



Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing (from the records of the Southern Claims Commission)

Witness: Albert Flagler

sworn and examined

By Counsel

Q. Do you know Mr. Robinson?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How long have you known him?

A. I have known him 20 years and upwards.

Q. Did you have any conversation with him from time to time during the war?

A. Yes sir, often.

Q. Were you a neighbor of his?

A. Yes sir. I lived two miles or more from him.

Q. Did you have conversations with him from time to time?

A. Yes sir, frequently.

Q. How did he express himself in these conversations?

A. I take it, he was what we call a union man.

Q. Did you hear him utter any sentiments against the U.S. government?

A. Not at all. Not a word.

Q. You regarded him then as a loyal man?

A. Yes sir, as much so as any man.

Q. How would you compare his loyalty with that of George Harris?

A. I was still better acquainted with George Harris.

Q. Was he as loyal as George?

A. Yes sir, I suppose he was.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

By Commissioner Howell

Q. How much of a farm does Robinson own?

A. Well there is a considerable farm, I don't know the size of it so well as I do that of George Harris's because that is near by me.

Q. Do you know of his living on that farm and owning it, and how long he has owned it?

A. I don't know how long he has owned it but it is a good while – for the last 21 years I suppose.

Q. You know that he owned it in his own right?

A. I suppose so. I never heard anything to the contrary.

By Counsel

Q. He keeps a house of entertainment?

A. Yes sir; he's a good deal of a public man, and does more business than most people.

By Commissioner (...)

Q. Do you know of any colored people who were disloyal?

A. I knew a few but generally they were the other way.

Witness: Arthur Harris

(colored), sworn and examined

By Counsel

Q. Do you know anything about this hay that belonged to Robinson?

A. I know he raised a good deal of hay in 1861, and 1862.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. Are you sure of that?

A. I think it must have been 1862 that he had the hay.

Q. Why?

A. Because the army was there 1862. It was in 1861 that he raised the hay, to my understanding – that is one crop.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

By Counsel

Q. If he had the hay in August 1862 do you mean it was the crop of the year before?

A. It was the crop that he cut that spring of course; he cut it in June or July.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. This was the crop he lost?

A. Yes sir, and he raised it the same year.

Q. You said he raised it in 1861.

A. Then I made a mistake; he raised it in 1862.

Q. How many stacks of hay were there?

A. I didn't see it after it was cut.

Q. Do you know anything about the quantity?

A. No sir.

Q. Do you know anything about any wheat?

A. No sir, I wasn't there.

Q. Do you know anything about the corn?

A. I know he had corn in the field, but I know nothing more about it.

Q. Do you know anything about his horses?

A. I know he had horses, but I wasn't there when they were taken.

Q. Do you know anything about his hogs?

A. I know that he had hogs, but I wasn't there personally.

Q. Do you know anything about his cattle?

A. Yes sir, I know he had all such things as that.

Q. You just know generally that he had these things?

A. Yes sir, I know that he had them. We used to visit in peaceable times before the army came.

Q. Do you know anything of the taking of the property by the federal forces?

A. I didn't see that myself.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

Witness: Tascoe Robinson

(colored), sworn and examined

By Counsel

Q. You are a son of James Robinson?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Were you an inmate of your father's house in 1862?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Do you live with him now?

A. No sir.

Q. What do you know about your father's hay that was taken?

A. He had 6 large stacks of hay besides what was in the mow (?)

Q. Do you know anything about the taking of this hay by the U.S. forces?

A. No sir, no more than I know the U.S. forces used it.

Q. Were you not there at the time?

A. I wasn't where the hay was. They would not allow me to go where it was.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. Do you know that the hay was there before the army came?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What time did the army come?

A. About evening.

Q. How long did they stay there?

A. They didn't fall back I think until the next evening.

Q. How long after they went off, was it that you saw the hay was gone?

A. Directly after they fell back I saw it was gone but I could not give any good evidence about it for they just took me down to the courthouse with a lot of wounded.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

Q. When did the rebels come in?

A. I couldn't say, but they passed right through.

Q. Did they come in the same day that the union troops left?

A. Yes sir but they made us halt there; they traveled right on after the battle; but I wasn't there then; as I said they took me to the courthouse with a load of wounded.

