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Letter from George Sibley to George Shannon, December 23, 1830

George Champlin Sibley

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George Shannon
U. S. Dist. Atty for Missouri

George C. Sibley
Linden-Wood
Dec. 23, 1830

Linden Wood, St. Charles, Mo. Dec. 23^d
1830

To George Shannon Esq.
U. S. Dist. Att^y. for Missouri

Sir,

In conformity with what you told me the other day would probably meet the approbation of the Solicitor of the Treasury as regards the payment of the balance I yet owe the U. States as surety for Paul Baillio & Co., I now present to you the following proposal, with the Request that it may be Submitted to Mr. Maxcy, and with the hope and expectation that it will be accepted.

My letter to Mr. Pleasanton (late Ag^t. of the Treasury Dept.) of the 21^t March last, of which I handed you a copy, and to which I now beg leave to refer you contains nearly all that I deem it necessary for me to Say at present on the Subject in detail= I Shall therefore confine myself on this occasion, to a mere Repetition of the offers there made, a little modified.

First- I offer you my Fountain Cottage estate in Jackson County (containing 640 Acres) on the terms before offered in my Letter to Mr. Pleasanton above refered to; or if you prefer it, in even exchange for the balance of my obligation.- Nothing but necessity and the very anxious desire I feel to get Rid of this unlucky Responsibility at once, could induce me to offer this Sacrifice- The Property must in the very nature of things become extremely valuable in the course of a few years, and it is my opinion peculiarly fit that the Government Should own it- Its locality in the heart of a delightful and fertile country; with its numberless natural advantages of Water, timber, Scite, landing place,

harbour, ferry, well proven healthfulness, &. Render it altogether by far the most eligible Spot for a permanent Military Post (Such as the U. S. must necessarily Soon establish) on the Missouri River- On this point however, I Shall probably be able to offer you other evidence in a short time that may be more Satisfactory than anything I can say-

I need not enlarge on the obvious fact, that altho' I cannot afford in my present circumstances to Retain this valuable property & wait for its advancement in price, the Govt. can very well & Safely do it, even if it Should determine again to Sell it= Nor need I offer any proofs to you of the too notorious fact, that a forced or hurried Sale of any, the most valuable estate in Missouri, could not in the present depressed State of business of all kinds, yield any thing like its fair and just value= I may perhaps again address you on this point=

Second= If the Government will not Settle this matter with me on the terms proposed above, then I must ask a Reasonable time to enable me to dispose of the property designated to the most advantage, and for this purpose, my impression is, I shall probably need three or four years= As you Suggested that Mr. Maxcy appeared to think five years too long a time to allow me, and as I am determined that the debt Shall be paid within the Shortest possible time that I can effect it without Ruinous Sacrifices, I will now So far modify that part of my proposition, as to Ask indulgence 'till the 1^t. of April, 1834= And I am ready to pledge the Property above named, in any manner that you may think best, for the payment at the time Specified, pledging myself at the Same time to use all diligence & proper exertion to effect the complete payment as much Sooner than the time fixed as possible= Reserving, as in my Letter to Mr. Pleasanton, the privilege of making Sale of the property pledged to the best advantage

I can, with the privity and consent and assistance of the District
Atty, he to Receive the avails in case of Sale. =

And I Remain very Respectfully Sir,

Your Mo: Obt: Svt.

G. C. Sibley