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5-20-1826

## Letter from George Sibley to Benjamin Reeves & Thomas Mather, May 20, 1826

George Champlin Sibley  
*Valley of Taus, New Mexico*

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### Recommended Citation

Sibley, George Champlin, "Letter from George Sibley to Benjamin Reeves & Thomas Mather, May 20, 1826" (1826). *George Champlin Sibley Papers*. 125.

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Valley of Taus, in New Mexico, May 20<sup>th</sup> 1826

To Benjamin H. Reeves and

Thomas Mather Esqr.

U: S: Commissions +

Gentlemen,

I fully expected that I should by this time have been authorised to announce to you, the assent of the Mexican Government to the Survey and completion of the Road we have in hand, from the boundary of the U. States to this frontier But I am obliged to Suffer this \_\_\_\_ of writing you to pass without having it in my power to give you that very desirable intelligence – Very Soon after my arrival here last fall, I addressed a Letter to Mr. Poinsett on the Subject of the proposed road, to which I received his answer on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February last. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March I again wrote to him on the Same Subject, and Shall expect an answer from him definitively by the \_ of July at farthest. Enclosed you have copies of Mr. Poinsett's Letter to me, and my last to him.

As there cannot exist any good reason for protracting this affair beyond the present season, I am pretty well persuaded that the Government of Mexico will have Seen the absolute propriety of giving its consent to the proposed measure, when it was apprised by Mr. Poirisett and the Governor of this Territory, of the progress already made, \_\_\_\_ expenses already incurred, on the part of the U: States – There will be three Mails from Mexico to S<sup>ta</sup>. Fee before the \_\_ of July, to \_\_\_\_ one on the 28.<sup>th</sup> of this month, ~~and~~ one on the 13.<sup>th</sup> and another on the 28: of April – I Shall expect you to arrive here early in July; but as it is not very probable that we can Set out upon the journey homeward, Sooner than the 15<sup>th</sup>: there will still be another prospect of hearing from Mr: Poinsett by the Mail of the 13<sup>th</sup>, if it Should So happen that his Letter does not arrive Sooner Upon the whole after considering the Subject very maturely, I give it as my opinion, that the U.S. Commissioners ought to Meet here as early in July as practicable - and that they have good reasons to believe the assent of the Mexican Government will be communicated to them in time, to enable them to complete the Road before the Setting in of the next Winter – If It Should happen however, that the consent of this Government cannot be obtained and communicated to us here, in July. Then we can return to the boundary line; and complete that part of the Road which lies within the Territory of the U. States.

I am Still of opinion, that the first appropriation will enable The Commissioners to complete their work if they use proper economy, and meet with no Serious losses – I have come to this conclusion upon a very fair estimate upon good data. which Supposes that we Shall finish, on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> of November.

If you can Send an express to me, on your approach, to return to you before you enter the Mountains, it may possibly be in my power to Suggest to you Some arrangement, by which considerable expense maybe be Saved, and some time and labour also – Should you deem it expedient to send an Express, direct it to me here, and if you need any refreshments, let me know it, and I will endeavor to

Supply them – I shall be ready to Set out homeward at a moments warning - indeed I have already nearly completed every necessary preparation for the journey (as far as I can, before your arrival) which I am extremely anxious to commence. –

Hoping Soon to See you in good health, + to cheer you with full powers to enable us to progress with the Road to its completion, without further delay.

I remain with great respect

Yr. Mo: Obt: Sert:

G: c: Sibley

P.S: Should you Send an Express, I will thank you to forward by him any Letter +c. that you, or any of the company with you may have in charge for Mr. Brown and myself. –

\_\_\_ G. c. S.