

Lindenwood University

Digital Commons@Lindenwood University

George Champlin Sibley Papers

George and Mary Easton Sibley Papers

2-27-1817

Letter from George Sibley to Joseph Charless, February 27, 1817

George Champlin Sibley

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lindenwood.edu/george>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

INDIAN MURDERS !!!

Some time last summer we requested Mr. Sibley, United States Factor at Fort Osage, to furnish us with such information relative to the late complaints of murders committed by the Osages, as he might be able to collect: A few days ago we received the following letter from that intelligent officer.

Fort Osage, Feb. 27, 1817:
Mr. Charlton,

SIR—I send you the following list of murders, robberies and abuses, committed by the Osage Indians, within the last four years, which may be relied on for its accuracy in every essential particular.

Murders and Depredations of the Chaneers, or Arkansas tribe.

In the fall of 1813, they murdered M. Parlange, Williams and Milmon on the Arkansas, and robbed them of much valuable property.

In the same year they murdered a man on red river; and another on the Arkansas, named not known.

In September 1816, they murdered an old man, stripped and scalped him: some time robbed and most cruelly beat an old French man, on the Arkansas below the Canadian Fork.

In september 1816, robbed three horses from the American settlements.—And there is no doubt they have committed other and similar depredations on the property of our frontier citizens. These people have frequently declared that to murder and rob the Americans, is the surest way to bring plenty of traders to their nation.

ROBBERIES, &c. OF THE BIG OSAGES, LIVING ON THE OSAGE RIVER.

In the winter of 1813 & 14 seven horses and a quantity of clothing from some of the white settlements on Arkansas or White river.

Same year 12 horses from Arkansas, and the goods and effects of a trader, who was ascending the Arkansas in a perogue.

In the winter of 1815 & 16, four horses from White river.

In July 1816, robbed some hunters on the Arkansas, below the Canadian fork, of ten horses & stripped them of their guns, ammunition, traps, &c.—Wounded a boy (whom they found in the camp) very badly by a blow with a tomahawk between his shoulders; and cut to pieces and destroyed a quantity of peltry, &c.

Same time stole a fine horse from Major Lovely, Agent for the U. S. at the village of Arkansas, which horse was very lately (and probably is now) in possession of a noted warrior of the Big Osages known by the name of *Buffalo Cap*.

It is proper to remark, that these two tribes, particularly the Chaneers, are scarcely within the influence of the U. States establishment at this place—While the Little Osages, and the Kansas, who are much more so, conduct themselves (comparatively speaking) with much propriety.

Yours, &c.

GEO. SIBLEY.