

SECTION I

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1796

## DEED TO CUYAHOGA PURCHASE<sup>1</sup>

THIS INDENTURE made the Eighteenth day of January and in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and Ninety Six between John Askin Esquire, William Robertson<sup>2</sup> Esquire, John Askin Junior Israel Ruland,<sup>3</sup> John Dodemead,<sup>4</sup> Patrick M<sup>o</sup>Niff<sup>5</sup> all of Detroit and Alexander Henry<sup>6</sup> of Montreal of the one part, and the chiefs and leaders of the Ottawa Chipawa and Messasague Nations of Indians of the other part Witnesseth, that we the said Chiefs and principal leaders of the said Nations of Indians, for ourselves and by and with the Consent and advice of the whole of our said Nations or Tribes, in Consideration of the sum of five Shillings Halifax Currency to us in hand paid by the said John Askin Esquire William Robertson Esquire, John Askin Junior Israel Ruland John Dodemead Patrick M<sup>o</sup>Niff and Alexander Henry, (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged) and for other good causes and considerations Us the sa[id]<sup>7</sup> chiefs and principal leaders of the said Nations or Tribes of Indians he[reunto]<sup>8</sup> especially moving: HAVE bargained and sold and by these presents [all]<sup>7</sup> and each of us doth bargain and sell unto the said John Askin, Wil[liam]<sup>7</sup> Robertson, Israel Ruland John Askin Junior John Dodemead Patric[k M<sup>o</sup>Niff]<sup>7</sup> and Alexander Henry their Executors Administrator and assigns, All [that]<sup>7</sup> Capital Messuage or certain Tract of Land Situated lying and being on the South [side]<sup>7</sup> of Lake Erie, and bounded as follows towit, Commencing at the entrance of the Cayahoga River into Lake Erie and thence runing up the westerly bank of said river to the portage or carrying place between that River and the Tuscarrawas branch of the Muskingum River,

<sup>1</sup> For additional documents concerning the Cuyahoga Purchase, see *Burton Historical Records*, I and II, *passim*. Referred to hereafter as *B. H. R.* A photograph of the concluding portion of the agreement is published, *ibid.*, I, 558.

<sup>2</sup> For the career of William Robertson, see *ibid.*, 208.

<sup>3</sup> Israel Ruland, for whom see *ibid.*, 545.

<sup>4</sup> John Dodemead, for whose career see *ibid.*, 304.

<sup>5</sup> Patrick McNiff, for whose career see *ibid.*, 424.

<sup>6</sup> Alexander Henry, for whose career see *ibid.*, 93.

<sup>7</sup> The manuscript is mutilated at this point.

<sup>8</sup> This word is covered by the seal which accompanies the first signature to the document.

thence down that branch to the crossing place above Fort Lawrence thence westerly on the division Line between the Indian Lands and the Land given and granted by the different Indian Nations to the States of America in August 1795 such a distance untill it Intersect a line run due South from the Entrance of Sandusky Lake, thence due North on that Line to the Entrance of Sandusky Lake thence easterly along the Southerly Shore of Lake Erie untill the Entrance of Cayahogo River aforesaid or place of commencement be the distance quantity of Miles or acres more or less (always reserving out of said Tract of Land Six Miles Square At and Near the Entrance of Huron River which we formerly Granted to Gabriel Ganeau and three small farms granted to different persons on the Southerly side of Sandusky Lake,) which said Tract of Land and every part thereof together with all Meadows pastures feedings Commons, Woods, ways, Waters, Water Courses fishings, Mines, Minerals Quarrys profits Privileges, Easements Commodities, advantages, Emoluments, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the said Capital Messuage or Tract of Land belonging or with the same used or enjoyed or accepted, reputed, taken or known as part parcel or member thereof or as belonging to the same or any part thereof, To HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Capital Messuage or Tract of Land, hereditaments and all and Singular other the premises herein before mentioned or Intended to be bargained and Sold and every part and parcel thereof with their and every of their Rights Members and appurtenances unto the said John Askin, William Robertson, John Askin Junior Israel Ruland John Dodemead Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff and Alexander Henry, their Executors Administrators and assigns, from the day of the date of these presents, for and during and untill the full end and term of Nine hundred and Ninety Nine Years, from the date hereof to be Completed and ended: They the said John Askin, William Robertson John Askin Junior Israel Ruland, John Dodemead, Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff and Alexander Henry, Yeilding and paying us the aforesaid chiefs and principal leaders of the Indian Nations Ottawas Chipawas and Messasagues aforesaid, the Yearly Rent of five Shillings Halifax currency at the expiration of every Year to be computed from the date hereof if the same shall

be Lawfully demanded, of them their Heirs and assigns, To the Intent and purpose that by virtue of these presents and of the Statute for Transferring uses into Possession the said John Askin William Robertson, John Askin Junior Israel Ruland John Dodemead Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff and Alexander Henry may be in actual possession of the premises and be thereby enabled to receive and accept of a Grant and release of the freehold, reversion and Inheritance of the same premises and of every part and parcel thereof to them their Heirs and assigns to the uses and upon the trusts thereof to be declared by another Indenture Intended to bear date the day after the date hereof or on some other future day: IN WITNESS whereof the said John Askin William Robertson John Askin Junior Israel Ruland John Dodemead Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff and Alexander Henry unto these presents their hands and Seals have Subscribed and set, and We the said chiefs and principal—leaders of the said Nations have also unto these presents set our Seals and the marks of our respective Tribes the day and Year first above [written.]<sup>8</sup>

In the presence of the Subscribing Notary and witnesses the chiefs and principal leaders of the Ottawas Chipawas and Messasagues Nations of Indians did to this Indenture set their Seals and the marks of their respective Tribes and delivered the same as their act and Deed to the party concerned, the same being first Read and fully Explained to them by a proper Interpreter they the said chiefs being then perfectly Sober.

A Sketch of the Land specified and described in this Indenture is drawn on the opposite page which the said Chiefs acknowledge to be Just and to which they have also set their Seals and marks of their respective Tribes as a farther confirmation of their perfect knowledge of the Intent and meaning of this Indenture.

Alexis Maisonville<sup>9</sup>  
B<sup>t</sup> Sans Craint<sup>10</sup> Interpréte  
D S<sup>t</sup> Cosme<sup>12</sup> témoint

F D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour<sup>11</sup> N<sup>re</sup> pc

<sup>9</sup> For the ancestry and career of Alexis Maisonville, see *B. H. R.*, I, 325.

<sup>10</sup> For the ancestry and career of Jean Baptiste Romain *dit* Sanscrainte, see *ibid.*, 324.

<sup>11</sup> For the career of Francis Xavier Trotier *dit* Bellecour, see *ibid.*, 401.

<sup>12</sup> For the St. Cosme family line, see *ibid.*, 212. Among the sons of Pierre Laurence,

John Askin	(L. S.)
William Robertson	(L. S.)
John Askin Jun <sup>r</sup>	(L. S.)
Israel Ruland	(L. S.)
John Dodmeade	(L. S.)
P M <sup>c</sup> Niff	(L. S.)
John Askin for <sup>13</sup>	
Alexander Henry	(L. S.)

