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Letter from Joseph C. Brown to George Sibley, October 13, 1827

Joseph C. Brown

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Recommended Citation

Brown, Joseph C., "Letter from Joseph C. Brown to George Sibley, October 13, 1827" (1827). *George Champlin Sibley Papers*. 517.

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At home 13 October 1827.

Dear Sir:

It became necessary to throw the notes into this form in order to detect and correct an error of one mile that had occurred in making a map on the desired scale of 4 m to an inch. It thus occurred to me that it might be useful to you in making out your report. I therefore copy it and send it to you. When I sent my last to you at Fayette agreeably to your direction I had not this abstract made, I kept no memorandum of the distances given you in that letter, but I have rather an impression that I gave you therein a wrong distance as the measure of the road from Fort Osage to the 100th longitude if so they will correct it. In all other respects those distances to the course to Taus are sufficiently correct. If you compare this abstract with your memoranda on our return, it will seem to disagree one day as to date owing to the reversal of the notes beyond the 100th degree of Longitude for instance, on our return we crossed the Arkansas and camped on the eve of the 13th September the notes of the road from that camp this way were taken on the 14th and are so entered both on the field book of the return and on this abstract but not so the camp for in this years order it is entered at the end of the 14th on this abstract and so of all the camps beyond there.

You directed me to get materials of the best quality to make the returns on this is a sample of the best I can get. The field book and maps will all be of this paper I had on hand some large paper purchased last winter to make maps the best I could then get but not half enough and the quality a little inferior to this. I therefore lay it by and take this altogether. It will be a mortal weight 17 sheets of this paper to our map of that part of the road beyond Fort Osage and about 25 sheets to the map in book form which I have determined to make 20 miles on the single page as more simple and plain than any other I can think of. The field book in addition particularly as there will be more than one copy of the maps. But one ought to have somewhat to show after such labour--If the return had to be made to Benton the bulk would be material.

With much respect.

Your obedient servant.

Jos. C. Brown.

Geo. C. Sibley Es2.

BB I open my commentation to say yours of the 5th inst is received on putting this into the office-- I will finish the map agreeably to your wish.

I C Brown.

12
No. 82 E. 433 chs. to another Mound from which a small Grove of timber or a Creek of M. Dleygen bears So. 16 E and is about 2 Miles off. At this Grove staid night of 21st June.

No. 82 E. 497 chs. crossing a large Valley to a Mound on the top of a high Mound-like Hill (See P. 19 end of 7th course) over which the Road passes - From this to the last Mound, the road Shd. go direct (it now rises a little North of this course) the ground is better and the Creeks less difficult to cross by far -

From this Md. are seen So. 40 E abt. 2 miles off a considerable Grove of Woods on a Creek of M. D. Cygen & No. 12 E. abt. a mile off, a small Grove on a Creek of Kansas Rd.

June 22d. - No. 88 E. 161 Chs. to a Mound from which a Pt. of timber (see notes 26th July 1825) bears So. 59 E. and is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ Mile off.

No. 88 E.	321 Chs.	to a Mound)	From Big Hill to Md. No.5
No. 76 E.	210 "	to a Mound)	may be all in one course.
No. 87 E.	67 "	to a Mound)	No. 88 E. 5.4.50
No. 87 E.	48 "	to a Md. No.5)	
No. 88 E.	67 "	to a Mound in sight of a small creek.		

June 23d - So. E. 110 Chs. to small Creek, small Grove of timber above & below the ford, Dr. bears south & is branch of a larger Cr. farther eastw.

So. 82 E. 25 Chains to a Mound.

No. 85 E. 150 Chs. crossing a deep ugly cut to a Mound from which Md. No.5 bears West.

No. 73 E. 154 chs. to a Mound.

So. 70 E. 30 Chs. to the ford of Big Cut off Creek 30 lks. bearing south into which the one just above noted enters just below.

From the Big Md. hill to this Cr. by the courses above noted, Packers may travel direct, and waggons very nearly so - The ford of this Cr. is very good, and near it on the E. side is excellent camping ground - plenty of wood, water & grass - Big cut Dr. is a Branch of the M. Cygen.

