

Jotham Meeker to Robert Simerwell

In this letter to Robert Simerwell, Jotham Meeker discusses some of the problems at the Thomas Mission that were due to the scarcity of food. In fact, Meeker explains that the lack of corn forced the missionaries at the Thomas Mission to dismiss their students for a time because they could not properly feed them. Included in this letter is a list of expenses incurred at the Thomas Mission during portions of 1828.

Creator: Meeker, Jotham, 1804-1855

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Jotham Meeker to Robert Simerwell

Meeker, Jotham

(Dated: 1829)

Thomas, Grand River, April 9, 1829.

Dear Brother Simerwell— I suppose you will be a little surprised at seeing the men return so soon who were sent out by you. I am sorry that you did not express yourself more clearly in the letter you sent by Stephens. You informed us that there were no hands to be got on the St. Joseph for Thomas, — that the Board had declared us independent of Carey, — and that it was no longer for you to direct our concerns at Thomas — that perhaps hands might soon be got at St. Joseph, but you did not know what effect it would have to compel them to stay when they have a mind to go — You knew of no blacksmith on the St. Joseph who would answer our purpose, and requested us to act in this respect as it should seem best to us. — We therefore understood from these remarks that you would not try to hire any men for us. Mr. Slater then started to Detroit to procure a supply. Soon after he started Robinson & Gilaspie arrived. Bro. S. agreed to give the men he ~~engaged~~ employment for some considerable length of time provided they & we should be satisfied, — we therefore according to his agreement cannot dismiss them at present. Bro. S. hired a In. two Ind. farmers, two hands for ourselves, and a woman to cook. — We have consumed all our corn, and on account of the scarcity among the Indians have been compelled to dismiss our school, to send the most of the children home, and to borrow of the Indians. Robinson has engaged to deliver 30 bushels of corn at this place at or before the first of May ^{at 15 cents per bushel} when we expect all the children will return and we will recommence the school — Bro. S. purchased 30 bushels of corn at Detroit, which will be here in May. The river is very high at present, higher than it has been before for several years, and is still rising, we fear some of the Indians fence will be carried off. ^{Some of the} The bottom land, near the river for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile back is from 4 to 10 feet under water.

Jotham Meeker to Robert Simerwell

I rejoice to hear that you all enjoy health, and that the good work of the Lord seems to be seen and felt among you. I do hope my dear Brothers, that the separation which has taken place ⁱⁿ our Missions will not cause a separation of our love and attachment to each other. Still continue to pray for us. Bro. S. was told by Mr. Browning that he had just received a letter from Mr. McCoy stating that in a few days he should pass through Detroit. We look for him to pass by Grand River, If he should not come to Thomas before the 20th inst. I think on that day I shall start to Carey. It will be necessary for us to come to a settlement, and to ~~to~~ in some way or other to square off accounts. I feel anxious to see Bro. M. give my love to all the Missionaries.

Jotham Meeker.

Mr. Robert Simerwell
Carey
St. Joseph
(M. S.)

Mr. Meeker
to Simerwell
April 9. 1829



Jotham Meeker to Robert Simerwell

1828	Jacob Engleright Dr.			1828	Rix Robinson Dr.	\$	Cts.
Oct. 10.	To one pair of shoes	2	50	July 14	To repairing saw		25
20	" tobacco		64	Nov. 5.	" 1 hds 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. a 10/-	1	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nov. 3.	" 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. tobacco a 51 $\frac{1}{4}$		46	"	" do 18 do do.	1	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
"	" half quire writing paper		12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	" 1 hds	3	50
10	" 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards white cotton		37 $\frac{1}{2}$			7	15
"	" 3 yards gingham		75		Cr.		
		4	27 $\frac{1}{4}$		Refer to his bill	21	00
	Cr.					7	15
	By labor for the Indians					13	85
	from Sept. 3, 1828, till Jan. 14, 1829, inclusive at 12 dolls per month making four months & 12 days	52	80				
		4	27	1828	Gosa Cr.		
		48	55	Sept. 1.	By use of horse to Detroit	5	00
1828	Andrew Engleright Dr.	\$	Cts.				
Sept. 3.	To half pound tobacco		10				
Nov. 12.	" 1 pair mittens		37 $\frac{1}{2}$				
20	" 1 pr. socks, 50. pipe 64		56 $\frac{1}{4}$				
"	" 1 pound tobacco		31 $\frac{1}{4}$				
28.	" 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds. cotton		37 $\frac{1}{2}$				
		1	72 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	Cr.						
	By labor as farmer for the Inds.						
	from Sept. 3, 1828, until Jan. 14, 1829, inclusive, making 4 m. & 12 days at 12 dolls per m.	52	80				
		1	72 $\frac{1}{2}$				
		51	07 $\frac{1}{2}$				
1828	Wm Belcher, Dr.						
Dec. 7.	To 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ weeks board at 2 dolls	31	00				
13.	" Cash		2 50				
		33	50				
1828							
Nov. 18.	By 35 lbs tobacco at 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	37				
	" 1 spade		2 00				
Dec. 12	By acct. with J. Holland	1	19				
17	" do J. Anderson	5	00				
25	" order on A. Coquillett	18	00				
1829		30	56				
Jan 14.	" 2 lbs 6 oz loaf sugar		62 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	" Sundries purchased Detroit	2	37 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	" Almanac		62				
			62				
			33 62 $\frac{1}{2}$				
			33 50				
			12 $\frac{1}{2}$				



