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Letter from George Sibley to Samuel Sibley, January 14, 1816

George Champlin Sibley
St. Louis

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St. [?] Louis Sunday, 14. January 1816
(1816)

My dear Brother,

Yours of 31.st Oct. last is before me - it was rec^d. a month ago, by my wife, forwarded to me at Ft. Osage, waited there two days after I had Set out for this place, and has lately arrived here from that place – Not long before I left ft. Osage I rec^d. a Letter from Henry, in which he mentions your being much indisposed. I am happy to find from your Letter that you had recovered, at least I am warranted in believing so from your being about to Set out for new Orleans – I feel no little anxiety I assure you, to hear of the final discharge of that infernal Norfolk debt, which has been so long a source of uneasiness to us all – And it is to be hoped Father will for the future take care how he Suffers every dam'd Sneaking [?] adventurer to put his hands into his purse. – for your Sake I am glad, very glad that the Grand Ecore Estate is like to be released from its embarrassments – but you tell me in your Letter that Father means to sell it – this I cannot think exactly right as I am at present impressed, this I Suppose he and you have the best right to know what is best to be done with it - and be assured I Shall feel best Satisfied with whatever arrangement will best further your interest – It is with Some surprise that I find you expressing a dislike to the red river country, tho' I confess I am by no means sorry for it – to tell you truth, I have for a year past been flattering myself that I Shall see you Settled in this country before very long, and I am now more and more flattered with the hope that such will be the case – Taking all things into consideration, I am decidedly in favor of this country over any I have ever yet seen, and this opinion is daily strengthened and confirmed by whatever I see and hear further of it – And this Seems to be a very general opinion among the western People, if we may judge from the Swarms of emigrants that are daily arriving here from Virginia Tennessee, Kentucky &c. Among those emigrants are Several Gentlemen of very Considerable wealth, and Some of those are going to Settle high up the Missouri river

At present Lands can be bought pretty low, but the price is rising very fast, three years ago, I bought land for 60 [it would be possible to perceive the number as "10"] cents an Acre, which I was offered \$8 for last Summer. Property in St Louis is rising very rapidly: perhaps there is no place in the eastern Country, that promises a more rapid increase, and a more permanent growth – Without entering more particularly on this Subject at present, I Shall only further remark, that if you have serious thoughts of changing your place of residence, you had better turn your thoughts to this country - And when you write me again give me your ideas on the subject – It is now reduced to a certainty that I Shall never remove to your Country, and it is even doubtful if I Shall ever visit it again. I consider myself fixed here for life; and here I am quite content to Stay - I do not mean in St. Louis, but in the Territory. Tho' I dare Say I Shall fix myself in this neighborhood – there are various projects afloat in this quarter for making the most of the Indian Trades, Some of which contemplate the abolishment of the U. S. Trading Houses – What will be the issue of this Stir, I cannot Say – it is however my belief that it will end where it began, and that things will go on in the old way for Some years to come - I have no doubt tho' but Congress will order the discontinued [sic] of Several Trading Houses, which

have ever been an expence to Gov^t. without producing much if any good – for myself, I am quite indifferent how they dispose of my Trading House – I Shall give it up with cheerfulness, whenever it may be thought expedient to abolish it – tho’ I have no idea at present that Gov^t. can honorably do it, and I am very Sure they cannot do it Safely – Pray has father given out his Journey to Washington? I hope not. – I left Ft. Osage the 15th . of Dec. - all my Indian Affairs are in good order – I Shall return again in Feby. and in March again visit St. Louis for the purpose of taking up a quantity of Goods I have here and my family – An important Indian Establishment is to be made early in the Spring at Prairie Due Chein, on the Mississippi 500 regular Troops are to be Stationed at it - the Troops have lately arrived here for that Command –

I have nothing further to Say at present – Offer my love to Margaret and kiss your Little ones for me, and present my Love to Mother, Ann C. and Henry and to all enquiring friends – We have had an unusual quantity of Snow this winter, and much very Cold weather. –

Mary desires me to offer you all her love; She is now busily engaged making Honey Candy, and wishes She could Send Ann, Eliza, and George Some of it. Kiss them all for her ———

Yr. Affectly.

G. C. S.

S. H. S.