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5-28-1831

## Letter from George Sibley to Benjamin Reeves, May 28, 1831

George Champlin Sibley  
*Lindenwood College*

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Linden. Wood near St. Charles 28 May 1831.

To Benj. H. Reeves Esqr.  
Fayette Mo:

Dear Sir.

I have to acknowledge the rect. of your fav. bearing date the 17<sup>th</sup>. Last., in which you Suggest the propriety of a Speedy meeting of the late Comm<sup>rs</sup>. on the Road to New Mexico, with the view of re-adjusting the Accounts of disbursement of that Commission in conformity both the forms of the Treasury dept., as required by a Letter of Peter Hagner (?) Esqr. the 3d. Auditor of the Treasury +.+. – I recd. a duplicate of the Letter you allude to, from Mr. Hagner, but have omitted to write him; Supposing that of course he had written you. and that you as the Land. Comm<sup>r</sup>. would deem it incumbent on you to take the matter in hand – which Supposition it appears was in all particulars correct =

I agree with you perfectly, that the late Comm<sup>rs</sup>. Shall Soon meet together and arrange their accounts anew, So as to have them adjusted and finally Settled at the Treasury as Speedily as possible. It is extremely unpleasant to leave Such Accounts open + unsettled at Washington – We now Stand charged with the whole Amt. of the appropriation, and may be branded with the name of Public Defaulters ere long. – Owing to neglect, and Stupid ignorance, our Accts. have been heretofore tossed about from one clerk to another, +from one Committee to another, and from one Secy. to another, 'till at length they have (by some accident I presume) fallen into the hands of that most excellent Officer Mr. Hagner= and I now hope they will be Settled ere very long.

From Mr. Secy. Barbour's letter of instruction, I did not consider that a detailed Acct. (with minute vouchers for every little item of expense) would be required of us – The Acct. as rendered, with our certificate of honour annex'd, I considered quite Sufficient and in exact conformity with Mr. Barbour's letter. and I yet think So. – But however this may be. we must now, as far as practicable, enter into all the Minute details of our expenses, by the last voucher we can produce – I have not yet forgotten how to make up Such Accounts; all the forms of which, I was quite familiar with more than fifteen years. –

I need not inform you that it will be necessary on your part, to bring forward every Script (?) + memorandum you have, or can get, relating to your own disbursements of every kind (except payments to Hands, complete vouchers for the whole of that expenditure, I have duplicates of) – Also procure Samuel's certified Acct. Sales, of Property Sold by him, and Acct. Sales of the Horses, Mules, +c. Sold by your direction. – Whatever cannot be vouched in the usual way, must be embraced in a general Statement of Miscellaneous expenses, and Sworn to.

In conformity with your Suggestion as to the place of our meeting (St. Charles), which I think will be the most convenient by far, and as to the time = all which you kindly leave to me to name = I beg leave to Say that we will meet at Eckart's tavern in St. Charles, on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>. of June, at 10 O'clk in the morning, and from thence adjourn to Linden wood, where I shall have provided all conveniences for our accommodation. and where you + Col: Mather, will do Mrs. Sibley +myself the favour to accept Beds and Plates during your Stay – The Mail Stage arrives at Eckart's from Fayette +Karkarkio, (?) every thursday Night; so that you + Col: M: may meet within the Same hour, on thursday

the 16<sup>th</sup>. of June, and on the next morning I will wait on you - my residence being only a Short walk from St. Charles. –

By next Tuesday's mail (this is Saturday) I Shall apprise Col. Mather of this arrangement, + urge him to be punctual +c. – Meanwhile, I Shall task myself to overhaul + arrange the papers I have in my hands belonging to the Subject, and do whatever else I can, to expedite the business in hand. – And I cannot but feel confident, that when we all get together, with our Several quotas of material, for the purpose, we Shall be able without much difficulty to arrange our Acct. So as to pass thro' the ordeal of Mr. Hagner's Office. –

Please to bring with you the Originals of Mr. Lee. Barbour's letters of Instruction = It will particularly behove (?) us to Sustain our Construction, as to our Compensation - and whatever you Can produce to throw light on that point must not be omitted.

Have the goodness to offer my respects to Mrs. Reeves + the family