1828. Calvin Ball, Dr. \$ Cts				1828. John Anderson Dr. \$ Cts			
June 20.	To two pair pantaloons	1	50	Oct 16.	To a pipe and tobacco	09	1/2
"	" 1 1/2 lbs. tobacco	30		"	" two pair stockings	1	00
Aug. 2	" account with R. Meeker	50		Sept 18	" cash	5	00
21.	" cash	15	00	Nov. 8.	" one pair shoes	1	00
Sept. 8.	" two lbs tobacco	40		"	" tobacco	12	1/2
"	" one day lost time	17		"	" one vest	1	25
Nov. 8.	" 1 1/2 lbs. tobacco a 50c	46		"	" 2 1/2 yds linsey cloth at 45c	1	15
Sept 8.	" one pair mittens, Carey	25		"	" trimmings & making pantaloons	50	
Dec. 11.	half pound tobacco	10		1829.	" one pipe	6	1/2
1829.	25. " cash - 50. Deerskin 175	4	25	Jan 13.	" cash	5	00
Jan. 30.	" To pair of half soles	57	1/2			15	16
March 9.	Pin cuffs	7	1/2	Ct.			
"	" Account with Compro	5	1/2				
	Contra Cts.	19	95				
	By labor from April 10, 1828,			By labor from Sept 11, 1828, till			
	until Jan 15, 1829, inclusive			Jan 14, 1829, inclusive, being			
	making nine months and			four months & four days at 8 dolls			
	five days, at 10 dolls. pr. m.	91	66			38	07
		19	95			15	16
		71	75			17	91
1828. Joel Holland Dr. \$ Cts				Zechariah Stepend Dr. \$ Cts			
June 20	To one pound tobacco	20		Aug 26	To two pair socks	87	1/2
July 8.	" 5 yds checking & thread	1	00	Sept 9.	" one lb. tobacco	20	
"	" acct. in favor J. Saylor	4	00	I believe the brethren have this			
4.	" two lbs. tobacco	40		account at Carey.			
Aug. 10	" two lbs. do	40		1828. George Hill, Dr.			
Oct. 20	" half lb. do	10		Sept. 16	To pipe and tobacco	9	1/2
"	" two pair socks	1	00	Nov. 8.	" tobacco	2	1/2
29	" one pair shoes	1	25	12	" 1 pair socks	50	
Nov. 3	" half lb. tobacco	15		"	" 3/4 yds linsey	35	1/2
Dec. 3	" one lb. do	20		"	" medicine	25	
13.	" acct with Mr. Belcher	1	19	"	" cash	50	
"	" lost time five days	2	65	"	" 5 1/2 days lost time	1	16
"	" tobacco. 16 1/2 medicine 25	51				3	08 1/2
		12	85	Ct.			
	Contra Cts.						
	By labor at 16 dolls. pr. m. from the 6th						
	of May until the 1st of Nov. inclusive			By labor at 12 dolls. pr. m. from Aug			
	making five months & twenty-one days	91	12 1/2	15, till Sept. 8 - 21 working days.			
	By labor at 10 dolls. pr. m. from the 2nd			By labor at 10 dolls. pr. m. from Sept 9.			
	of Nov. until the 12th of Dec. inclusive			until Dec. 12 - 3 m. & 1/2 days.			
	being one month & eleven days,	13	66			31	35 1/2
Jan. 10.	By a pen knife	57	1/2			41	00
Aug. 1	" cash at six per cent. int.	15	00			5	05
Dec. 12	" interest on the above	50				87	44 1/2
		120	46	1829. Samuel Johnson Dr.			
		12	55	To 4 pounds pork	25		
		107	61	" 1 1/2 bushels corn	175		
					1	00	
				Ct.			
				Nov. 17 By one deer skin			
				Feb. 15. " patches &c. of deer skin			
				The brethren at Carey know			
				when Mr. Johnson commenced			
				and dis continued work.			