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10-29-1851

## Letter from George Sibley to William Sibley, October 29, 1851

George Champlin Sibley

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Lindenwood, near

St. Charles, Missouri.

29th October, 1851

Mr. Wm. T. Sibley, Prince Edward Ct. House Virginia-

My dear Sir-

You wrote me from Shalbyville Ky. 2nd. January 1834, enquiring whether or not I am related to Leonard Sibley, Prince Edward County and Robert Sibley of Matthews County Virginia. Also Gabriel Sibley South Carolina and Elijah Sibley Georgia- Among whom as you State are your Father, Uncles and Cousins. Your letter is now before me; and I find it noted thereon, that it was received by me on the 21th and answered on the 23rd of the same month (Jan. '34\*). My letter was addressed to you at Shalbyville ; and contained the best information I could then give you on the subject of your enquiry. In your letter you say you were intending to visit Missouri, and in mine I warmly invited you to come and see me- But as I heard nothing further from you I concluded (and still conclude) that my letter never reached you; and that you returned to Virginia without visiting Missouri. For several years past, I have been trying, off and on, to collect authentic information relative to the Sibley family in the United States, and have recently re-commenced my enquiries. I have gathered from various sources quite a mass of very interesting detail; and am frequently receiving addition to my collection. Some few weeks ago, a young man called upon me, hastily, to sell me a Wheat Drill. He asked me if I was related to the Sibleys of Virginia. Said his name was Smith, and that his mother's maiden name was Sibley-That his mother knew much about the Sibley race, their ancestry and that he had often heard her speak of the tradition or record of two brothers emigrating from England, to what is now New England, nearly 200 years ago, from one of whom she and her family and descended Mr. Smith was in great haste, and sat with me only a few minutes. I did expect

[In this typescript, every page is headed with a new number, so I have broken the text accordingly, but only as was necessary to include the pagination.]

to see him again and to introduce him to my family. I was taken sick and unable to go out, and he left this part of the country without my ever seeing or hearing of him again. I was very desirous of obtaining from him some leading facts in relation to his family and connection in Virginia. You may probably conclude from what I have written, that it is a sort of preface to an effort on my part, to bunch up this old subject again, it is even so; and I trust it may not meet with any hindrance or disappointment.

It is not by any means an unfit or unworthy object for a man to seek some knowledge of his ancestry and family relations. The fact mentioned to me by yourn Smith, of his mother's descent from one of two brothers who came to America from England about two hundred years ago, is proof to me that she and her Sibley kindred are also of my kindred. I am in possession of authentic documants from which I am able to gather the following facts.

In the year 1637 John Hampden, John Pym and Oliver Cromwell with many others, Puritans, weary of the tyranny of Charles 1st and Archbishop Laud, determined to emigrate in a body from England to North America, and here form a free community, but the enterprise was forbidden and prevented by the King's order. John and Ebeneser Sibley, natives of Middlesex County near London, were among those who were then baulked in their purpose of excaping from Civil and Religious oppression. They did escape however, a few years afterwards, and arrived safely in what was then called "North Virginia", now called "New England", and located themselves in or near the town of Salem. I have no further account of Ebeneser the younger brother. John, from whom I claim descent, lived to the great age of 96. He married late in life. Nothing known of his wife, who she was. He had 5 sons and 2 daughters. John, Joseph, William, Martha, Sam, Sarrah, Ebenser, the dates of none of their births known except that of John the eldest, who was born in Salem in 1659. The Second John married in Salem in 1710, his wife's same was Zerniah.

-3-

He died in Sutton in 1754 in his 95th year. He and his wife Zerniah had six children .

John born in Salem 13 Nov. 1714.                      Ebeneser born in Salem 28 Feb. 1717

Stephen born in Salem 1st Oct. 1720.                      Bethiah born in Sutton 2nd Oct. 1724

Timothy born in Sutton 2nd. Nov. 1727.                      Mary born in Sutton 19th Feb. 1730

Timothy the youngest son of the Second John, married Anne Waite 16th Oct. 1753 by whom he had 15 children. This Timothy was my Grandfather. He died in Sutton in 1819 in his 92nd year. He always to the last, dressed in the costume of the "Olden time". Cocked hat, powdered wig, small clothes, silver knee and shoe buckles, long vests with flaps, ruffles, etc.

This issue of the marriage of Timothy Sibley and Anne Waite is as follows

1. Timothy. Born 19 July 1754. Died in 1829. #
2. Joshua. Born 16 Nov. 1755. Died 29 Sept 1774. #
3. John. Born 19 May 1757 Died 8 April 1837. #
4. Stephen. Born 19 May 1757 Died 20 June 1759. #

5. Stephen 2nd. Born 10 Nov. 1759. Died May 1829. #
6. Ebeneser. Born 7 April 1761.
7. Annee Born 15 Dec. 1762. Died 2 April 1784.#
8. Asa. Born 29 March 1764. Died 26 Feb. 1829.#
9. Jonathan. Born 8 May 1766. Died 19 Feb. 1826.#
10. Benjamin Born 29 April 1768 Died 2 Oct. 1829.#
11. Solomon Born 17 Nov. 1769.
12. Mary Born 4 Dec. 1771.
13. Artemas Born 9 July 1773. Died 10 Aug. 1777.#
14. Nahum Born 11 Sept. 1775. Died 12 Sept. 1796.#
15. Sally Born 6 June 1779. Died 21 Mch. 1833. #

All born at Sutton. Those marked # are dead.

-4-

John Sibley, the 3rd. son of Timothy and Anne, was my Father. My mother's name was Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Samuel Hopkins D.D. of Rhode Island, town of New Port. I had only one full brother , Samuel Hopkins, who died in Louisiana in 1823. My father was married 3 times.

The foregoing details must suffice for the present. You will very much oblige me if you will furnish me as full a statement as you can; of all you know and can find out about the Sibleys in Virginia, Georgia and South Carolina, or anywhere else. I do not know the residence of those in So. Carolina and Georgia. As to myself.-\* I was born in 1782, brought up, educated in North Carolina at Fayetteville. Come to Missouri in 1805 under an appointment from Pres. Jefferson- quit the public service in 1827 and since the year 1828 have resided here on my farm at Lindenwood, one mile from the city of St. Charles and expect to spend the remnant of my present life here. I have been married 35 years but have no children. My wife and I have for many years been professors of the Religion of Jesus Christ and members of the Old School Pres. Church. We have plenty and to spare and having good health, content ourselves among our numerous kindred and friends in and out of the church.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain , Yours very truly,

Geroge C. Sibley.

I direct this letter to Wm. F. Sibley or Leonard Sibley or should they be absent, to anyone properly representing either of them. This I do not knowing the present locality of any of the connection. I trust some of you will take charge of this communication and do me the favor to comply with what is asked as far as possible.

G. C. S.

[The asterisk following the hyphen after the phrase: "As to myself.-\*" should really be directly above the hyphen, but I couldn't get the computer program to do that.]