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3-21-1830

## Letter from George Sibley to S. Pleasanton, March 21, 1830

George Champlin Sibley  
*Lindenwood College*

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S. Pleasanton Esq  
5th Auditor &

George C. Sibley  
Lindenwood near S. Charles, Mo.  
March 21t, 1830

Lindenwood near S. Charles, Mo. March 21t,  
1830

To S. Pleasanton Esq.  
5th Auditor &

Sir

Mr. Shannon, the present District Atty. for Missouri, informed me verbally, not long ago when I happened to meet him in the Street in S. Louis, that he had Received your order dated about the 20th of last January, directing him to Stay for four months, any further proceedings against me in Relation to the Balance that I am Still held bound to pay the U. States for Paul Baillio & Co. as their Security; with the view of allowing me time to offer you Such propositions as I am authorized by my circumstances to make, for the final discharge of my Said Securityship.

And I Should Sooner have done myself the honour of acknowledging this favour if I had not till within a few days past, entertained hopes of being able to make a payment of about half of the Remaining balance by means of funds I had Reason to expect from Paul Baillio & Co- But in this, I am I find, likely to be again disappointed for the present: and I may not longer delay my answer to your kind indulgence-

My note to Mr. Allen the last Dist. Atty. dated on the 4th of September last, which I here Copy expresses my views in Relation to this matter pretty nearly as fully as I now feel at liberty to state them-

St. Charles, Sept, 4th, 1829

To Beverly Allen Esq.  
U. S. Dist. Atty. for Mo.

Sir,

I have purposely omitted till now the acknowledgment of

[Here ends the first page of the typescript from which I am transcribing this document. On the back of this first page the transcript is written as follows.]

Mr. John Thorp  
Fort Osage, Mo.

George C. Sibley  
Linden Wood near St. Charles,  
27th October 1830

[The second page of the typescript continues as follows. Because of the peculiarity of the quotation marks that open many of the lines, I have formatted the line breaks to follow the ones in the typescript, although it cannot be told for certain whether the line breaks are from the original document.]

your favour dated 25th July, in the expectation I Should “have opportunity to confer with you personally on the Subject of the “Balance “Still due from me to The U. States as the Security of Paul Baillio & “Co. which it appears you are instructed “to Require from me in money “and in default thereof, to proceed by execution to obtain it.”

“What I have to Say in answer to this Resolution of the Agent of “the Treasury, will be brief & explicit- The Balance Reaming now due “ “from me to the U. States, I do most anxiously desire to pay, and most “Religiously intend to pay it if possible, and as Soon as possible- At “present I have not the Means to pay it in money, and if what little “Remains of my property be Sacrificed by a Public Sale, I have no hope “or expectation that I Shall ever be able to pay it- With the frankness “that best suits the occasion, I declare to you my belief that if I am “let alone, I Shall be able by degrees to discharge this Debt,- But if “the Government Shall think fit to use its power and urge immediate “payment, the inevitable effect must be, the loss of the far greater “part of the Debt forever, and the useless prostration of the poor for- “tunes and the humble hopes of a Citizen, who let me add, has heretofore “by man years arduous labour in the Public Service, actually enriched “the Treasury of his Country, by many thousands more than the original “Amount of this Security debt; not one Cent of which Debt would ever have “been paid assuredly, but for me.

“Since therefore, I am Ready to give you Such Surety on my property “as may be necessary and proper, and I Shall Strive to pay the interest “at least as far as it accrues annually, I trust that a course of for- “bearance will be considered most adviseable in every point of view, and “that you will feel at liberty to Stay circumstances untill I may have “time to correspond with Mr. Pleasanton on the Subject this I scruple “not to ask of you. Very Respectfully, Sir &

(Signed) G. C. Sibley

And in another Note to Mr. Allen dated 25th October 1829, I Say to him: “I will take this opportunity to Remark, that from the tenour of Mr. Pleasanton’s Letters in Relation to my unfortunate indebtedness to the Government, I am led to apprehend that Some impressions prejudicial to me have been Recently created at The Treasury Dept. by means of certain malicious publications, and perhaps by Some communications of evil dis-

posed persons- I can no otherwise account for the unexpected Severity of Mr. Pleasanton's Recent instructions as to the collection from me of what Remains due of the Debt I assumed to pa as Surety for Paul Baillio & Co.= I have heretofore Received assurances that if the Debt was secured and interest paid time would be liberally allowed me to pay the principal= And upon this assurance Repeatedly given, I have confided, and given corresponding indulgence to Mr. Baillio and L. W. Boggs= I have already in my Note to you of the 4th of September, frankly Stated to you, why immediate coercive measures towards me, would assuredly prove extremely injurious to all concerned."

.....  
.....  
In addition to what is contained in these notes to Mr. Allen (probably you may have been already furnished with Copies of them) I shall now avail myself of the present occasion to lay before you for the consideration of the Secy. of the Treasury the following proposition which I trust will be deemed fair, and acted on in that Spirit of parental indulgence, which our Government has on So many occasions thought it just and proper to extend to individual citizens circumstanced as now am=

First then- I would ask of my Government to consent to receive from me my "Fountain Cottage" Tract of Land which I formerly offered at \$7. an Acre, and which I had Such Strong hopes once, would be accepted I offer it now not at \$7. an Acre, or at any Specified price, but for whatever Sum it may be valued at by disinterested Persons to be named by the Government= This Tract contains 640 Acres, embracing the Scite of old For Osage, which is most decidedly the very best position for a permanent military post on the Missouri River= I am emboldened to Repeat the offer of this Land, because I am informed that the position is again very desirable in lieu of the one now occupied by the Troops near the Little Platt, which has been Reported by the Secy. of War to be very Sickly= Fort Osage (on the land I here offer) has been proven uncommonly healthy by the experience of more than 20 years, & it is thought by many of the Senr. Officers of the Army who have Served on the Missouri, to be the very best position for a Military Post, having in view the protection of the frontier, The Trade to New Mexico, and that up the Missouri River-

If this cannot be acceded to, then I would propose Secondly= That I may be allowed 'till the 1st April 1835, if necessary, to pay the balance of the Debt, upon my mortgaging the above Land as Security therefor, with Interest, with the priviledge Reserved to myself, of making the best Sale I can, with the concurrence & approbation of the District Attorney, who in case of Sale will Receive payment therefor= Such are my circumstances and prospects at the present time that I cannot with any Regard

to propriety undertake to promise you more than is above Stated, except that inasmuch as I am extremely anxious to discharge this debt, I shall most assuredly use every effort in my power to effect that object as Speedily as possible, and if the Government Should decide to take my Land for its own use as a Military Scite, The Account might in that event be Settled very easily, and finally closed.

Very Respectfully Sir

True Copy G.C.S.

Your Mo. Obt. Servt.

G. C. Sibley

Sibley Letter Book  
Missouri Historical Society