Guide to a Microfilm Edition of The Henry Hastings Sibley Papers

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Introduction

THE HENRY HASTINGS SIBLEY PAPERS document the career of a pioneer fur trader, author, territorial delegate to Congress, first governor of the state of Minnesota, general of the United States Army, and St. Paul civic leader. The fourth of the Minnesota Historical Society's manuscript collections to be microfilmed under a grant of funds from the National Historical Publications Commission, these papers are an important source of information on Indian affairs and the fur trade of the Upper Mississippi Valley, as well as on the settlement, politics, and economic development of early Minnesota.

This microfilm edition was produced with the assistance of many persons. Co-operation and support in all phases of the project have come from Robert H. Bahmer, the commission's chairman; Oliver W. Holmes, director of the commission, and his assistant Fred Shelley; and Lucile M. Kane, curator of the society's manuscripts department.

Jane Spector Davis prepared the papers for microfilming and wrote the roll notes and this *Guide*. Assisting her were Constance J. Kadrmas, Lawrence E. Bloom, and Maureen Leverty who was particularly helpful in analyzing the fur trade volumes. Editorial assistance in the publication of the *Guide* has been contributed by June D. Holmquist, managing editor, and Rhoda R. Gilman, assistant managing editor of the society's publications department. Various other departments of the society, particularly the library, have frequently supplied reference assistance in the months the project has been in progress.

David Miller of Dakota Microfilm Service, Incorporated, filmed the papers under the direction of Douglas Moberg. Constance Kadrmas and Jane Davis worked with the microphotographer during filming in the society's laboratory. The film was developed and printed by Dakota Microfilm Service.

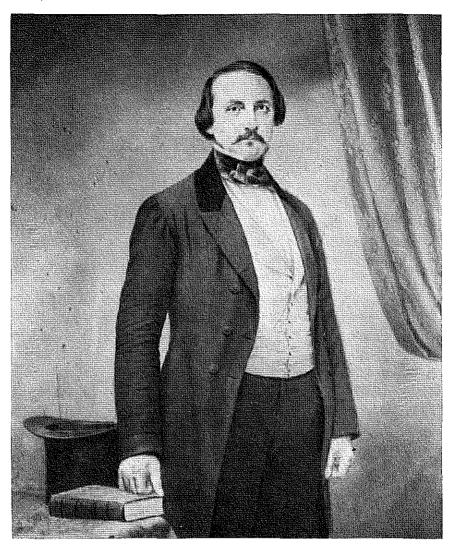
The society's Sibley collection has been augmented by two important groups of papers for this microfilm edition. The Sibley House Association of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution allowed the society to borrow manuscripts held in the Sibley House at Mendota, and Ruth M. Jedermann, curator of the Sibley House, located the manuscripts and supplied genealogical data on the Sibley family. The Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan, supplied copies of important Sibley family letters in its possession and permitted them to be included in the microfilm.

The society gratefully acknowledges the assistance of these persons and organizations in making the Sibley Papers available on microfilm at a reasonable cost to all who are interested in studying the life and times they represent.

HELEN M. WHITE, Project Director National Historical Publications Commission Minnesota Historical Society

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HENRY HASTINGS SIBLEY (1811–1891). A portrait in the possession of the Sibley House Association, Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Henry Hastings Sibley Papers

THE PAPERS of Henry Hastings Sibley in the manuscripts department of the Minnesota Historical Society measure fifteen linear feet and are divided into two groups. The first group consists of a general file of correspondence and miscellaneous papers (1815-99) arranged in chronological order and a separate file of records (1873-74) for the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Grasshopper Relief Committee. Correspondence and miscellaneous papers include letters received, drafts of letters sent, legal papers, certificates of election and appointment to various offices, accounts, drafts of speeches and articles, a few newspaper clippings, some maps and plats, and other items. In the second group are 112 volumes (1823-1930) arranged by subject matter, type of record, and date. They are financial accounts of the fur trade, 1823-55 (vols. 1-69); account books for the sutlership at Fort Snelling, 1836-39 (vols. 70-88); letter books, 1849-55, 1858-59 (vols. 89-93); and miscellaneous volumes, 1836-1930 (vols. 94-112), which include Indian language lexicons, scrapbooks, cash and memorandum books, a diary, a military order book, and Sibley's unfinished autobiography.

The bulk of the collection covers the period 1834–74 and concerns the fur trade with the Sioux Indians of the Upper Mississippi Valley, documenting Sibley's business associations with the American Fur Company and Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company of St. Louis, as well as his interest in the treaties, wars, and welfare of the Sioux. The papers contain information on Sibley's political career during the territorial period of Minnesota history (1849–58), his land and railroad investments, and his military service between 1862 and 1866.

The collection lacks detailed documentation on Sibley's term as governor of Minnesota (1858-60) and on his business career after the 1860s, although his civic activities during this period are partially revealed in the papers of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Grasshopper Relief Committee, 1873-74.

The Sibley Papers, copied on thirty-two rolls of microfilm, include the full collection in the possession of the society, manuscripts loaned by the Sibley House Association of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution, and copies of Sibley manuscripts from the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library. A small group of Sibley materials among the official records of the governors in the Minnesota State Archives was not included. Correspondence and miscellaneous papers are filmed on Rolls 1–17; volumes appear on Rolls 17–32. At the end of Roll 32, filmed as a supplement to the collection, are translations of letters in French, the originals of which are lost, from explorer Joseph N. Nicollet and fur trader Joseph N. Laframboise. Also at the end of Roll 32 are

catalog cards for other manuscripts collections in the society relating to Sibley, and cards for the library's holdings of printed works by and about him.

A brief general description of the papers appears on each microfilm roll. It is followed by a selected chronology of significant events in Sibley's life; a list of sample citations to the papers; a roll note for each of the two groups of papers in the collection; a list of rolls in each of these groups; and a list of the items in the collection owned by other institutions.

The 2-B film format has been used in microfilming the Sibley Papers. A running title beneath each film frame gives the name of the institution and collection, roll and frame numbers, and the reduction ratio of the image when it differs from the standard 12 to 1 ratio. Special targets indicate incomplete or defective manuscripts, enclosures, or other technical information helpful to the reader. Blank pages in the volumes were not filmed.

Undated items appear on the film before dated ones. Thereafter a chronological order is followed whenever possible in the arrangement and filming of various groups within the papers. When an item found to be out of place was inserted into a film sequence, it has been identified by frame numbers followed by a letter (as 163A).

This Guide, designed to accompany the microfilm edition, provides biographical data on Sibley, information on the society's acquisition of the papers, and an analysis of the content of the collection. It also includes an inventory of the microfilm rolls, a selected bibliography of manuscript and published sources on Sibley, and a list of subject entries used by the society in cataloging the papers. In addition there is a selected list of authors, giving the total number of letters and the inclusive years of their correspondence.*

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Henry Hastings Sibley was born on February 20, 1811, at Detroit, Michigan Territory, the fourth child and the second son of Solomon Sibley and Sarah Whipple Sproat Sibley. Solomon Sibley, trained as a lawyer, had moved from Massachusetts to Ohio in 1795. Sarah Sibley was the daughter of a Revolutionary War soldier from Rhode Island, who settled his family in Ohio in 1789. After their marriage at Marietta, Ohio, in 1802, the Sibleys trekked westward to Michigan, where Solomon began a long career in public affairs, serving as a representative in Congress and as chief justice of Michigan Territory. Eight other children were born to the couple: Catherine W., who died in infancy, Ebenezer Sproat, Alexander Hamilton, Frederic Baker, Catherine Whipple, Mary C., Augusta Ann, and Sarah Alexandrine.

Although they were living in a new territory, Sibley's parents were careful to educate their children. Henry attended the Detroit Academy, studied Greek and Latin under an Episcopal minister, and read law for two years. Later in life Sib-

*Users of the microfilm edition may find helpful a complete alphabetical list of all correspondents, giving the number of letters by year for each author in the papers. It may be consulted in the society's manuscripts department or purchased as a separate item.

ley's taste in literature and his polished writing style reflected this classical education.

