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MARKING THE SANTA FE TRAIL

By FREDERIC A. CULMER

ON January 24th, 1825, Senator David Barton (now the "forgotten man" of Missouri) wrote from Washington to Abiel Leonard, a young lawyer of Franklin, Missouri, upon the subject of the Mexican trade.¹ He had received and presented a petition upon it from Boone county. Barton's viewpoint is interesting, for he believed that the trade in "quadrupeds" might be valuable, provided the Mexicans industriously raised them. Ten years later Leonard was sending his own Missouri mules by the hundreds to the south for sale. Barton states that he had introduced a senate resolution calling for inquiry "into the expediency of establishing a fort on that route." He noted further that a "bill also had reported" (Senator Benton of Missouri introduced it) which proposed "nothing but the marking of the road and the acquisition of a right of way through the Indian country." Owing to the excitement over the pending presidential change he doubted the passage of the bill. But it did pass and Benj. G. Reeves, Geo. C. Sibley, and Colonel Menard (later succeeded by Thomas B. Mather), were con-

1. *Santa Fé Letters*, no. 71. These letters (hereafter cited as "S. F.") are at Columbia, Missouri. The Leonard collection consists of the files of Abiel Leonard (1797-1863), whig leader and supreme court justice of Missouri (1855-57).

Abiel Leonard, son of the Captain Nathaniel Leonard who surrendered Fort Niagara to the English during the war of 1812, came to Missouri Territory in 1819 and lived in Missouri until his death. In 1833 he moved from Franklin to Fayette and there built the brick mansion which still stands on "Leonard Hill."

The author discovered Leonard's files in the attic of his old home in 1930, and the entire collection was generously given to the Missouri Historical Society by Nathaniel W. Leonard (son of Abiel) who is still living in Fayette at an advanced age.

The presence of the "Santa Fé Letters" upon which this article is based among the Leonard papers is explained by the fact that Abiel Leonard married a daughter of Benjamin H. Reeves, one of the three commissioners appointed to mark the Santa Fé Road, and by the further fact that later Reeves lived for some time with his son-in-law.

stituted commissioners for the survey and marking of the Santa Fé route.²

News of the proposed survey created in Missouri and adjoining states "an excitement not only extensive but very warm . . . in fact a mania." Applications for positions and work poured in upon the commissioners. Excited individuals sought to bind Sibley by his promise of support, even before he received official appointment. One such aspirant construed Sibley's answer as a promise; a little later he vented his angry disappointment through the press.³ Sibley's denial of promise finds support in letters to Reeves, in which he states that he has received numerous applications for "the appts. of Surveyor and Secretary" but has concluded not to listen to any applications. He suggests to Reeves that nothing be done on the subject until all three confer together.⁴

Reeves notes in his memoranda that he started to St. Louis to make preparation for the trip, on the 5th of May, 1825, and returned to Franklin on the 23rd. Evidently a conference was held in the city. Sibley remained there for some time later. Two things kept Sibley in St. Louis: representatives of the Osage and Kansas Indians were in the city and he desired to conclude "negociations" with them; and he had trouble to find "waggon." He finally contracted with a wagon-maker to build four by June 12th, under a delay penalty of five hundred dollars. From "more than a hundred applicants" he chose six expert rifle-men hunters, "all of good families—Benjamin Jones, Benjamin Robin-

2. Mather seems to have divided his time between Missouri and Illinois. He was out upon the trail for some time. Reeves was a former Kentuckian. His printed handbill in the Leonard file shows that he ran for the Kentucky legislature in 1814. He was lieutenant-governor at the time of his appointment. The governor died a few days later and Reeves just missed being governor of Missouri. Some years later he returned to Kentucky and was elected to the legislature. He died in that state. Sibley was a typical western composite of soldier, business man, and politician. He and his wife later founded Lindenwood College at St. Charles, Mo.

3. This was W. J. Boggs of Franklin, Mo. He had met Sibley on his way from Fort Osage to St. Louis to prepare for the trip. He wanted to be the secretary. Sibley told Reeves that if necessary he would publish an oath of denial. The implication seems to be clear.