The best crossing of this Cut is a little North of the course, and is pointed out by a small Mound - After crossing, bear south to the next Mound.

From the Ford of Big Cut off Creek.

40 E. 13 chs. to edge of Prairie this open woods.

69 E. 49 " to a large Mound.

85 E. 150 to a Mound or a high ridge - Packers may go direct on this course Waggons shd. go a little round Northward, to avoid a rough hollow - from this Md. westward, bear towards a middle clump of trees seen beyond Big Cut off, and soon see a Mound which directs to the ford as above noted 1 & 2 courses.

13.
88 E 110 Chs. to a Mound or high ridge in sight of Little Cut off Dr. waggons
shd. pass a little northwd. to avoid a hollow.

No. 89 E. 230 chs. to the ford of Little Cut off Dr. 15 lks. bears South,
below the ford is large Grove of Timber, above a small one - ford good - between
these two Creeks the Prairie is much broken tho sufficiently level for a good
Road, some rough hollows intervene, but they are not bad & they may all be avoided
by bearing a little northwd. occasionally from the Marked route.

June 25th. From ford of Little Cut off Cr.

So. 89 E 132 chs. to a large Mound No.6 in a sort of hollow on a Ridge -
the last Md. noted West of this Cr. plainly seen from this - the ford is in
direct line between the two - It is a little North of a space in the fringe of
timber, in which space see some tall trees.- The ground is good from Cr. to this Md.

So. 83 E. 243 Chs. to a small Mound near the old Road - In this last course,
there is a Muddy Hollow to cross which may be crossed very well on the course, in
dry weather, or at a brush Bridge below, say just below a lone Oak Sapling, that
stands on the bank - going Westward, keep down a tongue or point of the Prairie to
the brush bridge.

June 25th - No. 73 E 77 Chs. over a high Hill to the edge of the woods-
from the top of this Hill the large Mound, No.6, bears nearly due west and is very
distinctly seen a little to the North of a Point of timber

No. 66 E 12 chs.
No. 55 E 10 chs.
So. 70 E 15 "
So. 35 E 6 "
No. 88 E 6 "
No. 49 E 10 "
No. 88 E 7 "
No. 30 E 4 " to the ford of Grindstone Creek.
30 lks. runs North to Kansas R.

No. 30 E 14 chs.
No. 74 E 5 " to top of Hill
No. 42 E 16 " on ridge
No. 88 E 12 " "
So. 82 E 12 " "
So. 30 E 17 " "
So. 35 E 9 " "
So. 55 E 22 " " to a Md. at the edge of Prairie.

East 64 chs. to a Mound
No. 88 E 44 chs. to a Mound
No. 87 E 65 " to ford of Gooseberry Cr.
25 lks. runs north into Kansas.

June 26th 541 ---

No. 88 E. 47 chs. to a Mound
No. 80 E. 63 " to a large Md. on ridge
No. 56 E. 363 " to a small Md.
No. 70 E. 15 " to ford of Doos Creek at some beautiful shady Oaks - the Creek
is small and bears Northward.

So. 88 E. 40 chs. to a small Mound 22
 No. 75 E. 64 " to a Large Mound or Ridge 21
 No. 61 E. 70 " to a Mound 20
 No. 52 E. 46 " to a small Mound 19
 No. 55 E. 38 " to ford of Hungry Creek - Dr. small runs northward.
 Has some small growth of timber - Water good - Land rich.

Gooseberry & Doas Creek have also small strips of Woods and afford good Land in the bottoms - the Way thro this cut off is on the whole, a good one and should be preferred to the old Round about way, especially in dry weather, when flies are bad or in cold weather - on all the creeks are good camping places.

June 26th ----- From Hungry Creek.

