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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, September 8, 1831

Benjamin H. Reeves

Howard County, Missouri

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Howard County Mo. Sept. 8. 1831

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 3rd Inst. I have just received & am now on my way to the SE corner of this state & expect to be absent about three weeks. I have experienced considerable difficulty in procuring the enclosed vouchers. I accidentally met with Mr. Colvin from whom we purchased mules at Walnut Creek. At the moment not knowing whether the mules purchased from him was included in Mr. Hoods apt. & vouched by him I took Mr. C. duplicate receipt for \$60. Neither of us at the moment could recollect the price of the mules. Having no memorandum by me at the moment to strengthen my recollection as to their price. I now believe the price given for them was \$65. Mr. C lives in Monroe County too far for me to go & see to have his receipt corrected & besides I am inclined to believe the price of these mules is included in Mr. hoods apt. Notwithstanding I send his receipt for the \$60. Which you can use or not as the fact may exist which upon arranging the papers, you will ascertain.

Stephen Cooper lives in Marion County, & has been absent on the Arkansas this summer, he has lately returned & a few says ago I met with his brother going to his house by whom I forward his receipt for him to sign & expect to get it in about ten says, as soon as it may come to hand. I will cause it to be forwarded to you. Andrew Carson is now at St. Fee. Whose return is expected early in Nov. If I am able to procure his recit it shall be transmitted. There is one or more letter recites that I could procure of they individuals were at home. Whose return I expect by the time I return from what river, which if obtained will be sent to you

The gentleman from whom I procured the compass etc. is not now in the part of the world. I however send my own receipt as having furnished the instruments for the use of the commissioner which I procured will be sufficient, being not aware of an impropriety in doing so. The fact exist that the instruments were needed & the govt. bought and paid for them. Nor is it __ who I obtained them from or from whom that __ got them & __ trace them to the manufacturtry where they were made. If however, it should be improper for me to receipt for the instruments. Retain my receipt & will as soon as I can obtain the receipt from the individuals from whom I got them. I have not as you will perceive obtained witnesses to each voucher. At the moment of taking them no person was present & I was too much hurried to ride & hunt up witnesses. Indeed I did not deem it very __ to do so.

Mr. Samuels is not in this country, and consequently I am unable to procure his certificate for the amt. of public property sold by him. His clerk can find no entry upon his books. I have still delayed making out in form my own individual disbursements for my personal expenditures etc. I will do so & with other voucher forward them to you as soon as I return.

With respect to your going in person to Washington. It was always my impression that it would be best for one of the commissioners to do so. & knowing the great trouble that you had already encountered in relation to that business I forbore to mention to you when I was at your house but mentioned the subject to Col. Mather & urged him to go. He gave me no definitive answer that he would or would not.

So far as t respects my wishes or that matter I would be gratified for your or him to go & would cheerfully contribute my mite in defraying the expenses of the trip. Confer with Col Mather on the subject. I cannot believe but what he would feel cordial, may anxious that you should go, presuming

that the middle or 20th of November would be as early as you would set out I will try & have a little money in readiness, on my part. I have scarcely any room left to say a word on political matters. It is said Judge Reynolds will not be a candidate for Jackson, Booneslick, American System man we can get. I cannot tell. Genrl. Ashley & Mr. Wells is more spoken of, than any other person it is believed here that both these gentlemen are friendly to Mose measures. That is to internal ___; the Bank & the National Judiciary & if I am correct in these matters either of them would get a good support in this county. Wells, I think is most popular among the Jackson party.

Yr. Friend

B. H. Reeves