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4-29-1816

Letter from George Sibley to Columbian Periodical, April 29, 1816

George Champlin Sibley

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COLONEL BOONE—Extract from a letter, addressed to the editors and published in the *Columbian*, dated "Fort Osage, Missouri territory," April 29, 1816.—
"We have been honored by a visit from col. BOONE, the first settler of Kentucky; he lately spent two weeks with us. This singular man could not live in Kentucky when it became settled. He has established a colony or settlement, as mentioned, on the Missouri, about one hundred miles below us, which has been nearly destroyed by the Indians during the late war. The colonel cannot live without being in the woods. He goes a hunting twice a year to the remotest wilderness he can reach; and hires a man to go with him, whom he binds in written articles to take care of him, and bring him home, dead or alive. He left this for the river *Platt*, some distance above. Col. Boone is eighty-five years of age, five feet seven inches high, stoutly made, and active for one of his years; is still of vigorous mind, and is pretty well informed. He has taken part in all the wars of America, from before Braddock's war to the present hour. He has held respectable state appointments, both civil and military; has been a colonel, a legislator, and a magistrate; he might have accumulated riches as readily as any man in Kentucky; but he *prefers the woods*, where you see him in the dress of the roughest, poorest hunter.

"I intend, by next autumn, if I can obtain permission, to take two or three whites and a party of Osage Indians, and visit the salt mountains, lakes and ponds, and see the natural curiosities of the country along the mountains. The salt-mountain is but 5 or 600 miles west of this place."