In 1828, at the age of seventeen, Sibley told his parents that he "longed for a more active and stirring life" than practicing law. Leaving Detroit, he went to Sault Ste. Marie in northern Michigan, where he became a clerk in a sutler's store and then business agent for Mrs. John Johnston, the widow of a fur trader. A year later Sibley began his long career in the fur trade when he moved to Mackinac to work for the American Fur Company. His years (1829–34) spent as a company clerk at Mackinac and as a purchasing agent traveling through Ohio taught him the rudiments of a business in which he was later to figure prominently. During this period, too, Sibley was appointed collector and inspector of customs and a justice of the peace for Michilimackinac County, Michigan Territory (1831–32).

In 1834 Ramsay Crooks, the president of the American Fur Company, offered Sibley a new position. Rejecting other offers, including one which would have taken him back to Detroit, Sibley entered into an agreement with the American Fur Company, Hercules L. Dousman, and Joseph Rolette, Sr. Under its terms he became a junior partner in the company's Western Outfit and head of its Sioux Outfit, the fur-shipping and merchandising organization for the Sioux trade in the Minnesota area.

Drawn by his fascination for the wilderness and by the responsible position he was offered, Sibley traveled up the Mississippi, arriving at St. Peter's (Mendota) on October 28, 1834. In 1835 he plunged into a reorganization of the fur trade under his control, touring the far-flung posts along the Mississippi, Minnesota, and Red rivers and beginning the construction of a stone store and dwelling at Mendota.

There Sibley could look across the river to Fort Snelling on the bluffs. The trading post at Mendota and the fort's garrison represented the only two institutions of civilization in a vast, sparsely populated region. Sibley, like the army, played an active role in bringing order to this wilderness, accepting in 1838 the first of a series of official positions when he became justice of the peace for Clayton County, Iowa Territory (in which Mendota was then located).

During these years, Sibley grew to know the Sioux Indians well; he traded with them, hunted with them, and learned to speak their language. Aware that his frontier experiences were of great interest to Eastern readers, Sibley later wrote many articles (1846–51) on the West, hunting, and Indian life under the pseudonym "Hal a Dacotah." They appeared in the Spirit of the Times, a New York sporting magazine. His attitude toward the Sioux was always an ambivalent one, for he was concerned with their welfare even when, as a fur trader and a pioneer, he was instrumental in radically changing their way of life. In 1839 a daughter named Helen Hastings (Muzzah wakon win) was born to Sibley and Red Blanket Woman, a Wahpekute Sioux. Sibley assumed some financial responsibility for the child (vols. 3, 89), but little is known about her or her mother.

Sibley spent most of his young manhood endeavoring to make a successful business of the fur trade. In an effort to expand the trade with military personnel as well as to control the Sioux trade, he became co-sutler at Fort Snelling (1836–

39). By the 1840s, however, the decline of the fur trade was evident, and for a time Sibley unsuccessfully sought other employment in Detroit and St. Louis. In 1842 even the mighty American Fur Company succumbed and sold its Western Outfit to Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company in an unsuccessful attempt to stave off bankruptcy. Sibley decided to stay in Minnesota, and he remained with the outfit until 1855, when his interest in the trade was liquidated and he turned to investments in land and railroads.

In 1843 Sibley brought to the stone house at Mendota his bride — Sarah Jane Steele of Steelesville, Pennsylvania. She was the sister of Sibley's good friend Franklin Steele, then sutler at Fort Snelling. Mrs. Sibley turned the stone house into an elegant home, and seven of nine children were born there before the family moved to St. Paul in 1862. Five of the children died in childhood: Henry Hastings, 1846; Henry Hastings, 1847–51; Franklin Steele, 1853–63; Mary Steele, 1855–63; and Alexander Hastings, 1864. Four grew to adulthood: Augusta Ann, born in 1844, married Captain Douglas Pope; Sarah Jane, born in 1851, married Elbert A. Young; Charles Frederic, born in 1860, married Constance Locke and, like his sisters, lived in St. Paul; and Alfred Brush, born in 1866, married Ann Thompson and moved to Montana and then to Massachusetts. Mrs. Sibley died in 1869, and Sibley never remarried. The family home in Mendota was restored and opened to the public in 1910 by the Sibley House Association of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution.

Sibley's position as head of the American Fur Company in Minnesota for so many years had given him power which he used to full advantage as his attention turned to the organization of the territory and the changes increasing population would bring. By the 1840s, his commercial and political interests had broadened to touch many aspects of life in the Upper Mississippi Valley, and when, in 1848, Minnesota sought territorial status, it was not surprising that the voters sent Sibley to Washington to plead their cause. In Congress Sibley worked to secure the passage of a bill for the organization of Minnesota Territory; he was elected territorial delegate to Congress in 1849, serving until March, 1853.

Tall, elegant, and reserved, Sibley played an active role in the growth and development of the new territory. He was the leading figure in its early Democratic party, and for many years his rivalry with fellow fur trader Henry M. Rice split the party into warring factions. His interests during the 1850s extended beyond politics to cultural and civic affairs, for he was a founder of the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society.

With the growth of population in Minnesota came pressure for the opening of Indian lands to settlement. Sibley's political and economic ambitions led him to deep involvement in the Sioux treaties by which these Indians ceded much of southern Minnesota. He had represented fur trade interests in the negotiation of the Sioux, Chippewa, and Winnebago treaties in the late 1830s, helped James D. Doty negotiate the abortive Sioux treaty of 1841, and was the attorney for the Sioux mixed-bloods at the treaty of 1849. In 1851, both as a fur trader deeply in debt and as the delegate of a territory which needed land, Sibley worked hard for ratification of the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, and he was a witness in the Senate investigation of these treaties in 1853–54.

Sibley returned to politics as a representative in the Minnesota legislature in 1854, and the same year purchased and then sold the St. Paul Pioneer. In 1856 he was commissioned a major general in the United States militia. With the advent of Minnesota statehood in 1858, Sibley's political career came to a climax. He served as president of the Democratic branch of the convention which framed the state constitution, and in 1858 he became the first elected governor of the state of Minnesota. In the divisive presidential election of 1860, he supported Stephen A. Douglas and the free-soil wing of the Democratic party.

In 1862 the Sioux Uprising involved Sibley once again in Indian affairs. Because of his long experience with the Sioux, Governor Alexander Ramsey appointed Sibley colonel of volunteers and commander of the expedition to put down the uprising. His leadership was criticized by many contemporaries as being too cautious, but he continued his military career until the end of the Civil War. After the 1862 campaign, Sibley was appointed brigadier general of volunteers by President Abraham Lincoln and became commanding officer of the Military District of Minnesota. In 1863 he led another expedition against the Sioux. In 1866 Sibley left the army with the brevet rank of major general.

Sibley, like other Minnesotans, rigorously condemned the Sioux for the uprising and insisted on punishing them, but later he held several official positions in which he attempted to help the Indians. In 1865 he was one of the commissioners appointed to negotiate a treaty with the Sioux, and in 1869 he substituted for Bishop Henry B. Whipple as United States disbursing agent for the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands. In 1874 Sibley served on the United States Board of Indian Commissioners, and in 1883 he was appointed chairman of a commission to investigate damages done by government dams on the Chippewa White Earth Reservation.

In the last twenty-five years of his life, Sibley—now the grand old man of Minnesota—was concerned largely with business and community interests. He was president of the St. Paul Gas Light Company, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce. In 1873, when grasshoppers devastated crops in southwestern Minnesota, Sibley served as chairman of the St. Paul Chamber's relief committee. He also co-ordinated grasshopper relief activities for Governor Cushman K. Davis. In 1886 he organized a similar committee to help victims of the Charleston, South Carolina, earthquake. During this period, he made only one try for political office, running unsuccessfully for Congress on the Democratic ticket in 1880. In 1888 Princeton University awarded him an honorary degree of doctor of laws. He died in St. Paul on February 18, 1891, two days before his eightieth birthday.

