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George Champlin Sibley Papers

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George Sibley's Letter of Emancipation for Baltimore, September 1, 1859

George Champlin Sibley

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Sept. 1, 1859

Be it known to all concerned- That I George C. Sibley of the County of St. Charles in the State of Missouri, being fully authorised thereunto, Have determined to Emancipate my Servant Baltimore, now about 47 years old, and well known in Said County- Therefore I DO hereby Emancipate, Set free, and forever Release Said Baltimore from all claims whatsoever, by which I have hitherto lawfully and Rightfully held him in bonds of Servitude- And I do by this Instrument, fully intend to make Said Baltimore "as fully and perfectly free, as if he had been born free"; as in conformity with an Act of the Genl. Assembly of the State of Missouri, 2d. Article, Approved 5th. March 1845-

[Baltimore was born a Slave in Kentucky- He is honest and well disposed, and capable of Supporting himself Reputably & usefully and I trust will continue to do So- If I were not well convinced of this he Should not "go out free" with my Consent; firmly believing as I do and ever have, that with Rare exceptions, the best position for the Negro Race, in these States, for their own good, is that of domestic Slavery and Strict Subordination to the White Race.] – In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal at Elma, near the City of St. Charles, this First day of Septemr. A. D. 1859-

In the presence of

Geo. C. Sibley

SEAL

A paper of Similar import & Same date prepared for Rachel the wife of Baltimore- Omitting the Note in brackets-

[In the body of this letter, there is a section set off by square brackets. This section was actually set off in brackets in the typescript that I am copying, and the last sentence of the typescript indicates that the brackets were in turn transcribed from the original document. Thus, the material within those brackets was NOT added by me, as other material within brackets in a transcription (such as this note) usually is.]