4. *S. F.*, 1, 2, 3.

son, James Wells, James Brotherton, Dan'l Murphy and Harvey Clark." Jones was a valuable acquisition; he was "formerly the compeer and favorite of the celebrated trader and Indian fighter Robt. McClellan." Sibley's selections gave offence to "many good but silly men."

The applications may be judged by an illustration:⁵

Jackson, May 25, 1825.

Dear Capt. After my particular respects to you and a Desire for the welfare of your family me and mine is well I would be very glad to see you and of all things to accompany you on your Route to St. Afee if there is time and your company not made up write me stating in what way I shall go and with what Equipage and I will come on without fail if nothing happens more than I know of the woods is my home and the forrest my own give my respects to my friend Col. Burckhardt and receive them yourself.

James Logan.

Not all the applications were of this character. The file contains a very courteous application for the position of surveyor from one William Clarkson, Jr., of St. Louis.

Sibley drew up the camp regulations for "hands," thirty in number, as distinguished from skilled workers and officers. Summarized, they are: all gentlemen coffee drinkers, and those unable to saddle a horse or cook their victuals, are barred; wages, \$20 per month, hands to furnish their own groceries, if any, except in case of sickness; no regular supply of bread to be expected; all hands to be expert rifle-men and hunters; the hands to have a mess separate from that of the commissioners; no access by hands to the commissioners' stores or tents; no difference of social rank to furnish basis for favored treatment; hands must expect that the commissioners will maintain camp order and discipline. Eighteen men placed their signatures on a paper calling for their conformity to all rules and regulations: Edward Davis, Richard Brannon, Thomas Adams, James Davis, Reuben Cornelius, Levi Cornelius, Spencer

5. S. F., 12, 7.

Smith, Ander Broaddus, Samuel Givens, Dudley Dedmen, Daniel East, Joseph Davis, William Givens, Bradford Barbey, Byrd Pyle, Neriah Todd, Garrison Patrick, and Joseph Reynolds. These were the men engaged by Sibley. In a letter of June 5th, 1825, he suggests to Reeves that all hands sign a common pledge before they start out. Reeves selected the overseer of the hands. The surveyor was Joseph C. Brown.

In this same letter Sibley anticipated the arrival of "his party" at Franklin about the 20th of June, 1825.⁶ The progress of the commissioners is marked by the following letters:⁷

Council Groves, August 10, 1825.

Mr. A. P. Choteau:

Sir: The undersigned commissioners etc., have this day stipulated to pay the chiefs and head men of the Great and Little Osage the sum of five hundred dollars.

They request of you to pay those Indians that amount in powder, lead, and knives, and such other articles as they may wish, all of which to be put at the lowest prices.

The certificate of the United States agent for the Osages that you have thus paid them, together with this letter to Messrs. Tracy and Wahrendorf of St. Louis, will entitle you to the above named sum of Five Hundred Dollars, and these gentlemen are hereby requested to pay you that amount on our account.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

B. H. REEVES,
GEO. C. SIBLEY,
THOMAS MATHER.

6. S. F., 2, 6, 45, 48.

7. S. F., 4, 47. Both documents are copies. The first bears the notation, "Filed August 10, 1825," initialed A. G. Archibald Gamble, brother of H. R. Gamble, supreme court judge and provisional governor of Missouri, was secretary to the commissioners. The second letter bears the notation that the original was given to the head chief for presentation to Curtis & Ely, Indian traders at the Kansas village.

Sora (?) Kansas Creek, August 16th, 1825.
Messrs. Curtis & Ely:

Gentlemen: The undersigned commissioners etc., have this day stipulated to pay the Kansas tribe of Indian [here follows an identical sum and manner of payment].

The commissioners conceived it to be their duty to require that the payment be made in the presence of two or more respectable men, whose certificate that the payment has been properly made, together with this letter presented to Messrs. Tracy and Wahrendorf of St. Louis, will entitle you to the above named sum of Five Hundred Dollars, and these gentlemen are hereby requested to pay you that amount on our account.

Respectfully your servants,

	B. H. REEVES,
(Signed)	GEO. C. SIBLEY,
	THOMAS MATHER.

Subject to the consent of the Mexican government it had been the intention of the United States government to survey and mark the Santa Fé route into that city. The Mexican government having shown an unwillingness to grant permission, the secretary of war, James Barbour, on September 19, 1825, directed the commissioners "to confine their operations within our own territory agreeably to the first section of the Act authorizing the survey and marking thereof." This letter was intercepted at Franklin, Missouri, by Reeves and Mather, who had returned there. Their answers to the secretary of war outline the history of the expedition up to November 5, 1825.