ORIGIN OF THE COLLECTION

The first manuscript to become a part of the Sibley Papers reached the society in 1869 when John K. Arnold presented a copy of an 1862 letter from Abraham Lincoln to Sibley. In 1880 Sibley himself gave the society two Josiah Snelling

manuscripts and an 1849 translation which he had made for Governor Alexander Ramsey of a French article on the Pembina Indians by the Reverend Georges A. Belcourt. In 1891 under the terms of his will, the society received the manuscript of a Dakota lexicon (1843–44) by missionary Stephen R. Riggs (vol. 95), which differs from the dictionary published by Riggs in 1852.

The bulk of the papers, including much of the correspondence and fifty-two volumes, came to the society from the Sibley family in 1893. J. Fletcher Williams, the institution's secretary and librarian, was given permission to examine the correspondence and select papers for the society, "agreeing to return to the family all matter not of historic value and of a personal and private nature." The papers Williams selected were then examined for the society by historian Return Ira Holcombe. Holcombe's penciled notes appear on many of them, and he had translations made of a large number of the French letters. In a report to the society's executive council on March 12, 1894, Holcombe indicated that he had arranged and filed only about a third of the papers, that a large number had been returned to the family, and many were destroyed. It is not known how many of the papers were thus permanently lost to the collection.

Additional papers from the Sibley estate became a part of the collection in 1903, when the society purchased a large number of Sibley volumes from Edgar W. Porter, a St. Paul book dealer. The purchase included miscellaneous account books, letter books, correspondence, and other items.

In 1904 Joseph W. Hancock, a Minnesota missionary to the Sioux, gave to the society a Dakota lexicon he had compiled in 1851 from word lists of other missionaries; this lexicon (vol. 96) was filed in the Sibley Papers with the Riggs lexicon.

Since 1904 the society has received twenty-nine other accessions of one or more Sibley items. In 1924 Sibley's daughter, Sarah Jane Young, presented the 1863 diary (vol. 104), the autobiography (vol. 112), and copies of three 1853 letters and Sibley's 1851 certificate of election as delegate to Congress. Other donors in this period were Louise M. Arnold, Abbe Fuller, Mrs. Edward C. Dougan, and Frederick G. Ingersoll. During the 1930s Sibley letters were given to the society by Mrs. Charles Frederic Sibley, Mrs. Frank H. Morrill, and Major Charles W. Elliot. In the following years, five other donors contributed Sibley letters, including Mrs. William Killgreen, a grandniece, who in 1955 also gave an undated poem, and letter book fragments (vol. 93). In 1965 Mrs. Karl W. Elsinger gave a letter from Cole, James, and Robert Younger.

The society obtained photostats of Sibley family letters in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library between 1927 and 1959. In 1967 that institution provided new photocopies of the letters and granted permission for their inclusion in the Sibley microfilm. The letters are from the Solomon Sibley, William Woodbridge, Charles C. Trowbridge, Alpheus Felch, and John T. Mason papers.

Twenty-nine items which are not a part of the society's collection were loaned by the Sibley House Association of the Minnesota Daughters of the American Revolution. They have been photographed in this microfilm edition in chronological order with the rest of the papers. They include personal correspondence, genealogical information from the Sibley family Bible, and a scrapbook of clippings, 1883–1930 (vol. 110), on Sibley and restoration of the Sibley House. There is also a photocopy of an 1853 letter from Sarah S. Sibley to Sibley.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The first items to appear on the Sibley microfilm are genealogical entries from the Sibley family Bible and a typed genealogy, prepared by the society's staff and by Ruth M. Jedermann, curator of the Sibley House. They are followed by a small group of undated materials, including Sibley's notes on the history of Minnesota and the Sioux Uprising; a draft of an article on "Northwestern Indians"; a summary of a law case (William G. Le Duc v. Thomas Odell) for which Sibley acted as referee; a list of Sioux Indian annuities; a printed petition of certain Sioux scouts who wished to have their annuities restored after the Sioux Uprising; a few letters; a list of medical supplies and some sutler accounts at Fort Snelling; an advertisement for equipment to regulate gas pressure; fur trade notes and accounts; and real estate notes and accounts for property at Mendota and Hastings.

While the bulk of the collection covers Sibley's activities after he moved to Minnesota in 1834, the correspondence and miscellaneous papers contain several items which document earlier periods: two letters (1828–29) from Sibley to Charles C. Trowbridge, his brother-in-law in Detroit; a recommendation (1830) of Sibley from officers of the Bank of Michigan to Robert Stuart in Mackinac; and Sibley's certificates of appointment as deputy collector of customs and justice of the peace at Mackinac (1831–32).

Although the public aspects of Sibley's life dominate the papers, his unfinished autobiography written in 1884-86 (vol. 112) is a primary source of information on his life through 1834, as well as on his family background, education, and early career. Personal correspondence in the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library (1822-51) is also important for the insight it offers into Sibley's family relationships, his personality, and his ambitions. The letter books, 1849-55 (especially vol. 92) are another source of personal material, for they contain many letters to friends and relatives about the health of Mrs. Sibley and the children. Notable here is data on the death of Henry Hastings, whom Sibley lamented as "the idol of our household" when he died in September, 1851. The deaths of two other children, Franklin and Mary, are recorded with much grief in Sibley's 1863 diary (vol. 104). Only two letters from Mrs. Sibley are present in the collection. One in 1853 is addressed to Sibley in Washington; the other was written to Mrs. Sibley's sister, Rachel Steele Johnson, in 1861. Late in his life Sibley carried on an active personal correspondence (1880-82) with Charles C. Trowbridge, his brother-in-law.

THE FUR TRADE WITH THE SIOUX

More than a third of the Sibley Papers concern the fur trade in what is now Minnesota for the period from 1815 to 1855. The bulk of this material deals

with the Sioux trade; a few items (listed below) concern the Chippewa. Included are correspondence, price lists, dated and undated accounts, trade agreements, trade licenses, account books (vols. 1-69), and letter books (vols. 89-92).

The earliest materials on this topic antedate Sibley's arrival in Minnesota and are associated with Alexis Bailly, the trader who was Sibley's predecessor at St. Peter's or New Hope, as Mendota was known before 1841. There are two permits to build a fur post at St. Peter's (1825–26) granted to Bailly by Josiah Snelling, commandant at Fort Snelling; circulars and notices from Indian agent Lawrence Taliaferro to Bailly authorizing trade at posts in the Upper Mississippi area and prohibiting the sale of liquor. It seems probable that Sibley acquired these papers when he replaced Bailly as the American Fur Company's representative at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers in 1834.

Other papers which largely predate 1834 are those of William A. Aitken (1815-39) of the American Fur Company's Northern Outfit, which traded with the Chippewa, and two Indian credit books in French and Dakota and one ledger in English (vols. 11, 12, 51) showing Sioux credits. The Aitken materials include trade licenses and agreements as well as correspondence with members of the Aitken family, Ramsay Crooks, and such Chippewa traders as Lyman M. Warren, William Morrison, and George Bonga, who was a member of an interesting Negro-Indian fur trade family. Also present is a combined account and letter book, 1823–24 (vol. 1), containing copies of letters to Aitken and Morrison, inventories, and Chippewa credits recorded by trader Bela Chapman at Grand Portage on Lake Superior. Two of the other early volumes (11, 12) seem to date from 1828-29 and 1831 and may have been kept by trader Joseph Laframboise at Little Rock on the Minnesota River. A later Indian credit book (vol. 13) for 1836–37 also appears to belong to the Laframboise sequence. Volume 51 (1829-31) is a ledger kept at a post on Lake Traverse. It seems probable that volumes 11-13 and 51 came into Sibley's possession after he assumed control of the American Fur Company's Sioux Outfit. Volume 1 and the other Chippewa materials may have been given to him by traders, since Sibley himself had no connection with the Chippewa trade.

