

Mackinac 1850
H. C. Gilbert
Detroit Jan'y 28. '54

Report upon account
of John J. Merrill late
Indian farmer at Grand
Rapids

Dec 11 1854
Report to Sec'y Int.
May 18 - 1855 - file

G. A. Francis

Office Mich. Ind. Agency
Detroit Jan 28, 1854

Sir

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th inst. enclosing the account of John J. Merrill late Indian Farmer at Grand Traverse - Mr. Merrill had previously presented the account to me & I had declined paying it - It consists of charges against the Indians for use of men - I have invariably declined paying any accounts or charges on the part of employers or other persons against the Indians unless the service had been previously sanctioned by this office - In this case I think the rule should be adhered to - Mr. Merrill during his residence at Grand Traverse made more out of the Indians than they did out of him & if an account was fairly stated between them he would be the debtor -

I also declined paying him any salary for the month of October - He resigned his office

of Harris during the summer - the resignation to take effect on the first day of October - I talked with him myself on the subject & it was distinctly understood that his services would not be required after that date - He rendered them no service whatever during the month of October nor indeed for three months previous to that time - When at Grand Prairie I inquired particularly into the matter & am perfectly satisfied that during the entire summer he has done nothing but attended to his own private business -

One item on his account - a charge of \$3. for freight paid on tools is probably correct - I shall pay that but nothing more unless instructed by you to do so -

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedient
Henry C. Gilbert
Ind Agent

Hon Geo W. Murray penning
Comd. Ind. Art.
Washington