



AND BLOOMSBURG GENERAL ADVERTISER.

LEVI L. TATE, EDITOR.

"TO HOLD AND TRIM THE TORCH OF TRUTH AND WAVER IT O'ER THE DARKENED EARTH."

TERMS: \$2 50 IN ADVANCE.

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BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PENN'A., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1865.

VOLUME 29.

COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



Our Constitution—guard it ever!
Our glorious Union—hold it dear!
Our Harry Flag—forever it never!

EDITED BY LEVI L. TATE, PROPRIETOR.

BLOOMSBURG:

Saturday Morning, Apr. 15, 1865.

TERMS OF THIS PAPER:

\$3 00 per Year, or

2 50 if paid strictly in advance.

The Columbia Co. Invasion.

Claim of Joseph Coleman.

Correspondence and Papers.

Joseph Coleman to General Couch.

To Major General D. N. Couch,

Commanding Department.

The undersigned, a citizen of Columbia

County, respectfully represents:—That

the troops recently sent to this county

were encamped for about four weeks upon

his land in the township of Fishingcreek,

establishing there a camp named Camp

Hancock, and that in addition to their

use of his real estate (including a part of his

House) they used and consumed, without

permission, various articles of personal

property. That no compensation has

been made for such use of his property or

for injuries thereto. That he has applied

within a few days to Quarter-master

Wood, and also to Capt. John P. Short,

at Orangetown, who declined acting in

the case, the former for alleged want of

authority, and the latter because (as he

said) the causes of claim (beside the occu-

pation of land) did not arise while he

held actual command at Camp Hancock.

But the other chief officers who held com-

mand there, are believed to be removed

from the county.

The undersigned appends hereto a state-

ment of property used or appropriated

by the troops, and he now applies for some

appropriate order of appraisement or val-

uation in his case and for the payment to

him of such sum as may be found to be

justly his due. All of which is respectfully

submitted.

JOSEPH COLEMAN.

October 29, 1864.

Statement of Items.

Use of six acres of enclosed land for

four weeks for encampment.

Use of a field of seven acres of grass

land, same time, for drill.

Use of a third field of four acres of

grass land, part of same time, for same

purpose.

Use of barn and stable four weeks.

Use of three main rooms of dwelling

house and two beds, same time, by Colo-

nel, Quarter-master, &c.

One American Flag loaned to troops

for use and carried off by them. Value,

\$10.

276 sawed fence rails used.

29 young sugar maple trees used or

consumed.

Straw of one thousand sheaves of wheat.

One ton of hay in barn.

10 bushels of potatoes in field.

20 bushels corn in the ear from field.

20 bushels apples and peaches.

Two acres of buckwheat in the ground

lost by destruction of fences.

150 sugar troughs and three large sap

troughs used and destroyed.

300 feet poplar and linden boards from

sawmill.

400 loads of slabs taken from saw mill.

One rifle, value \$15,—taken from

house of Charles Coleman.

Axe, foot-ads and crowbar tak'n.

One shoit, five months old, taken and

killed.

A quantity of fowls and three turkeys

Some boards torn from saw mill.

No occupation of land, or buildings, or

taking or use of property, was by consent

or upon request made to me or any mem-

ber of my family.

JOSEPH COLEMAN.

Stillwater, Columbia County, Pa.

Reply.

HEAD QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE SUSQUEHANNA,

Chambersburg, Pa., November 9, 1864.

MR. JOSEPH COLEMAN,

Stillwater P. O.,

Columbia County, Pa.

Sir:—I have the honor to acknowl-

edge the receipt of your communication

dated October 29th, 1864, relative to

property used and destroyed by the U. S.

Forces in Columbia County, and in reply

I am directed to transmit herewith for

your information, copy of a report of
Capt. W. M. Wood, A. Q. M., and an
"Extract" from a Report furnished by
Capt. John P. Short, V. R. C. Command-

ing U. S. Forces in Columbia County, to

whom your claim was referred for in-

vestigation and report.

I am, Sir, very Respectfully,

Your Obedient Servant,

JNO. S. SCHULTZ,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEAD QUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES,
Chambersburg, Pa., November 9, 1864.

D. N. COUCH,

Maj. Gen'l Com. Dept. Susquehanna,

Chambersburg, Pa.

GENERAL—

Extract.

I am certain during the short period

that I was in command at Camp Hancock

no property was destroyed belonging to

said Joseph Coleman, and further that

on application from Hiram Karns, son-in-law

of Joseph Coleman, I appointed a board

of appraisers composed of the following

named residents of Fishing Creek town-

ship, farmers and men of good judgment

and character, namely:—James Buckalew,

Peter Laubach and William Hulme; who

after examination of the premises found

the damages so slight they deemed, (2)

two of them, unnecessary to give report

on the same, as they said the amount of

manure left on the premises recently oc-

cupied by the troops, would more than

pay for the damages done.