*Endorsed:* Cayahoga Deed &c &c dated 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1796  
 Rec into my office this 3<sup>d</sup> day of April 179[?]  
 Recorded in my office in the [illegible] No 1 pages 47, 48  
 & 49 Peter Audrain recorder 15/8

MEMORIAL OF JOHN ASKIN TO LORD DORCHESTER<sup>14</sup>

Humbly sheweth,

THAT your lordship's memorialist has resided at the posts of Michilimackinac & Detroit since the year 1764; at this period he went to the former post as deputy commissary & served in that capacity at two different periods for eleven years. That in the year 1767 he with several others were reduced, & were to be favoured by government with two thousand acres of land each; but owing to his still remaining at Michilimackinac, he never had an opportunity of benefiting by the generous intentions of government.

THAT in the year 1776 your Lordship's memorialist sustained a very considerable loss, exceeding the sum of seventeen hundred pounds York currency in Montreal & on Lake Erie, as can be indubitably proved, by authority & evidence to whom reference was then made, & are now happily to be brought forward, owing to the existing hostilities between Great Britain & the then Colonies; & at that period a statement, with proper vouchers, were, by your Lordship's directions laid before you through the medium of James M<sup>c</sup>Gill,<sup>15</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> of Montreal. That your Lordship's memorialist has since been honoured with a commission of Captain in the

there noted, was Dominic St. Cosme, who was born in Detroit on April 28, 1758. It seems probable that he was the witness to the present document.

<sup>13</sup> Appended are the totem signatures of thirty-five Indians, together with an outline map designed to identify the boundaries of the purchase.

<sup>14</sup> Sir Guy Carleton, Lord Dorchester, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 83.

<sup>15</sup> James McGill, for whose career see *ibid.*, 73.

town Militia of Detroit, & in that capacity took every opportunity of discharging his duty to government & rendering at the same time those he commanded satisfied with the nature of the service then in a great measure new to him. That your Lordship was afterwards pleased in your goodness to honour him with a commission of the peace, in which capacity he has studiously endeavoured to the best of his abilities to fulfil the duties of that office, so useful to the community & so difficult & laborious to the conscientious & upright magistrate. That your Lordship after honoured him with a seat at the Land board here; when laying aside all considerations of a private nature, he has always adhered to the spirit of his instructions, in carrying into effect those regulations, dictated no less by the wisdom, than by that spirit of justice & honour that so happily characterises the measures of your Lordship. That since the division of Canada into two governments he has been made Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col. commandant of the Essex Militia by Col. M<sup>o</sup>Kee,<sup>16</sup> the Lieu<sup>t</sup> Col. of the county. In all these stations, he has endeavoured to discharge his duty as an honest man & a subject desirous by his conduct to evince to the government of his country that tho' unconnected with profit or emolument, he wished not to appear unworthy of the confidence that had unsolicited, been reposed in him. For the truth of which he is not afraid to appeal to the testimony of every commanding officer who has been in this country down to the present moment when Col. England<sup>17</sup> is about to leave it to which he hopes he might add the general good will of the most respectable part of his fellow subjects.

Notwithstanding this, your Lordship's memorialist most respectfully represents, that for what reason he knows not he has not been able to obtain more than twelve hundred acres of land for himself & a very large family from his excellency Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Simcoe<sup>18</sup>—a quantity not greater than has been readily bestowed on individuals whose situation & time have never placed them where they could devote any part of it to the public service & some of whom are only young men in the capacity of clerks.

<sup>16</sup> Alexander McKee, for whose career see *ibid.*, 301.

<sup>17</sup> Lt. Col. Richard England, for whose career see *ibid.*, 444.

<sup>18</sup> Gov. John Graves Simcoe, for whose career see *ibid.*, 403.

Your Lordship's memorialist having been born and bred under the British government feels it hard to be thus discarded; & is fearful (that some person must have done him ill offices with his excellency Lieu<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Simcoe: for a faithful & concientious discharge of his duty according to the best of his abilities could not have marked him out to one entrusted to dispense the rewards of the crown as undeserving of favours which have been so liberally bestowed on others whose merits & pretensions will not be illustrated by examination.

Under these circumstances your Lordship's memorialist therefore feels it proper to appeal to that Justice & impartiality which so eminently characterises your lordship as the King's supreme representative in British America, for such portion of land for himself & family as your Lordship, in your wisdom & goodness, may think your memorialist worthy of in the province of Lower Canada: & he as in duty bound will every pray.

*Endorsed:* 1796 Cobby of a memorial Intended to have been presented to His Excellency Lord Dorchester but his departure before it got down prevent its being given

#### GRANT TO GABRIEL HUNOT

Detroit

PARDEVANT Francois Desruisseaux bellecour Notaire au Détroit y résidant et temoins Soussignés, Furent présens les principaux Chefs de la nation Outaways, lesquels et aux noms des plus enciens et autres de la dite nation, en consideration de la bonne amitez qu'ils ont pour le Sieur Gabriel Hunault, Marchand Tretteur parmi eux a ceprésent et acceptant, pour lui Ses Hoirs et ayans Causes a l'avenir, ils lui ont donnés, Cedés, quittés, et transportés et par ces présentes, donnent, quittent, transportent, alliéent, Irévocablement, avec garanties de tous troubles, Dons, ventes, dettes, Evictions, Alliénations, et de toutes autres Empêchemens Généralement quelconques un Certin TERREIN qui n'est point encore mesurée, mais tel qu'il se trouve aprandre depuis la rivièrre au Calumét aux environs de Sandosquét, Jusqu'a la borne et Joignant les terres qu'ils ont donnés dernièrement audit Hunault et Jusqu'a deux Lieux, de pro-

fondeur. et en outre, un autre terrain aprandre de la ligne des dites premières terres donnés audit Hunault Jusqu'a la rivière dite au vermillon et de la même Profondeur de deux Lieux, les dits terrains, tel qu'ils Se comportent de toutes parts, tant en bois de bout que preries &c. Circonstances et dépendances, que le dit donnataire dit avois vûe, et visités, dont il est Contant et Satisfait, les dit Chefs, et autres de la dite Nation vouslans et entendans, qu'il Jouisse des dit terrains et ses ayans Causes aperpétuités, promettans, ne Jamais, ni eux, ni leurs Hoirs, ne le troubles, ni enquetter dans la paisible Possession, et Jouissance d'icelui déClarans ne l'avoir donnés a personnes (Sidevant) et Sans pouvoir ni eux, ni leurs Hoirs, les donner ni aucunes parties d'iceux a d'autre

Cette donnoison, Cession, transport et délaissement, ainsi faite, en considerations des bons Services et tretimens, que les dits Chefs, et autres, reconnoissent avoir reçue dudit Gabriel Hunault, et en autre pour environ deux Milles Piastres de credits qui leurs a fait ci devant, et quis n'ont point étés Payés, les qu'ils dit Credits le dit Hunault, leurs abandonnent; et au moyéns de ce que dessus, et des autres parts, les dit Chefs et aux dit noms, ont de ce moment transportés, et transportent audit Hunault Ses dit Hoirs et ayans Causes a l'avenir, tous et tels droits de propriétes, noms, raisons, actions, et tous autres droits, qu'ils ont et pouvoient avoir Sur les dit terrains san devétissants ou profits du dit Hunault ses dit Hoirs et ayans Causes al'avenir voulans, et entendans, qu'il en Soit mis en bonne Possession, et Seizine par quis, et ainsi qu'il appartiendrat, en vertu desdites présantes. Car ainsi &c Promettans &s Obligeans &c fait et Passé au dit Detroit en L'étude du dit Notaire, le dix Neufième Jour de Janvier L'an milsept Cens quatre vingt seize, et ont les dit Chefs faits leurs marques ordinaires, et Scellés apres Lecture faite qui leurs a étés interpretté en leur Langue qu'ils ont dit avoir bien Compris.

