

→ Speroy Joditte being first duly sworn deposes and says

Ques. State all you know about Major Loree Indian Agent having heretofore defrauded the Government.

Ans. I became first acquainted with Major Loree in July 1862 at his Agency I was employed by him to bring the Indians in from the different parts of the immediate Country. I was gone about ten days before I returned he asked me what my charges were I said nothing that I done it as a favor to you and the Indians. Major Loree said no I will pay you and he said do you think five dollars per day will be sufficient? Yes anything you give me will satisfy me I said. Said he will you have money or goods I told him I would rather have goods so he paid me in Government Goods taken out of the agency building and handed to me by Maj. Loree's interpreter and afterwards when he issued out the annuities he sent his interpreter to me to ask me if I would sign his vouchers for the annuities issued to the cheyenns and Arrapahoes Indians. I told him I would provided he had issued all to them that they were actually entitled to and thereupon I signed the vouchers. The next morning the Goods were all moved out of the house and issued to the Indians I had nothing more to do with Maj. Loree until Feb 1863 I was then camped on the white river trapping and trading he came there to pay me a visit and look at the country he stayed with me a day or two and then we started for Mr Bordeaux Ranche on the Platte River while on the road he made a proposition to me saying he wished to hire me to act in the capacity of Interpreter. I told him all right, that when your goods come up from

the states and there was a mule train came along from the states in a few days out of which he took several Boxes which contained a few steel traps a few assorted beads and some assorted paints of different colors and when the Indian annuities arrived he proposed to me that I should be his Interpreter the wages says Loree is not large enough to pay you but I will make it all right with you. He said you help me what you can here and when I have issued the annuities I shall give your family what they need for this winter which goods were taken out of the Gov't annuities and which Goods he ordered me to take out of the Gov't annuities and told me he would bring up some goods for me this fall and you shall have an outfit of about 100 or 150 packs of Buffalo Robes. You will go off and trade, we will pay the cost out of the peltry and then we will divide equally what remains we then went to work at the Goods we opened them and divided them into three parts. The sheyenns and Arrapahoes together the Ogalalleys and the Brunas together We then first issued to the Brunas their portion and then we issued part belonging to the Ogalalleys a few days after we issued to Rapphoes. There still remained some goods in the Agency building. I made ready to go out trapping and Maj. Loree started to Denver City Col. Terr. I returned to Mr. Bordeaux Ranche about the 12th of Oct. 63 and Maj. Loree returned from Denver City C. Terr. about the same time during my absence there was an agency built 20 miles below Burdeaux Ranche and the remainder of the Goods that had been heretofore left at Mr Burdeaux Ranche were then moved down to the new agency I went down to the new agency on the 17th day of Oct. 63 to see Maj. Loree. I then asked him what would be the chances for trading. He says to me now mind I am now going to the States and you remain quiet until I come back I did so remaining at Mr Burdeaux Ranche until Feb. 64 when Mr Loree returned to the agency. He then sent for me immediately. I went down. He said if I wanted to trade I could. I could buy goods of Jack Morrow and trade under Jack Morrow and Sam Loree's license. I bought the goods but finding that he did not fulfil his contract with me I told him when I bought the goods that there was some danger with the Indians said I you (Loree) go to the Commander of the Post at Fort Laramie and see if there is any order against trading Powder to the Indians. I said if there is I dont want to purchase the goods. He went to Fort Laramie the next day and returned and told me there was no order whatever relative to powder. I then went out to the Indian encampment and when about 60 miles from Fort Laramie a company of soldiers came to me and demanded my powder they then took my powder balls and caps back to Fort Laramie. I then went on to the cheyenne river and remained there until the 1st day of May when I returned to the agency and gave the goods back to Jack Morrow and sam Loree settled with them and came away until June '64 then Loree had only just arrived from the States and told me I must

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come down to the agency and stay with him. During my absence Jack Morrow had sold a lot of goods to one Mr Whitcomb a Citizen. Mr. Whitcomb then turned over his to Maj Loree for safe keeping and the same goods Maj Loree instructed me to sell and dispose of saying that they belonged to Jack Morrow and Sam Loree. I done so and in august of the Government annuities arrived at the agency and immediately they were opened and divided into three equal parts. The next day we issued that part belonging to the Brunas & Ogalalleys and a part that belonged to the Cheyenes and the remainder was left under my charge, and Major Loree told me to issue them to any Indians that were loyal and that had not had any goods issued to them before during this season and had the goods removed to Mr Bordeaux Ranche and I issued the goods according to instructions of Maj. Loree and he (Maj. Loree) started down to the states. Maj. Loree authorized me to trade Gov't goods to Anton Lobeauxs wife for two Ponies for his own use and benefit.

Ques. To the best of your knowledge information and belief was Maj. Loree dishonest in his transactions and dealings with the Indians

Ans. Yes he was dishonest with them

Ques. Did Maj. Loree give all the Government Goods to the Indians that were from time to time sent to this country by the Government to the Indians.

Ans. He did not

Ques. From the best of your knowledge and information has Maj. Loree made any money out of the Government and if so how much.

Ans. He has, the exact amount I do not know

Ques. How many loads of goods did Maj. Loree and Morrow bring up from the states in the winter of Feb. 64

Ans. Nine wagon loads

Ques. What did those goods consist of

Ans. They consisted of blankets cotton goods Coffee and sugar and Tobacco & Brass wire

Ques. To the best of your knowledge what became of said goods

Ans. They were made away with and not issued to the Indians

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Ques. Were you present when the Gov't annuities arrived from the states for the year of 1864

Ans. I was present

Ques. Were the Goods all issued out to the Indians at that time

Ans. They were not 75 of the Goods were to be issued to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes if they came for them before the last day of sept. 64 and if they did not come then he Maj. Loree wished me to give them to the first Sioux that might come to the best of my knowledge Maj. Loree paid me for my labor part in money and part in Government annuities Goods.

Ques. Did the Indians receive all the goods sent out to them by the Government

Ans. They did not

Ques. To the best of your knowledge was Maj. Loree dishonest in his dealings with the Indians

Ans. He was dishonest and that I do know he would often leave goods at the agency and when he would return the Goods would all be gone and none of them would be issued to the Indians. This bill of Goods marked Exhibit "A" and here to attached is the identical Bill of Goods that I sold for Maj. Loree to one Jules E. Coffee on or about the latter part of august 1864.