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Basil Brusierre Deposition to George Sibley on the Kanza Tribe, September 5, 1817

George Champlin Sibley
Howard County, Missouri Territory

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(Sept 5, 1817)

Territory of Missouri

Howard County

Personally appeared before me George C. Sibley a Justice of the Peace for Said County, Basil Brusierre, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, Depoeth and Saith, That being the principal of a party of Hunters in the employ of Mess^{rs}. Demun & Chouteau, traveling from the Mountens beyond the Arkansaw to St. Louis, did in their route on the twenty first day of August last past near sunset, meet with a Band of the Kansas Indians consisting of about eighty or ninety Men who were encamped on the Bank of the Arkansaw, about thirty miles above the little Arkansaw, with their families among whom were Head Chief of the Nation and his eldest son.- The Indians met our party just before we reached the Camp, they rushed upon us and attempted to drive our Horses with their loads off into the Prairie, but by the great exertion of the Young Chief and a few of his men they were prevented- The Horses were driven back and the Indians suffered us to camp near them; Saying that in the morning they would swap Some Horses with us if any of ours suited them.- Apprehending from their conduct that the Indians intended to steal our Horses at night, and wishing to interest the Chiefs and Head men in our behalf; we presented them with five of our horses.

On the morning following after we had collected and watered our Horses and were preparing to start, The Indians again rushed upon us, seized several of our Horses, rode them about as if to try them, Some they rode off and hid them, and brought some of their own in lieu of them- in this Manner they detained us for about two hours; we all the

time Hurrying to load and start as soon as possible, assisted and hastened by the Head Chief and his son; who exerted themselves very much to prevent the other Indians from taking our horses, but in spite of their and our exertions, they succeeded in robbing us of twenty two horses; for which they gave us by way of compensation nineteen of their the Horses that they thus took from us by violence were good sound ones those that they gave to us were all very bad ones, some blind, some very poor and some were mere colts; and this deponent further says that the said Indians pursued them after they started and robbed us of two more of our horses, and he further swears that the said Indians took from them by force one Brass Kettle of 5 Gallons, three Saddles, three Spanish Blankets, 1 Robe- one Hatchet, the half of a leather lodge- and they took from one of the party a good Fusil giving him in exchange for it an old worn out rifle- The Deponent swears that, except in the things above stated, the said Indians treated him and his party with very great kindness and hospitality.- Deponent further states, that, on the twenty fifth day of the same month of August last, while pursuing their journey, they fell in with a party of the little Osages consisting of about eighteen or twenty Men, apparently on a war party or excursion; they rushed upon our party suddenly and tried to scatter and sieze our horses, but we were able to keep them together and prevent their taking any of them- they then invited us to approach their Camp and when we got there persuaded us to unload our horses and stay with them all night offering to give us plenty to eat; but this we thought proper to decline, and were about to proceed when they rushed on us again and succeeded in robbing us of four horses: this scuffle over, we set off, and when we had got about two Hundred yards from them, two guns were fired at us from among them, one of the bullets

passed among our party: but we pursued our route pretty rapidly pursued by said Osages for about nine miles when we lost sight of them. In this chase three of our horses gave out and we were obliged to leave them on the road- This Deponent further swears that on the night of the Thirtieth of the same month of August they lost six more of their horses, which he verily believes were stolen by the above mentioned party of little Osages.

And further the Deponent Saith not

his
Basil ~~x~~ Brusierre
mk.

Sworn to and subscribed before
me at F Osage on the fifth day of September 1817

G. C. Sibley J: P:

Howard Cty

The Son of the grand Chief of the Kansas being present at the above examination of Basil Brusierre, and having had the above Deposition fully explained to him as far as it relates to his nation, acknowledges the facts set forth there in to be just and true.

G. C. Sibley

Sub. Ag^t. Indⁿ Affairs