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2-7-1826

## Letter from George Sibley to Benjamin Reeves, February 7, 1826

George Champlin Sibley  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico*

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Santa Fe, 7<sup>th</sup> Feby. 1826.

D. Sir.

Under cover with this, you will find Several Official Communications to you and Col: Mather in relation to the business of our Commission – I have to request you to communicate them to Col: M as Soon as convenient.

I Send you also a little Book, containing a Map of the road from Ft. Osage to Faur, which I think you will find useful and convenient on your journey – I do not think there can be any reasonable doubt but the Seniarow (?) Creek is a principal branch of the Grand Saline.

I am quite satisfied that our Road must cross the Arkansas a little above the South bend, at or near the old Caches, (?) and from thence Strike the Seniarow Some 10 or 15 miles below the Iowa Spring. I am assured that there are no Sand Hills to cross on that route, and that it is not more Scarce of water and fuel than the usual route by Chouteau's \_\_\_\_\_, which is probably full 30 miles farther round.

I am entirely of opinion now Sir, that we may complete this Road with the fund already at our disposal, that is to Say, upon the route already Surveyed and examined; making Such corrections as now obviously appear proper and Some further examination of the Semiarow, in doing which we may afford to occupy a Month if necessary. But to keep Safely within the \$30,000 it will be absolutely necessary to use economy in our expenses – By Sending you in, Six of my Men, + Some good Mules, and making Sale of three or four wagons for pretty good prices; I save nearly \$1000 of expense I believe – These Men having all traveled the whole route, are now much better qualified for our Service, than almost any other men, and I am Sure that you + Col: Mather cannot find any more Suitable for your Service on the journey out. I have no fault to find with any of them – Martin \_\_\_: Reynolds is, to be sure a little wild, but he is for all that, a good hand, and I would not like to exchange him for another – We Shall have \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ of use for Capt: Cooper at \$50 a Month. In fine Sir, it is my firm opinion, that no other Men than those I now Send in (or others in their stead if they decline the Service) ought to be brought out by you. If you come with the caravan, as I presume you will.

The mules I now Send you, with those you have in Missouri, will amply Suffice to bring you and your Men + Baggage Waggons out; So that all the Horses on hand had better be disposed of; except Such as you + Col: M: think proper to retain for your own Service – The Mules you bring out, with the Horses I have here, will be Sufficient to take us home. –

If the fund is increased, I shall then be in favour of exploring the country pretty thoroughly on the Canadian River, and if not objected to by this Govt. (which I presume it would not) endeavor to make Some arrangements with the Indians in this Territory to prevent their depredations on the Road – I have Suggested to the Governor here the propriety of establishing two Military Posts east of the Mountains for the purpose of giving protection to the Road \_\_\_; He is greatly in favour of the project, and has advised his Govt. to have it carried into effect; and I have little doubt but it will be done soon. If the mail arrives from Mexico before the Party Starts, I hope I may be able to let you know the result of my communication to Mr. Poinsett; for I ought to have an answer from him by the next Mail.

I am fairly longing to hear from Missouri; there \_\_\_ no telling how much I would give for a good \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ newspaper from there – not to Say any \_\_\_ ~~about~~ about Letters from Wife + friends – If you do not bring me out Such a budget; you need not look for any aid from me in an introduction to our Spanish Ladies here, against whom you may remember to have made certain threats. –

Capt. Brannin can give you in detail, quite as good an account of every thing worthy of notice here, as I can - and I beg to refer you to him –

Poor Ben. Robinson is dead. He Started the 27th of Nov. on a Trapping expedition, + Soon after, fell Sick and died. –

I Shall look for you early in July, and with the most restless anxiety – I think you had better enter the Settlements at Faur on many accounts – If you can Send two of your Men ahead to give me notice of your Approach, I can have Some preparations made for you, + Send you Some refreshments +. if you should want any. –

I remain Sir with  
great respect + esteem  
Yr. Mo. Obt. Sert.  
G. c. Sibley

B. H. Reeves Esq. .

[I have tried to be as consistent as possible but I can't be sure which spelling is correct so I believe that two different spellings, the two most probable, appear in these transcribed letters. Additionally, it is possible that "Faur" should be read as "Faus."]