The expedition left "the frontiers of Missouri" on July 15, 1825, and proceeded in the direction of Santa Fé, "running a line" as it went. The commissioners came to the "confines of New Mexico, at the boundary line of the United States," early in September, and there waited further instructions as to the continuance of the road, until the 20th of that month. On that day the party separated, Sibley setting out with his group to Santa Fé to winter, and with

the hope of obtaining a satisfactory point of entrance into "the Mexican settlements," while Reeves and Mather returned to Missouri, locating and marking the "principal sections of the road" as they came home. They informed Barbour that the following spring would see the road completed so far as the border of New Mexico,—the following summer into Santa Fé if the Mexican government consented to the survey.

Four days after they wrote Barbour, Reeves and Mather jointly sent the instructions from Washington to Sibley and urged him, in the event that he should hear unfavorably from Poinsett, United States minister to Mexico, to return to Missouri in order that the business might be closed "as early as possible." This letter crossed a letter to them from Sibley, written from San Fernando de Taos, where, instead of at Santa Fé, he had decided to spend the winter of 1825-26.⁸ His journey there had killed four horses. He anticipated the consent of the Mexican government to continue the road; he requested that Reeves and Mather bring out in the spring, axes, ax handles, mattocks, files, nails, augurs, powder, lead, coffee, tea and sugar. His bartering commodities being low (he bartered for corn, wheat, mutton, etc., from the Indians), he requested scarlet and blue cloth, vermilion, "beeds," knives, awls, and other small articles. He had written to Poinsett and to the governor of New Mexico on the subject of surveying and marking the route into Santa Fé. Since there probably would be no further negotiations with the Indians, he advised Reeves to notify Mr. Gamble that his services would be no longer needed. The file contains a rough copy of Reeves' rather ambiguous letter to Gamble on the advice. One sentence speaks to another point: "Am informed that the Mexican Govt. is somewhat jealous about this little matter of the road and will not consent to its survey without having it mixt up in the General treaty (if I may so express myself) of amity & friendship between the two Govts. . . ."

8. S. F., 8, 11, 9.

The difficulty of establishing mutual understanding between Sibley and Reeves (who sometimes wrote in behalf of himself and Mather), and a very evident desire on Sibley's part for successful negotiations with the Mexican government, increased the complexity of the situation. As late as April, 1826, Mather wrote Reeves from Kashaskia that he had just returned from Washington; that the secretary of war insisted upon Sibley's return because of the failure to negotiate successfully with the Mexican government. Mather suggested that Reeves write to Sibley by out-going traders "that he may loose no time in returning." Reeves acknowledged this on May 7th, preferring a joint request for Sibley's return. Yet he wrote Sibley on May 12th and again on May 19th, 1826, urging his return as speedily as possible.

In the meantime a packet of letters from Sibley, all dated February 7, 1826, had reached Reeves by the hand of "Mr. Brannin." Sibley had been to Santa Fé, where he had interviewed the governor of New Mexico, who had become much interested in the survey. Sibley writes:

I have suggested to the Governor here the propriety of establishing two military posts east of the mountains for the purpose of giving protection to the Road etc., he is greatly in favor of the project,—and has advised his Govt. to have it carried into effect; and I have little doubt . . . but it will be done soon. . . . If the mail arrives . . . I may be able to let you know the results of my communication to Mr. Poinsett.

Whether Sibley had received Reeves' instructions from Barbour at this date is uncertain. He longs to hear from Missouri, and declares that if Reeves "does not bring out a packet of letters he [Reeves] will receive no introduction to the Spanish ladies." He was sending six men back to Missouri for the sake of economy. His letters conclude with an itemized list of needed articles, "predicated on the suppo-

9. S. F., 8, 11, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, 33. Reeves filed copies of his own letters.

sition that our fund will not be augmented by Congress, [the appropriation was \$30,000] and that no further Indian negotiations will be necessary."

