

Resource #9: *Alexandria Gazette*, 1871 "Eye on Manassas, Whom Should be Compensated?"

Inquiring Photographer

Question for the Day: There's talk of the Southern Claims Commission offering reparation to people loyal to the Union who suffered loss of property as a result of occupation or damage during the War. Whom do you think should be compensated for their losses?

John Henry (son of Judith Carter Henry, casualty of war):



"How do you compensate one for the loss of a loved one? No compensation can make up for the pain and suffering and the loss of my dear mother. My house, my family, everything, all gone."

William H. Dogan (Businessman, Landowner):

"Those who helped the Union should receive some sort of aid for their services so they can rebuild their lives. After all, where would the union have been without their supporters?"

Jack (Former slave):

"You means deys givin' money to all dems what lost stuff in the war? Well don't dat beat all! Lost two sons. J'ined up wid de Union Army somewheres. Where does I go to collect?"

Lucy Pinn (Local Resident):

"Many sacrifices were made. Who can say what a person will do, will sacrifice, in times of war to save body and soul?"

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Lucinda Dogan (Wife):



"I believe we have helped certain groups of people quite enough, thank you. Many of us have suffered because of this dreadful conflict. Loyalty cannot be called into question when one is pitting brother against brother."

Benjamin Dyer (Displaced businessman):



"War is war. Compensation is for the victors and we all know to the victors belong the spoils."

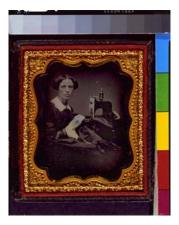
Nancy Williams (Former Slave):

"Well, I know the slaves won't get nothing. Didn't have nothing to begin with. Lawd knows they didn't have nothing to lose. I b'lieve all de folks whut lose dey homes should be compensated. Folks places all tore to pieces."

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Isabel Carter (Wife/Mother):



"Why to the orphans and widows of course. That would be the right thing to do. Loyalty should certainly be less important that the needs of the people."

George Rounds (Northern Businessman/Entrepreneur):



"It seems to me that you cannot rebuild a country unless you revive its primary casualty-the economy. I believe that every businessman who remained in the area during this conflict should be compensated in some way for the loss of business he may have suffered. Further, every man who continued to run his business in spite of these trying circumstances should be doubly compensated for any and all losses regardless of his allegiance during the war. After all, we are trying to unite this great country under the banner of opportunity. What better inducement than to help our great economy."

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Albert Flagler (Displaced landowner/Businessman):



"I guess the best thing to do is just to give the devil his due and pay all those who suffered damages. It's hard to run into anyone who hasn't suffered in one way or another. Lost crops, farms, cattle, animals, homes destroyed. Help should be given to the ones who lost everything. So many have lost so much."

Alfred Morris (Union Soldier):



"I can't say. You can't judge a man's character during a war. You do what you have to to keep body and soul together. You leave when you have to leave. You sell what you have to sell. You move when you have to move."