The remaining fur trade volumes, correspondence, and letter books reveal much detail on how the American Fur Company's Sioux trade was conducted, provide data on individual traders and on Wahpekute, Mdewakanton, and Sisseton Sioux bands in the Minnesota area, and offer insight into the hierarchy of the firm. Although the company's structure was often altered by local circumstances, weather, and personalities, president Ramsay Crooks divided his empire into large regional units of which the Western Outfit—conducted by partners Joseph Rolette, Sr., Hercules Dousman, and Sibley—was one. (While the term "outfit" in the literature of the fur trade often means the goods which an individual trader used to conduct a year's business, the word in the Sibley Papers also refers to the legal name of a business unit which controlled and supervised the trade in a given area.) The territory allotted to the Western Outfit was, in turn, divided into smaller areas controlled by smaller outfits. As head of the organization variously identified as Sioux Outfit (1844–45, 1848–55), Upper Mississippi Outfit (1842), and St. Peter's Outfit (1845–47), Sibley was the

American Fur Company's agent in charge of the Upper Mississippi Valley Sioux trade. He was responsible to Crooks and to his Western Outfit partners. Subordinate to Sibley's Sioux Outfit were various quasi-independent traders operating among the Sioux from posts along the Mississippi, Minnesota, and Red rivers. The working arrangements with the American Fur Company (1834–42) and Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company (1842–55) as well as the structure and personnel of the Sioux Outfit are documented in correspondence and agreements with subordinate traders, licenses issued for the Sioux trade by Indian agents Lawrence Taliaferro, Amos J. Bruce, and Nathaniel McLean, and the fur trade account books discussed below (vols. 2–10, 14–50, 52–69).

The correspondence and miscellaneous papers contain agreements with individual traders signed when Sibley visited the posts under the Sioux Outfit in the fall of 1835. These and the licenses list the names of voyageurs and clerks and define the terms of their contracts. In general, the traders agreed to buy their goods from the Sioux Outfit at a specified mark-up, but they could sell their furs elsewhere if prices were higher and they had paid their debts to the company. Important traders who signed agreements (Rolls 1-4) with the American Fur Company were: Joseph Renville at Lac qui Parle and Lake Traverse, Jean Baptiste Faribault at Little Rapids, Joseph Laframboise at Little Rock, Louis Provençalle at Traverse des Sioux, Alexander Faribault at St. Peter's and Cannon River, and Joseph R. Brown at Lake Traverse. There are also later agreements (1839-47) with François Fresnière on the Sheyenne River, Norman W. Kittson at Lac qui Parle and then Pembina, Martin McLeod for the Upper Sioux Outfit at Lac qui Parle and the posts north and west of it, and Brown at Traverse des Sioux, Buffalo Lake, and Patterson's Rapids. In addition to the agreements, there are letters and accounts for all of these men, 1834-55.

The fur trade volumes 1–69 (Rolls 17–26) are grouped by type of financial account and filmed chronologically by series within each group. They include miscellaneous fur trade records (vols. 1–10); Indian credit books, 1828–53 (vols. 11–23); daybooks, 1837–55 (vols. 24–41); ledgers, 1829–56 (vols. 42–57); cashbooks, 1836–39, 1842–52 (vols. 58, 59); and invoice and inventory books for scattered years, 1833–54 (vols. 60–69). While a close study of these volumes will reveal the way in which the trade was conducted and provide keys to traders and certain Sioux bands in the area, the volumes do not always yield a clear picture because some series are not complete.

The majority of these volumes (2–10, 18–50, 52–53, 55–59, 66–69) were kept at Mendota for the Sioux Outfit from 1834 through 1855. Volume 2 is a memorandum book (1835–56) containing a variety of lists of supplies and labor agreements, indicating the diversity of Sibley's business during these years. Present here, for example, is a memorandum of the contract for building the stone store at Mendota in 1836. Volume 3, an account book, 1838–56, contains records of the half-breed trust funds for which Sibley was trustee under the 1837 Sioux treaty, including an account of investments for Helen Hastings, Sibley's half-breed daughter. Also present are two volumes (4 and 5) containing bills of exchange, 1842–49, 1850–54; three small private account books, 1842–49 (vols. 6–8), accounts of lumber bought at St. Anthony, 1852–53 (vol. 9), and

bills of lading, 1850-55 (vol. 10), detailing the huge amounts of furs and goods shipped by the Sioux Outfit from 1850 through 1855.

The Indian credit books (vols. 11–23) were identified and grouped according to location and Indian band and filmed chronologically within these units. In the earlier volumes (11–12, 14) the Indian names are recorded in French and Dakota; the later volumes (13, 15–23) are largely in English. In both cases the books list goods given out and credit extended as well as furs received. As noted above, volumes 11–13 were probably kept by Joseph Laframboise at Little Rock, volume 14 involves the Wahpekute, volumes 15–17 are for the Sisseton at three locations, and volumes 18–23 list credits extended to the Mdewakanton at New Hope and Mendota.

Daybooks, ledgers, and cashbooks (vols. 24–59) record merchandise debits and usually do not show furs received. Included are accounts for almost every Sioux trader in the region, as well as missionaries, a few soldiers, and such visitors as explorer Joseph N. Nicollet. Two ledger series have been identified—those for Mendota, 1835–56 (vols. 42–50), and ledgers for traders and Indians, 1829–52 (vols. 51–57). The latter contain the accounts of traders subordinate to the Sioux Outfit as well as the records of many Indian customers. Volume 50 contains a summary of accounts and data on the settlement between Sibley and Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company in 1855. Volumes 56 and 57 show the markups added to New York prices by the Sioux Outfit.

The final group of fur trade volumes (60–69) are invoice and inventory books recording merchandise delivered to various traders subordinate to the Sioux Outfit for most years from 1833 to 1854. Included in volumes 66 and 67 are the accounts of Hypolite Dupuis, Sibley's long time clerk and secretary, who operated a small outfit at Mendota in 1853–54 and 1856. Volume 68 traces the shipment of trade goods to the Sioux Outfit from the American Fur Company in New York via the Chouteau companies in St. Louis (1838–41).

Complementing the business records in the volumes described here are many letters in the letter books (vols. 89-92) and in the correspondence and miscellaneous papers. They illuminate Sibley's fur trade activities and associations, particularly between 1834 and 1855, with the American Fur Company and its successor, Pierre Chouteau, Ir., and Company. There is correspondence with Crooks, Sibley's partners Dousman and Rolette, Sioux and Chippewa traders, and many other individuals. Until the late 1840s Sibley's Sioux Outfit was the sole source of banking services and merchandise in the Minnesota country, and the correspondence and letter books also offer information on Indians, missionaries, and explorers who called at Mendota and turned to Sibley for financial aid, supplies, and mail service with the outside world. Some of these visitors were famous: the papers include correspondence about arrangements for the visits of geologist George W. Featherstonhaugh (1835), artist George Catlin (1836), explorers Nicollet and John C. Frémont (1836–39), novelist Frederick Marryat (1838), and botanist Christophe A. Lamare-Picquot (1846-48), as well as information on their reactions to the Upper Mississippi Valley.

The correspondence with Crooks and Dousman during this period traces the financial condition of the trade both locally and internationally and includes

additional data on furs and skins, prices, supplies and trade goods, trade agreements, individual traders, and Indian agents and treaties. It is clear, for example, in a letter from Dousman to Sibley in November, 1838, that the Sioux Outfit lost money during the previous year. From that time on, many letters document the decline of the trade. On July 7, 1842, Crooks wrote Sibley that fur prices were low because the beaver hat was being displaced by the silk hat in English fashion circles. The company's emphasis on muskrats and buffalo robes did not seem to offset the problems caused by low prices, rival traders, scarce game, and unco-operative Indian hunters. Sibley's letters to his father and to Dousman in the early 1840s clearly show his dissatisfaction with the situation, but his plan to accept another position in St. Louis in 1840 failed, and he remained in charge of the Sioux Outfit.

Sibley's long association with the American Fur Company came to an end in 1842, when Crooks, in a desperate effort to save the firm from bankruptcy, sold the Western Outfit to Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company of St. Louis. A copy of the 1842 agreement, signed by Chouteau, Sibley, Rolette, and Dousman, is in the papers. The correspondence (1842–55) between Sibley and the Chouteau partners—Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Benjamin Clapp, and Joseph A. Sire—is voluminous and detailed in describing conditions of the trade in the Minnesota area. The letter books, 1849–53 (vols. 89–90) have many copies of letters, memoranda, orders for goods, and drafts to Chouteau concerning the trade. Many of these were written by Sibley's brother, Frederic, who was in charge at Mendota from 1850 until 1854.

