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1-13-1834

## Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, January 13, 1834

Benjamin H. Reeves

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Fayette Jany 13<sup>th</sup> 1834

Dear Sir,

I beg pardon for this great delay in answering your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. It came duly to this place I was absent for three weeks thereafter & since, my time and attention has been so closely engaged in attendance upon my son Williams family & the death of his only son, that really I have not had sufficient leisure to attend to other matters however important. My son Clark informs me that he made free to examine the contents of your letter. That he obtained & forwarded to you Mr. S. Davis, receipt which I presume you have received. I can not satisfy myself what steps we ought to take with our business at Washington & now as heretofore I rely upon your more experienced judgement in the matter, when I said to you that probably we had better submit to the Attry. Genrl. A written argument in favor of our construction of our instructions, it did not at the moment occur to me that you had already done so. I now much fear we will be unable to influence the present incumbent in favor of our construction or the heads of the Departments to change their opinions. I would make a resort to the courts a last alternative. Possibly the new Secretaries of State & the Treasury may take a more liberal view of the subject than there predecessors. An unfavorable view by them of the subject will not place us on a worse footing than that in which we now stand & if we fail then apply to congress by petition to allow us the compensation we claim. The affidavits of the late comrs. Of which you speak may strengthen our claim, before congress I should doubt it before the departments I however have one prepared to certify etc. but for the want of a justice of the peace I will be compeld to delay the sending of it until the next mail. The original letters of instruction. I thought I had here among my papers but upon examination I am unable to lay my hand upon them. Many of my papers is yet at my late dwelling some 8 or 10 miles distant. I will hunt them up & if you deem it of importance to have them I can forward them at an other time. Remember I have been in the habit of changing my residence frequently. Once, indeed at one time, twice a year deransenment of my papers

With respect & esteem

Yr. friend & obt. Srvt.

B. H. Reeves

G. C. Sibley