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## **Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, July 1811**

John Mason

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G. C. Sibley Esq  
U. S. Factor  
Fort Osage

July 1811  
George Tomp  
Indian office

Sir

I have received your letters of the 27 Jan<sup>y</sup>, 7 March, 20 April - 10 May - I have written to you on 1 Feb<sup>y</sup> 16 April, 17 April, 22 April last and 1 July Ins<sup>t</sup>. - I am much pleased to see that you are likely to increase the making of candles and thereby give to the Indian much employment and of course the means of subsistence and comfort - your plan of putting up a slight building for that purpose is approved and I beg you will give the subject every attention - I had two Boxes of your last years candles brought here by way of sample and trial - they were no great proofs of skill - but your red women it is to be hoped will become more neat in execution - they sold pretty well as a matter of curiosity but they will not bear the carriage to this place your principal market must be St. Louis for them as I presume - I enclose you a list of sales of the articles from your factory and that of Fort Madison made here this spring for your information - I have found this one of the best Fur markets we have tried, as you see by the prices you will readily see by this list, what are the articles you should most encourage the Indians to bring in - the Beaver and Raccoon you will find do very well - the Dressed Deer skins will not do here and if we dont find a better market for them it will be best to discourage the Indians from preparing them in that way - to return to the

Candles those that were sent here, were very badly put up in the first place. The Boxes were too long, being longer than one candle and shorter than two. They lay unevenly and the shaking so occasioned broke them to pieces the Boxes should be made just of the length of one candle - Deer skins are a great drag now - to save carriage, and the better to preserve them from the worms, it will be best to encourage the Indians to shave as many as possible -

On the presumption that Mr. Rawlings will be fully able to manage the business of the factory in your absence - and as at the season you point out there will not be much to do I consent with pleasure you have a furlough from the middle of Nov: to the middle of April next - provided nothing in the mean time occurs of such a nature as should require that you continue at your post of which you in such case - will be duly advised -

It has become my duty to request of Genl. Wm. Clarke to make enquiry into certain charges brought against you by Capl. Clemson late Commandant at Fort Osage, and stated by him to the Secretary of War by whom they were some time ago sent to me - in order to prepare you for them - I send you copies of all the papers in this affair that I have furnished Genl. Clarke with viz Extract of a letter from Capl. Clemson to the Secretary of War of the 20 July 1810 Copy of two depositions of Paul Loise of 16 July 1810 and one of Joseph Duplice of same date - and of their several authentications - you will at once see the propriety of making

such explanations and adducing such proofs on the points  
 in question as you have it in your power to do in order  
 that a final opinion may be made up here as to your  
 conduct. on the occasions referred to. I considered but  
 justice to you to furnish Genl. LeBarck, as I have done  
 with an extract of all that part of your letter to me  
 of 13 April 1810. which relates to the account then given  
 by you of shutting the factory, to one of the bands of  
 the Osages, and the reasons therefor - should you during  
 your absence next ~~summer~~ winter visit the seat of  
 Government you will come prepared to give any  
 further explanation of this affair that may be requisite.

I am.

copy 8/1/13