By Counsel

Q. Do you know anything about any corn being taken?

A. He had about 5 barrels of corn that he had bought.

Q. What was the corn worth?

A. I couldn't say what it is worth now but I think corn was selling for a dollar a bushel then.

Q. Do you know anything about the horses?

A. Yes sir, he lost some horses.

Q. How old were they?

A. Well the mare was between 8 and 10.

Q. Were they in good condition?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Were they wagon or riding horses?

A. They were work horses – farm horses.

Q. In good sound condition?

A. Yes sir.

Q. What were these horses worth?

A. They were worth one hundred dollars a piece.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. Did you see these horses taken?

A. Yes sir I saw them taken at the time and I tried to get them back but it was of no use, I had the door locked when they came there and they broke the door open and went in and took them.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

Q. Do you know anything about the hogs?

A. Yes sir, we had eight very fat hogs.

Q. How many did he lose?

A. Seven.

Q. Were these hogs in good order?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How much would they weigh?

A. Over 100 pounds I think.

Q. Who took these hogs?

A. The union troops took them.

Q. Do you know anything about the barrels of fish?

A. Yes sir, they were taken. The union troops took everything there was in the house.

Q. What were those fish worth a barrel – they were Potomac herring weren't they?

A. I don't remember what they cost, though I reckon about \$4.50 a barrel.

Q. Do you know about any bacon being taken?

A. Yes sir they took upwards of 100 pounds.

Q. How many pieces were there?

A. He knows better than I do about that I couldn't say.

Q. How about the cattle?

A. There were two cattle killed.

Q. Were they in good order?

A. Yes sir.

Q. How old were they?

A. One was three and the other was four years old. I think.

Q. Oxen I suppose?

A. Yes sir.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

Q. What were they worth?

A. I think they were fully worth thirty dollars a piece.

Q. Were they taken by the union troops?

A. Yes sir.

By Commissioner Ferriss (?)

Q. Did you see them taken?

A. No sir but I heard them.

Q. What did you hear?

A. I heard them when they shot them.

Q. Whereabouts did they shoot them?

A. Between the place where my father-in-law lived and where my father lived.

Q. Did they drive them down there before they shot them?

A. No sir, the cattle was making for home.

Q. What do you know of an acre of potatoes?

A. I know an acre of potatoes were taken.

Q. How do you know there was an acre of them?

A. I judge there was an acre.

Q. How many bushels would that acre produce?

A. It ought to have been 75 bushels I suppose: they were fine well-grown potatoes.

Q. Who took them?

A. The union troops took them. They had the house for a hospital and the troops were all around there. Gen. Sigel had his headquarters in it and he moved out, and they took it for a hospital.

Q. Hospital for officers and men too?

A. Yes sir for wounded men.

Q. Did you see any of these officers about there?

A. Yes sir.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

Q. When these articles were taken you say there were officers there?

A. Yes sir. Gen. Stahl was there: he was in the house when the horses were taken.

Q. What do you know about the corn in the field?

A. We had about 12 acres of corn in the field.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. What do you now about the groceries and provisions in the house?

A. I don't know much about what groceries he had there. I know about the fish and meat and things of that kind.

Q. Do you now anything about the bed and furniture?

A. Yes sir, they took the beds and bed-clothing.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. Where did they take them to?

A. The took some away with the wounded.

By Counsel

Q. Did they have any wounded there on Thursday evening?

A. The following day they brought in a lot.

By Commissioner Howell

Q. What do you know about the bad and bed-clothing being taken and used to carry the wounded away on?

A. I saw them take away a wagon load in a one horse wagon and they took the bed and all.

By Counsel

Q. Was that Friday or Saturday?

A. It was Saturday evening I think.

Manassas / Resources

Resource #6: Witness Testimony at Robinson Hearing(cont'd)

By Commissioner Howell

Q. What do you know about the rails being taken?

A. They were used up the night of the battle.

Q. How many – how long a string of fence was taken?

A. The fence was about two miles long I reckon; and a good many cross fences were taken – I suppose at any rate it would make two miles altogether.

Q. What about his oats?

A. He had 40 bushels sown of oats. I suppose he had about 25 acres in oats.

Q. Was it cut and shocked?

A. Yes sir.

Q. Did you see the army take it?

A. No sir I was not allowed to go there.

Q. How do you know they did take it?

A. Because the rebels didn't stop around there long enough to use it.

Q. Didn't the rebel army come in after the union army left?

A. Yes sir, but they proceeded on after them. They were mostly infantry.