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10-5-1831

## Letter from George Sibley to Benjamin Reeves, October 5, 1831

George Champlin Sibley  
*Lindenwood College*

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Linden Wood October 5<sup>th</sup>. 1831.

Dear Sir,

I have duly recd. your favour of the 30<sup>th</sup>. Ulto. - it gave me pleasure to learn that on your return home you found your family in better health than when you left them. this has been generally, a very Sickly Season, the world over, I believe, very few deaths have occurred tho' in proportion to the vast number who have been afflicted with Sickness; at least Such is the fact, as respects this Section of the Union. -

The Packet of Vouchers +c. that you left with Mr. Leonard, [a word was written and struck through and cannot be made out] came Safely to hand, Some time Since - Col: Mather has not yet Sent me any Vouchers - He wrote me a few days ago, to Say, that he is desirous that I Shall go to Washington and attend to the Settlement of our Accounts; and that he will defray his proportion for the expense of the journey +c.

My own finances being at present at a pretty low ebb, makes it absolutely necessary for me to Stipulate for a fair division of this expense, which otherwise, I Should not think of asking - The time and trouble, I freely give.

It is my intention to go, agreeably to the arrangement now made. and I Shall do so as Soon as I can possibly get ready - when that will be, I cannot however undertake to inform you now - I do not even yet know, when I Shall be able to get the Accounts ready, which depends in a great degree on the receipt of Vouchers +c. from Col. Mather and yourself - At any rate. my own affairs at home, will not well permit my absence before December - I Shall be time enough at Washington however, if I reach there in January or February - Meanwhile, I Shall advise Mr. Hagner of this arrangement, which will doubtless Satisfactorily account to him for the possible delay - it being as I know, always desirable at the Public Offices, to Settle Accounts with principals in Person, rather than thro' the agency of others - it always prevents delays + Saves much trouble

My object will be, to provide myself with all the materials for Stating our Acct. (The proofs, or vouchers, of the disbursements), with the proper authority from you and Col. Mather to Settle +c. - I can then put them in Such form at Washington, as I may find necessary, on consulting Mr. Hagner +others - We might spend a year in writing backward +forward on this Single point, when perhaps every difficulty might be removed by a Single personal interview with the accounting Officer - Such is always the case when Accounts happen to get into a doubtful State, as ours have, very unnecessarily, had the luck to do - and which, I am well convinced would not have been So, if one of us had in the first instance gone with them to Washington - which was in truth, my first impression, and I yet think I Should have put it in execution, if I had not been I expectation of Col: Mather's attending to the business. - That omission Shall not be corrected, and So far as I am able to effect it, a final Settlement accomplished. -

two days ago I wrote to Col: Mather, urging him to forward his Voucher immediately; and transmitted him Some forms, Copy of which, I herewith enclose you, as I Suppose it may be proper to observe Some unif\_\_\_\_\_ in this particular - I also Send you form of a certificate, as to the property Sold under your direction - It is very desirable to have Some kind of Vouchers from Samuel - Surely the Papers I Sent you relating to his Acct. with the Comm<sup>rs</sup>. will justify his clerk (who I understand is yet living at Franklin) in Signing the papers required; in fact, it may be Said to be his duty to do So - inasmuch as he might be called on to prove the facts Shewn by those papers, in a Court of Law. - If it be practicable, these vouchers Should be obtained. -

It may be as well, when you are making up your next packet, to forward me, in Such form as you Mr. Leonard may deem Sufficient, a power (?) from yourself to me. to Settle the Accts. of the Commiss<sup>rs</sup>. and to receive any balance that may be found to be due them – I will get a Similar one from Col. Mather – I do not know that Such documents may be necessary, but if they Should be, (and there is no telling now a days what may be required) I am desirous of being properly provided with them – An ambassador without credentials, you know, usually cuts but a poor figure any where. –

Among the Papers I Sent you before, you will find Mr. Samuel's Acct. Sales of the Clothing and other property left with him - the Acct. is not Signed, but his clerk will readily recognize it, and cannot reasonably refuse to sign [due to the corner of the page, it is possible though not necessarily the case that a word is missing here, after the word "sign."]

We ought to have that on account in Some way or [again, due to the page layout I suspect a word may be missing, but cannot tell for sure] with a proper certificate of the Amt. of Property Sale.

It may be proper to observe, that Mr. L\_\_\_\_\_

[This marks the end of a page. The word rendered as "readily" may possibly be intended as "read," but due to a smudge afterwards and the fact that part of the lower corner of the page appears smudged, as well as the fact that "readily" makes sense grammatically while "read" does not, suggest to me that the text originally read "readily" and that the last few letters of the word were lost in the making of the photocopy.]

with the Comm<sup>rs</sup>. has been fully Settled and paid up - there is no balance either way – perhaps the clerk of Mr. L. had better be told this – it may be that he is under an impression that by Signing the Voucher he might involve Mr. Samuel in Some way – This cannot be – we have no claim whatever on Mr. L. nor has he any on the Comm<sup>rs</sup>. — All we want is his certificate of the real transactions with Mr. L. –

Do Mrs. Sibley and myself the fav. to present is with our best Regards to your family – We are looking for Mr. Leonard, who is, I think, under promise to favour us with his good company whenever he travels this way.

I am yrs. ever +truly  
G. c. Sibley.

Benj. H. Reeves Esqr.

[Turning this last page of the photocopied document to the right, I read the address that was written or copied sideways. It reads as follows.]

To B. H. Reeves Esqr.  
Fayette  
Howard County  
Mo.

[After this, there are a few numbers scrawled in the peculiar, different ink that I often find on photocopies and cannot always tell if it is original. It is difficult to make out, but as far as I can tell reads as follows.]

8.9

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