75 E. 63 Chs. to a small Mound in Prairie
 69 E. 52 " to a Mound on a Ridge 17
 75 E. 98 " to a Large Mound No. 16 near the old Road - Passing 2 small
 Mds. off South to avoid some hollows. --
 No. 61 E. 88 chains - leaving Road on left.
 No. 84 E. 68 " to top of a Ridge
 No. 77 E. 104 " from this Pt. the Md. No.7 bears So. 74 W.- the Road
 is necessarily crooked -
 No. 84 E. 100 chs. crossing old Road twice.
 No. 80 E. 231 " leaves the Road Southwd. it had better go direct
 on the course.
 So. 75 E. 212 " leaving the road northward - should go on this course.
 No. 72 E. 290 chs. to a large Mound(No.A) on the Road leaving the road
 southward - shd. go straight.
 No. 56 E. 470 chs. to a Large Mound on a high ridge leaving the road
 south. From this Md. the "Round Grove" is plainly to be seen, and bears So.70 E.
 No. 60 E. 200 chs. to a Mound 13.

June 27th ---

No. 67 E. 112 chs. to Caravan Creek, 30 lks. bears northwd. here is a pretty Grove of Timber, good water, and good Pasture - the Round Grove is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ Miles above, or Southward on this same Creek.

Wednesday Night June 27th 1827. --

From Caravan Grove June 28th -
 No. 67 E. 37 chs. to a small Mound 12
 No. 60 E. 146 " to a small Mound 11
 No. 50 E. 186 " to a large Mound
 No. 38 E. 320 " to a Mound or a ridge.
 No. 46 E. 410 " to a Mound or ridge - crossed the old road twice - shd. go
 straight on course from this Md. the round Grove bears So. 29 W. Small groves of
 wood seen in every direction from 2 to 4 miles off.

No. 27 E. 200 chs. to a Mound No.8 near road.
 No. 47 E. 124 " to ford of Flat Rock Creek 30 lks. bears Southd. into Big
 Blue, ford just below the upper pt. of the timbers, some pretty groves below -
 this is quite a pretty Cr. and affords good camping ground - From the last large
 Mound No.8, can be seen Eastwardly considerable body of wood-land of Big Blue,
 & in the opposite direction several large groves on the streams of the Kansas R.
 the country a good deal broke - Land very rich water plenty - The Road may very
 well run upon the courses above noted, for Packers and carriages may also go direct
 from Md. to Md. with very little variation.

June 28th -

No. 47 E. 87 chs. to a Mound or a ridge, the ford is in line between this & Mound No.8.

No. 45 E. 135 chs. to a large Md. - way good.

No. 65 E. 286 " to a Md. with a bush in it. - The road must bear a little round on the ridge abt. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.W. from this Md. is good camping ground at the Sapling Grove - Country very pretty here. Prairie rich, several large forests of woods of Kansas & Big Blue to be seen.

Note, from the last Mound No.9, it is 93 chs. No. 32 W. to sapling Grove - and from this Md. to Patterson's the course is a Md. No. 25 East as Jno. Walker supposes.

July 1st saw from Md. No.9 viz.

No. 73 E. 348 chs. to a Mound on a high ridge with a post in it - here the road must zig zag a little, to avoid hollows on both sides.

No. 84 E. 335 Chs. to a very large Mound on the State Line right on Mr. Brown's 9 Mile Mound, and 44 Poles North of the point Mr. Brown's survey of the road crossed.

Since making this note, I went out upon a high ridge from which I could plainly see Patterson's field and Md. No.9 and having got exactly in line between them, find that the exact course from the Mound No.9 to Patterson's field (which is on the State Line) is North 39° East - There is a very fine large spring at Sapling Grove.

From the Mound No.7 to the commencement of the old survey of the Road near Ft. Osage by way of the Survey, the distance is $35\frac{1}{2}$ miles. To turn off at this Mound, and go direct to Patterson's No. 39 E. thence direct to Jackson Ct. House, thence by the road to the beginning of the old Survey, the distance is 33 Miles, and the way said to be rather the best, but, as the direct way cannot be traveled, the actual difference cannot be more than one Mile in favour of the route by Patterson's. The Old Road may however be shortened nearly a Mile if not near two miles, by cutting off unnecessary bends of the Survey, and by passing out from Jackson Ct. H. by Cook's instead of by Fistoe's - so that there is in fact no material odds between the two routes as to distance; both should pass thru the even country town Independence.

