

Deposition of William H. Hemmick. February 19, 1856

The deposition of William H. Hemmick, taken at the request of Gibbons and Kelly, to be used in the investigation of a claim against the United States, now pending in the Court of Claims in the name of Gibbons and Kelly.

The adverse party was notified.

*1<sup>st</sup> Interrogatory.* What is your name?

*Answer.* William H. Hemmick.

*2d. Int.* What is your occupation?

*Answer.* Dealer in real estate.

*3d. Int.* What is your age?

*Answer.* Witness is in his twenty-ninth year.

*4<sup>th</sup> Int.* Where has been your residence during the past year?

*Answer.* Baltimore City.

*5<sup>th</sup> Int.* Have you any interest, either direct or indirect, in the claim of Gibbons and Kelly, which is the subject of inquiry?

*Answer.* Witness has no interest, either direct or indirect, in said claim.

*6<sup>th</sup> Int.* Are you related in any degree with either of the said claimants? and if so, in what degree?

*Answer.* Witness is not related to said claimants, or either of them.

*7<sup>th</sup> Int.* Please state in whose employ you were in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-two, and in what capacity employed?

*Answer.* IN the year eighteen hundred and fifty-two, from the month of May to December, witness was employed by Messrs. Gibbons and Kelly as their clerk and disbursing agent.

*8<sup>th</sup> Int.* Please state whether or not you shipped a cargo of lighthouse materials in the summer of eighteen hundred and fifty-two to California, and the amount so shipped?

*Answer.* Witness did ship a cargo of light-house materials in the summer of the year eighteen hundred and fifty-two to California, from Baltimore, consisting of the following articles, for light-houses and towers on the coasts of California and Oregon, the said goods being shipped on board the barque Oriole, vis: Manufactured wood-work, consisting of panel-doors, door-frames, window-frames, sashes and sills, mantels, cupboards, washboards and casings, shelvings, stepping of yellow pine for stairs, risors, carriages for stairs, newels, columns for towers, and the necessary stepping for the same ; frames for eight kitchens, including the weather-boarding, flooring, windowsash, boards, and casements, joists and rafters, and sheathing for roofs ; also a large quantity of one and a quarter Georgia prime flooring, large lot of prime white pine boards for under-flooring, insertion pieces for furring inside wals, furring planks, scantling for partition and putlocks ; also joists and rafters for eight dwelling-houses, boards for sheathing roofs of main buildings, lathes, lineal four by twelve white pine for wall-plates, purlings ; also a large quantity of scaffolding, planks and shingles.

Nails and hardware for eight houses and towers, eight iron hoops for towers, weighing six thousand and four hundred (64,00) pounds ; cut-granite stepping for eight houses, seventeen (17) boxes of glass, linseed oil, white lead, and all the paints requisite ; fifty barrels of cement ; two carts and harness ; hoisting tubs ; tow derricks, Manilla cordage and fifteen blocks for same.

Two surf-lighters, pumps for cisterns, and covering for the same.

Lumber for eight out-houses, two boxes containing sundry articles appertaining to said structures.

Witness estimate the value of the foregoing materials to be twenty-three thousand and eighty-five (23,085) dollars.

*9<sup>th</sup> Int.* Please refer to Executive document No. 53, 33d Congress, 2d session, (Senate,) and pages 58, 59, 69, and 71, and say if you affirm the same ?

*Answer.* Witness re-affirms all that is contained in the pages mentioned.

*10<sup>th</sup> Int.* Were the bills of lading of the materials shipped on board the Oriole at Baltimore assigned to the government of the United States? If so, state what you know of the assignment.

*Answer.* Witness knows that the bills of lading were assigned to the government, as required by the contract.

*11<sup>th</sup> Int.* Were you in San Francisco during the year eighteen hundred and fifty-two? If so. State, from your knowledge of the goods placed on the barque Oriole in Baltimore, what would be your estimate of their value when you were in California?

*Answer.* Witness was in San Francisco in December, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, and from his knowledge of the value of building materials and other articles on board the barque Oriole, witness know that cargo was worth upwards of forty thousand (40,000) dollars in San Francisco at the time.

Witness being asked if he knew of any other matter relative to the claim in question, and if so to state it?

*Answer.* That he could recollect nothing more.

**WM. H. HEMMICK**