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1-25-1852

Letter from Origen Sibley to George Sibley, January 25, 1852

Origen Sibley

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Bay __ near Blakely Ala

Jan 25th 1852

My Dear Cousin George

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the weight of your valued favor of 20th ultimo, with genealogical memoranda of the Sibley family. This would have been acknowledged immediately, but for a wound on my right forefinger, which has for more than a fortnight prevented my writing, as it does now wrapped up, prevent my writing legibly. I have also to thank you for the neat lithograph of your beautiful residence.

The looking over of your genealogical statistics has offered me much gratification, and I will gladly do what I can to perfect the undertaking. I will write to Brother Franklin (B. F.) who lives at Woodville Wilkinson Co Miss., and also to other of our relations at the North for such information as they can give. It so happens that a granddaughter of Uncle Jonathan, the 9th child of Col. Timothy & Anne Sibley, is spending the winter in my family. Her name is Caroline Fisher Sibley, and her father's name is Davis Sibley. She is a young lady of good education, with graceful and accomplished manner, and is delighted with your contribution to our family history. She will soon be in possession of particulars in relation to her father's and grandfather's families, which I will transmit to you. Caroline is here to seek restoration if possible from that scourge of New England Consumption. She is a native of Maine though educated in Boston, her father having left a considerable estate.

I recollect of going to see Grandfather Sibley in 1814, and, finding him a very agreeable companion. I was quite a literary boy at that time, and we read together much, and I will remember the excellence of his sight at that advanced age. He traced lines and places readily on the maps and read fine print without spectacles. I do not recollect his cocked hat or huge wig; probably because I saw him only in the house, and in __, having spent only a part of an afternoon with him. My brother Cyrus recollects him well. Having lived with him about six years when he was young, and says that the description given by Derrick Sibley is precise.

In 1847 I visited New England, not having been there before for 25 years. Besides our other relatives I visited Uncle Solomon in Ward, of whom, and his family, you say you know little or nothing. I found him a hale merry old gentleman, full of anecdote & Jest, living at his ease, his farm, under the management of his family, and will only say that I will obtain them next summer, when I expect to visit him again, if I live, having a little son at school in Providence RI, and intending to take on my two oldest daughters, Josephine and Salome Elizabeth, and have S.E. the latter, at some northern seminary to complete her education, the older one Josephine, not wishing to remain. We have good female schools in Alabama, and I have only promised Salome to take her north because she desires it.

I will now complete my own list of responsibilities, a part of which I gave you some years ago. My wife's maiden name was Elizabeth Barlow (Not Barston) Her father was the only one of his family who emigrated to Ala from Kentucky. He served under Genl. Wagner in 1792 at the battle of the Miami; and was present at the collecting of the remains of the slain at St. Clain's depot. His relatives are numerous and respectable in Kentucky.

My son Origen's name is changed to Origen Cyrus in consequence of a son of B. Franklin, coming to stay with me named Origen. Since his birth I have recorded the following.

Laura Sibley born April 11th 1842

Franklin “ “ Nov 27th 1844

Helen “ “ Dec 15th 1846

Charles Sevet “ “ Jany 25th 1849

Eugene “ “ Sept. 16th 1851

I have been so highly favored as to have no deaths in my family t record. I will note here that my oldest brother’s name was Timothy Willard and he was always called Willard. My finger pains me and I close with best respect to your lady. Believe me

Truly your affectionate cousin

Origen Sibley