

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

SECOND AUDITOR'S OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 25, 189.

Hon. G. W. Stidham,
407 G. St. n. w. ,
Washington , D. C.

Sir:

I duly received your letter of the 14th inst. in which you state that a number of certificates or warrants issued in payment of bounty due citizens of the Creek Nation for military services during the late war were in possession of one J. W. Wright at the time of his arrest, and were turned over to the authorities of the United States, and you ask that said certificates or warrants may be delivered to the persons to whom they belong.

In reply, I have the honor to say that the records of this office do not afford any information on the subject. If any papers of the kind referred to were taken from Wright when he was arrested in 1870 this office does not appear to have been advised of the fact.

The operations of the late J. W. Wright, who was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in 1866 to attend to the collection of claims of Indian soldiers were investigated in 1871, and a report thereon, accompanied by a large mass of papers, was transmitted to the House of Representatives by the Secretary of the Interior April 30, 1872, and

printed as Report No. 96, H.R. 42nd Congress, 2nd Session. On examining this report I find:-

- 1....That in accordance with orders from the Secretary of the Interior dated August 13, 1870, all the books and papers pertaining to the Pension office at Fort Gibson, C. N. (in which employes of Judge Wright transacted their business) were seized by Lieut. Col. Daniel Huston, 6th Inf., commanding Fort Gibson. (See page 205.)
- 2....That among the articles seized were books, papers, drafts, postage stamps, &c.. belonging to Judge Wright. (See page 209, also pages 45 and 211.)
- 3....That the articles seized were transmitted to H. Van Aernan, Commissioner of Pensions, by special agent F. E. Foster, February 24, 1871. (See pages ¹⁰⁰ 100 and ¹⁰¹ 101.)

In view of these facts I suggest that the Commissioner of Pensions may be able to give you some information on the subject of your inquiries.

In connection with this matter, I will say that if any checks issued in payment of Indian soldiers' claims were taken from Judge Wright, the amount thereof, if not subsequently paid to the soldiers themselves or to their order, would be covered into the Treasury to the personal credit of the payees of such checks on account of "Outstanding Liabilities" in accordance with the act of May 2, 1866. A

list of "Outstanding Liabilities" was published by direction of the House of Representatives in 1886, and will be found in House Executive Document No. 363, 49th Congress, 1st session. On examining that list I find a number of names which may be those of Creek soldiers or their representatives. For example, Et-kat-hi-jo; Ah-he-lla-ffix-e-koh; Nancy-war-han-chee; Oosa-ha-jo; Eni-he-fix-ee-ko; No--kas-fix-so-ko; Pen-ha-jo; Go-e-kee-ha-jo; Henderson Grayson. (See pages 27 and 32.)

The law in relation to "Outstanding Liabilities" will be found in Sections 306 to 310, Revised Statutes.

Respectfully yours,

A. Eickhoff

Acting Auditor.

G. J. R.