

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 249.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE for a Memorial commemorating the Patriotism of
John Baker.

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars
2 be and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of
3 removing the body of John Baker from British soil to the
4 town of Fort Fairfield and erecting a suitable monument
5 commemorating the patriotism, courage and sufferings of
6 the said John Baker.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine in Legislature assembled, A. D., 1895 :—

The memorial of Adeline Slocomb of Fort Fairfield in the county of Aroostook respectfully represents :—

That she is the daughter of John Baker, late of “Baker Brook” in the Province of New Brunswick, who was an American citizen, a native of the town of Moscow in this state. About the year 1815, Mr. Baker with a few neighbors started on a journey by river and lake through an almost unbroken wilderness of more than two hundred miles, to make homes and establish a settlement of Americans in that part of the State of Maine watered by the Upper St. John.

At the time the Government of the United States claimed the territory north of the St. John, to the line dividing the waters flowing to the St. Lawrence, from those flowing to the sea.

It is chanced that Mr. Baker selected a tract of land on the river, about six miles below the present town of Fort Kent, whereon he settled with his family, not doubting the right of his Government to the territory, or its willingness and ability to protect him in his rights. In a few years Mr. Baker had cleared a farm in the wilderness, built mills, and by the almost unremitting toil of himself and family, was the possessor of a comfortable home and a very considerable property.

A most prominent trait in my father’s character was his intense loyalty to his country and his flag, and this patriotism never abated during all the troubles growing out of the boundary disputes.

He purchased his farm and adjoining tract from the land agents of Maine and Massachusetts, and when the first knowledge came to him of the designs of the Provincial government to send troops and take forcible possession of the territory, he started for Augusta alone making his journey through

the wilderness on snow shoes, to notify the governor. He had previously offended the Provincials by raising on his premises on a Fourth of July, an American flag made by my mother.

These acts of loyalty to his country brought upon him the vengeance of the Provincial authorities. He was accused of treason, carried to Fredericton, imprisoned for months, and his property destroyed and confiscated.

He was suffered to end his days in poverty on a miserable remnant of his once fine property, which had all been conveyed by the Provincial Government to parties in Fredericton.

The story of my father's efforts and sacrifices in endeavoring to obey the orders of the authorities of the State, are a part of the history of the "Aroostook war" period. The neighbors, who were his contemporaries, have joined him on the "other shore," and upon that history and the tradition that we have from the early settlers of that region, we must rely to satisfy your honorable body of the justice of my claim upon the consideration of the State.

I ask nothing for myself—I want no money compensation as a recompense for his almost lifelong sacrifices—I respectfully ask his native State to cause his remains to be removed to American soil, and to cause the erection of a suitable monument to commemorate his patriotism.

ADALINE SLOCOMB.

STATE OF MAINE;

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 28, 1895.

Reported by Mr. MILLETT of Gorham, from Committee on Military
Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*