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10-25-1806

## Letter from George Sibley to Samuel Sibley, October 25, 1806

George Champlin Sibley  
*Fort Bellefontaine*

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(Samuel H. Sibley)

(Geo. C. Sibley)

Cantonment, So. Bank of the Missouri

Near St. Louis, 25<sup>th</sup> October: 1806.

My dear Brother,

I have not recd. a line from you or any person in Carolina. Since the 30<sup>th</sup> of July, when your favor of 27<sup>th</sup> March, came to hand. I have been looking with very great anxiety for a long time, for letters from some of you, but begin now almost to despair of ever receiving any more from you. I wrote you under the 15<sup>th</sup> June and mother in law the 8<sup>th</sup> Ulto. My letters I trust have reached you, & I have not ceased to hope they may find you all in good Health & Spirits.

I pray you write me more frequently; you should take into consideration my situation here, and not wait for those little formalities, that you might with more Justice and propriety insist on, if we were nearer each other, and I more conveniently Situated to a Safe conveyance of my letters. My last letter from Father / 2<sup>nd</sup> July / gave me no encouragement to hope that he should make his intended visit to Fayetteville this Fall; and from the recent transactions at Natchitoches; I am induced to think his journey must have been delayed, and perhaps entirely given over. By the next Mail however, I hope to receive accounts from Natchitoches, with particular Statement of the Situation of our Political Affairs there: hints of which, you have no doubt seen in the papers.

Twelve months have passed away, since I have resided in this country; had I not been for the greater part of that time, confined by the nature of my employment, within the limits of a Cantonment, I should doubtless have been able by this time, to venture an opinion of its advantages, Merits & from the test of observation and actual knowledge. But, as matters now Stand, I can say but little of Louisiana, except from what I have heard. As my business has been

principally with the Natives, some of whom are from distant parts of the country and are very intelligent and communicative in general. I have not neglected to Reap every advantage that a participation in their knowledge might afford, so far as it can be depended on. Whenever it shall occur to me that any good may result to you from a communication of the Sum & tendency of my enquiries, you may rely on my using the first opportunity to put you in possession of them. At present, I do not know of any thing worth your attention, except what may result from the discoveries of Captain Lewis / whose Safe Return you will have heard before this can reach you/.

Perhaps nothing of so great importance has ever happened ( as respects the commercial interests of the United States,) & (Particularly the Western Country,) as these discoveries. It would be useless for me now, to enter minutely into the subject, the limits of a Letter would not allow it. Suffice it to say, that in a few years the most Rich & Luxurious field for young men of spirit and enterprise will be opened.

Then we shall see floating down the Missouri, valuable Cargoes of East-India Merchandise; I need to say no more, this bare hint will be sufficient for you to build on four weeks & months. I cannot predict what effect these things will have on my Fortunes, tho' certain it is they will have a very material one. It has been hinted by Captain Lewis. / who it is supposed will have the management of our Indian affairs in this country) that Several Trading Houses will be established by Govt. pretty high up on this River of the Mississippi, next Spring; and that this house will most probably be broken up. Should these things happen, I think it more than probable that I shall be sent up this River; at any rate I calculate on being retained in the Service, and I have recd. A letter which approves my conduct. I should like very much to go up to the head of the Missouri for a few years. From this, you will perceive that I have given over the idea of entering the Army for the present, Father, as I expected disapproves the project, and said some

pretty sharp things to me about it. There is one thing that hangs like a dead weight on my mind; Vizt. The debt I owe Mr. Winslowe. I wrote him about the 1<sup>st</sup> June on the subject, and expressed him an expectation that father would play it on his visit to F. C. – but as that visit has been prevented; and I have it not in my power to make him a remittance, owing to the heavy expenses I am daily drawn into /not by extravagance of folly/ I really begin feel a kind of melancholy about it. I must beg you to speak to Mr .W . on the subject when you have an opportunity, and tell him my extreme uneasiness, & that I hope he will not be uneasy; By heavens, I would not lose the good opinion of that worthy man for my left arm. Forget not to tender him my most respectful compliments and request him to offer the Same to his Family. I have read two more letters from Uncle Stephen about the land, in one of them he mentioned having forwarded Deeds to be Signed / which have not yet come to hand / and is very pressing to have the thing settled.

In truth there has been too great a delay in this business, and as I have given my positive word that he shall be put in possession of both our Shares. I feel lucky anxious to do so. If he has written you on the subject & you have received the deeds the speaks off, I presume you have done your part toward the performance of my promise; the Amt. of your share / abt. \$ 100/ he says shall be sent you most convenient way. I hope you have written him, to let him know the cause of delay in the business Vizt. My coming here; his letters were directed to me at F.V.- I shall write him shortly, and if I can send him a deed will do so. We ought to take some pains to have this affair settled. Uncle S. depends on us for the Land, and it will be considerable disappointment to him if he does not get it; as his nephews it becomes us to act consistently, and to perform our promise to him with as much promptness and exactness as in our power. I wrote to Mr. Gales the Printer the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ulto. & requested him to send me his paper. I took the liberty to refer him to you, for the subscription money, which I will thank you to send him; I could not

remit so small a sum, and the Rect. Of his paper will serve to keep up my spirits in a measure this Winter; by Shewing the Some few yr Transactions in Carolina. I shall perhaps have an opportunity of reimbursing you, or I may not. In either case it will "break no squares" I presume. Under all the various embarrassments of mind that have lately been familiar to me, I have not ceased to regret as one of the principal ones, the fear that the Family at Fayetteville may experience some serious inconveniences. In your future letters which I must for this Reason may be more frequent, I pray you speak a little more fully of their situation, their resources and State of mind; It is a most cruel necessity that has thus Sundered us all; yet it is necessity, and must be borne with proper resignation. I feel confidence in the hope that we shall yet be united, and placed on sure ground for comfort and independence.

In the meantime, I would impress it on you as a duty / that will

(Incomplete)