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## Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, April 30, 1827

Benjamin H. Reeves Fayette, Missouri

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ALS B.H. Reeves, Fayette

To: G.C. Sibley

Dear Sir,

I have stept into the office and read yours of the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. You assuredly would have heard from me by last mail but from my absence from home & unexpected detention until after the departure of the mail.

I was in Franklin on Thursday last making preparation to dispatch Andrew Carson, Joseph Hardin, and Christo. Richardson, with the mules & outfit to you when Mr. Samuels informed me that the Oregon which arrived the proceeding evening brought consied to him laundry articles for you, & that [page damaged] every exertion to have them waggoned up to Ft. Osage by the last of this \_\_ by which conveyance I \_\_ to have forwarded those articles for the road which you desired of me & on tomorrow I did expect to start the hands & mules but not find that I shall not be able to start them before Wednesday or Thursday by which time they will certainly set out, unavoidable accidents excepted.

Those young men that I send you are employed at the rate of \$16 per month with whom I hope you will be well pleased in relation to those hands which you have engaged at \$20 per month. I can have no objections & if the appropriation will permit would not think that sum too high to give to each hand & for the sake of equality among them & harmony on the route would advise the wages of all the hands being made equal to that sum. Those articles of our original outfit left with Mr. Sammuels I directed him to dispose of for the best price that could be had. He has accordingly done so & has verbally mentioned to me that they went very low. The bill he will forward to me this evening or tomorrow he will send me. Which I will enclose to you together with the amt. of my own disbursements so that you may perceive the amt. of the appropriation yet on hand. Which in no degree ought to be exceeded.

Messrs. Tracey and Wahrendorffs invoice of articles furnished together with the correspondence of yourself & Mr. Poinsett I will forward you also the most suitable \_\_ which I may be able to procure [tear in page] Your business with Bird Pyle shall be promptly and particularly attended to.

The St. Fee adventurers that is apart of them sets out tomorrow or next day with a \_\_ of \_\_ at the outer settlements & leaving there about the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The continued illness of Mrs. Reeves renders it very unpleasant for me to leave her unless imperious duty requires it. I have made my arrangements to go with her to the Harrodsburgh waters & design to set out in a short time, the mail is closing & I have only time to say I am as usual.

Yrs most sincerely,

**B.H.** Reeves