

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

Mexican Road Commission (1825-1827)

George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers

7-1827

Survey Notes

George Champlin Sibley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/santafe>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sibley, George Champlin, "Survey Notes" (1827). *Mexican Road Commission (1825-1827)*. 12.
<https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/santafe/12>

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers at Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mexican Road Commission (1825-1827) by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Lindenwood University. For more information, please contact phuffman@lindenwood.edu.

The following Notes are the results of the Surveys made by G. C. Sibley in May June, and July 1827 to correct the old survey and straighten and complete the marking of, the Road to N. Mexico--They commence at the western boundary of the State of Missouri and end claims beyond a famous spring on the Road called "The Diamond of the Plains"--These notes are to be substituted for those in Mr. Brown's field Book, embraced within the Red ink brackets see Pages 10 60 30.

Distances

Courses	Miles	Ch.	Lk.	REMARKS
See Page 10 M. Browns field Book the last course but one is So72 W 1 Mile & 1 ch. instead of which say So86 W 1 Mile, to a very large mound No 1 on the state line and exactly nine miles south of the Missouri River from the mound No 1 the corrected survey proceeds as follows.				
So 84	W	2	7	50 To a large mound No 2 with a post in it, on a high ridge, the road winds a little.
So 73	W	2	14	" To a large mound No 4 passing a smaller mound-No 4 has a tree in it and is S 32 degrees., 46 1/2 chs. from "sappling Grove" where there is an excellent fountain spring & a very good place to camp.
So 65	W	1	63	50 To mound No 5 the Road runs a little round on the high ridge
So 45	W	1	67	50 To mound No 6 on a high Ridge
So 47	W	1	43	50 To the ford of "Flat Rock" Creek 30 Lks. runs southward into Big Blue the ford is very good--Water good--just at and below the ford are good camping places. Wood plenty for shade and fuel--from the state line to this creek the land is generally good, and the country extensively beautiful.--Road very good
So 47	W	1	62	50 To a large mound No 7 near the old Road on a high Ridge--
So 27	W	1	20	50 To a large mound No 8 on a high Ridge from which small groves of timber are seen in all directions from 2 to 4 miles off.
So 46	W	2	45	50 To mound No 9 on a high ridge this course crosses the old road twice.
So 38	W	2	45	50 To a large mound No 10.
So 50	W	1	13	50 To a small mound No 11.
So 60	W	1	73	50 To another mound No. 12.
So 67	W	1	18	50 To Caravan Cr. 30 Lks. runs North to Kansas R.--At this place called "Caravan Grove" is excellent camping ground--Water Wood and pasture plenty and good.
So 67	W	1	56	50 To a mound No 13--Prairie very rich
So 60	W	1	20	50 To a large mound No 14. Standing on a very high ridge.
So 56	W	2	75	50 To a very large mound No 15 near the old Road--From "Caravan Creek" to this mound the road is good--Prairie generally very rich and pretty--At this point the Road by way of "The Blue Spring" and that by Independence, meet--That by Independence is the best way and is the nearest by 7 miles as ascertained satisfactorily by G. C. S.
So 72	W	1	65	50 Leaving the Old Road a little on the North.
No 75	W	1	26	50 The old road runs a little south of this course
So 80	W	1	35	50 Near the old Road, which is crooked there.
No 84	W	1	50	50 The old Road Crossed several times in this course.
So 77	W	1	52	50 Road necessarily very crooked here.
So 84	W	1	34	50 Leaving the old Road or the North
So 61	W	1	44	50 To a large mound No 16 standing near the Road
No 75	W	1	49	50 To a mound No 17 or a Ridge leaving the old Road at mound No 16 to cut off the great bend at the "narrow divide"
No 69	W	1	26	50 To small mound No 18 near the edge of the Prairie
So 75	W	1	31	50 To the ford of Hungry Creek Cr. small runs northward into Kansas River afford some pretty groves good land & water the ford is pretty good.-

