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5-24-1808

Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, May 24, 1808

John Mason

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Office Indian Trade

Geo. C. Sibley Esq
U. States Factor on
the Osage

Geo Town / Washington / 24th May 1808

amts \$ 3888 $\frac{84}{100}$

Herewith I hand you Invoice of
sundry Goods destined for the Factory to which you have been
appointed. now on their way to Wheelen & which I have direct-
ed to be delivered to you at that place. as also a parcel for
Mr Johnson Factor at Le Moine & which you will turn over to

him as soon as he joins you the route or at St Louis
 as you may agree between yourselves, you will now proceed
 as speedily as possible to St Louis by the way of Pittsburg
 and Wheelon. at Pittsburg lease a Boat belonging to this
 establishment in charge of Lieut Pratt military agent
 at that place, as I trust at this time in complete order
 for the expedition, enclosed is a letter requesting him to
 deliver her to you completely fitted & bidone you will
 engage hands enough to navigate her down stream, &
 take her as quickly as possible down to Wheelon, where you
 will find an order from Mr William McAlahan of Cum-
 berland Maryland directed to you & left either in the Post
 Office or with Col. Kane or Major Spragg, or the Person
 to whom care he shall have directed the goods before mentioned
 to be delivered to you, then you will take care when joined by
 Mr Johnson you will go on without loss of time, and at or
 about the mouth of Cumberland ship such extra hands as
 may be requisite to work your Boat up the Mississippi,
 should the military agent at Pittsburg or the commanding
 Officer at St Louis have any military stores for St. Louis you
 will make such arrangements with them as to paying part
 of the crews hire as may be equitabled & take in for them
 what you can conveniently carry in addition to our own
 Goods.

Arrived at St Louis you will in company with Mr
 Johnson call on Rodolph Tillier Esq. U. S. Factor at
 Belle Fontaine who will have instructions to deliver to you
 & to him all the goods remaining at that Station (which is
 about to be discontinued) proper for the Indian Trade and
 these you will divide between you on as nearly equal
 portions, as to quantity in each article & value, as
 may be, the part of these which you shall receive
 & those in the Invoice now handed will form your Stock
 wherewith to commence the Establishment you are about
 to form, and for the management & disposal of which I
 refer you to the general instructions which I addressed you in

The Inst

The Secretary of War has instructed Genl Clarke military agent at St Louis to accompany you up the Missouri & Osage to pitch upon a proper spot whereon to locate the Factory, and will give directions to detach part of a company of Troops from the Cantonment near St Louis to station them near the new Factory.

Whether you will take the goods up at once, when you first go up first & continue with them, or whether having prepared some buildings for their reception you will return for them must depend in great measure upon the arrangement you make with Genl Clarke. I would recommend strongly the first as the distance is too great I fear to admit of your going & returning, and get established before winter which is a great object to effect.

You have in the goods invoiced here all the requisite materials & Tools for erecting the necessary buildings for the Factory, in doing which I beg to recommend to you the strictest economy consistent with the proper accommodations for the goods & tolerable comfort for yourself. If the country will furnish stone for walling, I recommend that a good airy cellar should be made under part of the building to serve as a store for Flour & Oatley.

You will keep your accounts to be returned to this Office in the Forms handed herewith, in your salary account state your own compensation & that of your interpreter. You will date yours from the 17th Inst & at the rate fixed by the Act of War in his letter to you of that day. It is not thought expedient at this time to allow you a clerk, you are to consider the allowance for furniture in the nature of an advance which it is usual to make the Factor who first forms an establishment & to those who follow it becomes a Loan. You are therefore to return a list of the publick furniture on hand in your Inventory at each quarter & when you may go out of office you are to deliver up \$200 worth of furniture at a fair valuation or the deficiency in Cash, I hand you herewith a check on the

Bank of Columbia for four hundred Dollars to furnish
you with funds to Boats Crew & their expences for which
you will account keeping separate what may be expensed
for the two factories jointly from what may be used from for
your own,

I have directed Mr Johnson to receive from
Mr Warner of Baltimore a parcel of silver ware for his
Factory and deliver to you one half the quantity that may be
in that parcel - you will buy your way thro Baltimore
purchase 400 yds Tinsel, last at about 20 cts, return one 1/2
of it for your Factory, and deliver the other half to Mr Johnson
of this manner in which these two articles may be divided.
you will advise me, that corresponding entries may be
made,

I will thank you also on your way thro Balt^a to
purchase for me to be left there to be forwarded me by first
Vessel by Mr Jones, 50 doz ew pint & 1/2 pint Flowers
Tacks & 12 doz Flying Pans if to be had on usual terms - for
this & the Tinsels draw on me at right - please also
call on Saml the blacksmith who has the Beaver traps
in hand see if they are done, and will pass inspection if a
requisite him to forward them to you as soon as possible packed
in Boxes of 25 each, and deliver me for the money as if
he will pack them & to deliver them to you on in Baltimore
you can draw for him, & put him in the way of getting the
money from the Bank, as I suppose he may not well under-
stand negotiation,

Very sincerely wishing you good health
a safe voyage, and a comfortable Establishment among
your friends

I am Very Respectfully
to your m^o Ch^o Serv^t

P. S. Should you wish receive

J. M. Kip, Esq

an open Letter addressed to Mr Tho Warner silver smith Balt^a
if they are done you will please receive these silver ornaments
pass on me for amt - if according to my order copy of which I
enclose you under date of 26 April & turn them over to Mr Johnson
sending me Warner's duplicate.