[Totem signatures of twenty-two Ottawa Indian chiefs with their Indian names added in script, and seals for seven]

Nigoucheway  
Wabechin  
Wabechique

Saquimaint  
Gosgoame  
Ouquesos

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Achoakigique	Anqueoad
Assougoua	Nigquani comme
Agoa	Oubequegyate
Negaoniqué	Asougouw
Quouqixe	Chimondoque
Etgominus	Tache
Soutade	Pimaque
Naudoet	Niquique

Présance de  
Toussaint Chesne marque  
B<sup>te</sup> Sanscraint Interprete  
F. D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour N<sup>re</sup> P<sup>o</sup>

*Endorsed:* Donnaison par les Sauvages Outaway a Gabriel Hunault du 19 Janvier 1796

Rec<sup>d</sup> in my office the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>ber</sup> 1797. P.A.

Registered in my office in the Book No 1 pages 158 & 159.  
Peter Audrain, recorder.

Juré pardevant nous. Joseph Voyez Ecuyer. F. D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour N<sup>re</sup> P<sup>o</sup> N<sup>o</sup> 1 to be deliv<sup>d</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Askin

*Translation*

Detroit

BEFORE François Desruisseaux Bellecour, notary of Detroit, there resident, and witness undersigned, appeared the principal chiefs of the Ottawa nation, who for themselves and in the names of the elders and others of the said nation, in consideration of their good friendship for Gabriel Hunot,<sup>19</sup> merchant trader among them now present and accepting for himself, his heirs, and future assigns, have to him given, ceded, released, conveyed, and by these presents do give, release, convey, and alienate irrevocably, with guaranty from all troubles, gifts, sales, debts, evictions, alienations, and all other hindrances generally whatsoever, a certain tract of land not yet surveyed but extending from the Calumet River to the lands adjacent to Sandusky, as far as the boundary of and adjoining lands which they recently granted to the said Gabriel Hunot, and extending two miles in depth; and further, another tract beginning at the boundary

<sup>19</sup> For the Hunot family, see *B. H. R.*, I, 199.

line of the said first grant to the said Hunot and extending to the Vermilion River also two miles in depth, such as they are, these two tracts, throughout their whole extent, both woodland and meadow, with their appurtenances and dependencies, which the said grantee claims to have seen and examined and to be satisfied and content therewith, the said chiefs and others of the said nation, willing and intending that he may enjoy the said lands, he and his assigns, forever, and promising that never shall they or their heirs give him any trouble nor shall they ever dispute his peaceable possession and enjoyment of the same, declaring that they have never before made a grant of these lands to anyone, and that they are now powerless to grant them or any part thereof, to any other.

This grant, cession, conveyance, and relinquishment, thus made, is in consideration of the good offices and the merchandise which the said chiefs and others recognize to have received from the said Gabriel Hunot, and further for about two thousand piasters of credits which he formerly gave them and which have never been paid, and which said credits the said Hunot relinquishes to them; and because of that which is hereinafter set forth, and in other places, the said chiefs, and in the said names, have from this present conveyed, and do convey to the said Hunot, his said heirs and future assigns, all and such rights of ownership, title, equity, demand, and all other rights which they have and can have upon the said tracts, with no divestment of rights nor of profits of the said Hunot, his said heirs and future assigns, willing and intending that he may be placed in good and sufficient possession and seizin by which and so that it may belong to him in virtue of these said presents.

For thus, etc., promising etc., duly executed at the said Detroit in the office of the said notary the nineteenth day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, and they, the said chiefs, have made their customary marks, with their seals, after reading which has been interpreted to them in their language and which they say they have understood.

[Signed by twenty-two Indian chiefs by their respective totems]

In the presence of  
 Toussaint Chêne by mark<sup>20</sup>  
 Bte. Sanscraint, Interpreter  
 F. D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour, Notary Public

*Endorsed:* Grant by the Ottawa Indians to Gabriel Hunot,  
 January 19, 1796.

Received in my office, October 4, 1797 Peter Audrain.<sup>21</sup>

Registered in my office in the Book No. 1, pages 158 and  
 159. Peter Audrain, Recorder.

Sworn before us, Joseph Voyez<sup>22</sup> Esq. F. D<sup>x</sup>. Bellecour,  
 Notary Public.

No. 1 to be delivered to Mr. Askin.

JOHN ASKWITH'S TAILOR BILL

The Estate of John Askwith<sup>23</sup> Deceased  
 To Thomas M<sup>c</sup>Crae D<sup>r</sup><sup>24</sup>

1793

July	19 <sup>th</sup>	To Turning a Black Coat & trim- mings	£ 1	16	
1794					
Jan <sup>y</sup>	11	" Making 2 p <sup>r</sup> Mittens	2/6	5	
June	28	" ditto 2 Vests & 2 p <sup>r</sup> Breeches @ 12/ ea	2	8	
		" 1 Yard Shalloon 6/ 13¼ yd <sup>a</sup> Cotton Linning @ 6/		16	6
		" 3 " Linnen @ 4/6 Silk twist thread & tape 10/6	1	4	
		" 3 doz blk Buttons @ 2/ 2 ⅔ doz Small plated @ 4/		17	

<sup>20</sup> For the background of the Chêne family, see *ibid.*, 410. Toussaint was a son of Charles Chêne *dit* Caousa and Mary Joseph Descomps *dit* Labadie. He was born in Detroit, Oct. 31, 1768, and married, April 23, 1798, Mary Therese Campau, daughter of Jean Baptiste Campau and Geneveva Godet. She was buried, June 23, 1823, and Toussaint married (second), April 21, 1833, Mary Frances Paré, daughter of Jean Baptiste Paré and Mary Frances Peltier and widow of Antoine Levasseur *dit* Carmel. Toussaint was buried in Detroit, May 2, 1834. Eleven children were born of the union with Mary Therese Campau, in the years 1799-1821. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>21</sup> For sketch of the career of Peter Audrain, see *B. H. R.*, I, 213.

<sup>22</sup> Joseph Voyer, for whose career see *ibid.*, 379.

