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Letter from Thomas Gilpin to George Sibley, September 16, 1844

Thomas Gilpin

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George Sibley Esquire
near St. Charles
Missouri

Thomas Gilpin
with two pamphlets.
Philadelphia, Sept 16, 1844.

George Sibley Esquire

Dear Friend!

On my return to this city a short time past, after an extensive ramble thro' the western country I was reminded by my niece Eliza Gilpin of having passed over the occasion to call on thee at thy residence at St. Charles, and it was very much to my regret, for I should have had the pleasure of seeing thee in a most interesting country where I found myself a solitary traveler with no other personal interest than those I could find in temporary companions.

But I must still very much excuse to myself my omission, upon several considerations- when I left home my prospects were of a journey only within the limits of Pennsylvania- and all beyond this a region of "Nova terra"- added to from day to day- I was unprepared both for the route I was to take and for the vast scenery presented to me- and besides this, I had connected all Mrs. Gilpin's relatives so completely with Louisiana that thy residence in Missouri did not occur to me.

I had however a most delightful tour for about six weeks, by way of Ohio River round to St. Louis, and up the Mississippi to Galena- my route was then across to Chicago Machinaw and Detroit to Buffalo and by Albany to New York- in Fact, it is now productive of so many pleasant recollections and narratives that if they may not induce me to make a repetition of the Journey- I hope it may induce Henry and Eliza to think of making a similar one at some early time and thus compensate at large for my omissions.

I became acquainted with Lieu't Fremont at St. Louis on his return there the day after I arrived- and this enabled me to send home to the Family the only account of my nephew William Gilpin which have been attained since his departure for Columbia River- he was left in good health and will return home in November with the larger part of the expedition.

Having published lately two Short Essays on two interesting subjects, I do myself the pleasure to send thee a copy of them and hope they may compensate thee for a perusal- but whether they do so or not- I hope they will be a kind of evidence that I want to apologize for an apparent inattention, I had so great an interest in not having committed-

With great regard

I remain very truly

Thomas Gilpin

Philadelphia
16 September, 1844