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5-15-1815

**Letter from John Mason to George Sibley & John Johnson, May
15, 1815**

John Mason

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Messrs
Geo. C. Sibley
& John Johnson

Indian office
Geo. town 15 May 1815

Sir

I write you this letter jointly in as much as its subject will relate to matters that cant at this distance be separately allotted to you - in part at least -

I enclose you a copy of a letter I have this day written to Mr. Bowman agent for this office at Brownsville by which you will see what provisions I have made for the building, fitting, and ~~manning~~ manning

running the Boats, ordered heretofore to be prepared one for each of you, at Brownsville.

By the time this reaches you, I trust all the Goods which have been sent to Brownsville for either of your factories or for the treaty to be held by General Clarke and others will have reached Brownsville - I enclose you a list of them - the last left this on the 2^d Inst. so soon as they are with you and the boats ready - which I trust will be very soon after the reception of this - you will take them all in one or part in both as you agree on yourselves and proceed to Pittsburg where you will remain untill the last arrives from Philad^a at that place of which you will be informed by Mr. Bronaugh - you will apply to Major Edwards aft^r Deputy - Lt. master General, of the army - who will have directions to deliver them to you - Mr. Bronaugh will send you a particular list of them - you will then make the best of your way to St. Louis - calling at Shippingport in Kentucky to receive some powder and Tobacco which you will deposit there ready for you with mess^r Berthaud & Son - to you a parcell of Powder and Tobacco for Gov^r Clarke - and of Powder for Mr. Johnsons factory - and deliver all the packages of goods for the treaty to Governor Clarke taking his receipt by duplicate for them which you will send me -

you will also ascertain what is the usual freight from Pittsburg & Brownsville thid^r spring to St. Louis - and on your arrival at St. Louis. make out a regular bill of freight at that rate for all the goods for the

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treaty and send me a regular account of it, heading war Department D. to Department of Indian Trade. for articles for the treaty in question delivered General Clarke & which you will sign and send me by duplicate to enable me to receive it from the war Department - should these articles leave you any convenient room - at Pittsburg any offering you may take freight from individuals to assist in paying charges receive the amount and credit it -

I recommend the utmost economy in your outfits and expenditures - any provisions that are left - you may sell at Saint Louis or keep over for your voyages higher up stream as you may judge best - on your arrival at Saint Louis you will each send me a particular account of the expenditures & incurred.

as well to be ready to assist each other against any accident that may occur in navigating - as to guard against any possible danger against the Indians in ascending the Mississippi - I request that the boats keep company - and to provide against this last if you deem it necessary before you leave the settlements I recommend to you to open a ^{or two} Box of Guns intended for trade to provide yourselves with ammunition - and to arm your crews - I request to hear from you frequently in your progress - and sincerely wishing you both, Gentlemen good health, and a safe and pleasant voyage, I am &c
P.S.

as soon as Mr. Bronaugh returns I shall send to each of you your Invoices and full instructions by mail to St. Louis to

to reach that as early as you - as to your
reestablishment of your factories &c. which
will be in full time - as it is now intended
that Mr. Libby shall make his permanent
establishment this fall or that Mr. Johnson
shall move to Prairie des Chien before the
troops ascend which will not be until after
the treaty is held -

I am &c &c

G. W. W.