4-19-1819

Letter from George Sibley to William Clark, April 19, 1819

George Champlin Sibley

F.t Osage April 19.th 1819.

D.r Sir,

Lieutenant Palmer has just arrived here from the Cantonment above, which place he left the day before yesterday with two Soldiers in a Canoe, bound for the settlements below under orders from Col. Morgan to purchase provisions for the Troops --

About 11 A. M. yesterday they were intercepted just above the Big Blue River by a party of Indians who pursued them in a Canoe, and from all appearances, L.t P. felt convinced were intent on violence; he therefore ordered his men to land, jumped ashore & ran into the woods, leaving nearly all the baggage in the Canoe -- after they had proceeded some distance, one of the soldiers stopped & told L.t Palmer he was determined to return to the Canoe that all his clothes & money were there, and he would as leave loose his life at once as be robbed of all he had. He therefore returned, and found the Indians in possession of their baggage which they were overhawling and dividing. they took his Gun out of his hands and discharged her; took away all his powder, with which they blacked their faces; Cut open his chest took most of his Clothing $50. in specie, Cut all the

Buttons from his clothes, and took all L.t Palmer's baggage -- One Indian tried to stab him, and the knife actually punctuated thro' his clothes. The soldier seized a war Club, & with it knocked the Indian down, on which he was seized and tied, and kept in that situation till near night, when he was released, his Gun Returned to him with some of his clothes, placed in his Canoe with one paddle and shoved off, he reached this place this morning. The Soldier says the party of Indians consisted of about thirty men, that they were Sacs, several of whom he knew, having often seen them at F.t Armstrong while he was stationed there -- several of them wore American Medals, which they took off when he got among them with marked expressions of dislike to wards them -- They gave him distinctly to understand that they were anxious to get hold of Cap.t Martin, who they said had treated the Indians very cruelly last winter and they repeatedly mentioned that an ammerican had killed a sac lately on the Mississippi and were very abusive of the Americans, calling them Hogs -- He saw them equip five of the party with balls &c. who striped themselves for running, and set out in pursuit of L.t P. and the other soldier --- This Soldier says he has often Seen Indians on war excursions & believes that this ~~to be~~ was a war Party; and says he is induced to believe from what he saw and heard while in their hands that they intend to attempt to stop all supplies from going to the troops above -- L.t P. & the other soldier got here safe, a few hours after the other man arrived, without having seen any thing more of the Indians. Such are the facts of this affiar as I have learned them from L.t Palmer & his companions; and I communicate them to to you by express via Franklin, for your information I have no doubt

Sir, but the story told by the Soldier is substantially correct. And I am induced to believe that the Indians were led by a noted Sac by the name of the Young Eagle; a tall stout man much marked in the face by the Small Pox. This man was passing all thro' the country last fall & winter, and as I suspected carrying messages to the Osages & Kansas from the British agents or Traders in Canada, he is the person alluded to in my letter to you of the 2.d Feb.y last -- This recent and daring outrage, demands a prompt and decisive attention. In very great haste, I have the honor Sir, to remain Respectfully &c. &c. &c. G. C. Sibley

His Ex.cy Gov.r Clark