The organization of the Sioux trade is not so clearly illustrated in the papers after 1842, since the traders working for the Sioux Outfit seem to have been more independent under Chouteau ownership. Included are correspondence, accounts, and trade agreements with many of these men, especially with Norman W. Kittson, 1842–51, and Martin McLeod, 1844–53, who purchased their outfits from Chouteau in 1853 when Sibley began to liquidate his interest in the trade.

From 1849 to 1853, the correspondence files and letter books (vols. 89–92) include much information on the fur trade career of Henry M. Rice, a prominent Minnesota pioneer. Rice had bought part of Dousman's interests in 1846, and the papers contain a draft of the 1848 agreement by which Chouteau, Sibley, Rice, and Sylvanus B. Lowry formed the Northern Outfit, which included Rice's Winnebago and Chippewa Outfit and Sibley's Sioux Outfit. There are 1849 letters from Sibley and Charles W. W. Borup, another Chouteau trader in Minnesota, to the company's partners about Rice's investments of the firm's money. Also documented in the papers is Joseph A. Sire's trip to Minnesota in 1849, which resulted in the dissolution of the Northern Outfit that year, a lawsuit against Rice, and the beginning of a long and embittered relationship between Sibley and Rice.

After the dissolution of the Northern Outfit, the papers reflect the growing importance of general merchandising in the trade. Correspondence and accounts are present for the Sioux Outfit's dealings with two new Chouteau concerns—Borup's Minnesota Outfit and William H. Forbes's St. Paul Outfit, both of which maintained merchandise outlets in St. Paul. The papers show that the Sioux and

Minnesota outfits operated independently, but that the St. Paul Outfit was subordinate to the Sioux Outfit. Apparently Forbes, who had been Sibley's clerk, never had the financial independence of Borup. Correspondence (1849–53) between Borup and Sibley concerns trade and supplies, investments, politics, and the Sibley family (vols. 89–92). There are also many orders and receipts for goods obtained from Henry F. McCloskey and Company of Galena (1850).

These new organizations and diversified investments did not, however, revive the fur trade, and Sibley and the other Sioux traders had to wait for the signing of treaties ceding the Sioux lands to obtain at least partial payment of the Indians' debts. After the longed-for treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota were negotiated in 1851, the trade was essentially ended. In the years following 1851 Sibley struggled to bring the business to a close. He was, he wrote the Chouteau partners and his friends, heartily sick of the Indian trade (vols. 91, 92). The final accounts between Sibley and Chouteau were settled in 1855 (vols. 41, 50).

Sibley's long business association with the Indians inevitably involved him in other Indian affairs, and the papers contain information primarily about the Sioux but also scattered materials on the Chippewa and Winnebago. Included are the regulations of the Lake Harriet mission school for the Sioux (1836), on whose committee Sibley served with Indian agent Lawrence Taliaferro. There are letters (1834–53) about the welfare of the Sioux and United States government policy regarding the tribe. The correspondents include Crooks, Governor Alexander Ramsey, Indian agents Nathaniel McLean, Richard G. Murphy, and Taliaferro, traders Duncan R. Kennedy and Norman W. Kittson, and missionaries Thomas S. Williamson, Frederick Ayer, Gideon H. and Samuel W. Pond, and Stephen R. Riggs. Sibley's fascination with Indian life is shown in his autobiography (vol. 112), drafts of articles on hunting and Indian culture (und., 1847, 1848), and in a translation he made for Governor Ramsey of an 1849 letter in French from missionary Georges A. Belcourt describing the Indians at Pembina.

There are three unpublished, handwritten lexicons (vols. 94–96) of Indian languages. In addition to those in the Dakota language by Riggs (vol. 95) and Hancock (vol. 96), there is a Seneca lexicon (vol. 94) of unknown origin.

The papers also offer material on all the Indian treaties concluded in the Minnesota area, 1834–51, and document the active role played by fur traders in negotiating them. There is correspondence about the negotiations, ratifications, and payments of the Sioux, Winnebago, and Chippewa treaties, 1837–40, as well as powers of attorney given to Sibley by Sioux half-breeds to collect and administer funds due them under the 1837 treaty (vol. 3). The papers for the fur trade years also include a draft of an abortive treaty which Sibley and James D. Doty formulated with Sioux half-breeds on July 31, 1841, and correspondence continuing through 1842 about attempts to get it ratified; copies of a treaty with the Winnebago, dated February, 1847, and of one concluded by Sibley in 1849 as agent for the Sioux half-breeds and United States Commissioners John Chambers and Alexander Ramsey, ceding half-breed lands along the Mississippi at Lake Pepin. Correspondence about the latter unratified treaty continued from 1849 through 1851. (On the treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota in 1851, see page 15, below.)

FORT SNELLING AND OTHER INTERESTS

Although most of the papers dating from the period before 1849 deal with Sibley's career as a fur trader, they also reflect the extent to which this role involved him in other activities. There are scattered references to various business interests, a small body of records having to do with the office of justice of the peace at Mendota, and a larger amount of data on Fort Snelling.

In 1836 Sibley and Samuel C. Stambaugh, the newly appointed sutler at Fort Snelling, became partners. In purchasing a half interest in the sutlership, Sibley was following the American Fur Company's policy of deterring military store-keepers from becoming its competitors in the Indian trade. The negotiations leading to this partnership are suggested in letters from Joseph Rolette, 1835, and Ramsay Crooks, 1836–38.

The papers also include nineteen account books kept while Sibley was cosutler and manager of the store at the fort, 1836–39 (vols. 70–88). Additional pertinent data may be found in the cashbook for these years (vol. 58). The accounts in the daybooks (vols. 71–77) detail the daily business of the store and record the sales of merchandise to such military departments as the hospital as well as to individual doctors, missionaries, and traders. Volumes 78–87 are general account books for enlisted men and noncommissioned officers of the United States First Infantry Regiment stationed at the fort and the United States Fifth Infantry, which replaced the First in July, 1837. Many of the entries are in a kind of shorthand, probably indicating staple items which the soldiers frequently bought. Another general account book, 1837–38 (vol. 88) lists the sutler's transactions with civilian traders and visitors and a soldiers' acting troupe known as the Thespians.

In the correspondence and miscellaneous papers appear accounts of the post office at the fort, including lists of newspapers and pamphlets received. These records are present because the American Fur Company's Western Outfit held the mail contract between Prairie du Chien and Fort Snelling, 1836–39, and Sibley acted as postmaster as well as co-sutler.

The partnership between Sibley and Stambaugh was dissolved in April, 1839, when Stambaugh's appointment expired. Nevertheless the papers contain material on the sutlership after this date, for Stambaugh's successor—Benjamin F. Baker—died late in 1839, and Sibley again managed the store on behalf of Kenneth Mackenzie, a trader who was executor of Baker's estate (vols. 2, 42, 43). Also present are many receipts and bills for Franklin Steele, the sutler in 1840.

Other materials about Fort Snelling include an early map (1823?), letters and circulars from Josiah Snelling (1825–26), and correspondence about the sale of the military reserve (1849–54). There is information on the potential value of the reserve in letters to and from government officials in Washington; Seth Eastman, formerly the post's commandant; and such pioneer Minnesotans as Joseph R. Brown, Alexander Faribault, James M. Goodhue, William G. Le Duc, Martin McLeod, and Bradley B. Meeker.

Other aspects of Sibley's varied interests are also revealed in the papers for 1837-42. There is an 1837 contract made by Sibley, Lyman Warren, and Wil-

liam A. Aitken with the Chippewa to cut and saw pine on Chippewa lands, some correspondence about the lumber business in 1840, and numerous receipts and accounts of the Calena Packet Company, in which Sibley invested with Franklin Steele and Hercules L. Dousman in the 1840s. Present, too, is evidence that Sibley worked with Crooks and Stambaugh to establish the claim of Jean Baptiste and Pelagie Faribault to Pike Island at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers within the Fort Snelling reservation. The Faribaults had been granted Pike Island by Colonel Henry Leavenworth in an unratified treaty of 1820. They claimed to own the island and offered to sell it to the government. Correspondence (1839–42) with the War Department about this complex and unsuccessful claim, a copy of Sibley's 1842 petition to Congress concerning it, and an 1848 deed conveying the island from Faribault to Sibley are in the correspondence files.

