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Letter from George Sibley to Henry Leavenworth, August 30, 1829

George Champlin Sibley

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Genl. H. Leavenworth

George C. Sibley
St. Charles
August 30, 1829

St. Charles August 30, 1829-

Dear Sir,

I ought to have acknowledged your favour of the 22d by the mail of Wednesday last, but was otherwise engaged when I shd. have written, & the mail had closed before I could get to my desk.

In answer to your inquiry in relation to the Negress Clara who was drowned whilst on loan to Mrs. Leavenworth some years ago: I will as you desire it, frankly State to you my opinion on the Subject. Having always looked upon the matter as an affair between Mrs. Leavenworth and Mrs. Sibley, or as you express it "our better Selves" I have never deemed it necessary to interfere in Settling it- In fact I had forgotten it- From the first I looked upon it as a hard case on both sides, and yet consider it so- I have often been asked, why I did not demand of you the full value of the Slave? & have been advised by more than one officious meddler, that I was legally entitled to Recover what the girl was worth- But I could not bring my mind to make any Such demand, and So have left it for Mrs. L & Mrs. S. to Settle- which as they have omitted to do, it now properly enough devolves on you & I to effect, for it is undoubtedly true that Such things should not Remain unsettled-

At the time Clara was drowned, She was very well worth \$400- All things considered, I am of opinion that we should equally divide the loss- I shall be satisfied therefore, if you pay me Two Hundred Dollars when convenient, and if you are Satisfied, we will thus Settle this long standing affair- It is proper for me to observe, that I have never harboured a Single hard thought on this Subject, nor has Mrs. Sibley- tho' Several of our friends have blamed me for Suffering it to rest So long unsettled-

Mrs. Sibley is now at ST. Louis on a Short visit to her Sick relative Mrs. Geyer- She will not leave there in less than a week-

In haste, yours very truly
Geo. C. Sibley