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5-3-1819

## Letter from John O'Fallon to George Sibley, May 3, 1819

John O'Fallon

*St. Louis*

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George C. Sibley Esqr  
Fort Osage

Capt. Jno. O'Fallon  
St. Louis, 3rd May 1819

St. Louis 3rd May, 1819

My dear Sir,

I returned to this place from Ky about two week since where I purchased the principal of my goods they in part arrived a few days since and the residue are in Col Johnsons Steam Boats; three of them I expect in the course of ten days they were at Louisville on the 23rd ulto. I am apprehensive the Riflemen will not set out from here earlier than the 1st of June next- the movements of my Boat must be necessarily regulated by that of the Troops.

It is contemplated by the Secy of War to establish on the Missouri 3 Posts the 1st at Council Bluffs the 2nd at or near the Mandans and at the mouth of the Yellow Stone where all the Riflemen are destined- The 6th Infy estimated at 600 men will garrison the interior Posts on the Missouri- These last will not probably reach here in time to encounter the water of the Missouri sooner than the 1st of July next- Then Col Atkinson will relieve Genl. Bissell in the command of this Dept. in conformity to an order the Genl. has received-

Col Johnson has engaged with the Govt. to transport the Troops, rations & stores to their respective destinations on the Mississippi and Missouri indSteam Boats for which purpose he designs having three on the Missouri and one on the Mississippi- The Secy. does not now expect the Troops getting higher than about the Bid Bend this year- Col Johnson is not, I find a practical man in business, his enterprizing disposition prevents his continuing in any one pursuit, sufficiently long, to acquire experience- his notions and plans are entirely visionary, a circumstance, I am apprehensive that will prove his ultimate ruin

Major Long, with a small Steam Boat, when loaded, carrying 24 inches water, is expected here by the 10th Inst., will stay only a few days and proceed up the Missouri with Major Biddle of the Artillery, some Scientific gentlemen, and my Brother, who has been appointed Agent on the Missouri with a Salary of 1800-

Your ideas with regards to the Officers and Troops mingling and associating with the Indians, as was suggested to me, is approved of the Secretary of War, and he states that orders should be accordingly given-

I have received assurances from the Secretary that I shall experience no more difficulties with the Officers and my hands. A civil officer could not be appointed but Special instructions would be given- he has ordered the conduct of Capt Martin to be investigated with regards to Boadwine-(Mum)

As soon as the Troops set out from here I will take my departure by land for Martin Cantonments- Capt Gault departed this life about ten days since-

Some of your neighbors offered to furnish me with Pork at 19 dollars per Barrel if they still have pork for Sale I will take of them 8 or ten barrels at that price; of which however I should like to be informed previous to the departure of my boat from here-

Be pleased to present me with the greatest esteem to Mrs. Sibley and believe me

Yours Sincerely

Jno. O'Fallon

George C. Sibley Esqr  
Fort Osage

Sibley Mss. V. III  
Missouri Historical Society