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10-12-1834

## Letter from George Sibley to Virgil Maxcy, October 12, 1834

George Champlin Sibley

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V. Maxcy Esqr.  
Solicitor of the Treasury

George C. Sibley  
Oct. 12, 1834

St. Charles, Missouri, October 12, 1834

To Virgin Maxcy Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
Solicitor of the Treasury  
Washington City.

Sir,

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Jones, the Marshall for this State, will have informed you (he promised me to do So) of the course that it has been thought proper to pursue towards me, in the case of the Debt I owe to the United States, as the Security of Paul Baillie & Co.- A course, that was to me entirely unlooked for, and which, if persisted in must inevitably greatly injure me without producing any benefit to the U. States= The arrangements which you sanctioned in your letter to me of June 13<sup>th</sup> 1832, by which I was allowed 'till the 15th July, 1835, to accomplish the discharge of the Debt, was, So far as it depended on me, carried into effect- I made application Repeatedly to the Dist. Attorney Mr. Shannon, to discharge his part of the duty enjoined by your instructions, without which action on his part, it was impossible that the Deed of Trust could be executed= Mr. Shannon assured me over and over again, that he intended to carry the arrangement into effect- He never once suggested or hinted the least difficulty or doubt as to the Security I offered= Yet he continually neglected to complete the arrangement in form= Altho' I felt dissatisfied, I could do no otherwise than wait his pleasure=

If Mr. Shannon ever changed his mind, he never gave me the least intimation of it; Nor did I ever hear it Suggested that he had changed it, until Since the Marshall came to Seize my property= I intend to assure you of the truth of what I aver herein, by my affidavit, when

I am able to Sit up long enough to do it= The conduct and official Statements of the Gov't Agents here, differ So widely from my Statements and understanding of facts that I am anxious to place the truth before you Sir, and I will do it, altho' it may be too late to enable you to do me justice, except in So far as my honour and veracity are concerned= which is with me however, far more important than any pecuniary consideration can be=

My petition to Congress, has been twice presented; but from Reasons unknown to me, was not acted on= It was my intention to have presented it again at the coming Session; and to have made an effort Simultaneously, to dispose of my Ft. Osage Property= I visited that place in June last with the Same view; but found that the threatened Mormon War, (as it was called) had completely checked the emigration to Jackson County, and effectually prevented any Sales of Land therein= The Right and title to that Property is Still mine, there exists no pretence of any adverse claim, except one Set up by an unfortunate Man (now no more) whose mind had been for years before his death, notoriously crazed= And as to what other Property I possess, it is now considerably less embarrassed than it was in June 1832= But altho' I Shall Strive all in my power to cause as much as possible to be made out of my Property towards the discharge of my Debt, whenever the Marshall Sets it up for Sale; I fear very much Sir, that it will nearly all pass into the hands of Speculators at Such low prices, as to afford no more than a mere trifle for the benefit of either Creditor or Debtor= False Rumors are already in circulation, as to the titles, and adverse claims to my Property Set afloat as usual, to favour the contemplated Speculations of Some one, who understands too well, the facilities that are afforded in Such cases, under our Laws= Gen<sup>l</sup>. Jones, with whom I have but a very Slight acquaintance, Seemed to be fully Sensible of the

inexpediency of the course now ordered in this case; and I really hope he may have made you Sensible of it in time, to prevent the useless Sacrifices that must otherwise be made= It is also incumbent on me to Notice Some other existing errors, which if not explained to you may probably lead to unfavorable impressions as to the truth of my statements to you in June '32.

Upon the authority of the Execution now in the hands of the Marshall, the Sum of \$5435 principal, and \$3989 Int. (together \$9434) exclusive of costs, has been demanded of me= I knew there was an error in entering up the Judgt. which sh<sup>d</sup>. have been \$11941.59 instead of \$12176.70. This error, I am told it is now too late to correct- But taking it as entered up, and there can only Remain a Balance of Principal, of \$2852.72 instead of \$5435 - and with interest up to 1<sup>t</sup> March 1835, the whole Amt. due cannot exceed the Sum of \$6029.05, instead of \$9434= I was not aware of this very great error 'till the other day; but I have not omitted to enquire into its cause & origin, & to take the necessary Steps to have it corrected= My Statement to you dated the 1<sup>t</sup> June 1832, contains all the Real facts, and dates- The method of giving Interest in that Statement is different from the mercantile method, that is in use here; and is the most unfavourable to the Debtor= In ascertaining the Balance here Stated (\$6029.05) I have used the Mercantile Method of computing the interest= You may Rely upon it Sir, that my Statements to you are Substantially true= The facts & dates are Strictly true= I am now writing with pain & difficulty, being ill, and Suffering under Severe Mercurial Salivation=

with great Respect, I Remain

Your Obt. Svt.

G.C. Sibley

13 Oct.- Since writing the above, I learn that a friend, and connection of mine at St. Louis (Mr. Archd. Gamble) has interposed to prevent the destruction of my Household, and that he has with that view, made, or is about to make, Some proposals to you, the nature of which I am as yet unapprised of- Mr. Gamble is entirely competent to all the offices of friendship and his means are most ample to discharge any pecuniary promise he may make= Whatever he has thought fit to do in the present instance, has been the Result of the disinterested friendship, and was entirely unsolicited, and unexpected by me= Should you accede to his plans, it will Still be my duty to find the means of discharging the Debt as quickly as I can= But I do not know yet any more than that he has prevailed on the Marshall to Suspend his Sales, until you can be heard from= I am obliged to lay down the pen-

Yrs. very Respectfully

G. C. Sibley