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Letter from George Sibley to George Graham, July 28, 1824

George Champlin Sibley Fort Osage

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Ind. Office O. L. File George C. Sibley to George Graham July 28, 1824. Fort Osage.

Sir,

I had the honour to write you a few hasty lines on the 12th Inst. to which I beg leave to refer you-Your favor of the 20th April was Recd by the last Mail. By the Mail before that I Recd. advice from Mr. Fuller of your refusal to pay my Dft: in his favour for \$<u>420</u>, out of the Balance due me for Services and Cash advances as exhibited in my Accts the Rect of which your letter of 20th Apr. acknowledges-

On the Subject of the Dft: it will be Sufficient for me to Say, that I drew it with the full knowledge and perfect recollection, that I was indebted to the U: S: in a larger Sum by far than the Balance due me upon my Public Agency Accts. would cover- But I felt Satisfied that, all things considered, there would be no impropriety in the Dft: and that you would pay it agreeably to my request- The Money for which I drew, was to replace a Sum borrowed here for our current expences of Trade- I might have Retained and Sold Mr. Baillio's Exchange for \$691.32 but that was a larger Sum than I Required, and I wished every Dollar that I could controul to go to the credit of my Note- I considered it unnecessary to trouble you with these explanations at the time I drew my Dft + The then, Recent and very Severe disappointment I had experienced from the unjust Protest of my Dft: for \$675, made me think that I was entitled to this trifling favour (if favour it could be called)- The Debt due to Govt for Goods purchased from Mr. Blunt, was in fact due by "Paul Baillio& Co." - The Sum due me upon my Agency Acct was Separate & distinct from the business of that Firm; it was the Private Property of G. C. Sibley; and I certainly thought that I might dispose of it as I thought proper, having a due regard to my obligations here and at Washington- \$420 of the Money I needed to pay current expences of carrying on the Indian Trade, to enable the Firm to meet their and my engagements at Washington- the Balance I applied to the payment, in part, of my Note- I may be wrong, but I cannot but think Sir, that upon fair and ingenuous commercial, or rather Mercantile principles, my Dft: to Mr. Fuller was correct, and ought to have been paid.

Your letter of 20. Apr. also advises me of the Rejection of the item charged in my Acct for Damage, cost of Protest &c. (\$94.80) charged upon my Dft: of 30th June 1822 for \$675_.- The fact that the Sum I then drew for was actually due me from the government, was Surely a good and Sufficient warrant for my Dft: and as it was no fault of mine that this fact was not apparent upon the Books of the Indian Office, at the time my Dft: appeared, and long before; I ought not in justice to be made to suffer this loss- Your circular in relation to allowance of Salary and prohibiting Dfts: on you, Refered to in your last, as one of the Reasons for refusing my Dft: was not written 'till the 12th of Sept: upwards of Two Months after my Dft: was drawn, and long after I had Sold it to Mr. Hood.-

Upon the Subject of my last (of the 12th Inst.) I have nothing further to add at this time- I look for Mr. Boggs from below every day, and expect to See or hear from Mr. Baillio very soon after he reaches his destination on the Osage River; in which he is much delayed I learn, by excessive high water-It is my intention Sir, to lay before you as soon as possible, sufficient evidence of the Security of the Debt we owe the U: S; and I Shall exert myself personally for the future, to collect the means to discharge it, as quick as possible; in which exertion Mr. Baillio & Mr. Boggs, will I am Sure, cooperate with the utmost zeal and industry.-

I remain very Respectfully

Yr. Mo. Obt. Svt.

G. C. Sibley