In addition to his tasks as fur trader, sutler, postmaster, and businessman, Sibley served as justice of the peace for Clayton County, Iowa Territory, 1838–42. The papers contain his appointments to this office and a few records of the court, including depositions, affidavits, and arrest warrants. There are also a few records, 1854–56, for Hypolite Dupuis and George S. Whitman as justices of the peace for Dakota County.

POLITICS AND INDIAN TREATIES

Sibley's papers are particularly useful for the study of politics in the Minnesota territorial period, 1849–58. In an effort to secure territorial status for what became Minnesota, Sibley was chosen delegate to Congress in 1848 and 1849 from the western part of Wisconsin Territory, which had not been included in the new state of Wisconsin. He was re-elected to Congress from officially established Minnesota Territory on August 1, 1849, and again in 1850, serving until March, 1853. After leaving Congress, he represented Dakota County in the state legislature in 1854, and he served as the state's first governor, 1858–60.

There are many papers concerning efforts to secure territorial status for Minnesota. In August, 1848, an unofficial convention held at Stillwater chose Sibley as delegate to Congress to work for the organization of a new territory. The papers contain copies of the proceedings, a memorial on the subject to President James K. Polk, and Sibley's certificate of election—all of which were sent to him by David Lambert, secretary of the convention. At a regular election held in October, Sibley was elected delegate from the western portion of Wisconsin Territory between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, which was later included in Minnesota. The papers offer correspondence about the October election; petitions, resolutions, and memorials to Congress in January and February, 1849; a printed version of the Minnesota Organic Act dated February 8, 1849; and a pamphlet sent by Sibley to his constituents describing his work for the passage of the Territorial Act approved by Congress on March 3, 1849.

Crucial to an understanding of political events in the territorial era is the split in the young Minnesota Democratic party between factions led by Sibley and Henry M. Rice. The papers contain considerable information on this key point.

When he was in Washington, Sibley's friends kept him informed of events and gossip at home, especially concerning party politics and Indian affairs. There is much correspondence about the election of 1850 in which Rice supported Sibley's opponent, Alexander M. Mitchell, and about other issues important to the new territory, such as the awarding of public printing, the conduct of territorial officers, and requests for appointments, new mail routes, roads, and railroads. Three of Sibley's fur trade associates—Joseph R. Brown, William H. Forbes, and Martin McLeod-were now his political allies and wrote him frequently about territorial affairs. Other important political correspondents, 1849-53, were Governor Alexander Ramsey; Judge Aaron Goodrich; Frederic B. Sibley; Dr. Thomas R. Potts, Sibley's brother-in-law; James M. Goodhue, newspaperman; and pioneer settlers Henry L. Moss, David and Henry A. Lambert, and John H. Stevens. In addition the papers contain Sibley's certificates of election; various memorials to Congress requesting roads and mail facilities (1849); Sibley's drafts of a bill for the construction of roads in Minnesota (1850) and an unsuccessful bill to provide a land grant for a railroad between New Orleans and the Falls of St. Anthony (1853); seven printed pamphlets distributed to his constituents, 1849-52, setting forth his views on various bills before Congress, Indian affairs, and public lands; a memorandum book (vol. 97) listing his political correspondents; and election broadsides.

In 1849–50 the focus of disagreement between the Rice and Sibley factions in Minnesota was Rice's contract with the Office of Indian Affairs to move the Winnebago Indians, with whom he had traded, to a new reservation. From January to July, 1850, the papers contain correspondence about it with Ramsey, Commissioner of Indian Affairs Orlando Brown, and Indian agent Jonathan E. Fletcher, and a series of letters (many of them copies) on the movement of the Winnebago exchanged by Adjutant General Don C. Buell and Brevet Major Samuel Woods at Fort Snelling. The Buell-Woods correspondence may have been given to Sibley when he protested to Congress and to Commissioner Brown (on May 18, June 15, 20, 1850) about Rice's means and motives in removing the Winnebago.

During the period of Sibley's congressional career, the papers also contain very detailed and voluminous information on the negotiation, ratification, and subsequent investigation of the 1851 treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, and under the terms of which four Sioux tribes ceded most of what is now southern Minnesota. Included in the correspondence and letter books, 1850–54, are Sibley's notes made at the time of the treaty sessions in July and August 1851, a copy of the controversial "traders' paper" in which the Indians agreed to pay their fur trade debts, and accounts, lists of claims, and receipts for payment made after the treaties were ratified in 1852 (vols, 89, 90, 92).

The intense interest of Minnesotans in Indian affairs during the period immediately preceding the signing of the treaties is pointed up in a speech given by Sibley in Congress on August 2, 1850, concerning "The Territories and Our Indian Relations," in which he called for a complete reform of United States government Indian policy; a series of letters from Sibley to Gideon H. Pond and other missionaries on the same theme (1849–50, vol. 92); correspondence with

Ramsey, Orlando Brown, Forbes, McLeod, and Thomas Foster about securing the appointment of treaty commissioners friendly to Minnesota and fur trade interests; and letters from McLeod and Franklin Steele in February, 1851, informing the delegate that Minnesotans insisted on the opening of the Sioux lands. After Ramsey and Luke Lea, commissioner of Indian affairs, were appointed treaty commissioners, there are letters from and data about these men (1850–54).

Sibley's motivation in taking an active part in the treaty negotiations is revealed in the papers. As the delegate of a new territory whose citizens were demanding land for expanding settlement, he wrote to John H. McKenny on May 26, 1851, that the expected Sioux treaties would make Minnesota prosperous (vol. 92). The papers show, too, that only the old Indian traders—of whom Sibley was the most prominent—had the influence necessary to bring the Sioux to the conference table. In return for the exercise of their influence, the traders demanded payment of the huge Indian credits remaining on their books. Sibley wrote fellow trader Charles W. W. Borup, June 27, 1851, that he wanted to "be successful in making a sufficient sum from our claims to clear me off with the world" (vol. 92).

Writing on December 2, 1851, McLeod expressed misgivings about the way things were handled at the treaty signing. "There was mismanagement with the Indians at the Traverse," said McLeod. "It looked like bribery." He predicted trouble over the "traders' paper," and he was right. It is the traders' role which dominates the Sibley Papers on this topic, and it was their possible influence on Commissioner Ramsey that later caused controversy and an investigation by the United States Senate.

On the ratification and amendment of the treaties, the papers include a copy of an important letter from Sibley to Senator Augustus C. Dodge of Iowa, dated May 3, 1852, in which the delegate maintained that even if the traders' claims were waived, the Senate must ratify the treaties or face Indian war. There is also correspondence of interest from Frederic Sibley, McLeod, Duncan R. Kennedy, Joseph A. Sire, and Ramsay Crooks about the claims of a rival trader, Madison Sweetser, and his efforts to nullify the "traders' paper." After the treaty was ratified by Congress, there are detailed accounts in the letter books (vols. 90, 92) for payments made and claims settled in November, 1852.

Included in the papers is considerable material on the Senate investigation, 1853–54, of Ramsey's conduct as treaty commissioner. Sibley explained his views on the treaties in a manuscript written early in January, 1853, and submitted to the Senate committee on Indian affairs and in a letter of February 28, 1853, to the chairman of the Senate committee. Both documents are in the correspondence and miscellaneous papers. As the investigation continued Willis A. Gorman, territorial governor, and Richard M. Young, formerly chief clerk of the House of Representatives, were appointed by President Franklin Pierce to take testimony about the treaties. There are depositions of some witnesses at hearings held in St. Paul from July 6 to October 7, 1853, and many copies of letters in which Sibley protested the actions of the Gorman-Young committee (vol. 92). Sibley's correspondents, especially Congressman Ben C. Eastman of

Wisconsin, reported to him in January and February, 1854, that the Senate had cleared Ramsey.

