

Blackjack M. 1861.
 Old King Mission
 Indian Farmer

John J. Otterel farmer
 for Ottawa ^{Oct. 25th 1857} Chippe
 was at Grand Travers
 Bay

Joseph Daniel makes him
 to be retained

Nov^r 1861. Reference to Comm^r
 Indian Affairs
 Dept. of Interior

Rec^d at chanc^y office 6 Nov: 51
 Am. Wena Nov: 8th 1857
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Old wing mission Oct 22, 57

Dear Sir

There has been a Petition got up against me as
Indian Farmer at this Place, with Charges against me that one
with out foundation. I came to this Place the 14th of Oct 1850
I found no team nor have I had any since I have been here I have
kept at work to the best advantage that I could for the benefit
of the whole of the Indians. The Chief Wakeroo that got up the
Petition on Mr Smith got it up becaus I would not blander all
my services for the Chief. My predecessor was a carpenter
and for the last 2 years did work all the time for said
Chief he built him a mackinaw boat worth \$50.00 he the
Chief got in a drunken polick & gave it a way, the former
therefor mended him another boat and before it was finished
he was removed. The former told me if I did not work for
said Chief ^{the most of my time} they would report me to the agent I told him
that I come here for the benefit of them all and should
act, and that I should not work for the Chief any more than
I should for the rest of them as for boat building I now nothing
about, I am a Farmer, I come here by the recommendation of
L.P. Harting Mission agent the Editor & Proprietor of the Detroit Advertiser
John Williams the Post master of Detroit and others and should
be sorry to betray my trust. The man they Mr Smith the Deacon
wants to get in as farmer is a carpenter and is of the same
pollick as him self they are John P. Hall who's made out
of Locomotives and are opposed to the Present Administration
if I am removed I can not get away from here until next May

we are completely out in through the winter
until the Spring of navigation, the first of Oct next I will
reign to some good whig and go in to the Compair again
as a working whig as I always have been. as to the other Chiefs
that signed the Petition against me they live from 6 to 14 miles
from here & I know nothing about them, but our Chief Wakego
is a miserable drunken creature, this Place is new they came
here two years ago last Spring and is a timbered country it is
80 miles from Mackinac no roads to any Place 150 miles to
Sagamah 120 to Grand river we are on the west side of Grand
Traverse Bay, it is up hill business for me to fornicit with
out a team, there is but 4 white families living with in fifteen
miles of this Place, and the mission is badly managed by the Teacher
at this Place for the last two years there has been but 5 months
School taught here and no school at this time I could state more
but will close your friend in haste

John J. Murrell Secy Comm

Dear Sir

I am aware that there has been complaint
entered against Mr Merrill & I think that they are
without a just cause I have been over there at his
place considerable this summer past and he has
always manifested a willingness to do what he could
for the benefit of the Indians & has encouraged them
to habits of industry and has worked for them as he had
opportunity he has no team & the most of the work
that is required is team work & as there is no team there
was not much that he could do for them but whenever
a team could be obtained he went & worked with them
and got them to turn out and make a road from
the Bay to the Lake & make a bridge across a stream
which was quite a job of usefull work & I understood
that he was with them at work on the Road & Bridge
The difficulty seems to be that they are about to
build a village & they want some person that is a
carpenter to do their work on their houses & they think
that Mr Cure being a carpenter would be of more
use to them But there is a carpenter at the mission
where they can get their doors sash &c made I have no
doubt but if Mr Merrill had a team that he wanted
do his duties as farmer with them I have been a
farmer for them under Mr Schachtelraft & Mr R Stinson
and know something of the duties which one does there
as such they prospered & improved rapidly while I was
with them I think that there is as good a prospect still
for them at the mouth of the Bay under Mr Merrill
Bel of which I submit for your consideration
Yours respectfully Joseph Davis