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11-11-1841

## Letter from William R. Singleton to George Sibley, November 11, 1841

William R. Singleton

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Major Geo. C. Sibley  
Linden Wood near St. Charles  
St. Charles County  
Missouri  
(Forwarded to Bowling Green, Mo.)

Wm. R. Singleton  
Nov. 11th 1841

Saint Louis Nov. 11th 1841

Major Geo. C. Sibley

Dear Sir,

Your very kind favour and accompanying letters, came duly to hand; for which I hasten to offer you, my most sincere and hearty thanks.

I have never been more gratified, than I was, in the perusal of your letters to Washington; and permit me to observe, that had I been called on to dictate what I wished, I would not, nay could not have produced such, as would suit my purposes better:

To one, who has ever made it his study, to please his superiors and so to perform the duties to him assigned, that he may not only be serviceable to his employers, but do so with pleasure to himself, it is ever a great satisfaction, to know that his efforts have not been unavailing.

Such is my situation, and I now experience more satisfaction and real pleasure, than will amply repay me for the many hardships and difficulties which I had to surmount, in the performance of my professional duties.

While under your immediate charge, I could truly say with the Psalmist, "The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places," and I had nothing to contend with, but too much kindness and attention; and as, "to err is human," I was compelled to put a curb upon my inclinations, fearing, that I might over-step those bounds, over which no young man should pass.

While on the Maramec Survey, I had many obstacles to surmount,- and several times I was on the point of resigning my Situation, but that I knew full well, that Maj Morell, confided in my discretion and judgment, therefore, for his sake, I could not abandon the charge entrusted to me:- as for Mr. C-, I was fully aware, that he never would give himself any trouble about the work;- and therefore when I started from Jefferson, I had made up my mind, to bear the burden and I assure you it was no light one! Alas poor C--! I understand that he is on his last legs; and what will become of him now? Had he continued in an honourable, upright course, he would have found many friends, ready and willing to assist him: but alas! he overstepped the bounds of honesty, and he has forever lost the confidence of his friends. He is now in Norfolk living on his father; and will I fear find an early grave! You are aware that my attachment to him, was of no ordinary character; and the result was that I sustained him in his situation, by my own assiduity, and often and repeatedly have I performed duties for him, which he could not, and which properly belonged to his situation: These I did cheerfully, for I liked him; and had I been less his friend, I could have at any time taken his situation.

I have had it in contemplation, during the past summer to pay you a visit and to see if like Cincinnatus, you experience the same state of mind in retirement as in Public life. My duties during the summer, as Inspector of Steamboats, have been so very confining, that it has been absolutely impossible for me to leave town, even for a few hours; I therefore have been deprived of a very great

pleasure I can assure you. I however hope, that at some future time, I will avail myself of your very kind invitation extended to Our Corps and partake of your hospitalities and we will enjoy a hearty laugh, over the reminiscences, of our Camp adventures, on the Iron Mountain Survey.

That you may enjoy all the happiness of this life is the wish of

Dear Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt

Wm. R. Singleton