The following notes of Survey from the Large Mound (No.A) 7.82 chs. from Caravan Grove, to the commencement of the old Survey; found by the Blue Spring Route.

So. 86 E. 540 - leaves the road principally to Northd.
 No. 85 E. 140 - road good.
 No. 83 E. 255 - - to the round Grove, road good.
 No. 50 E. 307 - - on good ground, to fork of the road.
 No. 65 E. 200 - - crossing a Branch & muddy hollow.
 No. 39 E. 19 - - nearly with the road.
 No. 60 E. 90 - - near the road
 No. 77 E. 9 - - along the road.
 No. 66 E. 62 - - near the road
 So. 89 E. 19 - - along the road.
 So. 83 E. 26 - - same
 So. 53 E. 57 - - road crooked
 So. 63 E. 45 - - near the road
 So. 78 E. 14 - - near the road
 So. 89 E. 49 - - road crooked
 So. 82 E. 114 - - with the road

carried ford.

So. 80 E. 45 - - near the road
 So. 70 E. 29 - - near the road
 So. 86 E. 48 - - near the road.
 2068

East 58 - - near the road
 So. 83 E. 62 - - crossing a Hollow
 So. 71 E. 32 - - road crooked
 So. 78 E. 98 - - road crooked
 So. 60 E. 52 - - near the road
 So. 70 E. 58 - - near the road.
 No. 66 E. 12 - - in the road
 So. 83 E. 52 - - road near
 So. 73 E. 60 - - road near
 No. 71 E. 49 - - near the road
 No. 58 E. 72 - - near the road
 No. 66 E. 24 - - in the road
 No. 63 E. 30 - - near the road
 No. 50 E. 40
 No. 70 E. 100 - - to a Pt. of timber on the left.
 No. 88 E. 116 - - thro a flat bottom to edge of wood.
 So. 67 E. 6
 No. 80 E. 8
 S. 72 E. 7 thro bottom woods
 N. 64 E. 4
 N. 80 E. 9 put all them in one.
 N. 25 E. 8
 No. 77 E. 4
 S. 83 E. 9 - - to ford of Big Blue
 970

July 4th - - -

So. 52 E. 124 - - 100 chs. thro open woods
 N. 85 E. 76 - - near road
 S. 85 E. 50 - - near road
 N. 85 E. 45 - - road near - cross big hollow. - from this Pt. Wilson's
 bears No. 41 W. about a mile off.
 No. 65 E. 37 - - crossing hollow, prairie broke.
 N. 25 E. 32)
 No. 14 W. 35) very broken
 N. 16 E. 37)
 N. 23 E. 25 - - more level - Wilson's bears from here No. 86 W. 3/4 M. off.
 this is a high Pt. a nearer way would be for the road to
 cross Big Blue near Wilson's.
 N. 30 E. 23 - - Pt. of wood on left, close by.
 N. 40 E. 28 - - road on good ground.
 N. 24 E. 74 - - Pt. timber near off to left.
 N. 42 E. 63 - - Prairie more broken
 N. 59 E. 46 - - Prairie broken
 N. 37 E. 85
 N. 60 E. 43 - - along a good ridge
 No. 71 E. 59 - - same
 N. 88 E. 40 - - same
 922.

So. 37 E. 48 - - descending to Little Blue
 S. 44 E. 79 - - road crooked and bad.
 S. 31 E. 36 - - near the road
 South 28 - - near the road
 So. 79 E. 38 - - down the edge of timber
 S. 50 E. 38 - - to edge of the woods.
 So. 32 E. 8 - -
 No. 71 E. 12 - - thro woods to L. Blue 50 lks.
 No. 55 E. 27 - - to top of hill in the Prairie - here camped, in the rain 5th July

A flash of lighting destroyed the magnetic properties of the needle of my compass, here & thus I was prevented making any further survey of this road.