In March and April, 1853, several people suggested to President Franklin Pierce that he appoint Sibley governor of Minnesota Territory. The papers contain letters and petitions as well as a copy of a letter from Senator Dodge to Pierce recommending Sibley for this office. Gorman received the appointment instead, and there is correspondence of interest on his actions as territorial governor. Sibley left Congress in 1853, and little material is present in the papers for his term in the legislature (1854-55), the constitutional convention in 1857, or his service as governor (1858-60). Included, however, is his certificate of election to the constitutional convention, December 22, 1857; his certificate of admission to practice law before the Minnesota Supreme Court, July 13, 1858; an 1859 resolution of Democratic members of the Minnesota legislature endorsing the administration of Governor Sibley; and a few letters about his service as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1860 and the subsequent Democratic presidential campaign in Minnesota. Those who corresponded with Sibley on politics, 1858-60, included George L. Becker, Charles H. Berry, William G. Le Duc, Thomas E. Massey, and James W. Shields.

LAND AND RAILROADS

With the end of Sibley's term in Congress and the close of his active participation in the fur trade, the amount of correspondence in the papers diminishes sharply and is concentrated (1853-61) largely on land speculation and the development of Minnesota's railroads.

In 1855 Sibley agreed to manage and sell Minnesota lands owned by Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company in return for an annual salary (vol. 50). The papers include deeds, dated and undated accounts, maps, and plats for Sibley's acquisitions on behalf of the company at Traverse des Sioux, Hastings, and Mendota (vols. 46-48, 89-93) as well as correspondence (1851-57) with Chouteau on improvements needed at these townsites. Sibley himself claimed most of the land in the townsite of Mendota in 1856, and in addition to correspondence and deeds concerning his claim, there is an 1860 map entitled "Sibley's First Addition to Mendota." With his own money Sibley also bought a farm at St. Anthony (now Minneapolis), and the papers include two account books, 1853-55 (vols. 98-99) concerning it as well as many notes (1856) to his farm foreman. Other correspondence about land speculation in the 1850s includes letters from Andrew G. Chatfield, Hercules L. Dousman, William G. Le Duc, and officials of the United States General Land Office. In the following decade there is scattered material on land investments in the correspondence and miscellaneous papers and in a real estate memorandum book, 1866-67 (vol. 105).

The papers also touch on the administration of public lands in Minnesota. There is correspondence about Sioux half-breed scrip in 1856; a petition to President James Buchanan and two Sibley letters opposing public land sales in 1859; and Sibley's draft of a minority report of the committee on public lands in the Minnesota legislature (1871).

Beginning in 1853 with investments in the Northwestern Pacific Railroad (vol. 92), Sibley was interested in the development of the iron horse. Until 1859 he was a director of the Southern Minnesota Railroad and the Minneapolis and Cedar Valley Railroad, for which there is an 1861 charter. As a member of the Minnesota legislature in 1854, he signed a minority report requesting Congress to dissolve the charter granted by the territory to the Minnesota Northwestern Railroad; there are also letters concerning new railroad bills which he felt were more advantageous to the territory. During these years there is correspondence about railroads with Congressmen Ben C. Eastman and Elihu B. Washburne of Illinois, and Senator Augustus C. Dodge (vols. 101–102).

Railroads again loom large in the papers for 1858-61 when the controversy over the sale of Minnesota state railroad bonds blew up during Sibley's governorship. Intended to help finance the building of railroads after the panic of 1857 by pledging the credit of the state, the bonds soon became worthless as railroad construction halted; payment of the bonds remained a controversial subject in Minnesota for many years. Correspondents concerned with paying the railroads' debts and selling the bonds included such railroad officials and investors as Ramsay Crooks, H. Dollner, William G. Le Duc, John W. North, and Edmund and Henry M. Rice. Further information on the bonds may be found in an 1871 circular, a pamphlet by Sibley entitled Les Bons de Chemin de Fer de L'Etat (1877), and some correspondence, 1880-81.

THE SIOUX UPRISING AND THE INDIAN WARS, 1862-1865

The focus of the papers in the period 1862–65 is on the Sioux Uprising of 1862 and its aftermath, the war on the plains. Very little material on the Civil War may be found in the Sibley Papers. It includes only resolutions of the Minnesota Democratic party about the war, 1861–62; speech notes made by Sibley after the war, 1866–76; letters from Sarah Sibley, William G. Le Duc, Stephen Miller, Frederic B. Sibley, and Richard W. Johnson, 1861–65; a few letters describing Reconstruction in the South, 1867–76; and an essay on the war by Rensselaer R. Nelson, 1880.

In contrast, the papers contain a considerable body of data on the Sioux Uprising and the war on the plains. When news of the uprising was brought to Governor Alexander Ramsey on August 19, 1862, he appointed Sibley to the rank of colonel and placed him in charge of an expedition to quell the Indian outbreak. Subsequently appointed a brigadier general, Sibley served throughout the period of the Indian wars as commanding officer of the Military District of Minnesota; all of his service was in Minnesota and the Dakotas. He retired from the army in 1866 with the brevet rank of major general.

Papers concerning the 1862 uprising include Sibley's undated speech notes on the outbreak, obviously compiled some years later; certificates of appointment; correspondence about military matters and the possible execution of the captured Indians; and an order book for the military expedition of 1862 (vol. 103). During the campaign, Sibley wrote many descriptive letters to his wife; years later he made extracts of the letters, and these are included in the papers under

the date of August 21, 1862. Return I. Holcombe, the original cataloger of the collection, compared these extracts with the original letters in 1893 and added notes and an appendix, but the originals are no longer present.

When the brief campaign was over, Sibley and other military officials were intent on punishing the captured Sioux. Material in the papers about the hanging of thirty-eight Sioux includes the September 28, 1862, orders for their trial, letters from Bishop Henry B. Whipple and missionary Stephen R. Riggs, and a copy of a letter from President Abraham Lincoln to Sibley on December 6, 1862, ordering the execution. There are also two facsimiles, made by the society in 1876, of the original Lincoln letter to Sibley.

The following summer Sibley led a second expedition against the Sioux, this time to the eastern bank of the Missouri River. His diary for this expedition is in the papers; it is both a military log and a record of his grief over the death of his children, Franklin and Mary (vol. 104). Correspondence during this year includes letters from the Reverend Alexis André and Bishop Whipple, both of whom were concerned with the welfare of the Sioux, and a few letters about the death in battle of an Englishman, Lieutenant Frederick J. H. Beever.

Most of the correspondence with military officials, 1862–66, is marked "private" or "unofficial," the official correspondence presumably having been forwarded to Washington. Sibley's most frequent correspondents on military matters were General John Pope, his commanding officer in the Department of the Northwest, James F. Meline, Pope's adjutant, and such other officers in his command as Major Joseph R. Brown, Captain Joseph C. Whitney, Major George A. Camp, and Colonels Stephen Miller, William Crooks, Minor T. Thomas, and Mark W. Downie. There are also some copies of Sibley's letters to these men.

Sibley was appointed brigadier general of volunteers in 1862, but the appointment was not confirmed by the Senate until March 26, 1864. Concerned about the confirmation, Sibley corresponded with General Pope, Governor Ramsey, Senator Henry M. Rice, and Congressman Ignatius Donnelly in order to enlist their influence on his behalf. The correspondence of this period also includes information on Sibley's appointment by President Andrew Johnson in 1865 as a United States commissioner to negotiate a treaty with the Sioux at Fort Sully, and his orders and correspondence with Major General Samuel R. Curtis about treaty arrangements. Present, too, are letters which reflect Sibley's concern for such victims of the Sioux Uprising as Mary Schwandt, as well as requests for aid and favors from many Minnesotans-among them Donnelly and Mrs. Stephen R. Riggs—and lists of United States Army medical supplies received and disbursed at Fort Snelling. The latter are signed by Dr. Thomas R. Potts, Sibley's brother-in-law, and may have become a part of the papers when Mrs. Potts, who was Mrs. Sibley's sister, directed Sibley's household after Dr. Potts's death in 1874.

