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10-20-1808

Letter from George Sibley to Colonel John Pickett, October 20, 1808

George Champlin Sibley
Fire Prairie

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Col. Jno. Pickett.

Geo. C. Sibley

Camp near the Fire Prairie 350 Miles
up the Missouri

October 20th, 1808

Dear Sir,

About the 27th of last June I passed Limestone on my way down the Ohio, but being in very great haste I Stopped only a few minutes to procure Some necessaries for the Boatmen- I assure you Sir I regretted exceedingly the unavoidable necessity that forced me to pass your Neighborhood without calling to See you- The result of my visit to Washington (where I arrived on the 1^t. of Feby.) proved as favorable to me as I could have wished The President was pleased to confer on me the appointment of Agent for the U. S. Factory established at this place, but in consequence of the preparel (?) of other matters of more importance, the Secy. Of War did not enter into the final arrangements for the establishment 'till late in May, which left me barely time enough it was Supposed, to lay in an Assortment of Goods, transport them to St. Louis & from thence to this place and get into winter quarters in due Season - Immediately on the determination of the Secy of War, he dispatched an order for one of the Companies of U. S. Infantry at the Cantonment near S. Louis to get in readiness to accompany me up the Missouri there to be Stationed for the protection of the factory, this order preceded me Several Weeks and I was fearful the Troops would proceed without me if I did not reach St. Louis before the 1^t. of August which considering the State of the Indians in that quarter I was extremely anxious to prevent if possible, and this I fortunately effected just as they had Resolved to wait no longer for me. At the falls of Ohio I overtook Capt. Webster who informed me that you had enquired of him when I would be along & Seemed anxious to See me - On my arrival at St. Louis Mr. B. Wilkinson (from who, I bought the Bay Horse I let you have) asked me how the Horse had performed the journey, and on my telling him that he had performed very well 'till I got his back hurt, he observed that he was glad to hear it, for he had been told after my departure by Mr. Pope of whom he got the horse, that he was a very worthless animal & he was fearful I would be very much displeased with him for Selling him to me as a fit horse to perform So long a journey on.

I assured Mr. W. that he was very much mistaken about the Horse for that I found him very excellent and parted with him from pure necessity & with much regret- But when I recollected your having expressed to Capt. Webster a Strong wish to See me, I could not avoid the Suspicion that possibly the Horse may have turned out as Pope Represented him, which has caused me much uneasiness ever

Since the idea struck me, and I Should have written to you before on the Subject but positively I have not had time.

If the Horse has turned out a bad bargain on your Side I will be extremely obliged to you if you will inform me of it as Soon as possible, and State the amt. of damage that you have Sustained by the exchange that I may Remunerate you without delay- for I assure you I am incapable of Speculating on the goodness of my friends, and had infinitely Rather forego any pecuniary advantage than to Run the most distant hazard of forfeiting their good opinion- The Mare I got of you proved to be as you had Represented her to me. I rode her to F. Ville N. Car^o. where I left her in the hands of my brother.

G. C. S.