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1-6-1830

## Letter from Francis Lee to George Sibley, January 6, 1830

Francis Lee

*Fort Leavenworth*

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Geo. C. Sibley Esq.  
Saint Charles  
Missouri

F. Lee  
6th Jany-1830

Cantonment .Leavenworth

6th January 1830

Dr. Sir

Your letters of the 15<sup>th</sup> ulto I have had the pleasure to Receive.- I have conversed with the officers of this Post generally on the Subject of removing this garrison to the Site of old Fort Osage, And find them adverse to the proposition- not but the position or Site is locally superior, but that other considerations are paramount- That it is to far within the Settlements, (it being Customary for the Indians to frequently visit the post, their interference with the settlers would be such as to constantly create feuds & difficulties) Should the troops accompany the traders from that point, their protection would not be required below Council Grove- from this, they could meet the caravan at the Grove, having to travel or march a much less distance- or should the Troops reach there before the caravan, by the time they would join every preparation could be made for an advance. The men & horses would be recruited and fresh, consequently more efficient- The difficulty of crossing the Kansas River will be trifling, as there is already a fine ferry flat on the River for that purpose. When in garrison, they will be about equidistance from the loway, Kansas, Shawnee & Delaware villages- and should it become necessary to act against either, it could be done with greater facility from this position than if they were lower down.- Not being acquainted with the position myself, other than from Representation, I of course am not a competent judge- however, it appears to me that health would outweigh these considerations & should be first thought of- true, last summer proved healthy, but if we should judge from the preceding seasons (which we should) it must be acknowledged the most unhealthy post in our country- Fort Osage we know to be healthy- This Cantonment, however, is not considered unhealthy by the officers of the C<sup>n</sup>- the great mortality of the 3<sup>rds</sup> they consider was more owing to the Materials of which it was composed- than in the locality of the place- but I am of opinion, that should they be stationed here a season, they would too truly Experience their mistake.-

Things jog on here pretty much in the same stile as when you were with us below. Our amusements, however, are somewhat mared from differances Existing between a few- a court martial is expected to set here soon, which I suppose will put all right- Predictions run heigh, I merely look on and say mum- We were indeed greatly disappointed in not seeing you here in the fall. We felt not a little proud in anticipation, to be enabled to present you so fine a boy as Master Sibley- indeed, a fine suit of clothes were in readiness for the occasion- he says papa- but is yet toothless.-

The family join me in love to yourself, Mrs. Sibley & Mrs. Easton's family- and wish you a happy New Year.

Sincerely

Your Friend

F. Lee

Mr. Geo. C. Sibley  
St. Charles  
Mo.

Sibley Mss. V. II  
Missouri Historical Society