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Letter from George Sibley to Benjamin Reeves & Thomas Mather, February 7, 1826

George Champlin Sibley
Santa Fe, New Mexico

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Santa Fee, New Mexico

7th February 1826

___ . ___ . B. H. Reeves

Thomas Mather

Commissioners and

Gentlemen,

I have deemed it expedient for many good and obvious reason (not necessary here to enumerate) to send six of the men who accompanied me here, back to Missouri, so as to arrive there some weeks before you will be ready to let out on your journey hither. Cap. Brannin Barbour, Pylar Walker, Vaughin, and Reynolds, have been notified to prepare themselves for the journey immediately; and I shall go up to ___ in a few days for the purpose of starting them off on the 15th, ___, which is the day set for their departure. I trust you by this party a number of good serviceable mules, which I am sure you will find of great use in your journey out, either to draw wagons or to pack. I do not know yet exactly the number I shall land, but I will enclose you from ___, a list of them, and of the other Public Property Land in with them. Nine of these mules I have purchased from Mr. Boggs and Dempsey for three of our wagons that are now in Missouri for further particulars concerning this arrangement I beg to refer you to my letters and folders of this date that will be presented you by those Gentlemen. I have bought three other mules from John ___ to whom I gave my ___ on Mr. Hood for \$100, as already advised.

In consideration of their performing the present journey to Missouri, I have promised the men that they shall be retained in service until the completion of the road, if they desire it. Or, in other words, that they shall not lose their places in consequence of their now going in to Missouri, instead of

staying with the job here, as they all first expected to do. This promise, being as you will all over perceive, founded in fairness and justice, cannot I am sure, fail to receive your approbation and ready acquiesce.

Our principal motive for sending this party in now is to economize our expenses as much as possible, so that we may be able to keep fairly within the appropriation. This I am now fully persuaded may easily be done by your coming out with the men I now send in, without hiring another one, using mules instead of horses, and only bringing two of the wagons at most. Feeling as I do, very solicitous on this subject, I have made since I came here, a very close estimate (upon very good data, I know) of our probable offenses hereafter; from which I am pretty well satisfied, that the \$30,000 will suffice to complete our work according to the plan we commenced it on. Provided we expend no more than is absolutely necessary in the hire of men to bring you here in the spring. (And I am of opinion that the six I send in from here will be abundantly sufficient for that) and provided that we ___ no losses from Indian Robberies.

As I informed you before in my letters written in November, there can be no doubt but we can hire as many men here next summer, to strengthen our party, as we may want, on good terms. In this way we not only save the expense of men from Missouri here, but also that of the horses or mules for them to ride. I presume you will bring very few, if any of the horses with you. Those that I have here, I think will be as fit for service in July, as they were when started from Ft. Osage.

In the event of our funds being augmented by Congress, and further negotiations ordered with the ___ and Comanche and other Indians, a different arrangement will be proper I suppose; which must of course be made entirely by themselves. I only take on myself to suggest to you what I believe to be most proper, to avoid overrunning the original appropriation.

The enclosed list of necessaries to be brought out in the spring, is provided for, and well covered, in my estimates above referred to, and I hope you will not omit to bring them.

For further information, I refer you to Cap. Brannin, who is well acquainted with the State of our little affair here, and to letters that I shall probably have occasion to address from ___ to you.

Remain Gentlemen

With great respect,

Yr. Mst. Obt. Svt.

G. C. Sibley