

Claims for Damages by the American Army

Nearly all the Claims for Damages done by the American Army came through the Commissioners of Sequestration; who either paid them first, or presented them directly to the State. This was especially true of timber cut, and fence rails taken, from Sequestered Estates, for the most part in Westchester County. In the same County, large quantities of rails and Forage were taken for the use of the American Army from both Sequestered and Private Estates. The Accounts relating to these Claims give, in detail, the names of the former proprietors, the names of the occupants and the value of the property taken. The total value was about £70,000. The property taken consisted of about 3000 cords of fire wood and 350,000 rails. Some of the Accounts were prepared by John Keese, under appointment from Timothy Pickering, Quarter-Master-General of the Continental Army.

The State Treasurer issued Certificates for Money due for Damages to farms. Claims of this nature were paid by the State, almost without exception; and the State afterward recovered the several amounts from the United States. While Damages of this sort usually came through the operations of the Army, yet the Convention sometimes ordered the taking, or damaging, of private property.

The State of New York to Nicholas Bayard Dr.

To damages done his Estate by order of the State Convention, Vizt.

Destroying the Timber from Bunker Hill, taken Sod from his Best fields in Order to Erect a fort on the said hill, cutting down the Locust Trees in his lane, to the Amount of £1000.

The above damages were done by Order of the State Convention in the year 1776.

Personally appeared before me Daniel McCormick one of the Aldermen of the City of New York, Nicholas Bayard, who being sworn on the holy Evangelist of Almighty God deposeth and saith that the above damages of £1000 he believes to be done to his Estate.

Nicholas Bayard

Sworn before me this 31 Day of Decr. 1790

Daniel McCormick,

