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Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, February 1, 1811

John Mason

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Mr. Geo: C. Sibley

Indian Trade Office
Georgetown 1st July 1811.

Sir

The subject of the Rations mentioned in your letter of the 20th July & 8th June last has been under consideration here but without the means of settlement for want of information. in Nov^r last Major James Morrison made application for payment of on the paper of which the enclosed is a copy from the War Office - I paid him the amount of 525^{rs} p^r Rations mentioned in the 2^d,

item relating to your factory and regularly vouched
by the abstract signed by you of 8 June last - as to
the first I am entirely at a loss to reconcile it with
any statements as yet received from you - you
say in your letter of the 20 Feb^y that 935 of the
Rations & the 1500 Gills of extra whiskey charged in the
list 4th have not been paid by you & on referring to
the list then sent, I find that this is the quantity of
extra whiskey then charged to the building - and
the Rations on account of the same are when extracted
from the whole 1338 right as to leaving the 935 -

but how it happens that the contractor charges you
with 457 1/2 Rations & 1000 Gills of whiskey as
included in the certified returns to the war office I
am at a loss to understand - you will please explain
this - and send on without delay a certified statement as to
quantity, for all that you have had from the contractor,
inclusive of what was certified by you in the abstract
signed by you on the 8 June before mentioned - as
to price that must be paid according to contract - viz
at thirty five cents per Ration & ¹⁵ 1/2 Cents p Gill
of Whiskey - and I beg that in future you will make
timely arrangements to procure what may be requisite
by other means than from the contractor agent - as
our business is to deal for ourselves in such things, & not
to encounter prices such as the contractor must necessar-
ily be - at these remote parts it was precisely in this
view that I sent you a supply of whiskey for the
Soldiers on fatigue - and the workmen - and I have
been surprised to find that you drew whiskey from
the contractor before your own store was exhausted -
how has this happened -

I am &
I, M,