Courses	Miles	Ch.	Lks.	
So. 55 W	1	19	50	To a small mound No 19 in the Prairie--Prairie very rich
So 52 W	1	23	50	To a small mound No 20.
So 61 W	1	35	50	To a large mound No 21 standing on a high ridge
So 75 W	1	32	50	To a small mound No 22.
No 88 W	1	20	50	To the ford of "Dove Creek" at the Four Oaks--this creek is small and bears northward to a Branch of Kansas River--water food, land rich some timber
Forward.		31		
So 70 W	31	7	50	To a small mound No 23 - Prairie very rich
So 50 W	31	31	50	To a large mound No 24 on a high ridge.
So 80 W	31	31	50	To a mound No 25.
So 88 W	31	23	50	To ford of "Gooseberry Creek" 25 Lks runs northward to Kansas River this Cr. affords good water pasture and wood plenty and pretty good camping ground.--
So 87 W	31	32	50	To a mound in the Prairie No 26 - Land good.
So 88 W	31	22	50	To a mount No 27.
West	31	32	50	To a mound N 28 at edge of P rairie on a high Ridge.
No 55 W	31	11	50	
No 35 W	31	4	50	
No 30 W	31	8	50	This opens woods on a high dry Poor white Oak Ridge the Road is very good for the most part quite as good as the old Road. At the ford of Grindstone Cr. are good camping places. The ford is good or can easily be made so by throwing in a little creek.
So 82 W	31	6	50	
So 88 W	31	6	50	
So 42 W	31	8	50	
So 74 W	31	2	50	
So 30 W	31	7	50	
So 30 W	31	2	50	
So 88 W	31	3	50	
So 49 W	31	5	50	
So 88 W	31	3	50	
No 35 W	31	3	50	
No 70 W	31	7	50	
So 55 W	31	5	50	
So 66 W	31	6	50	To the edge of the prairie
So 73 W	31	38	50	To edge of the Woods to a mount No 29 near the Old Road.
No 83 W	31	41	50	To a large mound No 30 crossing in Muddy Hollow.
No 89 W	31	66	50	To the ford of Little Creek off Cr. 15 Lks been southward ford good-wood and water plenty.
No 89 W	31	35	50	To a mount No 31 on a high ridge--the road somewhat crooked here
No 88 W	31	55	50	To a large mound No 32, Prairie Rough road not very good tho not bad.
No 85 W	31	75	50	To a large mound No 33--road crooks a little to avoid some hollow
No 69 W	31	24	50	To the edge of the Prairie--Land very good.
No 40 W	31	6	50	To the ford of Big Cut off Creek thro open woods- this is a pretty Creek 30 Lks; runs southward to the M. D Cyrne affords good water plenty of timber and good camping places at the ford--the ford and banks are good.
No 70 W	31	40	50	To a mound No 34
So 73 W	31	77	50	To a mound No 35 the Road must go a little more north to avoid a deep hollow.
So 85 W	31	75	50	To a large mound No 36 over good ground
No 82 W	31	12	50	To a small branch of Big Cut off very little timber on it.
No 82 W	31	55	50	To a mound No 37
So 88 W	31	33	50	To a large mound No 38 Prairie rich and level.
So 88 W	5	4	50	To a mound No 43 standing on a very high Moundlike Hill at the old Road--On this course pass four other guide mounds nearly in line- From the mound No 43 the view is extensive embracing some groves of timber on Creek of Kansas River and M to Cygue over and two miles off where camps may be had.

