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4-1-1827

## Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, April 1, 1827

Benjamin H. Reeves

*Fayette, Missouri*

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3 pp

ALS B.H. Reeves, Fayette

To: George C. Sibley, Fort Osage, Mo.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ulto. came safely to hand, but not in time for me to answer by the return mail.

I feel very grateful to you for your willingness to release me from the road service in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Reeves and in all the sincerity of my nature thank you for that friendly aid you so kindly \_\_\_ in rendering over camp etc. as comfortable as possible if she was inclined to take a journey of that kind moved add much to the restoration of Mrs. Reeves health is she was able to perform it, but I much fear that she would not be able to undergo the fatigue \_\_\_ encountered in a trip of that kind.

The article you mention I will have forwarded to you by the first of May if possible, together with the mules & three hands. Your proposition as relates to the wagon, hunter, laborers, etc. is as small an outfit in that particular as you can well do with, but I presume will be sufficient.

I have not as yet collected in the public mules. There is I believe twenty one or twenty two of them altogether alive at this time and out of that number two at least will not I think be fit for service. One a grey mule rode by Henry Cooper which we got from the Osage Indians & one of the beckmat mules as we called them. Both of those animals is lame & has been so ever since Col. Mather & myself returned from the road. Which I expected would soon be well but they both continue to be disabled & by some said to be with what is commonly called the Swinney. I will see them for the best price that can be had. Seventeen of the best mules I will forward to you & to you & the [page cut off] balance I will dispose of. I will adjust [page cut off] compass. I apprehend some difficulty in procuring [page cut off] will use my best effort to get one. Either by loan, hire, or purchase. I have heard of one in the extreme of the county that I have some hopes of getting. Will go a day or two & know certainly whether it can be had or not. If I fail there I know not where I can succeed. Unless Mr. Brown is applied to for his.

Very sincerely yours,

B. H. Reeves

I will write you by next mail \_\_\_ which time I will now more certainly whether I can procure a compass chain etc.