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Letter from Benjamin Reeves to George Sibley, April 18, 1827

Benjamin Reeves

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Fayette April 18, 1827.

Dear Sir:

Your of the 23rd ultimo came safely to hand but not in time for me to answer by the return mail. I feel very grateful to you for your willingness to release me from the Road service in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Reeves and in all the sincerity of my nature thank you for that friendly aid you so kindly proffer in rendering our camp etc as comfortable as possible if she was inclined to take a journey as far as Walnut Creek. I am strongly inclined to believe that a journey of that kind would add much to the restoration of Mrs. Reeves health if she was able to perform it but I much fear that she would not be able to undergo the fatigue and privations., What would almost necessarily have to be encountered in a trip of that kind.

The articles you mention I will have forwarded to you by the first of May if possible, together with the mules and three hands your proposition as relates to the waggon, hunters, labourers etc., is as small an outfit in that particular as you can well do with but I presume will be sufficient.

I have not as yet collected in the public mules there is I believe twenty-one or twenty-two of them altogether alive at this time and out of that number two at least will not I think be fit for service one a grey mule rode by Henly Cooper which we got from the Usage Indians and one of the Becknal mules as we called them both of those animals is lame and has been so ever since Col. Mather and myself returned from the Road which I expected would soon be well but they both continue to be disabled and by some said to be with what is commonly called the Swinney. I will see them for the best price that can be had.--Seventeen of the best mules I will forward to you and the balance will dispose of A well adjusted compass I apprehend some difficulty in procuring and will use my best efforts to get one either by loan hire or purchase. I have heard of one in the extreme of the county that I have some hopes of getting--Will go on a day or two and know certainly whether it can be had or not, if I fail there I know not where I can succeed. Unless Mr. Brown is applied to for his.

Very sincerely your servant.

B. H. Reeves,

G. C. Sibley.

I will write you by next mail only which time I will know more certainly whether I can procure a compass chain etc.