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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, May 25, 1825

Benjamin H. Reeves

Franklin, Missouri

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Franklin Mo. May 25th 1825

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the – Inst came to hand a few days since. My own as well as my familys dispositions has confined me closely at home since I saw you, being unexpectedly called to town today I dropt you this hasty note from this place. I regret that the wagons could not be in readiness earlier than the 12th of next month, my great fear is the flies which if they are bad will anoy us much, but impossibiletees we cannot conquer. I have succeeded but slowly in purchasing horses. I experience more difficulty in procuring animals of a proper description in a few days. If Mr. Bynum, should not accompany is I will make no selection until I see or hear from you. I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Emmons. From character I could not object but I am inclined to believe Mr. Bynum may probably go.

So soon as I can see those men which I have employed they will subscribe to an article for the faithful performance of the duties assigned them. All of whom u have no doubt cheerfully, acquire in any regulations which the good of the service may require. I have expressly stated to them that they are to perform any and every service s which the commissioners may require. As waggoneers, packer, chain men, axmen, hunter, etc. They are men who has not participated largely in the dainties and luxuries of life. Has lived and led a life of enterprise & industry and it is in my opinion of a noble dareing.- I am strongly impressed that the selection in the __, you will be pleased with. Be so good as to communicate to me the probable time when the wagon will be here. I will use my best efforts to have every preparation assessed to me in readiness by the 10th or 15th of next month.

Very Respectfully

Yr. Obdt. Servt.

Ben H. Reeves

G. C. Sibley esqr.

P. S. One request. Be so obliging as to lay in the wagon for me one good Mackinaw blanket. It is for a particular acquaintance. There are none such in Franklin.

Every preparation for yours & my accommodation you will please to provide in St. Louis.