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5-18-1827

## Letter from George Sibley to Abiel Leonard, May 18, 1827

George Champlin Sibley  
*Fort Osage*

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Fort Osage May 18<sup>th</sup> 1827.

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_ was duly rec.<sup>d</sup>, which I answer now in haste amidst the confusion and bustle of dispatching my Men on the S<sup>ta</sup>. Fe' Road - I Shall follow them tomorrow or the day after –

Your enquiries concerning the Nature of my obligation to pay the Govt. certain Money for Paul Baillio \_\_\_ + . . I answer by the following relations.

In the fall + Winter of 1822, Paul Baillio, Lilburn Boggs and myself purchased from Saul Baur (?) the Agent of the U: S; the whole stock of Goods then on hand here at the Old Ind. Trading House, amounting to about \$14,000, payable, say 4785(?)\$ on the 1<sup>st</sup>. June 1823 and \$9607 on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1824. for which pay Paul Baillio \_\_\_ drew their Bills on me; which Bills I accepted payable at the times above named at the Branch Bank U. S. Washington City. –

Baillio

Boggs + myself had formed a Partnership to Trade with the Indians, which Trade Baillio +Boggs were to carry on, and they were to pay off those Bills punctually as they became due – It is useless to detail the courses that prevented their payment. Suffice it, none was ever made out of the funds of P.B.H.<sup>o</sup> 'till the fall of 1825 and then not over \$2000 - - In 1824 the Bills were Sent by the Treasury Agt. to Mr. Bates the Dist. Atty. for collection; in Dec. of that year, I Saw Mr. Bates at St. Louis, and authorised him to enter Judgt. Agt. me at the March term of the Dist. Ct. in 1825. unless he Sh<sup>d</sup>. be ordered from Washington to Suspend (?) it. Such an order reached him; but not 'till after the Judgt. was entered; So that in March 1825, there was a Judgt. agt. me for upwards of \$12,000 - On my return home in July 1825. I found Boggs here at my House, and then he gave me the transfer of the Slaves in question – Independently of Bogg's obligation to me as a partner of the firm of P.B.H.<sup>o</sup>, he owed me Money, + he also owed the firm I think at least \$2000.

I asked this transfer of Boggs (+ he made it very readily) because the Judt. was then bearing on me + might Sweep all my Worldly Goods, + I was just Setting out upon a long + hazardous journey. Boggs had not furnished one Dollar of Stock to the firm; but had consumed a considerable portion of it for the Support of his Brother +himself – payt. of his old Debts +.

The Judt. is held (?) at rest as a matter of favour, to me, but how long it will So remain, is not certain; the value of the Slaves in question is, + has been for Some time, needed to discharge the Interest that is accruing every day upon the Judt. – Such are the facts - of which the Proofs are of record, and otherwise to be readily obtained.

I am glad that you can perceive Some fair prospect, So far at least as my right is concerned, of recovering the Slaves for me; + hope you will pursue them without loss of time, if you Shall, upon full examination of the Subject, believe it adviseable.

Excuse this very hasty Scrawl; I am

very truly yr.

G. c. Sibley

A. Leonard Esqr.