On the 26th of February, 1826, Sibley received a letter from Poinsett:¹⁰

Legation of the U. S., Mexico,
3rd December, 1825.

Geo. Sibley Esq.:

Sir: I have this instant received your letter of the 12th ult. and as the communication between the capitol and New Mexico is not very frequent, hasten to reply to it by the courier who leaves this [city] tonight.

I have hitherto failed to induce the President of these States to take any part in the survey of the proposed road until after we shall have concluded our treaty of limits.

As there has been lately a change in the administration I have renewed the negotiations and will inform you of the result by the earliest opportunity. Your account of the route is highly satisfactory and will, I hope, aid me to bring this affair to a successful conclusion.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir,
Yr. obt. Serv't
(Signed) J. R. POINSETT.

Sibley answered in part:

Santa Fe, New Mexico,
5 March 1826.

.... The delay on the part of the Mexican government in yielding its consent to the survey and marking of the western section of the proposed route from Missouri to this frontier, is a circumstance that was entirely unlooked for by the commissioners. To me it appears the more extraordinary, for our Gov't does not ask of the Mexican Gov't any participation in the expenses, and I am confident that the road when completed will be infinitely more advantageous to this country than to the western parts of the United States.

10. S. F., 14, 14x, 15, 16; Sibley's packet of letters, 21.

Unless the consent of the Mexican Gov't is obtained in season to reach my colleagues in Missouri, via the city of Washington early in May, I should be very apprehensive that they should decline to meet me here in June agreeably to our arrangements; that the completion of the road will be obliged to be deferred another season, and, which will be worse, we shall have incurred a heavy expense unnecessarily, in consequence of our reliance upon the ready assent of the Government to permit the United States to open the road at its own expense, . . . I enclose you a copy of the communication I made to the Governor of New Mexico on the 5th of January. Possibly you may find it of some use.

I have the honor etc—

(Signed) G. C. SIBLEY.

On May 20th, 1826, he had received no reply from Poinsett, but he was "pretty well persuaded that the Government of Mexico will have seen the absolute propriety of giving its consent to the proposed measure." Though without favorable knowledge he expected Reeves to arrive "early in July"; if the Mexican government withheld its consent at least they could complete the road in the United States as they returned. He hoped to meet Reeves "with full powers to enable us to progress with the road to its-completion."¹¹

From a letter written by Reeves to Mather on June 19, 1826, it seems to be evident that these men had decided not to go out to the New Mexican border. By August 20th, Sibley himself was in preparation to leave for Missouri. The only concession granted to him by the Mexican government was "a very restricted permission" for the "examination of the western end of the road" which Reeves could "not think will be conclusive with our government."¹² Sibley was now anxious to conclude the entire work: his letter to

11. *S. F.*, 17. Copies in Sibley's hand. The originals were sent to Washington—see *S. F.*, 36.

12. *S. F.*, 28, 39x, 30. (See "Editorial Note," *infra*.)

Reeves from "Walnut Creek" as he returned to Missouri proposed the sale of the public property in the hands of the commissioners so soon as he arrived. This letter was written September 23rd; on October 17th he wrote Reeves again from Fort Osage, and proposed that five complete copies of the field notes, and five "handsome maps on a scale of 20 miles to the inch," be made. Reeves answered the first letter October 12th. Mather and he had changed their minds; criticism of the road by traders and others caused them to think that, "early next spring," the commissioners would better "pass over the road as far as we deemed it necessary and make the necessary corrections." On October 21st, he wrote again. Mather and he had decided not to make a report to the government until "next spring"; in the meantime they would make "some necessary corrections, as far perhaps as Little Arkansas." A member of congress had told them that the "arrangement of the road was mixed up in the general provisions of the treaty" and Reeves now understood that the treaty had been concluded. He believed now that a suitable appropriation would be made to finish the route, and they had concluded "not to make our report before we hear from the Gov't on that subject." The tone of Reeves' letters suggests decided disagreement among the commissioners.¹³

It is a fair inference that Mather and Reeves were more concerned about the review of their work prior to a report to the government than they were hopeful of the continua-

13. *S. F.*, 30, 31x. On the initial journey out the commissioners had not decided where "the road must cross the Arkansas." (*S. F.*, 16.) Sibley and Reeves had disagreed with Mather on this point. (*S. F.*, 29) Sibley's idea had been that the road should cross the Arkansas "a little above the south bend, at or near the old Caches, and from thence strike the Simaron some 10 or 15 miles below the lower spring." He noted that "the usual route by Choteaus Island, is probably full thirty miles farther round." (*S. F.*, 16.)

