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Letter from Edwin M. Ryland to George Sibley, January 15, 1838

Edwin M. Ryland

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George C. Sibley Esq
Linden Wood
Near St. Charles
Mo.

Edwin M. Ryland
Lexington, Mo.
15 JanY, 1838
Recd. 29 JanY.

Lexington, Mo.

January 15th, 1838

My Dear Sir,

The object of this letter is to communicate a fact to you that I ought to have put you in possession of long ago. My youngest son who is now nearly a year old has been named for yourself. In giving him this name I have had no other object than to testify my unalterable friendship and regard for yourself, and to perpetuate the evidence of it as far as it is possible for it to be done.

I ought to have written to you long ago. And would have done it certainly, had it not been for the fact that I contemplated setting out for St. Louis on official business, almost weekly for the last seven or eight months when I would most assuredly have called at Linden Wood to communicate the tidings now sent, and to satisfy myself of the health and welfare of my friends. But circumstances have occurred repeatedly, to postpone and to prevent my trips to St. Louis. And I cannot now conjecture when I shall be in your neighborhood. Your namesake is a fine, hearty, jolly boy, uncommonly vigorous and lively. He seems the very picture of blooming health. But you are aware no doubt that one of my little ones has been stricken down by the hand of Death in a manner and under circumstances that have impressed upon me too forcibly and too painfully the uncertainty of life, to permit me ever again to indulge in any very sanguine hope, bottomed upon its duration. But this is a painful theme and I have only alluded to it incidentally, and without intention to touch upon it when I began this letter.

Your friends in this country are generally well. You must not forget that you have promised an excursion up this way along with Mrs. Sibley: and we shall expect you in the course of the ensuing Season. Your sojourn will without doubt be a long one, as you will have been a long time coming, and, my house is of course your headquarters. The trip cannot I think be other than a pleasant one to yourselves, it will certainly be so to the friends you come to see.

Our country is progressing in improvement with a rapidity that astonishes me although you know that I have always placed a high estimate upon its advantages and prospects. Efforts are now making to improve our town. The project is to purchase the beautiful strip of county lying between the present limits of the town and the River and lay it off into lots to be sold as an addition to the town as it now stands.- Should it succeed you will in due time see a plan of it in the public papers. There are a number of stockholders interested and engaged in it, and I do not think myself, that anything else is wanting but unanimity of thought and harmony as well as energy of action on their part, to ensure success to the enterprise upon which they have embarked.- We are without news of any kind.- We will at all times rejoice to hear from you whenever you can find leisure to write to us.

Mrs. Ryland joins me in sending her kindest and most friendly wishes and regards to Mrs. Sibley and in the assurance of the unabated esteem with which we are always

most respectfully & sincerely

Yours

E M. Ryland

George C. Sibley Esq.

Sibley Mss. V. II
Missouri Historical Society