<sup>23</sup> John Askwith, for whose career see *ibid.*, 448-49, and *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 49-64.

<sup>24</sup> For data concerning the family of Thomas McCrae, see *post*, 386.



me any information that might ascertain this, or point out the steps necessary to release the property I should be very Glad, for of Books or papers that can lead to the eclclaircissement of this or any thing else, I find none I am

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd M<sup>o</sup>Gill & C<sup>o</sup>

*Endorsed:* Wrote to M<sup>r</sup> R<sup>d</sup> Cartwright<sup>26</sup> at Kingston to enquire about a lot or two of land situated near Capt Singleton's on the bay of Quinty belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Askwith

Copy to Todd M<sup>o</sup>Gill & C<sup>o</sup> About property of the late J. Askwith below Detroit Janu<sup>y</sup> 1796

#### LAND HOLDINGS OF JOHN ASKIN

Some of the Property which John Askin Senior has to dispose of Viz<sup>t</sup>

a Large Dwelling House in the Town of Detroit with the Yard & out-Houses hereunto belonging and for which his lowest Price is £2000 N. Y. Cur

A Farm joining to the Kings Common 2 Acres in Width & 80 deep on which are several Houses rented out, besides Store House, Stabling, Garden, Orchard, Barn &<sup>e</sup>

a Large spare lot of ground in the Town of Detroit Near his dwelling House

a Lot opposite his House on which is a Shop Country House bed room, Store House & Stabling all in one

a Tract of Land on Each side of the River aux Huron where the Old Moravian Town was containing 50 Acres by 40 on Each side of the river in all 4000 Acres the Improvements on which cost M<sup>r</sup> A. 420 Dollars to the Moravian Ministers Exclusive of what he Afterwards made himself & a Considerable Sum paid for the Native right, this being only About 6 miles up the river where large boats can go would make a fine Place for a Farmer on a large Scale

a Tract of Land of 33 Acres in front by 120 deep within 2½ miles of Town on which are several Houses & a Wind Mill a good road to it & the finest situation in the Country Medow Ground & Pasturage for 2000 Head of Cattle, having the Detroit river & Entrance of the river rouge for Boundaries on two sides

<sup>26</sup> For sketch of the career of Richard Cartwright, see *ibid.*, 188.

a Great many farms of Land on the river au razin some larger, & some smaller, Improvements on some & on others more

a Tract of Land on the Streights leading from Lake Sinclair to Lake Huron on the left Hand side going up Adjoining to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Meldrum<sup>27</sup> & Parks<sup>28</sup> Containing in front 25 Acres & 150 deep, the Bell river cuts it, said to be very fine Land & for which I have a Warrentee Deed. a Vessell of Burthen may lay herself along the Bank in front or Even go into the Bell River

Several other Tracts of Land both on this & the other side of this river.

Some Indian Tracts Exclusive of those in which I hold a share, And of which Appears in the Map at the River aux Huron on the South side of Lake Erie Under the Name of Gabriel Huno which costs me a large Sum of Money a Small Vessell can go some Way up that river and I'm told no better Land can be meet with. I have Authorized M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd<sup>29</sup> of Montreal to dispose of it which if he does not do before June next at which time he is to be here it will Also be for Sale

*Endorsed:* Detroit February 25<sup>th</sup> 96 Coppy of a Memod<sup>m</sup> gave M<sup>r</sup> Salstaunstal relative to property I have to dispose of

PROPERTY OF CAPTAIN HENRY BIRD<sup>30</sup> IN DETROIT

Monmouthshire Goytree March 28<sup>th</sup> 1796

KNOW ALL MEN by these Presents. that I Henry Bird have made, named and ordained, and by these Presents do make and in my place and stead, put and constitute Charles Blake Esq<sup>r</sup> late Surgeon to his Majesty's 34<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> or any Person he may think proper to appoint in my name my true *certain*, and lawful Attorney for me, and in my name, and to and for my proper use and behoof, to demand, levy, sue for, recover and receive, by all lawful ways and means whatsoever, of and from all and every Person or Persons, my Tenants in a Dwelling House at Detroit built at my own expence on

<sup>27</sup> For the career of George Meldrum, see *ibid.*, 293.

<sup>28</sup> William Park, for whose career see *ibid.*, 71.

<sup>29</sup> For his career, see *ibid.*, 79.

<sup>30</sup> For Bird's career, see *ibid.*, 186.

Ground granted by the Commander in Chief, for Military Services and all other Persons, who may have dwelt, or resided therein by grant or power from M<sup>r</sup> Alex. Macomb,<sup>31</sup> or of his Agents or Attorneys, and of all others, whom it doth, shall or may concern, all such Sum and Sums of Money, as now are, and which shall arise, become and grow due and payable, unto me the said Henry Bird, for Rent and Arrears of Rent, for all and every, or any of my Messuages, or Tenements situate in Detroit as aforesaid, by Lease or otherwise; And also to demand and levy, from Edward Hazell,<sup>32</sup> (residing on my premises, and occupying two Houses Built by me and at my expence, eighteen Miles from the Fort at Detroit,) a Sum Annually, not exceeding one York Shilling. And if need be, to enter into or upon the said Messuages or Tenements, or any of them, And to destrain for all or any such Rent or Arrearages of Rent, and to enter and take Possession of them or any of them, in Case of Forfeiture, as occasion shall require; And to use and take all or any other lawful Remedies, Ways, means and Advantages whatsoever, for or upon Default, or Non-payment of all or any such Rent, or Arrears of Rent, and likewise to transact, do, perform, and accomplish all other Affairs whatsoever, relating to all or any my said Messuages or Tenements, as occasion shall require, as fully as I myself might or could do, were I personally present: And upon Receipt or Recovery of all or any such Rent or Arrears of Rent, sufficient Acquittances and Discharges for me and in my name to make and give. Giving and by these Presents granting full powers as above and revoking all other powers whatever.

Henry Bird (L.S.)

<sup>31</sup> Alexander Macomb of New York, for whom see *ibid.*, 108.

<sup>32</sup> Edward Hazel served during the Revolution as interpreter in the British Indian Department. In June, 1782, he brought news to Detroit of the defeat suffered by General Greene "near Savannah." Four months later he brought to De Peyster news of an impending attack on Detroit by Colonel Irvine at Pittsburgh, which much alarmed De Peyster. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, 23 and 66-67. In 1784, Hazel's name occurs among the list of persons then drawing rations in Detroit. *Ibid.*, 237. About this time Captain Henry Bird gave to Agnes Hazel (wife of Edward) and Judith Hicks, sister, "of Detroit," possession of a house and tract of land to which he claimed title at Amherstburg—apparently the same property alluded to in the present document. That Hazel lived here for several years at least is indicated by a letter of Alexander Macomb to Bird (then in England) in 1788. *Ibid.*, XXIV, 15-17. In 1792 Hazel was still serving as Indian interpreter, and in 1794 Colonel England commended him to Governor Simcoe for appointment as lieutenant of local militia, but added that he was "not a favorite" of Colonel McKee. See *ibid.*, 380, and *Simcoe Papers*, II, 198.