Courses		Distances.			REMARKS
		Miles	Ch.	Lk.	
So.	82 W.	3	8	50	To a Mound No 44 on a high ridge--crossing a large valley in which is a small creek--The old road crosses this Cr. 2 miles 15 Chs. from No 43, but this course leaves that road on the right passing over better ground and nearly heading the Cr.
So.	82 W.	2	56	50	To a mound No 45 on a high ridge--Prairie very high and generally level.
No	68 W.	1	6	50	To a mound No 46 on the old road.
No	70 W.	1	71	50	To a mound No 47 on high ridge--Prairie more broken and not so rich.
Forward		58	11	50	
No.	88W.	1	47	50	To a large mound No 48 on a high ridge crossing some small hollows not bad.
So.	64 W.	1	36	50	To a large mound No 49 on a high ridge--the ground good.
So.	82 W.	1	56	50	To a mound No 50 near a large nob hill from this point can be seen distinctly the large mound No 52, west of the creek.
So.	49 W.		60	50	To the ford of Oak Creek 50 lks. being S. E. and is a Br. of M. D. Cyzne--This creeks affords good water and plenty of flood.--there are some pretty groves on it. Land good. It is by this survey 63 miles and 51 ch from the western boundary of Missouri at the mound Nos. to this creek and 94 51/80 Nos. from Ft. Osage-- Agreeably to the first survey the distances are from Ft. Osage 111 miles from the state line 80 miles so that the Road thus far is straightened say 16 miles and otherwise improved.
No.	68 W.	1	9	50	
So.	70 W.	1	11	50	To edge of Prairie
No.	73 W.	1	15	50	
So.	71 W.	1	64	50	
So.	82 W	1	26	50	
No.	76 W.	1	6	50	
So	88 W.	1	78	50	
So.	71 W.	1	58	50	
So.	80 W.	2	23	50	
So.	55 W.	2	55	50	
So.	79 W.	2	10	50	
So.	W.	2	17	50	To Bridge Cr." 100 Lks sum S. E. to M. to .
So.	87 W.	2	76	50	To a large mound No 54 on the Hill near the old Road.
No.	89 W.	1	9	50	Prairie poorer to a large mound No 55 leaving the old Road altogether on the right which is very crooked and runs on broken ground passing some bad gullies.
No	83 W.	1	48	50	To a mound No 56 near a high nob.
No.	89 W	1	23	50	To a mound No 57 near the edge of the prairie
So.	62 W.	1	4	50	Thro the woods.
So.	17 W	1	6	50	To the ford of "Muscle Creek" this is a pretty Branch of M D. Cyzne affords plenty of good water--plenty of timber and good land ford good--good camping place.
So.	34 W.	1	12	50	To the edge of the Prairie
So.	83 W	1	15	50	To a small mound No 58 prairie very rich and level.
So.	83 W.	1	8	50	To a large mound No 59 on a high ridge.
So.	80 W.	1	30	50	To a mound No 60 prairie still rich.
So.	80 W	1	18	50	To a small mound No 61 on a ridge.
No.	84 W	1	20	50	To a large mound No 62