They had been uncertain whether "Simaron Creek is a part of the Grand Saline" (*S. F.*, 16), and they had left unmarked certain portions of the road, intending to locate and mark them as they returned to Missouri; which, as Reeves remarked, "we was [sic] unable to do." On June 19th, 1826, Reeves wrote to Mather that "the expense attending a review of our work would be very trifling, and would put a stop to a few animadversions which seem to be afloat against the commissioners. in this particular." (*S. F.*, 29.)

tion of the road to Santa Fé. They used the continuation argument to check the impatience of Sibley. But Sibley pressed for an early meeting of the commissioners to complete the work and their report. Reeves set the date of meeting, December 4th, 1826, at Jefferson City. In his notification to Mather, Reeves concludes: "I feel and shall feel desirous [*sic*] not to depart from the agreement we last entered into relative to our takeing [*sic*] a review of our work before we make our final report. But Mr. S. seems so desirous that the comrs. should meet that I can no longer oppose that meeting,—at which time we can either *adhere* or enter into whatever conclusions that may be most conclusive to the public trust committed to us."

The meeting resulted in plans to review the road. A part of the public property was not sold. Sibley returned to his home at Fort Osage. By March 23, 1827, he knew of "the aversion of Col. Mather to make the journey," and had received a letter from Reeves stating his inability to go on account of the ill-health of his wife. Sibley wrote that he would "most cheerfully go alone and do the work . . . expecting that there will arise no difficulty with Col. Mather and yourself in recognizing what I do." He anticipated but little work to alter the survey and bring it to "the track as travelled by the caravans." He did not anticipate the alterations would be "sufficiently variant from the survey to require any alterations of the map." He planned to take "17 mules—one waggoner, two hunters, six laborers, one herdsman (a Spaniard) and one servant," and to start on May 15th. As a matter of fact he started on May 18th, although he had been anxious to be several days ahead of the traders starting out from Franklin that spring.¹⁴

Nothing more appears touching the final review of the route. More than two years later Sibley wrote from St. Charles, Mo., to Reeves and requested his co-operation in a joint communication to Secretary of War John H. Eaton. The commissioners' accounts on the survey were yet unset-

14. S. F., 32, 35, 36, 37.

tled, and they claimed a balance of \$1,504.45 due them for expenditures necessarily made beyond the appropriation of congress. Sibley declared that further delay would be ruinous to him. He urged Reeves to write his congressional friends to bring pressure for payment, and concluded: "I request that my name *may not be* mentioned; for this request I have good reasons, tho they are of a nature personal to myself." On the outside of the letter Sibley requested the postmaster "to assure its being quickly received by Col. Reeves." This letter is marked "Duplicate." The fact probably indicates an identical letter to Mather. Although Reeves inscribed the letter "rec'd this and returned an answer 19th Dec'r. 1829", he did not return to Sibley the joint communication to Eaton enclosed by the former.

Reeves and Mather probably believed the excess expenditures to be Sibley's responsibility. He had stayed in New Mexico against instructions and their wishes. For the last trip he had requested Reeves to hire three hands at \$16.00 per month. Later he wrote that he had hired men at \$20.00. Reeves had contracted at \$16.00. He wrote Sibley to pay all alike \$20.00 if he desired harmony on the trip.¹⁵ Sibley himself had "advanced" the excess expenditures.¹⁶

Sibley's principal financial trouble is outlined in a letter to Abiel Leonard of Fayette, Mo., his attorney. In the fall of 1822, he writes, Paul Ballio, Lilburn Boggs and he had purchased from Sam Blunt, "agent of the U. S.," a stock of goods at "the old Indian trading house" at Fort Osage, "for \$14,000, payable \$4,782.00 on the first of June 1823, and \$9,601.00 on 1st June 1824." The three formed a partnership to trade with the Indians, Ballio and Boggs to carry it on and pay off the bills. They paid off but \$2,000. In March 1825, the United States entered judgment in the district court at St. Louis, against Sibley, for "upwards of \$12,000." Sibley had made himself personally liable to the

15. S. F., 40, 51, 34, 36, 50. See the commissioners' accounts in the appendix for Sibley's expenses in New Mexico, and compare Sibley's own explanation of the excess. The report is in Sibley's handwriting.

