

Mackinac 250
H.C. Gilbert
Detroit, Jan 28, '54

Report upon account of John J. Merrill, late Indian Farmer at Grand Traverse

Received Feb 6, '54
Report to Sec _____
May 18, 1855

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 oxen. I have invariably declined paying any accounts or charges on the part of employees or other persons against the Indians ____ the service had him [?] primarily 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 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 Farmer during the summer, then [?] action to take effect on the first day of October. I talked with him myself on the ____ & it was distinctly understood that his services would not be required after that date. He tendered them no service whatever during the month of October nor indeed further months previous to that time. When at Grand Traverse I enquired particularly into the matter & am perfectly satisfied that during the __ summer he has done nothing but attend to his own private business.

One item of his account, a charge of \$3.00 for freight paid in costs is probably correct. I shall pay that but nothing ____ unless instructed by you to do so.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Henry Gilbert
Ind Agent

Hon. George W Manypenny
Gen Ind. Affairs
Washington