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5-22-1813

Letter from John Mason to George Sibley, May 22, 1813

John Mason

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185
154

Geo. C. Sibley Esq

Sir

Indian office ¹⁸¹³ 22 May

Herewith you will receive
Invoice of merchandise forwarded from this office
on the 11th Inst for your factory amount of \$5,642.70
These goods have been packed more than two months
but owing to the very low state of the Potomac
this spring, they could not be despatched earlier.

It was impossible to procure goods conformable to your requisition in these difficult times - I have however sent you such as will satisfy the Indians - I hope untill we can do better - I have given you a very large proportion of the Blankets & all the strouds that could be obtained - some of the Blankets are of the very best quality & some of them are ordinary although they cost higher than the best being purchased since the declaration of war - not being in my power to procure a sufficiency of strouds I have sent you blue cloths as a substitute in part -

I expect 40 Rifles made in exact conformity with your memorandum will be lodged at Pittsburg by the time the Boat from Brownsville with the above goods reaches that place, and also a Box of sheet Iron Kettles tinned inside and made in the fashion of brass Kettles - if they should not reach there in time for the Boat they will be forwarded by the first conveyance to St. Louis after.

not having procured any of N. W. Fusils I have sent you no smooth guns as you desire - I flatter myself I shall be able to get some made in Philad^a in the course of this year that will please your Indians - I have one in the office made by Doring as a sample which very much resembles a N. W. Gun but is of better finish and will cost higher - I think by a little further instruction I shall be able to bring him to the standard as to quality, & nearly so as to price

I have ordered 50 Kegs powder of 50 lb each to be lodged at Shippingport for your factory which will be shipped on board the Boat with your other goods as she passes that place - it will cost much higher than your last years supply, Nitre having advanced in price nearly 100 p^{ct} I expect your powder will cost about 60 p^{ct} of 50 lb

I shall forward you an Invoice as soon as I receive an account from major Morrison of the exact cost — yours of the 29 Decr and 12 Jan^y last have been received the latter covering your accounts for December quarter 1812 — your draft in favor Seth Bronough has been paid amount \$100. my last was on the 19 Ins^o duplicate now enclosed — Yours &c
 P.S. — J.M.

The Beaver received here last fall from your factory was very far inferior to what we have heretofore received from you — the ^{1st} quality sold for 3.60 only, if the felts had been lighter it would have sold for 4.50 to 5.00 as the article was very scarce — your dressed deer skins, tallow deer & Buffalo skins did not bring more than first cost — In pricing your goods sent this year, you must do it according to quality & not to price being part purchased before the war & part after the declaration of war the best goods are in many instances charged at the lowest prices —