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Letter from Thomas McKenney to George Sibley, December 9, 1820

Thomas McKenney

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Geo. C. Sibley Esq
Fort Osage

Office Indian Trade
9th Decr 1820

Sir,

The President has directed that a Factory be established at or near the ground bar on Osage River for the use of the Osages. He recognized my recommendation to constitute it a branch of the factory in your charge. Paul Butler has been appointed by the President Honorary factor for the same. He will hand you this. His instructions are to locate the buildings at or near the ground Bar, as he may determine upon after an examination of the ground &c. The convenience of the Osages is to be consulted; as is that of the Factory operations, and also the

security of the property. Mr. Baillie will confer
 with you, & take your instructions. I should be
 glad if you could accompany him to choose the
 ground. He will need your aid in procuring
 the necessary lumber, and in the selection of proper
 labourers &c. He is directed to make his returns
 thro' you - Copies of Invoices of merchandise sent
 him, will be furnished you. The cargo annuities
 will be paid thro' at this factory. In this you
 will give the necessary directions. I have not
 been very particular in my instructions (except
 those of a general character) to Mr. Baillie, because
 of my reliance on your better intelligence & better
 information. You will act therefore under a
 proper discretion, in whatever may tend best to promote
 the Govt. design in making this establishment -
 which is chiefly to gratify and serve the savages,
 and next to sustain, as well as may be the
 funds, by a proper management of the stock which
 may be sent there. You will council Mr.
 Baillie as to the proper season for getting his returns
 to St. Louis, and especially to get them off in time
 and in good order. He may need a suitable
 Boat, perhaps, if this you will judge, and if
 necessary let him have one. The entire stock
 for the Factory will be sent in proper time from
 this place. —

J. D. W. K.