The Road is extremely crooked from this camp to the Blue Spring; distance round as near as I can estimate it from this Point to the Blue Spring is 23 Miles - from the Blue Sprg. to Hicklins, forks of the Road, is called 15 Miles - So that from the Md. A. by the round Grove, Blue Sprg. & to the old Road near Hicklins, it is 64 Ms. & 220 Poles - Say 64 Ms. from the fork of the road near Hicklins, by way of McClellans - Independance, Cook's & to Md. A. the distance is 57 Miles at Most - difference from 7 to 8 Miles in fav. of the Lower Route.

From Council Grove - See Page 28

No. 71 E. - 80 chs. to a Md. at a Sprg., foot of Hill
 East 49 " to a Mound on the Hill.
 So. 88 E. - 75 " to a Md. on high Ridge
 So. 83 E. - 89 " to crossing of Gravel Creek where the old Survey crossed it -
 From the Ford to a fine large Sprg. near the old Road, at the foot of "Sprg. Hill" just at a large Oak on which is mkd. "Big John's Sprg.", it is No. 20^o E. 25 chains.

Going Westward, it is the best and nearest way to pass round the Southern Point of the Hill instead of going round the Northern Point as the present Road goes. July 13th.

See Page 26 - last course N. 10 W" to a Creek called Hycory Creek.
 From the ford of this Cr. (termination of the above course -
 No. 89 W. 79 chains) to a point at a Md.
 So. 77 W. 84 ") on the Old Survey and
 So. 62 W. 69 ") on the Old Road.

From the above Mound, ran

No. 80 E. 150 chs. - East 239 chs. -
 East - 72 chs. to a Mound.
 S. 89 E. 36 " to a Md. crossing a Branch.
 S. 89 E. 74 " to ford of Hycory Cr.
 S. 89 E. 61 " to a Md. on Old Road
 N. 86 E. 90 " to top of Hill of old Road
 No. 82 E. 84 " to a Mound.
 No. 87 E 165 " to a Md.
 So. 88 E. 200 " to top of the dividing Ridge. as noted Page 26 - termination of 6th course - This alteration commences (going Westward) N. 88 W. instead of "No. 43 W." the 7th course P. 26 & so continuing the above courses reversed. -- Reversing this course it connects with the old Survey at the 9th course Page 27" West 20" which is the next. - in order after this "Went 239"
 June 16th. -

See Page 24 termination of 8th course "S. 80 W." at ford of Murden Creek -
 So. 87 W. 100 chains from this ford is a Mound at the Road on the old Survey -

From the ford ran as follows viz.-

No. 77 E. 265 chs. to a Mound on a high ridge some part of the way on old road.

No. 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ E. 182 chs. crossing a large hollow and some rough ground, to a Mound - this is on the whole a good enough way and cuts off a great bend Southd.

No. 82 E. 265 chs. to a Mound - very good way.

No. 84 E. 215 to the ford of Pat's Creek at the crossing of old Survey -

See P. 23 7th course.

June 17th.

From the ford of Pat's Creek, as above, ran as follows viz.

So. 84 E. 70 chs. to a Mound - ford in sight.

So. 84 E. 40 " to a Md. on a ridge.

No. 80 E. 36 " to a Mound.

No. 80 E. 60 " to a large Mound on a Ridge - from this Pt. the Mound 215 chs. S. 84 E. from the ford, bears So. 87 W.

No. 83 E. to a small Mound 176 chs.

No. 83 E. 30 chs. to edge of timber when the road leads to the ford of Muscle Cr.

No. 34 E. to the ford of Muscle Cr. - 24 chains.

No. 17 E. 12 chains to a small md.

No. 62 E. 9 chs. edge of Prairie

So. 89 E. 47 chs. to a Mound near a large Nob Northward.

So. 83 E. 97 chs. to a large Mound or a high ridge - from this Md. going West steer thro a hollow to the timber - keeping the timber of a small Br. abt. 200 yds on the left.

So. 89 E. 178 chs. to large Md. on old road from this Md. the ford of Pat's Creek bears S. 83 West.

No. 87 E. 153 chs. to Bridge.

June 19th -