Signed, Sealed and delivered in presence of us.

Joseph Griffiths

Henry Bird Jun<sup>r</sup>

Gaytree March 28<sup>th</sup> 1796.

*Endorsed:* Power of Attorney from Henry Bird Esq<sup>r</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup> on Half Pay of the 18<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Foot To Charles Blake Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal.

My Dear Sir, I did myself the pleasure of writing to you by the last English Mail not knowing a Vessel sail'd so soon from Bristol. Pray make my kindest remembrance to M<sup>rs</sup> Goddard. I have sent by this Vessel some Bristol Beer and a Dolphin Cheese, and take the liberty to request her acceptance of them flattering myself they will prove good. M<sup>r</sup> Oliver of Bristol did not treat me well—for I did not know till I settled with him last Christmas (as our Custom) that it was not sent last Spring. The Muff &c. came safe to hand for my sincere acknowledgements &c. &c. I refer to my Letter by the Mail. I mentioned in that Letter as you was so kind as to offer to interest yourself in my little matters of Possession at Detroit, that I would trouble you with a Power of Attorney, which I now send, the Power will explain itself. I built a House in Detroit. A Macomb rented it for me to Cox<sup>33</sup> the Innkeeper and to M<sup>rs</sup> Andrews Widow of Cap<sup>t</sup> Andrews,<sup>34</sup> who was lost on the Lake, and I have received two Years Rent through Macomb of £40 York a Year, but since Macombs failure I have heard no more. I do not wish Doctor to create you and indeed would not presume to engage you in any dispute. Any person going to Detroit may be empower'd by you to enquire and if any rent can be collected as mentioned in my Letter by

<sup>33</sup> Probably Thomas Cox, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 171-72.

<sup>34</sup> Captain James Andrews was a sailor on the upper lakes who was at Detroit as early as 1773, when he had command of the naval schooner, *General Gage*. At this time Major Henry Bassett, commandant at Detroit, commended him to General Haldimand as a good sea officer and "very much esteemed" here. He also reports having given Andrews permission to "bring up" his family to Detroit in the spring. In 1778 Governor Hamilton commended Andrews to General Carleton in terms of high praise; the same year Colonel Mason Bolton at Niagara characterized him to Haldimand in like terms, and he was appointed to command the naval force on Lake Ontario. Letters of Mrs. Elizabeth Andrews, his widow, to General Haldimand indicate that he died in service prior to July, 1783. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*. A letter from James White of Niagara to Mr. Fraser of Detroit, in 1798, concerning a debt due Mrs. Andrews at Detroit seems to imply that at this date she was living at Niagara. Ms. in B. H. Coll.

the Mail, I will allow £10 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> Commission and Charges of expence. It will have this good effect, it will confirm the Property. The Land of mine occupied by Hazell and given by the Indians & confirm'd by Gen<sup>l</sup> Haldimand<sup>35</sup> has two Houses upon it I built. I meant to return and reside there but a Chancery Suit, not yet totally finish'd in the most material part, at least the Division of a Legacy, has detained me. I mean still to reside finally in America. This Country is too expensive for a large Family (I have 10 Children) with so moderate an Income as 300 a Year. every thing is highly Tax'd. our diversion with a Gun cost £3. a Year. wearing hair powder £1. Wheat even in Wales is 15<sup>s</sup> a Bushel, Butchers Meat 6<sup>d</sup> a pound, and every necessary of Life in proportion.

I am at present an Invalid my hand and joints swell'd with the Rheumatism. As to Politicks, It is imagined the French will never be able to support their Republican form of Governm<sup>t</sup> against the Malecontents of France, if Peace took place immediately. We suppose the King of Prussia will recommence hostilities which he ceased *par Politique* owing [to] the rapidity of French devastation & success.

The Campaign on the part of the Allies especially on the part of the Emperor is about to commence with great Vigour. The French Navy is perfectly crippled, they dare not send a Fleet out. they are content with Frigates and Privateers, which do a confounded deal of Mischief. Their irruption into the Country of the Mynheers has however done us a considerable service, Having totally ruined their Trade, so that they will not be able to rival us in Traffic for this Century to come We (as you must have heard) have the Cape of good Hope, Ceylon and many of their Islands in the E. Indies, and if the French are not wonderfully successful this Campaign they must pay the Piper before they will have these places again. Our National Debt however must become enormous and I fear will one day explode, if great Widsom and prudence forsake our Councils, or indeed cease to preside there. excuse this Scrawl my hand shakes sadly with pain. To resume the subject of the Power of Attorney. If M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Sir Frederick Haldimand, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 206.

W. Macomb resides at Detroit he will explain many Matters. with regard to Hazell, I merely want a usual acknowledgm<sup>t</sup> of the Property being mine. If any Rent can be obtained (I have receiv'd £80 York) please reserve it, till I have the pleasure to see you, which I hope will not be long. I will inform you when I am about to leave England, that I may execute any Commission for you or Family, and in the interim shall esteem myself happy in your Commands.

I remain my D<sup>r</sup> Sir, with much esteem Your most obed<sup>t</sup> and very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Henry Bird<sup>36</sup>

Usk—Monmouthshire March 29<sup>th</sup> 1796.  
Charles Blake Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal

STATUS OF APPLICATIONS FOR LAND GRANTS

Niagara 17 April 1796

Dear Sir, I have received your letters of the 8 & 17 of March. I have not been able to collect any determination on the Natural Meadows at the Mouth of the Thames. The business you mention of removing Setlers to within our Lines would not be attended to in the way of a Letter to me, but his Excellency is open to the knowledge of such a measure by petition to him in Council. the selling of Lots before the patents are issued is considered as improper & it is a very difficult matter to get the Reserves moved. If you allude to Commodore Grants<sup>37</sup> Children, a memorial to be put on a footing with him would be ineffectual, as he got Lands for them in the proportion he has done, purely because he was a privy Counsellor, and as such due to his Rank. The Reserves are chiefly under the Care of the Surveyor of the Woods & the Receiver General. The terms of townships are generally promulgated in his Excellencys original proclamation, so that I see little or no pecuniary advantage to be derived from them. I apprehend that such Canadians as ask to remove within our Limits may be accomodated nearly in the Situation you mention, if they

<sup>36</sup> Further copies of documents which follow (the last dated April 21, 1797) indicate that Blake transferred Bird's power of attorney to Alexander Duff of Amherstburg.

<sup>37</sup> Alexander Grant, whose career is noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 75-76. For additional biographical data concerning him, see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VI, 65-80.

are proper subjects & recommended for Location by a Magistrate. if the Certificates already obtained that way have been got or sold surreptitiously; those concerned will certainly be disappointed. In regard to your project with Messieurs Randall & Whitney,<sup>38</sup> I can say but little think it better therefore to say nothing.

