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8-15-1811

Letter from George Sibley to William Clark, August 15, 1811

George Champlin Sibley

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Fort Osage August 15th. 1811.

D^r. Sir,

Your two favors of 30th. and 31^t. Ult^o. were duly handed me by Mr. Rawlings- they found me Severely afflicted with a fever, from which I am now thank God fast recovering-

I have Received directions from Gen^l. Mason to furnish to your order the Goods for the Osage Annuity for the year 1810; which I Suppose you have arranged to deliver thro' Mr. Chouteau at the Same time he delivers that for 1811-.

I have heard nothing from the Osages Since I wrote you last, except that the Big Osage had all Returned to their Towns, & had Seized on a parcel of Merchandise left there by young Mr. Chouteau- Whether this Story be true or false I will not undertake to Say- I am inclined to believe that the payment of these two annuities at this time, will Silence all objections the Osages may have had against the Treaty. It will give them a very handsome Supply and will no doubt give them the utmost Satisfaction.

I hope Mr. Chouteau will not fail to meet the Osages here before the middle of Sep^t. at farthest, I have particular Reasons for wishing the annuities delivered by that time, it will hasten their departure for the Hunt and operate very much in their favor, and will put an end I hope to all doubts on the Subject of the Treaty- If they are obliged to leave the Hunt to come in for their annuities they cannot bring their families- and many of the poorest among them will not be at all benefitted by the Ann^{ty}.

The Ann^{ty}. ought to be delivered to the whole Tribe Men, Women and Children, and then they will all be benefitted- If it is delivered only to the principal Men, the distribution will be partial and unsatisfactory to the bulk of the Indians- I confidently expect Mr. Chouteau here very Soon now, and am beginning to look out for the Osages-

I Shall be at St^t. Louis in October next if I am Spared 'till then- It will be impossible for me to go down Sooner I hear- I Shall then have the pleasure to give you a full and Satisfactory explanation of the calumnious charges alluded to in one of your Letters- Having #ver felt disposed to invite a Scrutiny of my conduct as a public Agent, I rejoice at the present opp^{ty}. of proving how Zealously I have labored for the public good- I can now claim the meed of praise without the fear of being charged with vanity.-

Enclosed is a Letter for D^r. Robinson, which I have to Request the favor of you to have forwarded to Kaskaskia immediately by Mail.-

You will excuse me I am Sure for Refering you to the two Patroons of the Boats that were detained by the Osages- their names are I believe Joseph Rubddoux & ^{Francis} Francis Dorea, they are now in St^t. Louis most probably, but will have left there on Some trading expedition before I can go down, therefore I Shall lose the benefit of their testimony relative to the exertions I made to pass them by the Osages (which it is almost impossible they can be ignorant of) unless you will have the goodness to examine them- at any Rate, I Suppose Some of their Boatmen may be found in St^t. Louis, whose testimony may be Relied on-

Indisposition has prevented my completing a Report (which I have commenced) of my late tour to the Indian Country- I Shall exert myself to Send it you by Mr. Chouteau- It will embrace the best description I am able to give of the famous Salines beyond the Arkansaw and a brief account of the Indians I Saw, and probably a Rough Sketch of my Route- I Should be unwilling for the hasty and perhaps imperfect Sketch I gave you of the Grand Saline to meet the public eye- when I have revised my Journal and drawn therefrom Such an account of those Salines as will Satisfy myself, then I Shall have no objection to Shew it to the Public-

I remain Sir with Sincere Regard

Y^r. Ob^t. ^{S^t} H. Servant

Gen^l. W^m. Clark
St^t. Louis

G. S. Sibley