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Letter from George Sibley to Virgil Maxcy, January 14, 1836

George Champlin Sibley

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Virgil Maxcy,
Solicitor of the Treasury
Washington City.

George C. Sibley
Jan. 14, 1836.

St. Louis January 14, 1836.

To Virgil Maxcy Esq^r.
Solicitor of the Treasury
Washington City.

Sir,

Owing to a train of circumstances that could not well have been anticipated when I wrote you on the 20th of Dec^r. 1834, & which it was out of my power to counteract in Season, I have been unable to discharge the Balance of the Debt due from me (as Surety for P. Baillio & C^o.) to the U. States, within the time I in your letter to me of the 5th January, 1835.= The Township in which my land in Jackson County is Situated, has never, it Seems, been correctly Surveyed,- at least the Survey has never been Recd. and approved yet at the Surveyor Gen'l's office here= This with some other difficulties in that office in Relation to that Township, prevented my obtaining the proper orders of Survey necessary to Set forth my title to the Lands I claim, with that perfect clearness that purchasers usually expect & require.-

Thus was I prevented from effecting Such a Sale of my land at Ft. Osage (my only resource) as would enable me to discharge the Debt, or even a fourth part of it, by the 1^t day of this month= Under the burthen of this Severe disappointment, I have come to this City with the intention of Surrendering myself & all I possess, to the Officers of the law and to avail myself of the Act of Congress "For the Relief of certain insolvent Debtors of the U. States", knowing that altho' my resources have not diminished, but rather increased Since January 1835, it will be utterly impracticable for the Marshall to make out of them for the U. States, more than half the Amt. due= Mr. Magenis the Dist. Atty. now lies dangerously

ill, So that I can have no intercourse with him on business- whether he has taken out Execution or not, I do not know; but presume he has not. Thus the matter stands at this time, 14 days after the expiration of the time allowed me to make paym^t in your Letter of the 5th January 1835.

And now Sir, a Slight change of circumstances puts it in my power to offer you Such terms for the full and complete discharge of this Debt, as I am persuaded you will not hesitate to accept; and which I feel it my duty at all events respectfully to lay before you=

The Debt with the accruing Interest, up to this time, amounts to Somewhere about \$6500 I believe- the precise Am^t. I have not the means here to ascertain= This Sum (or whatever may be Really due) I am authorized to inform you may be Secured to the U. States by the Bonds of Messrs Archibald Gamble & William Russell of this City; drawn payable in One, Two & Three years, in equal instalments= Your acceptance of this offer will Secure without fail, the following Results.

1^t. The Paym^t of the whole Debt originally assumed by me together with a large Am^t of interest, without the loss of a Dollar, finally & fully, early in the year 1839=

2^d. The U. States will by this means Save not less than \$3000 if not \$4000, that must inevitably be lost by attempting to corce earlier payment.-

3^d. I Shall escape entire pecuniary Ruin, and the Mortifying necessity of applying to the insolvent Laws for Relief from Debts that I desire most earnestly to pay fully, & which I Shall pay fully without any doubt, if you accept this offer.

Surely Sir, now that the Coffers of the Nation are full to overflowing, and this Small Sum from my hard earnings cannot now be needed, & Since you may thus Secure every Dollar of what I assumed to pay for

Paul Baillio & Co. and can in no other way Secure even the one half of what Remains due, and Since this proposal differs but little, and that not materially, from the terms you have authorized; Surely I may at length indulge the hope that I am after all my trouble & perplexity, enabled to discharge fully & completely every one of my pecuniary liabilities.

For further information as to the entire Sufficiency of Messrs. Gamble and Russell, I beg leave to Refer you to Gen^l Ashley, who will do me the favour to call at your office for the purpose of giving you that, and other information upon this Subject.- The illness of the Dist. Attorney makes it the more proper & necessary for me to address myself immediately to you at this time, and I have to ask the favour of you to communicate your answer as soon as ever your convenience will permit= And in Order to guard against accidents and Miscarriage of the Mails, it will be advisable to furnish Duplicates to Genl. Ashley for him to forward= very Respectfully Sir

I have the honor to be

Yr. Mo. Obt. Svt.

G. C. Sibley