My mother & M<sup>rs</sup> Smith<sup>39</sup> beg their Comp<sup>s</sup> to greet all yours, I saw your Daughter at York a few days ago, she is well. believe me dear Sir very faithfully & truly Yours

D W Smith<sup>40</sup>

To John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*From:* Survey Gen. Office U C

*Endorsed:* Niagara April 17<sup>h</sup> 1796 Cap<sup>t</sup> D. W. Smith to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> May

TRESPASSERS ON CROWN LANDS

Detroit April 25<sup>th</sup> 96

My Dear Sir I beg leave to trouble you with a Line to Say that I beg you will send me some authority from the Person authorised to give it to prevent People from Settling or otherwise making use of the Lands reserved to the Crown on the Rivers Ruscum, Pucés Peches, & Belle River, this will be very usefull to both, first to the Government in preventing People from Cutting choise Timbers on these Lands or making Settlements on them which in time it might be difficult to remove, & next to me, in keeping off[f] large herds of Cattle Which no fence can resist & injuring Very much the Poep<sup>l</sup>e Who are Settling on my Lands, for my part I have no other Views than what I mention in requesting to have charge of them. I have Land adjoining to the reserves on all the rivers & am erecting Houses on

<sup>38</sup> The allusion is to the Cuyahoga purchase of Askin and associates, for which see *B. H. R.*, I, 545-48, *et passim*; and *ante*, 5-8.

<sup>39</sup> In 1788, Smith married Anne, daughter of John O'Reilly of Ballykilchrist, County Longford, Ireland, who died in 1798. They had eight children. He married (second) in 1803, Mary, daughter of John Tyler of Devizes, England, by whom he had one daughter. W. Stewart Wallace (ed.), *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, 1926).

<sup>40</sup> For sketch of the career of David W. Smith, see *B. H. R.*, I, 407; also sketch in Wallace, *op. cit.*

them & from the great encouragement I give cannot fail  
of making a Speedy Settlement I am &°

J Askin

Capt D W Smith Niagara

*Endorsed:* April 25<sup>th</sup> 1796 To D. W. Smith 5<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>  
Niagara

GUARDIANSHIP OF CROWN LANDS

Niagara 2<sup>d</sup> May 1796

Dear Sir; M<sup>r</sup> Robinson<sup>41</sup> the Surveyor of the woods  
is at Kingston. should he come up, I will represent to him  
your wishes of being empowered to be a Guardian to the  
Reserves. perhaps your leasing them at a very low rent  
could be the most eligible plan, particularly if you could  
get them for 21 years, which you could have on an applica-  
tion to M<sup>r</sup> Russel.<sup>42</sup> People might formerly take possession  
& these were used to plead Occupancy, but I apprehend it  
would be a foolish experiment now the Government is  
organized. I am at present much hurried, as you may  
suppose, so that I hope you will not expect much from me  
except business.

However at all times be assured of the good wishes of  
this family & believe me truly yours

D W Smith

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*From:* Sur. Gen. Office U. C.

*Endorsed:* Niagara May 2<sup>d</sup> 1796 Cap<sup>t</sup> D. W. Smith  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>h</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Christopher Robinson was a native of Virginia and a graduate of William and Mary College. At the outbreak of the Revolution, he remained loyal to the Crown, and served on the British side during the war. At its close, he took refuge in Nova Scotia, where he obtained a grant of land. He subsequently removed to Lower Canada, and in 1792 to Upper Canada, where he was appointed surveyor of woods and forests by Governor Simcoe. He also served in the provincial legislature from 1796 until his death in York (Toronto), Nov. 2, 1798. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>42</sup> Peter Russell (Russel) was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1733. He was educated at Cambridge, and in 1778 became a captain in the Sixty-fourth Regiment. He served in America as assistant-secretary to Sir Henry Clinton, taking part in the campaign against Charleston in 1779-80. He returned to England at the close of his military service, and in 1792 returned to Canada, having been appointed by Governor Simcoe Receiver-General of the province of Upper Canada. On Simcoe's withdrawal in 1796, Russell, as President of the Council, succeeded to the governorship, retaining the position until 1799. He died at his home in Toronto, Sept. 30, 1808. See sketch in *Simcoe Papers*, I, 129; Wallace, *op. cit.*

CONTRACT FOR SUPPLYING CORN TO NORTH WEST COMPANY

Articles of Agreement made and concluded upon by and between John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> of Detroit, Merchant on the One Part, and Mess<sup>rs</sup> McTavish<sup>43</sup> Frobisher<sup>44</sup> & Comp<sup>y</sup> for the North West Company & in their behalf on the other Part

WITNESSETH

That the said John Askin binds & obliges himself to furnish & deliver to the Order of the Said North West C<sup>o</sup> on board any Vessel laying before the Fort of Detroit, yearly, for Three successive years to commence with the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety Six, Twelve Hundred Bushels of Merchantable hull'd Corn & Twelve Thousand Pounds French Weight of Flour also good & Merchantable, One Third of both which Quantities to be ready On or before the First day of May each Year, One Third the first day of June & One Third the first Day of July & to be delivered on board free of Expence to the Company, they furnishing him with the Bags Necessary to Contain the Same.

In Consideration of the delivery of said Corn & flour at the different Periods above mentioned, the said M<sup>c</sup>Tavish, Frobisher & C<sup>o</sup> for the North West C<sup>o</sup> bind & oblige themselves to pay unto the said John Askin, or his Order, the Neat Sum of Twelve Shillings New York Currency for each bushel of Corn & Thirty-Two Shillings New Yk Currency P Cwt french or 108 [lbs] English weight of Flour so delivered payable in Montreal the Tenth day of October in each year of Said delivery as aforesaid. It is also understood by the Contracting Parties to this agreement, that during the Term of said agreement, the Said John Askin will not furnish or Cause to be furnish'd, any Person or Persons who may be in opposition to the aforesaid Company in the North West with any Provisions of the above mention'd Species

It is also understood that should Detroit fall under the Government of the United States of America, or should the

<sup>43</sup> Simon McTavish, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 533. His wife was Marie Marguerite Chaboillez, for whose career see *ibid.*, 91. Further facts about McTavish are in Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>44</sup> For the career of Joseph Frobisher, see *B. H. R.*, I, 73 and 111; for additional data, see Wallace, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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present Government lay an Embargo on either or both of the above mentioned Species of Provisions, that the Said John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> his failure in furnishing the Stipulated Quaintity at the Times above agreed upon merely from such impediment shall not incur the Penalty in this agreement.

And for the True & faithful Performance of all the foregoing Articles, each Party Bind themselves in the Penal Sum of.

BURIAL OF AMOS WESTON

Detroit May 9<sup>th</sup> 1796

for the Burel and Care of the Discecd

M<sup>rs</sup> Westren<sup>45</sup> to James Underston

	S
10 2 lb of Candles	8
4 Yard of Dowlas winding sheet	16
one lb of Nails	2
4 Boards for the Coffin	12
Cash one pound	1
2 gallons of Rum	3 4
3 pints of wine	12
Chees Six pound[s]	1 4
for Laying per out	1 4
for dig[g]ing the grave	8
for Making the Coffin	16
for attendanc[e] in the house	2

£ 12-0-6

James Underston<sup>46</sup> Acc<sup>t</sup> against the Estat of Amos Weston Discecd

*Endorsed:* His a/c for the Burial of M<sup>r</sup> Weston senior by Underston a/c in Jn<sup>o</sup> Askins Book y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> July 1798 to be p<sup>d</sup> by his selling of the Desceesed property to y<sup>e</sup> Am<sup>t</sup> of £9.18.8

PAYMENT FOR HURON RIVER LAND GRANT

Nous les Chef et principal hommes de la Nation de Pote-

<sup>45</sup> Amos Weston, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 237.