In reference to quarters used by the

Quarter Master and his Clerk at the House

of said Coleman, also the stabling for

horses, and also the stores alleged to

have been appropriated by the command

without compensation, I refer you to the

statement of W. M. Wood, Captain and

A. Q. M., herewith enclosed.

I am, General, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN P. SHORT,

Capt. V. R. C. Com. U. S. Forces in Co-

lumbia County, Pa.

True copy, furnished for the informa-

tion of Mr. Joseph Coleman

JNO. S. SCHULTZ,

Assist. Adjutant General.

ASST. QM. MAS. OFFICE,

Orangetown, Pa., Nov. 3, 1864.

CAPT. JNO. P. SHORT,

Commanding U. S. Forces

Sir:—In reference to the statement

made by Joseph Coleman, in his list of

items, I have the honor to state as fol-

lows:—

That I and my clerk applied to Mrs.

Coleman for board and lodging, which

she willingly furnished, and that we paid

her for the same.

That an unoccupied stable was used, by

permission of Mrs. Coleman, for stabling

two horses, and a portion of the time a

third horse.

That some white-pine slabs were given

to the men to use for floors in their tents

by Mrs. Coleman, who remarked that they

were of "no account" and "would not be

used."

That if any hay or straw was used I

know nothing of it, it was not used by

me; nor do I know anything of the use

of corn, rails, sugar-maple trees, &c.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. M. WOOD,

Captain and A. Q. M.

True copy, respectfully furnished for

the information of Mr. Joseph Coleman.

JNO. S. SCHULTZ,

Assist. Adjt. Gen.

MR. COLEMAN TO GEN. COUCH.

MAJ. GEN. D. N. COUCH,

Com. Dep't. of the Susquehanna.

GENERAL:—I have the honor to ac-

knowledge the receipt of a communication

from Captain Jno. S. Schultz, Assistant

Adjutant General, dated the 9th instant,

in reply to my letter to you of October

29th. And I have given particular atten-

tion, not only to this communication, but

to the statements of Captain Short and

Assistant Quarter-master Wood which

accompany it and which (as I am told by

Captain Schultz) are transmitted to me

for my information.

As the explanations of Captain Short

and Quarter-master Wood apply to but a

part of the items of claim mentioned in

my former letter, and as some of those

explanations are insufficient upon their

face and the remainder erroneous in point

of fact, the information conveyed to me

by them is far from satisfactory; and I

am compelled by a due regard to my own

interests and position as a claimant, to ex-

pose their imperfections. But in doing

this, I shall endeavor to speak with proper

decorum, and shall regret the necessity of

troubling you further upon the subject of

my claim.

Captain Short says, "that during the

short period he was in command at Camp

Hancock he is certain no property was

destroyed belonging to Joseph Coleman."

To this I answer:—1st. That if strictly

accurate, it furnishes no reason for non-

payment of damages suffered when he was

not in command, which, according to him,

was nearly the whole time in question.

2nd. That his remark applies only to the

destruction of property and not to use and

occupation which constitute, mainly, the

foundation of the claim. 3rd. But although

in its restricted and just application this

statement is not very important in its ef-

fect upon the case, its accuracy is not ad-

mitted. Reference is here made to the

concluding part of the affidavit of Mr.

Karns, herewith transmitted.

Captain S. does not speak of his own

knowledge to the merits of the case, in any

other particular than the one just men-

tioned.

A full and complete answer to the state-

ments of fact made by the Quarter-master

is given in the affidavits of Mrs. Coleman

and Hiram Karns, now forwarded, and to

which attention is respectfully requested.

The explanations contained therein are be-

lieved to be fair and full upon all the points

mentioned by the Quarter-master, and ex-

tend beyond them to the general merits of

the claim.

Two things are to be considered; that

the Quarter-master's statement applies only

to a few items of demand, and that upon

them he is shown to be mistaken and his

statements incomplete.

But one point remains to be mentioned,

not because it effects the merits of the

case but because it is calculated to create

prejudice against the claim it left unnoti-

ced. Captain Short states that he named

three persons as appraisers to examine

the premises, who having examined them

found the damages slight and two of them

thought it unnecessary to make report. He

adds that they said the manure left on the

premises would more than pay the dam-

ages done! There might have been some

importance attached to this statement

while unexplained, if the conclusion had

been omitted. But the utter absurdity of

the reason assigned for non-assessment of

damages, removes all force from an al-

leged opinion resting upon it. The occu-

pation of a large quantity of land by a con-

siderable force with destruction of fences

and crops; the sweeping off of sugar map-

ple trees with implements and fixtures; the

principal use of a dwelling House and of

Stables; consumption of Hay, straw and

lumber in material quantities by the

troops, and the various other appropri-

ations of property and particular injuries

which have been stated—all to be com-

pensated by some refuse litter and horse-

droppings of a temporary Camp! It is

very certain that no intelligent man ever

formed such an opinion or ever delibera-

tely and honestly expressed it.

But the truth is, that the appraisers

never went through with the examination

of my claim; did not have my statement

of particulars before them; were never

sworn, and never met to form a decision