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7-4-1856

## Letter from George Sibley from St. Louis Presbytery, July 4, 1856

George Champlin Sibley

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Linden- Wood Friday July 4<sup>th</sup> 1856

To The Rev<sup>d</sup>. Presbytery of St. Louis-

In a comm<sup>n</sup>. that Mrs. Sibley & I address<sup>d</sup> to your Rev<sup>d</sup>. Body dated 11<sup>th</sup>. March 1853, in Relation to the establishment of a Female College at Linden- Wood; and in Reference to our express<sup>d</sup> and Sincere desire to aid in accomplishing that object; at that time and 'till Recently, we were under mistaken impressions as to the best method of investing the College with the Right of property in the worldly <sup>u</sup>state that we proposed to devote to it; and under that impression it was made dependent on the provisions of an article in my "last Will" and testament, which I executed, in good faith, on the 11<sup>th</sup>. March '53, and an authenticated copy of Said article accompanied my communication of that date already Referred to above- to all which I now ask leave to call the attention of your Rev<sup>d</sup>. Body-

Mrs. Sibley and I have ever been averse to the too common practice/among good people of "holding on" to the end of their lives to their worldly estates which they intend to give to the aid of good and proper publick objects after their decease, to be Secured by Will: which instuments are always liable more or less to be misinterpreted, or mislaid, or disputed and Set aside; and the purpose of the dying Man defeated- Now altho' my beloved Wife and I cannot approve of Such a Course, which we are very Sure is in general, indefensible; Yet we are aware that there are Sometimes, worthy exceptions- And we would claim our own case as an exception- We have to day executed and delivered to the Directors of the Linden- Wood Female College, our Quit Claim Deed to the 120 acres of land promised in our Communication of 11<sup>th</sup>. March 1853-- And the Board of Directors have, on this day also, executed and delivered to us their

Deed of Lease, Securing to us the uninterrupted occupancy and use of our much loved Home, during the Remnant of our earthly pilgrimage-(the Quit Claim Deed, and Copy of the Deed of Lease will be found on file with the Records of the Board of Directors)-

Now altho' the Quit Claim Deed divests us of our legal title to the 120 acres of land promised in my Will, ( and So far Supersedes the Will) by the terms of the Lease, my Wife & I are allowed to "hold on" to the premises (except 12 Acres) during our Natural lives- We asked this privilege of the Directory, because we were Reluctant to change our Residence, and because we believe that our continued occupancy will prove beneficial to the property, and afford us much better opportunities of Rendering Service occasionally to the College- Our wish from the first has been, to transfer this land to the College by Deed, instead of leaving the title thereto dependent on the many contingencies of my Will- So far as the Publick is interested in the College it is certain that all doubt and uncertainty that may (very naturally have arisen in Some minds, touching the Certainty of the legal title to the property ever being in the College, will now be entirely Removed; and many it may be hoped will act more confidently and liberally hereafter, in behalf of the L. W. F. College, than they were disposed to do heretofore-

In any event, my Wife and myself now feel Relieved from every embarrassment and apprehension, as touching our poor effort to give efficient aid to the establishment that we have So much at heart- I may be allowed to State here (tho' entirely unknown to them) that Mr. Samuel S. Watson and Mary A. Watson his Wife have contributed efficient and available means, in land and Money, to the Amount of not less than \$5000, towards building the first principal College Edifice- Do I praise them for this? Not at all they believed it to be their duty- and instead of leaving its discharge

to their Executors, they have done it themselves in person.

Very Respectfully

Yours in the Redeemer

George Champlin Sibley-