Courses	Distances.			Remarks.
	Miles	Ch.	Lk.	
No. 84 W.	1	35	50	To the ford of waggon creek 50 lks being S. E. here the old survey crosses.
So. 84 W.	1	35	50	To a large mound No 63 over good ground
So. 82 W.	1	52	50	To a mound No 64 over very good ground
So 78½ W.	1	11	50	To a mound No 65 on a high ridge-crosses a hollow and same rough ground.
So. 77 W.	1	5	50	To the ford of Murder Cr. 20 Lks. runs south ford good old survey crosses here.
Distance	1	17	50	
So. 58 W.	1	10	50	
So. 24 W.	1	4	50	at 3 chs. cross Willow Cr. 40 Lks bears South.
No. 81 W.	1	18	50	These notes copied from Mr. Brown's Book page 20.
So. 83 W.	1	19	50	
So. 68 W.	1	17	50	
So. 56 W.	1	39	50	
So. 30 W.	1	71	50	
So. 36 W.	1	31	50	
Forward	86	58	50	
So. 31 E.	86	3	50	Cross Elm Cr. at 1½ ch. Lks runs S. E.
So. 40 W.	1	2	50	
So. 81 W.	14	14	50	
So. 81 W.	1	10	50	
No. 62 W.	1	7	50	
So. 80 W.	1	21	50	
So. 65 W.	1	16	50	
So. 59 W.	1	33	50	No alterations being practicable or none attempted on these notes copied from Mr. Brown's Book P 26, 28, 30
So. 65 W.	1	18	50	
So. 78 W.	1	45	50	
So. 26½ W.	1	29	50	
So. 64 W.	1	20	50	
So. 75 W.	1	11	60	
So. 24 W.	1	4	60	Elk Cr. 40 lks being S.
No. 80 W.	1	3	60	
No. 71 W.	1	25	60	
So. 57 W.	1	10	60	
So. 72 W.	1	38	60	
No. 87 W.	1	49	60	
So. 78 W.	1	48	60	
So. 71 W.	1	12	60	top of dividing ridges.
No. 88 W.	1	20	60	to a mound No 66
So. 87 W.	1	2	50	To mound No 67
So. 82 W.	1	42	50	to top of hill and cross road.
So. 86 W.	1	45	50	To mound No 68 on the old road
No. 89 W.	1	30	50	To ford of Hycory Cr.
No. 89 W.	1	37	50	To mound No 69
No. 89 W.	1	18	50	To mound No. 70.
West	1	36	50	To mound No. 71 on the old Road
So. 80 W.	1	75	50	To old Road on the right
West	1	39	50	To a mound No 72.
West		20		
So. 62 W.	1	42	50	
So. 25 W.		11	50	At 7 chs. crossed Rock Cr. 50 lks bears south.
So. 75 W.	1	32	50	

Courses	Distances.			REMARKS
	Miles	Ch.	Lk.	
So. 88 W.	1	41	50	These notes copied from Mr. Brown's note book Pages 30 and 32
So. 50 W.	1	20	50	
No. 80 W.	1	25	50	
No. 82½ W.	1	41	50	
No. 75 W.	1	71	50	
So. 75 W.	1	26	50	
So. 77 W.	1	12	50	
So. 67 W.	1	76	50	
So. 76 W.	1	9	50	
South	1	2	50	To gravel Cr. 30 Lks runs South.
Forward	106		69	At 12½ chs. No 20 E. from this ford, near the Old Road is a fine fountain spring and good camping ground the road necessarily very crooked before arriving at the ford in consequence of a very steep Hill which is best passed round the southern point--Gravel Creek affords some good land and some pretty groves of wood--the ford very good water good.

Courses	Distances.			Remarks
	Mi.	Ch.	Lk.	
Forward	106		60	
No. 83 W.	106	44	50	To Mound No 73 on high ridge prairie poor and stoney
No. 88 W.	106	37	50	To mound no 74 on the hill
West	106	24	50	To mound no 75 at spring at foot of the ridge
So. 71 W.	106	40	50	Thro rich bottom prairie at Council Groves
So. 65 W.	106	20	50	Thro rich woodland to the Neosho Creek 50 lks. run south
No. 87 W.	106	70	50	Partly thro rich bottom prairie partly up a poor stoney ridge
No. 76 W.	1	10	50	To the top of high ridge at mound No. 70 near the old Road.
No. 42 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	22	50	
No. 27 W.	1	21	50	
So. 77 W.	1	33	50	
So. 57 W.	1	47	50	
So. 67 W.	1	37	50	
So. 48 W.	1	20	50	
So. 43 W.	1	33	50	
So. 62 W.	3	02	50	
So. 87 W.	3	15	50	
So. 63 W.	3	16	50	
So. 85 W.	1	51	50	
No. 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ W.	1	60	50	
So. 80 W.	1	61	50	
West		44	50	
So. 78 W.	1	44	50	
No. 85 W.	1	58	50	
West	1	22	50	To mound No. 77
So. 83 W.	1	65	50	To the diamond of the Plains a remarkably fine fountain of excellent water.
So. 83 W.	1	40	50	To mound No 78
No. 76 W.	1	27	50	To mound No 79 at the old Road.