



***Southern Claims Commission:
Barred and Disallowed Case Files, 1871–1880***

Congress established the Commissioners of Claims, or Southern Claims Commission, on March 3, 1871, to review and make recommendations to the House of Representatives concerning the claims of Southern Loyalists who had often involuntarily “furnished stores and supplies for the use of the U.S. Army” during the Civil War. A subsequent law, enacted on May 11, 1872, extended this to include property appropriated by the U.S. Navy. Enabling legislation deliberately excluded real property used or damaged by occupation troops. The Commission consisted of a three-member board supported by special commissioners who reviewed small claims in local areas and special agents who traveled from state to state gathering evidence in all claims. The Commission received 22,298 claims for damages totaling \$60,258,150.44, but only approved 7,902 claims totaling \$4,636,920.69. It completed its work on March 10, 1880. **This report only discusses the barred and disallowed claims.**

Disallowed claims are part of Records of the United States House of Representatives (Record Group 233). Additionally, under the provisions of the Bowman Act of 1883 and the Tucker Act of 1887, any claims previously barred or disallowed by the Commission could be reconsidered and submitted to the U.S. Court of Claims to investigate. The results of the investigation were then reported to Congress to adjudicate as they saw fit. As a result, some barred and disallowed claims can also be found in the Records of the U.S. Court of Claims (Record Group 123).

Microfilm Publications

___P2257, *Records of the U.S. House of Representatives: Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880*. 1 roll. This microfilm publication is organized into two parts. **Part A** consists of a consolidated index to all claims, allowed and disallowed. The index is organized alphabetically by the last name of the claimant. The listing for each claimant includes the state in which the claim was filed; the commission number; office number; report number; year filed; amount of the claim; amount allowed (if any); amount disallowed (if any); a note as to whether the claim was barred, withdrawn, or dismissed; and the nature of the claim (reimbursement for provisions, forage, horses, lumber, etc.).

Part B incorporates 10 summary General Reports issued to Congress between 1871 and 1880. The reports are grouped into four volumes. Each volume is preceded by notes regarding changes to and further clarifications of rules and regulations governing the board and its examiners. In addition, the notes for Volume one contain a “Special Report on the Case of Marie P. Evans.” The claimants are listed under the reporting year in which the claim was adjudicated in alphabetical order by state, then by county and then by claimant’s last name. Not all states are represented in the reports for each year.

Volume Number	Report Number	Year	States Represented
1	1	1871	AL, AR, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA
1	2	1872	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA

RR #418

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1	3	1873	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
1	4	1874	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
2	5	1875	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV
2	6	1876	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
3	7	1877	AL, AR, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
3	8	1878	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
4	9	1879	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
4	10	1880	AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

Each claim begins with the number of the claim, the name of the claimant, and the town, county, and state where the claim was filed. Next, specific items claimed are listed along with the quantity, the total value of the item(s), and the total value of the claim. Lastly, a summary of the evidence collected and remarks on the claim or claimant explains why the claim was rejected. **Part B** contains an appendix of claims reported as disallowed and barred for non-prosecution, arranged alphabetically by state, then by county, and then by last name of claimant. After the appendix, there are separate listings for claims filed in Indian Territory (listed alphabetically by last name of claimant) and claims withdrawn or dismissed (listed alphabetically by state and then by last name of claimant).

___M1407, *Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871–1880*. 4,829 Microfiche. DP. The first four fiche contain the same index as **Part A** of P2257. The rest of the fiche contains one of two types of case files. Disallowed claims are listed first and are arranged by report number, then by office number. A case file might include the claimant’s petition detailing losses and their value; depositions of relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances (both black and white); notes of the special agent investigating the case; reports from the Treasury Department relative to its search of captured Confederate records for any indication of disloyalty; and the final summary and recommendation of the commissioners. Barred claims are listed second and are arranged alphabetically by last name of claimant. These files generally contain only the original petition and little other information. The records are also available digitally on Ancestry (www.ancestry.com) and Fold3 (www.Fold3.com).

___M2007, *U.S. Court of Claims Docket Cards for Congressional Case Files, ca. 1884–ca. 1943*. 5 rolls. DP. Docket cards for the cases are arranged alphabetically by the last name of the claimant and then by case file number. The case file number can be used to locate the individual file and any accompanying documents. A notation will usually appear in the case file of the barred and disapproved claims that were sent to the Court of Claims.

Researchers may wish to consult National Archives Reference Information Paper 108, *Black Family Research: Records of Post-Civil War Federal Agencies at the National Archives*; and the *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (Section 10.4.4), for additional information pertaining to the approved, disapproved, and barred files of the Southern Claims Commission.

For more information, see the following reference report: *Southern Claims Commission: Approved Case Files, 1871–1880*.