alleged by you to have been lost, you are informed that there is no authority of law under which this department can afford you relief in the matter, unless you can prove beyond equivocation that the bonds in question have been absolutely destroyed. As you are unable to furnish this proof your only recourse is through a special act of Congress.

The department does not favor the issuing of duplicates in lieu of coupon bonds where their disappearance is of such recent date as that of your bonds. It is, of course, your privilege to apply to your Member of Congress for the introduction of a bill for your relief.

Respectfully yours,

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 2, 1905.

N.H. T. HUNTINGTON,
Chief Loans and Currency Division,
Office Secretary of the Treasury.

SIR: In reply to your verbal inquiry, I beg leave to state that no coupons have ever been received in this office from $100 bonds numbered 39675, 39676, and 39677, 3 per cent loan of 1908-1918.

Respectfully,

N. FERREE, Chief of Division.

LEETONIA, OHIO, January 31, 1905.

Mr. C. H. KEEP,
Assistant Secretary Division of Loans and Currency,
Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 27th instant is received and I note your remarks in connection with the three bonds in question. Inasmuch as none of the coupons have been presented for payment, it would appear to me as if these three bonds were burned along with a number of envelopes in which I and others have received other bonds at the same time. It seems fairly evident that the bonds must have been destroyed or the coupons would have been presented ere this, and I beg leave to inquire if duplicate of the same could be issued to me. If so, I would be glad to have you advise me, if you conveniently can, what action I had better take in regard to the matter.

Thanking you very much for your kind attention, and hoping to hear from you soon, I am,

Yours truly,

S. Rept. 679, 69-1—2

W. D. McKEEFEFREY.
Mr. W. D. McKeefrey,
Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: Referring to your letter of the 25th instant reporting the loss of United States 3 per cent coupon bonds, loan of 1908–1918, Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, for $100 each, you are informed that the department was notified of the loss of these bonds in your letter of November 28, 1898, and a memorandum to that effect was entered on the proper records. The bonds are still outstanding, but whenever they may be presented at this office, either for redemption or exchange, you will be advised of the name and residence of the person presenting them.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]
Assistant Secretary.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, January 27, 1905.

Mr. W. D. McKeefrey,
Leetonia, Ohio.

Sir: Referring to your letter of the 25th instant reporting the loss of United States 3 per cent coupon bonds, loan of 1908–1918, Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677, for $100 each, you are informed that the department was notified of the loss of these bonds in your letter of November 28, 1898, and a memorandum to that effect was entered on the proper records. The bonds are still outstanding, but whenever they may be presented at this office, either for redemption or exchange, you will be advised of the name and residence of the person presenting them.

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]
Assistant Secretary.

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LEETONIA OHIO, January 25, 1905.

Mr. A. T. Huntington,
Chief, Division of Loans and Currency,
Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: When the 3 per cent war loan of 1898 was issued, I purchased a number of $100 bonds, among them Nos. 39675, 39676, and 39677. In some unaccountable way these three bonds have disappeared, and I have never been able to locate them. As I understand that all coupon bonds which are sent in for exchange or redemption are first received by you, I would be very glad to have you notify me if at any time any of the bonds in question should be presented for exchange or redemption.

Hoping that you will be able to give the matter attention, and thanking you in advance for your kindness in the matter, I am

Yours truly,

W. D. McKeefrey.