



JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

CROSSING OF LITTLE BLUE RIVER

Archibald Gamble

1825 July

“The road [to Santa Fe] commences a mile or two south of Fort Osage.... It follows the neighborhood road until it crosses the Little Blue Creek....”

*****Gamble was the secretary of the 1825 Sibley survey charged with surveying the Santa Fe Road. At that time in the early years of the Santa Fe Trail, the Little Blue River Crossing was included in Sibley’s survey. This area now would be located near the north end of Lentz Road in the Atherton area of Jackson County. **Source:** Crease, Craig. “Becknell, Sibley, the Osage Trace, and More: Original & Early Routes of the Santa Fe Trail in Jackson & Lafayette Counties, Missouri: 1821-1832,” *Wagon Tracks*, 32(4): (August 2018), 18-27, quote on p. 20.

George Sibley

1825 July 29

“I pursued the track of the Road party. Crossed the Little Blue, at a place that may be made pretty good, Eight Miles from Fort Osage—then thro’ a Small Prairie—then thro’ the Woods....”

*****William Becknell’s first successful trading venture to the Southwest was in 1821. By 1825 the federal government already had contracted for a survey of Becknell’s route to the Southwest since that road likely would become a lucrative vehicle for many traders. George Sibley led this survey. This crossing had a hard stone base. In the 1830s, a mill was built near this early Little Blue River Crossing. The bridge at this crossing, built in 1837, likely was constructed to facilitate people going to and from the mill. **Source:** Crease, Craig. “Becknell, Sibley, the Osage Trace, and More: Original & Early Routes of the Santa Fe Trail in Jackson & Lafayette Counties, Missouri 1821 to 1832”, *Wagon Tracks*, 32(4): (August 2018), 18-27, quote on p. 20.