<sup>46</sup> James Underston, for whom see *ibid.*, 239.

watemie pour Nous et la Nation en General Reconnai avoir Recu a different temps de Jean Askin Junior pour lui et Ses Associes les different Article comme si Mentioné Scavoir Quatre quart de Romme Contenant Cent Quarante Quatre Gallons, Sept douzaine de Pipes, Cinquant Quatre Verge de Toille fine, Vingt Mouchoir, Trente Verge de Drap bleu, Vingt Verge de Molton, Trente Six Verge de Ruban Vert, une livre de Vermillion, Une livre de fille, Soisante et dix Verge d'Indiesne, dix Couvert, deux Cent pains, Six livre de Tabac en poudre, Vingt livre de lard, Vingt Cinq Barrils de different Grandeur pour Contenier leu[r] Romme, Six livre de poudre, deux Capot de Drap fin, Un Gros Beuf pesant Sept Cent Soisante et dix livres, Trois Douzaine de Boutons, une Tabatier, Deux Verge de Drap fin, Quinze Minot de bled Inde, Quarante livre de Tabac, et Montant de leur Credit etant Cent Quatre Vingt Treize Piastre, en plain payment et Satisfaction de cette Etandue de Terre acheté de Nous pour lui meme et Autre Situe sur chaque Cote de lá Rivierre au Huron pret de L'antree de lá Rivierre du Detroit Contenant Quarante Lieue en longueur et deux lieue de profondeur sur chaque Cote de la dit Rivierre comme il paroitrà plus pleinement par un Act de Vente fait à lui et Ses Associers et portant date a lá Rivierre au Resin leu douze de Juin Mil Sept Cent Quatre Vingt Quinze et par celle ci Nous prometton à Eux, leur heritiers, administrateurs, et Assigns que nous ni aucun de Nous, l'avenir ferant aucune Demande Sur le dit Jean Askin Junier ou Associers pour Autre payment pour lá dit Etandue de Terre etant pleinement Satisfait avec ce que nous avons deja Recu et ce que Nous Recevons presentement. En Temoinage nous avons fait nos marque Ordinaire, leu Content de cette papier etant pleinement et Vraiment & premierrement Interpreté par Charle Reaume à lá Rivierre Resin leu quinze de Mai Mil Sept Cent Quatre Vingt Seize.

J. Porlier Benac temoin  
Antoine Rivard

[Totem signatures of twelve chiefs of the Potawatomi nation, with names in script]

Echawet  
Okia

Mahingan  
Chewenisie

Othesneesa	Chawinabai
Nanannie ou Kuvainim	Ochichalk
Cabainse	Kewaidenaham
Bandigaikawa	Mahimak

*Endorsed:* River au Razin May 15<sup>th</sup> 1796 The Indian Acknowledgement of having rec<sup>d</sup> payment for the Lands which they sold at the River aux Hurons.

Evidence of a Claim made by Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin in behalf of the Heirs of Patrick M<sup>o</sup>Niff & John Askwith. In behalf of Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry, Israel Ruland, John Askin Junior & John Askin Senior.

Recorded in the Land Office at Detroit in Liber B folio 319.

Test G<sup>o</sup> Hoffman<sup>47</sup> R

### *Translation*

We, the chiefs and leading men of the Potawatomi nation, for ourselves and the nation in general, do acknowledge having received at divers times from John Askin Jr., on his own behalf and that of his associates, the different articles as here mentioned, that is to say: 4 barrels of rum containing 144 gallons, 7 dozen pipes, 54 yards of fine linen, 20 handkerchiefs, 30 yards blue cloth, 20 yards of woolen cloth (Melton), 36 yards of green ribbon, 1 pound of vermilion, 1 pound of thread, 70 yards of calico, 10 bed covers, 200 loaves of bread, 6 pounds of snuff, 20 pounds of lard, 25 barrels of different sizes for rum, 6 pounds of powder, 2 broadcloth cloaks, 1 large beef weighing 770 lbs., 3 dozen buttons, 1 snuff box, 2 yards of broadcloth, 5 minots of corn, 40 pounds of tobacco

The whole amounting to one hundred and ninety-three

<sup>47</sup> George Hoffman was born, Jan. 29, 1783, the son of Christian and Anna Hoffman. He was postmaster at Woodstock, Va., in 1801-1802, and was appointed postmaster at Detroit, July 29, 1805. He was admitted to the bar the following month, and in 1806 was appointed collector of the port of Mackinac. He died on or about March 2, 1810. On Feb. 15, 1806, he married Margaret, daughter of Peter Audrain, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 213. They had one son, George Washington Hoffman. Hoffman's widow subsequently married (Dec. 2, 1813) Colonel Samuel Wells of Kentucky, brother to the noted scout, Captain William Wells, and colonel, during the War of 1812, of the Seventeenth U. S. Infantry. A daughter of Samuel Wells by his prior marriage was Rebekah, wife of Captain Nathan Heald, commandant of Fort Dearborn from 1810 to 1812. For additional data concerning Hoffman's public career at Detroit, see *ibid.*, 173. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 209.

dollars being full and complete payment for that tract of land bought from us by himself and others, situated on both sides of the Huron River and extending forty miles from the mouth of the Detroit River by two miles in depth on each side of the said river as set forth more fully in the deed of sale made to him and his associates, and dated at the Raisin River the twelfth of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five; and by these presents we promise them, their heirs, administrators, and assigns that neither we nor any of us shall make any future demand upon the said John Askin Jr., or upon his associates, for any further payment for the said tract of land, being perfectly satisfied with what we have already received and what we now receive. In testimony whereof we have made our accustomed marks, the contents of this document having been first interpreted, clearly and truthfully, by Charles Réaume,<sup>48</sup> at the Raisin River, the fifteenth of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six.

J. Porlier Benac,<sup>49</sup> witness

Antoine Rivard.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>48</sup> For his career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 249.

<sup>49</sup> Claude Porlier, born in Paris in 1652, migrated to Canada and on Dec. 5, 1682, married, in Quebec, Mary Bissot, daughter of Francis Bissot and Mary Couillard. He was engaged in trade. He was buried in Quebec, July 31, 1689; Mary Bissot was buried there, July 24, 1719.

Their son, Claude Cyprian Porlier, born in Quebec, Oct. 7, 1683, married in Lachine, Aug. 26, 1719, Angelica Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien, who was born in Lachine, Dec. 2, 1698. He was a trader, like his father; he was buried in Montreal, Sept. 3, 1744.

