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3-16-1825

Letter from James Barbour to Benjamin Reeves, George Sibley, Pierre Menard, March 16, 1825

James Barbour
Secretary of War

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(No 2.)

Department of War,
16th. March 1825

Gentlemen,

The two fold duties which are assigned to you, of treating with Indian Tribes, and making as road from the boundary line of the United States to the frontier of Mexico, will acquire to be kept distinct in your disbursements, in carrying each into effect, with the view of confining to the two branches of this Department the correspondence and the accounts relating to each; to that of the Engineer Department those which relate to a survey the execution of this branch of your trust; and to the Office of Indian Affairs those, which relate to Treaties with the Indian Tribes, and the disbursement of the appropriation made by Congress for this object.

The sum of few thousand dollars is appropriated to defray the expenses of surveying and marking the road. Your disbursements, under this head of appropriation will embrace your own pay as Commissioners, which is fixed, for this branch of your service, at five dollars, each, per day, whilst actually engaged in surveying and marking the road, & for the pay for a surveyor, chain carriers, markers, and Hunters + all other necessary expenses.

The appropriation is in no event to be exceeded.

The object of the Act of Congress is specific, no instructions, in detail, are necessary, therefore to be given – except in making your report in full, in your field notes, and ___ of the road in which you will be full and explicit, in remarking upon the description of country through which you may pass; the Rivers and Creeks, which may cross it __.____. - The form of making up, and vouching your accounts, will be the same as is directed to be observed in my letter of this date relating to the Treaties which you may enter into with the Tribes thro' whose country the road may pass.

Your compensation, as Commissioners, will be, as you are informed, three dollars, each, and five dollars, per day, for your Secretary, whilst actually engaged in Treating with the Indians; and five dollars a day for each Commissioner, whilst actually engaged in surveying and marking the road.

It is in the meaning of these instructions to allow you a compensation, of Eight dollars a day, each, whilst engaged in the two-fold duties assigned to you, five dollars a day for a Secretary whilst engaged in Treating with the Indians.

There is no compensation for a Secretary provided for in the estimate upon which the appropriation is made for surveying and marking the road.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Very Respectfully
Yr Obt. Sr.
James Barbour

To

Benjamin H. Reeves
George C. Sibley
Pierre Menard

Note July 30. 1825 – Colonel Menard having declined the appointment of Commissioner, the President of the United States appointed Colonel Thomas Mather of Illinois in his stead –

[The name “Mather” may also possibly be read as “Nathan.” I chose “Mather” because that was what the name seemed to be in most of the other letters.]