

HRA000869

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Indian Agency
Michilimackinac
September 23d 1835

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant. I remark, that I was present, a considerable part of the time, during the negotiation [sic] for the cession at St Marys in 1820 and signed the treaty as a witness. I feel certain, that so far as came within my knowledge no request was made by the Indians to have a smiths shop established. But on this point the Secretary of War, Gov Cass, who negotiated [sic] the treaty, may be appealed to. This statement is made in justice to the government.

With regard to the policy of maintaining a smiths shop at St. Mary's I am of opinion that it would be of the greatest utility to the Indians, and have a favorable effect on our relations with the northern bands. In order to secure it, I think the Indians of St Marys had better transmit an offer, through you to the department, to sell a portion of their lands connecting the two ports of Mackinac and Fort Brady, including the national boundary on Upper Canada, which it may be advantageous to possess, this offer should come from them as soliciting a boon. Reservations might perhaps in the event of its acceptance be assented to, including their villages, and the right to hunt and live on the track [sic] until it is required. The shop may then probably come in, as one of the equivalents, and they may further secure a small annuity. This course would rid us of the complaints of the Indians for trespasses [sic] on their lands, and would also permit the citizens on the straits of St. Mary's, to occupy without license, the fishing grounds, for which they have (within the last year) been so clamorous.

I am Sir
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Henry R. Schoolcraft
U.S. Ind. Agt.

Copy

Maj. M.V. Cobbs
Commanding officer
[illegible]