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Letter from George Sibley to Samuel Sibley, December 13, 1808

George Champlin Sibley
Fort Osage

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MHS
Sibley Papers
A.L.S. GCS to SHS

Fort Osages (on the Missouri) dec. 13th 1808

My dear Brother,

I embrace the opportunity to drop you few hasty lines by a canoe on its way down to the Settlements; just to shew you that I am still in this world of Spirits, and to assure (?) you of my being in good health and Spirits, and in tolerable comfortable Winter quarters. Since I wrote you last, we have nearly completed our Fort; we had it so far finished on the 23rd Ult. as to be perfectly defensible against the Indians should they be disposed to hostilities, and on that day it was in due form christened "Fort Osage" with the customary parade and Salute!

Ever Since I Set foot on this ground I have been busily engaged with Indians; deputations from various Tribes have been here to See our establishment, and to give assurances of their friendly intentions toward the U. States. I have done a great deal of trading with them and have now no doubt of the Success of the establishment, So that I look with certainty for an increase of Salary in the Spring – I have been informed that the Sec'y of War has appointed an Assistant or Clerk for me, a young Man with a young wife, with whom I am Slightly acquainted, I have however no other authority for it than vague report which I am not much in the habit of relying on. tho I shall undoubtedly have an Assistant in the Spring. –

I have never yet since my return to this country received a line from Father or from any one in Carolina – I attribute the cause entirely to the bad management of the Post office department, which I observe by the Paper has excited some alarming dissatisfactions in the Western Country. I am certain for my own part that such irregularities must proceed in a great measure from the neglect of the Postmaster General

but I am not going to enter any farther into this enquiry at present, it is Sufficient for us, that it deprives me of one of the principal pleasures that I had calculated on enjoying in this distant and obscure Wilderness, that of hearing frequently by letter from my relations and friends in the great worlds.

I feel very desirous (?) to know what are your employments and prospects, and of everything that concerns you, and the family I do not go into a very nice minutiae of enquiry, for I expect a general account of all that can possibly give me any interest, and you know there is nothing howe trifling that concerns you but concerns me also. Being at present altogether devoted to Indian affairs I find myself at a loss for wherewith to com=
=posed (?) a letter Such as one ought to Send So great a distance lies between you and I, unless indeed I take up that Sub=
=ject which however would be extremely uninteresting to you and tiresome to me unless I had more leisure to devote to a very lengthy communication, than I have at present. So you must content yourself with Simply knowing, how I am in health, how I like my Situation, what are my prospects etc (?) all of which I have already informed you of – Give my comp't to all friends in Wilmington particularly to Mr Cochran & family. and tell Major Owen all you know about me when he falls in your way, and bid him to write me all he knows of him=
=self as he promised to do, also direct (?) him to go in person and give my love to Miss B but not to make any mistake and give it to the wrong person, lest malicious person Should Say the mistake was made by design which he knows very well would be impossible.- adieu, God bless you

–Affectionately yr G.C.S.

Mr S.H.S.

[Copyist's note: I am copying this from someone else's transcript. This transcriber apparently left blank spaces for indecipherable words, rather than underlined spaces. It is not always clear what the transcriber's intentions were, so I have attempted to reproduce his/her transcription as closely as possible even where his intention is not fully clear, including the divisions between lines of text, but with the exception of page boundaries/numbers which are almost certainly not part of the original document. The transcriber also inserted question marks above uncertain words; this proved difficult to reproduce, so I have put "floating" question marks into parenthesis and moved them to immediately follow the word which they reference.]