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7-14-1827

Letter to Mary Sibley from John Sibley, July 14, 1827

John Sibley
Natchitoches, Louisiana

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Mrs. Mary Sibley
George C. Sibley Esq.
Fort Osage
Missouri

John Sibley
14. July, 1827
Recd. by G. C. S.
30th August, 1827.
Same time wrote to Major Sibley

Natchitoches July 14, 1827.

My dear Mary

By the last mail your very Interesting & Agreeable letter Post Marked June 1 1827 I received as you had Omitted to Seal it, passing thro' so many hands it may have been taken for a Circular. You will not be surprised if you should see Extracts from it going the News-paper rounds- I could not, nor would not forgive Geo. Sibley for his unpardonable negligence in writing to me, if he had not on the authority of the highest orders (yourselfe) constituted & appointed you his Attorney in fact to perform that duty, my pardon is limited to the time you faithfully execute the commission & no longer- Yourselfe & Genl. Lafayette do not seem exactly to agree, but as the Gen. in Law would be Adjudged the most disinterested Witness of course, the weight of testimony would be against you; On the whole, I think you may as well let the General be credited in full & drop the argument, & I have a long time known that we are as much Bound to disbelieve your Sex in Some things as to believe them in Others.

Geo. Sibley has gone again about the Road, I think he is taking too much trouble about that Road, for when Red River shall be opened for Steam Boats, that will be the Channel of Commerce to New Mexico.- You mention the Garrison at Council Bluff being mov'd lower down near the State line I have a very imperfect Idea of the Relative position of places on the Missouri. I do not know where the State line is, how far your place is from old Fort Osage, or

how far above the Council Bluff is.- What you mention relative to the Trade of New Mexico, the Road, but more particularly the Story of the poor Spanishette (?) excites sympathy. how Mortified must have been those humane American Officers at the failure of their efforts to save her; but their interference was the cause of changing the mode of her Death from one the most Cruel & Barbarous for one Sudden, unexpected & of Short Suffering, which may in part compensate them for their efforts for her. I am pretty well Acquainted with the Pawee Character having once been the agent for four hords from that Nation.- I have wished for some Months to enquire of G. Sibley If he ever had any knowledge of a Certain Doctor Hunter the Author of a Book published in 1823 in Philad^a. The Same man was murdered by the Cherokee Indians who now live in the Province of Texas. Many People here believe he was an imposter. If he had lived amongst the Kansas & Osages as he asserts G. Sibley must have known something about him.

There was here a few Weeks ago a Col. Adram who tol^d me he was well acquainted with G. Sibley, & said he saw him Somewhere on the Missouri last Spring, that he was in good health &-- Judge Johnston was here about a Month ago, he spoke kindly of you, he left his Family in Washington made a short Stay in Louissiana, hurried Back to Washington- Mr. Lee the husband of Eliza was directed by the War department to Lay out & Mark a Road from this place to Cantonment Fousin about three hundred Miles above this place on Red River, at Kiomitchee, he has been out near two Months. is expected home in a Short time, his wife being somewhat advanced in a Certain way, her Mother & Ann are Staying with her, till Lee Returns. On the 4th of July the officers at Cantonment Jessup made a splendid entertainment

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Dinner & Ball, a Large party went out from Natchitoches distance 24 miles. a Slight indisposition prevented my Going. or Attending Any of the parties in Town.- Our Summer thus far has been unusually Warm; the H in my Thermometer Suspended in my Large Hall on one of the arches has Several days been above 95 & we have had a severe drought, materially injuring Our Corn Crops. we are unusually healthy-

You seem to speak somehow equivocally about Visiting us the ensuing fall, we do not intend to let you off, but you will have to redeem your pledge. I have heard of G. Sibley's letter to Margret Sibley, but not seen it he proposes taking little Henry; I have not seen his Mother, I shall advise her to give him up, he is an Amiable boy & apt to Learn; but Henry Sibley his Uncle must be Consulted on the Subject, I dont know how he can be got to Missouri. he can well enough go to Louisville on Cincinnati.

As I intend writing you again soon I shall at this time Only Add, that all my family Send you thier best wishes long very much to see you, but none of them more than

Yours Most Aeffectionate

Father

John Sibley.

Mrs. Mary Sibley.