16. S. F., 39.

government by record. Boggs, of whom Sibley writes that he "consumed a considerable portion of it," had transferred to Sibley title to some slaves; another creditor had seized them upon execution; hence Leonard's connection with the case. In 1827 the judgment was "at rest as a matter of favor" to Sibley; later the government pressed its claim.

The commissioners' claim came before the United States committee of claims; Sibley had withdrawn it by March 25, 1831. The treasury had refused to accept the commissioners' accounts, because no vouchers, receipts and certificates were attached. The commissioners were charged with the whole amount of the appropriation, so that they stood in danger of being "branded with the name of Public Defaulters ere long." Sibley called a meeting of the commissioners at "Eckhardt's tavern in St. Charles on Friday 17th of June (1831), at ten o'clock in the morning." Evidently they had agreed upon co-operative effort.

From this date the file shows the utmost endeavor of the commissioners to set their accounts in order. Mather proposed the final attempt at settlement. He suggested that Sibley go to Washington with the receipted accounts. Each contributed one hundred dollars to an expense fund. Taking with him a power of attorney to settle the accounts, Sibley, suffering with influenza, set out for Washington December 23, against the advice of friends who urged him to "postpone the journey until the rivers open." On one thing he was determined—to liquidate the public trust of surveying and marking the Santa Fé trail.¹⁷

*Central College,
Fayette, Missouri.*

17. S. F., 37, 41x, 42, 49, 44, 41, 52:

APPENDIX

Commissioner Reeves' memoranda include a reminder to bring to "Dr. Lane", properly labelled, "a skull of each of the tribes of Indians," male preferred. The method of obtaining them is not stated!

The "Commissioners of the Mexican Road" received a salary of eight dollars per day. Reeves' accounts state that he was employed 450 days. A few of his items follow: "Returned Nov. 1st. employed up to 29th—29 (days). Settling with and paying of Mr. Adams—1. . . . Delivering waggon which Mr. Sibley sold to Mr. Dempsey—1. . . . Going to Franklin 5th of May to see Mr. Ballio to arrange with him concerning the waggon which Mr. Sibley requested me to get—2. . . . 17th of May I went to Franklin to pay to Simpson Mr. Sibley's draft to Switzler—returned the 18th . . . —2. [The distance from Fayette, Reeves' home, to Franklin, Mo., is 12 miles.—The author.] . . . In Franklin in pursuit of Mr. Sibley's letter by carrier—2. Two days, 28th & 29th Nov. employed in paying A. & R. Carson, two of Mr. Sibley's hands . . . Nov. 3d employed in paying Mr. Sibley's draft to Adam Mullins and James Burckhardt for fifteen dollars each—1." (*S. F.*, Bk. 3.)

Reeves picked up some incidental information on the route. "An Indian's cure for the bite of a rattlesnake. Take the inner part of a turkey buzzard's maw. Dry it into powder—apply it to the wound." (*S. F.*, Bk. 1)

Sibley's "way bill" of the route which he sent from New Mexico to Reeves, places the distance between Fort Osage and Taos at 743 miles. 37 "stations" are marked upon the route, the distances between them, commencing at Fort Osage and travelling to Taos, being 26, 26, 22, 20, 17, 13, 16, 20, 16, 30, 19, 11, 12, 9, 10, 32, 17, 15, 11, 41, 33, 44, 15, 34, 37, 38, 28, 11, 16, 12, 12, 7, 8, 9, 8, 12, 36 miles. In another place Sibley calls these stations the "camps." He notes the distance from Taos to Santa Fé as about 70 miles "by the circuitous route . . . direct it would be only about 55 miles." The way bill locates Lower Simaron Spring 234 miles from Taos and from that point comes due south to Chouteau's Island, a distance of 34 miles.