1866-1891

After the close of his army service in 1866, Sibley continued to be involved in Indian affairs for the next twenty years. In 1866 he was appointed to the North-

Western Indian Commission. Although he did not serve, Joseph R. Brown kept him fully informed of plans for a Sisseton-Wahpeton treaty. The papers also include an undated petition to Congress of half-breed scouts who wanted their annuities restored after the uprising. In 1869–70 Sibley substituted for Bishop Henry B. Whipple as United States disbursing agent for the Sisseton and Wahpeton, corresponding with many officials of the Office of Indian Affairs, including William H. Forbes and James McLaughlin, Indian agents at Devils Lake. Sibley also served briefly on the Board of Indian Commissioners in 1874. He corresponded frequently during these years with such friends of the Sioux as Bishop Whipple, Stephen R. Riggs, Cabriel Renville, and with various Indian agents, especially about Drifting Goose's band of Sioux, who were forced to leave their homes on the James River (1876–83). The papers also contain letters from Chippewa chiefs White Cloud and Flat Mouth as well as other correspondence regarding Sibley's service as chairman of a commission to investigate the damage done by government dams on the White Earth Reservation (1882–83).

Sibley was busy during these years with business and civic activities in St. Paul. He served as chairman of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce Grasshopper Relief Committee after Minnesota's southwestern counties were devastated by grasshoppers in 1873, and when Governor Cushman K. Davis organized relief efforts in February, 1874, Sibley acted as his disbursing agent for food and supplies. The papers contain the committee's correspondence (1873–74), lists, receipts, bills, checks, and Sibley's report of June 27, 1874, to Henry M. Rice, president of the Chamber of Commerce. Frequent correspondents were Stephen Miller, Richard W. Johnson, R. E. Davies, Governor Davis, and the chairmen of the county relief committees. There is also a folder which does not seem to be a part of the Chamber of Commerce papers, containing letters addressed to Governor John S. Pillsbury in 1877 requesting coal tar to fight the grasshoppers.

Other papers documenting Sibley's civic activities include reports from University of Minnesota professors to the Board of Regents, of which Sibley was president (1872); a few items regarding a lawsuit over the legal status of the Minnesota Historical Society (1878); the papers of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce committee to aid earthquake victims in Charleston, South Carolina (1886); and correspondence from and about Robert, James, and Cole Younger, associates of Jesse James in the famous Northfield bank robbery (1881–89).

There are six volumes (106–111) which are largely personal. Sibley kept a scrapbook of clippings, 1866–68 (vol. 106), which includes editorials he wrote for the St. Paul Pioneer, material on the life and adventures of his hunting companion, Joseph Jack Frazer, which appeared serially in the Pioneer, and articles on Minnesota, national and foreign affairs, and railroads. Another scrapbook (vol. 110) prepared by Mrs. Charles F. Sibley, contains clippings about Sibley and the Sibley House, 1883–1930. Volume 107 containing clippings about Sibley's St. Paul home and other items is a scrapbook probably kept by Charles F. Sibley, and volume 108 is a school exercise book which belonged to Alfred B. Sibley. Two personal memorandum books contain notes on the meetings of a commission, of which Sibley was a member, to settle differences between the state of Minnesota and Seymour, Sabin and Company concerning the Minnesota

State Prison (1878), a record of sales of Nathaniel West's biography entitled *The Ancestry, Life and Times of Hon. Henry Hastings Sibley* (vol. 109), and a list of expenses on a vacation trip to Kittrell, North Carolina, 1883–84 (vol. 111). It was on this trip that Sibley began the writing of his unfinished autobiography (vol. 112), in which he narrated events in his life through 1834.

Materials about Sibley's death in 1891 include a clipping from the St. Paul Pioneer Press on his will, notes on his estate, and memorials.

SUPPLEMENT

On Roll 32 filmed as a supplement to the Sibley Papers are translations of eight letters (1837–40) from explorer Joseph N. Nicollet and forty-eight letters (1834–54) from fur trader Joseph Laframboise. There are also seven letters from other fur traders. These translations were probably made in 1893–94 by Rose Morin, working under the direction of Return I. Holcombe, the original cataloger of the collection. Although the originals of the letters were at one time in the Sibley Papers, they are now lost, and it is therefore impossible to check the accuracy of the translations. Nevertheless, they were filmed as a supplement because of the value of the letters to the researcher, and because the translations have been a part of the collection for many years.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The manuscript of Henry H. Sibley's autobiography (vol. 112), narrating events in his life through 1834, has been edited by Theodore C. Blegen and published under the title, *The Unfinished Autobiography of Henry Hastings Sibley* (Minneapolis, 1932). It may also be found in *Minnesota History*, 8:329–362 (December, 1927).

No completely satisfactory biography of Sibley has yet been written, although there are three useful studies of his life: Nathaniel West, The Ancestry, Life and Times of Hon. Henry Hastings Sibley, which was written with Sibley's help (St. Paul, 1889); Wilson P. Shortridge, The Transition of a Typical Frontier with Illustrations from the Life of Henry Hastings Sibley (Menasha, Wis., 1919); and an unpublished doctoral dissertation by Erling T. Jorstad, "Life of Henry Hastings Sibley," (University of Wisconsin, 1957).

Many articles on Sibley's career, times, and associates appear in publications of the Minnesota Historical Society. Especially useful are the following articles in *Minnesota History*: Theodore C. Blegen, ed., "Henry Hastings Sibley: Pioneer of Culture and Frontier Author," 15:382–394 (December, 1934); Robert M. Brown, "A Territorial Delegate in Action," 31:172–178 (September, 1950); Lucile M. Kane, "The Sioux Treaties and the Traders," 32:65–80 (June, 1951); Erling T. Jorstad, "Personal Politics in the Origin of Minnesota's Democratic Party," 36:259–271 (September, 1959); Francis Paul Prucha, "Army Sutlers and the American Fur Company," 40:22–31 (Spring, 1966); Kenneth A. Carley, "The Sioux Campaign of 1862," 38:99–114 (September, 1962); and Jane S. Davis, "Two Sioux War Orders: A Mystery Unraveled," 41:119–125 (Fall, 1968).

In addition to a number of published speeches and political tracts which are among the Sibley Papers, Sibley wrote nine articles which appear in volumes 1 and 3 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*, five articles on hunting which were published in issues of the *Spirit of the Times*, 1846–48 and 1851, and two additional pieces for *Porter's Spirit of the Times* in 1856 and 1857. Copies of all these may be found in the society's library. Sibley's articles on "The Life and Adventures of Joseph Jack Frazer," published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in 1866, appear in clipping form in vol. 106 of the papers and are published with annotation and comment in Theodore C. Blegen and Sarah A. Davidson, eds., *Iron Face: The Adventures of Jack Frazer* (Chicago, 1950).

A range of rich manuscript and archival sources on Sibley is indicated in the card files microfilmed on Roll 32 of this edition of the Sibley Papers. Among the sources are letters and documents in the society's holdings of Sibley contemporaries and selected photocopies of materials both in record groups in the National Archives and in collections held by other repositories. Other Sibley documents in the records of the governors are held by the Minnesota State Archives and Records Center. In the manuscripts department two other reader aids should be mentioned: a partial calendar of Sibley Papers for the years 1815–90 and a full print-out list by year of all of Sibley's correspondents. The latter may be purchased from the society.

THE MICROFILM

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June 10, 1886, Jean B. Faribault to Sibley, should be June 10, 1856.

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- Roll 17. Vols. 1–10 Miscellaneous Records, 1823–55. Vols. 11–13 Indian Credit Books, undated, 1828–31, 1836–37
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- Roll 31. Vols. 94–99, 1836–55: Lexicons, Memorandum Book, Farm Accounts
- Roll 32. Vols. 100–112, 1856–1930: Cashbooks, Account Book, Order Book, Diary, Memorandum Books, Scrapbooks, Autobiography; Supplement; Manuscripts Department and Library Catalog Cards

SELECTED LIST OF AUTHORS

This list includes authors of letters to Sibley represented either by five or more items in the correspondence, or by individual items of unusual interest. Each name is followed by the span of years covered by the correspondence and the total number of items in the collection by that author. Letters in the Grasshopper Relief Committee files are indicated by 1873G and 1874G, and those in the supplement are designated by an S following the inclusive years.

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