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7-3-1831

## Letter from John Sibley to George Sibley, July 3, 1831

George Champlin Sibley

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Major George C. Sibley  
St. Charles  
Missouri.

John Sibley  
Natchitoches  
July 3<sup>d</sup>- 1831.

Natchitoches July 3<sup>d</sup>- 1831

Dear George,

I thank you for the News papers you have had the goodness to Send me, I believe I am or Ought to be as much obliged to Mary, for I dont believe you would or Could tie them so Securely.-

Judge J. S. Johnston (Senator) made us a Visit, but did not Stay long enough to partake of a Public dinner with us which was about getting up, he Rec<sup>d</sup>. from a Very Respectable Committee at New Orleans an invitation to be there at an appointed time; when he left home he intended to Return but Ann Eliza had been very Sick in Philad<sup>a</sup>. though Better he was uneasy & did not Come here again, he has gone Back to Philad<sup>a</sup>. by Sea, he is a favorite of the people of this State except the fanatic Jackson faction, who are generally becoming Sick of their adherence to that Side. One of Our Senators is in the office of State, a Vacancy of course. Our Governor Roman is Anti-Jackson, & will not fill that Vacancy by a Jackson Man, he will appoint Mr. James Brown our former Senator & Brother in Law of Mr. Clay & Late Minister to France, & I believe only waits to hear from Mr. Brown who is in Philad<sup>a</sup>. Should Mr. Brown decline it, is thought Mr. Waggerman our Secretary of State will be appointed, he is an Ingenious Sensible Man very genteel & no Jacksonite he will be a Respectable Member of that body but not the weight of Character of Mr. Brocon (or Brown?).-

Our two Girls Henrietta & Helena are gone to a Convent School in the Parish of St. James 40 Miles above N. Orleans E<sup>t</sup> Side of the River for two years. Johnston made all the arrangements for their Reception & Henry takes them down & Presents them, the School is excellent, Several Girls

from here are gone & more going. Judge Porter says it is the Best School for Girls he ever saw in Europe or America, they were pleased at going & desirous of Learning Henrietta has a turn for pai- I lately Rec<sup>d</sup>. a hand Bill from Fayetteville giving the Acct of the destruction of that place by fire; so much distress from Similar Cause is almost without a paralell, I lived there many years, & have friends amongst the sufferers. If I was Rich I would do what I could for the Sufferers, James Belden, the Son of Simeon Belden of this place, who died at the fire lives 20 or 30 Miles above this place on the River is Married he was here with his wife & Child, & left us a few hours before the News Arrived, I Sent after him. Five thousand dollars was Sent from N. Orleans for the Sufferers at Fayetteville--

Yesterday the Steam Boat Rapide left this place at about one P.M. she ascended the River a Small distance to turn & pass the Town in high Stile, as she was turning one of the Boilers Burst & Severely Scalded Six persons. (firemen) the Passengers in the Guest Cabbin were not injured, three or four of the men, 'tis thought will die. these Accidents too often Occur, & will 'till some Legal provisions are made for hanging the Engineer or those who are in fault they are all well at Cantonment Jessup, Eliza is Respected by everybody, Lee is getting too far, If he dont take care he will Suffocate in his Own fat, like a fat Sheep in Scotland, of the disease they Call the Bracksey.- Mr. Harrison who has been Settler (Sutler?) at Jessup for Many Years, not being true Blue for Jackson a Man of Another Side called Col Decatur is appointed I believe he is the Brother of the late Commodore Decatur, Col Many Still Commands, Col. Burbank was lately there but he is gone to Massachusetts on furlow where his family is; Major Young is there liked by all, Lee is Popular, Cap<sup>t</sup>. Berryman has been Setting a farm 8 or 10 Miles off where Mrs. Berryman Spends Most of her time, he has an Older

Brother there & Some Negroes. I Could Say a great deal about the Blowing up of the Cabinet & be as wise as the good woman who was told that the old Cow had Eat the Grindstone, "I told you so, but I always thought Jackson would Bum fizol Col Dekeyser used to "Say fowl Riding could never win.

You in Violation of Law wrote on the Margin of the last paper I Rec<sup>d</sup>. that Margaret & Sister was gone to Cantonment Leavenworth. I hope She will be what she in great Sensibility talks much about "Happiness find it there, but she Never since I have Known her ceased long in whining about it the old Saint her Mother Blames me for their going to Missouri whatever else I have been Called I do not believe I have often been Called a fool, but If I had have interfered about their going, I think I should have deserved that Epithet, there is a disease in Some minds which is ever a germ of Misery Real or imaginary.- Does Henry Sibley ever write to you? he writes me about once in Nine Months Just to tell me about Another Child, his Sister complains of him likewise, I often hear of him, he is living away Yonder in the Woods, has a farm on the Bayou Rapide 2 or 3 Miles from the Spring he Uses Which he says is very good water, I intend to go down & see him one of these days for the purpose of taking the Plan of his Log Cabbin & that when I have Occasion to mention it I may do it to better Advantage & not hazard Contradiction, but Judge Harris Johnson told me that Henry he made 30 or 40 Bales of Cotton & had Bought a few Negroes, he was advised to go largely -- the planting line, his Reply was that he "equally-- Rattle-snakes & going in debt. I know he has 6 or 7000\$ at Interest, I believe his family is healthy where they live, he has a good Neighbourhood Practice, but dont like it, he likes to go a hunting and Kill a Deer.

I am doing but Very little Business. I attend to my Garden &

little Truck Patches have no Corn field much more than an Acre, we have a profusion of About all kinds of Vegetables, have a Limited practice tend the Jail (?) @ \$150 a year, and make as much by playing Justice of the Peace, we have Flour & Cows plenty & raise 2 or 3 hundred Chickens a year, hire out one & Sometimes two Negroes, but are almost always Scarse of Money. Red River has lately Taken an unaccountable Rise of Near twenty feet in a few days, it has not all reached here but is Comming down Red.- The Crops of Cotton & Cane, were never more promising in this Vicinity- Judge Bullard has taken his family to Oppolousa to Spend the Summer, he puts his Children to School & lives as he Can- he is as fond of Chees as ever, Always inquires for you & Mary. This letter is about as much for her as you to whom we all Send much affectionate Love & Esteem, this place & Vicinity is healthy with the exception of a few Dysenteri Complaints- I have become a great favorite lately of Magnesia & as much against Calomel Magnesia should be taken in Large doses & Repeated its absorbent & Cathartic quality has a Wonderful effect in Bilious habits & Judge Carr says it is the best thing in the Gout, If you make it Breakfast, dinner & Supper it will do no harm.

Please to Accept yourselves Our Best Wishes, I hope both of you will write to me often, please to present Our Compliments to Miss Rosella, Mary or Somebody told me of the Marriage of Mrs. Quader, but not to whom-

Yours Affectionately

in a hurry

John Sibley

Maj<sup>r</sup> G. C. Sibley