It is quite evident from the file that Reeves had to refresh his memory when he came finally to meet the demands of the government for accurate statements of expenditures. On the cover of one of his notebooks he jots down "12 or 14 days in St. Louis." On the inside of the same book he remarks, "I started to St. Louis to make arrangements for the trip Mexican Road on the 35 May [the 3 is crossed out] and returned about 21st, makeing [*sic*] about 16 days . . ." But he has entered in another book, "Set out for St. Louis to make out prepa-

rations for our trip on the 5th of May 1825, returned 23rd, making [sic] 18 days." The figure stood at 18 in the final reckoning. Reeves states in a copy of his report to the government that he had relied upon his memory a good deal and upon informal notations, since he believed his certificate of honor coupled with his oath would be sufficient.

A copy of the commissioners' account, dated 1827 at St. Louis, and forwarded to the United States government, is in the file. A selection of items appears below, abbreviated in some places:

For 74 mules and horses necessary for the service	\$3,462.25
For 7 waggons complete with extra bolts, etc, ----	905.00
For 32 saddles, bridles and blankets, -----	320.00
For medicine, surgical instruments, hospital stores	203.00
For . . (deleted) Meal, Salt, Bacon, Beef, Groceries	508.00
For In . . (deleted) clotheing [sic] laid in at St. Louis for the use of commissioners . . their intercourse & negociations [sic] with the Indians, -----	1,546.01
Amt. paid to the Kansas and Osage Indians in con- formity with the treaties concluded for right of way in territory, -----	1,600.00
Contingent expenses of assembling those Indians,	246.10
Contingent and incidental expenses necessarily in- curred by Mr. Sibley in his journey to & from New Mexico & whilst detained there, viz: (Itemized) Total, -----	2,718.33
¹ Travelling and incidental expenses of the Com- missioners, Secretary, Surveyor, Interpreters	1,240.95
Compensation, B. H. Reeves, Commissioner, ----	3,600.00
Compensation, G. C. Sibley, Commissioner, -----	5,352.00
² Compensation, Thos. Mather, -----	2,360.00
Secretary Archibald Gamble, -----	640.00
Surveyor Jos. C. Brown (Prime) -----	2,805.00
Surveyor Jos. Davis, (Asst.) -----	187.00
Negro—Abram, Cook, Servant, -----	312.00

"From this statement it appears that the sum appropriated by Congress and placed at the disposal of the commissioners has fallen short of the amount of actual expenses incurred and paid in carrying the Act of Congress into effect, the sum of *Fifteen Hundred and*

1. This charge includes the incidental expenses of Thos. Mather on the journey to and from Washington with the Indian Treaties.—\$178.37½.

2. This charge includes compensation at \$3 per day, for a period of 90 days during which time Mather was on his journey to and from Washington with the Indian Treaties.

Four Dollars & Fifty-four Cents,—of this sum \$898.37 was paid Mr. Mather upon his charge for conveying the Osage and Kansas Treaties to Washington; which it is believed should not have been chargeable upon the road fund, but upon the contingent fund of the War Department. Should this sum be re-imbursed by the Secretary of War, there will yet remain \$606.17 to be provided for further by Congress or out of some spare fund at the disposal of the President.

“The Commissioners declare upon honor that . . . that they have charged their own services & those of the Secretary, Surveyor & others . . . only for time engaged in performance of duties belonging to their respective stations—that no premium was obtained on the drafts sold by them on the Secretary of War . . .” (portion of the concluding statement in the commissioners’ accounts and report to the United States.)

Since the manuscript of this article was written the Treasury Department of the United States has informed the author that of the entire appropriation of \$30,000.00, the Act of Congress specified that the sum of \$10,000.00 was appropriated to defray the expenses of marking the road, while \$20,000.00 was to defray the expense of treating with the Indians for their consent to the establishment and use of said road.

The Treasury records show that the commissioners had drawn upon the Treasury to the full extent of the appropriation by December 1, 1826, and that their drafts had been paid.

The Treasury Department states further that under the Act of June 10, 1921, (U. S. Code, Title 31, chap. 1) all the old papers and records in the auditing files were transferred to the General Accounting Office, created by that Act, and under the control of the Comptroller General. The Treasury Department has made request to the General Accounting Office for information touching the final settlement made with the Santa Fé commissioners. Should further information become available, it will be given in a later issue of the REVIEW.