The two sons of Claude Cyprian Porlier and his wife both came to Detroit. The elder, Joseph Stephen Porlier *dit* Benalque, is the individual here noted. He was born in Montreal, Feb. 9, 1730, and married there, Feb. 5, 1759, Louisa Michelle Gamelin, daughter of Ignatius Gamelin and Mary Louisa Dufros. She died about the year 1769, and Benalque subsequently married an Indian woman of the Maumee Bay region. He was at St. Joseph in 1753, and in Detroit as early as the spring of 1768. He eventually located at Raisin River, where he became justice of the peace and captain of militia. He had a son, Stephen, by his Indian wife, who was baptized at St. Antoine, Raisin River, April 9, 1803. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; journal of Henry Hay, in *Wis. Hist. Soc., Proc.*, 1914, p. 214; and *Simcoe Papers*, II, 26.

<sup>50</sup> For the Rivard family line, see *B. H. R.*, I, 49. Antoine Rivard was a cousin of Jean Baptiste Rivard, there noted. He was born in Batiscan, June 26, 1739, his parents being Antoine Rivard and Mary Joseph Trotier. He came to Detroit and on July 8, 1767, married at the Church of the Huron, Sandwich, Felicity Ste. Marie, who was born in L'raprairie, May 12, 1744. The couple lived in Detroit for some years, subsequently in Miamitown (modern Fort Wayne), still later at Raisin River. Pierre Henry Hay, who spent the winter of 1789-90 in Miamitown, saw much of the Rivards and in his journal gives a vivid impression of the manner of life they led. See *Wis. Hist. Soc., Proc.*, 1914, p. 214 ff. Antoine Rivard was buried at Raisin River, Oct. 27, 1812; his wife, Felicity, was buried there Feb. 16, 1807. They had a family of ten children, born in the years 1767-87. Denissen, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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DEFECTS IN LAND TITLES

Detroit May 20<sup>th</sup> 1796

Dear Sir I was yesterday favoured with three Letter from you two of which dated the 17<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>d</sup> April & one the 2 May by these I learn that you and all the Family were well which is allways agreeable news to us. Under cover herewith you have the 4 receipts signed & witnessed as you directed. There could no advantage whatsoever derive to me for paying for the use of the reserves, as I had most of the Lots on each side of them on the four small Rivers if they were in my care I could prevent people putting Cattle on them that may distroy the crops on my Lands, this was my principal view, but whatever cannot be obtained without much difficulty I renounce. If Exchanging & selling of Lands before Deeds of them are granted is wrong, we in this District are very blameable, however I'm sure it has been the means of as much more of the waste Lands of the Crown being cultivated, for my part to this day I never have seen a Deed that was given out or understood they could have been obtained before now. I did not allude to the Commodores Children respecting Lands it certainly must have come to your knowledge that a Gentleman of this settlement last fall got a considerable quantity for his, and as he was not in any office higher than I have held, it raised my hopes that my expectations on that score was well founded. I think he merited what he got & so do I what I expect. however I am troubling you with a matter that does not concern you. his Excellencys pleasure in this matter will be done. I was confined to my house for near two weeks lately with a Fever but am now perfectly recovered. M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin Joins in best Compliments to your good Family & I remain Dear sir

Most Obedient very humble Servant

Signed John Askin

Capt D W Smith 5<sup>th</sup> Regt Newark

*Endorsed:* Detroit May 20<sup>th</sup> 1796 From John Askin to Cap<sup>t</sup> D W Smith (Copy)

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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CESSIONS OF INDIAN LANDS

30 May 1796

Sir The little Otter with other Chiefs & Warriors Twenty in Number are now at my House Waiting for M<sup>r</sup> Ruland in order to put the finishing hand to all their Conveyance They are all perfectly sober The Chiefs request a little Rum for themselves & Young [men] while waiting for Ruland. You will please send them Two Bottles & Charge it to the Company acco<sup>t</sup> but not to the Cayahoga

P M<sup>c</sup>Niff

J Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Ent<sup>d</sup> S/D 30 May, 96 Patt M<sup>c</sup>Niff

NOTICE OF INVALIDITY OF INDIAN LAND GRANTS

WHOM IT MAY CONCERN By the Treaty at Greenville concluded in August last by Major General Wayne on the part of the United States with all the Indian Tribes Resident South & East of the Lakes it is Stipulated that the Indians shall not alienate their Lands either by Sale or Donation without the Consent of the United States. It follows from this Stipulation that all Donation or Sales made Subsequent to the Said Treaty are Contrary to Compact and of Course invalid I utter this Testimonial at the instance of a Potawatomie Chief Okia in order to save him & other Chiefs the Importunties (to which he has assured me they are exposed) of ignorant or designing persons for grants of their Lands. Given at Greenville 31 May 1796

Witness my hand & Seal

(Signed) James Wilkinson

Brig<sup>r</sup> General in the Army of y<sup>e</sup> United States

(L.S.)

*Endorsed:* Greenville May the 31<sup>st</sup> 1796 Brigadier General Wilkinson d[e]clarations relative to Lands purchased of Indians

PAYMENT FOR INDIAN LANDS

Detroit 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1796

Sir Please deliver the Little Otter for use of the Chiefs four Bottles of Indian Rum and four Loaves of Bread and

Charge it to acco<sup>t</sup> of the Company but not to the Cayahoga Purchase.

P M<sup>e</sup>Niff

Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

NB They are given to understand that this is to be the last untill we make some thing of the Land.

*Endorsed:* Ent<sup>d</sup> S/D June 2, 1796 Patt M<sup>e</sup>Niff

DISPUTE OVER CHURCH PEW

Niagara le 7 juin 1796

Ayant été Informé que des grandes Disputes Se Sont presentes a l'égard de l'occupation d'un Banc du au Gouvernement dans votre Eglise, ce qui me Surprend bien, et L'Eveque de Quebec ayant laissé a moi a determiner qui est la Persanne qui doit en avoir la Jouissance, Je prononce donc, que le dit Banc & toutes les Honneurs qui lui appertienent est un des Priviléges a qui le Lieutenant, ou dans son Absence le Deputé Lieutenant a un Droit Incontestable, il vous plaira donc de donner des Ordres que la même conduite qui a été entierement [anciennement] observé envers le Commandant Français soit observé a l'égard de la Persanne qui a l'avenir reocupera le Banc en question

Je suis Monsieur Votre tres obeissant Serviteur

(Signé) J. G. S. L<sup>t</sup> G<sup>r</sup>

Ordonné a [Monsieur Dufaux missionnaire à l'Assomption et à] Messieurs les Marguillers & a leurs Successeurs de faire observer la teneur de la [susdite] Lettre cydevant de Son Excellence le Lieutenant Gouverneur et pour prevenir les disputes desormais, ordonné que la même conduite S'observe dans toutes les Eglises du Haut Canada

(Signé) Edmund Burke

Vicaire General du Diocese de Quebec,  
Specialement chargé du Haut Canada

Donné a L'Assomption ce 2<sup>d</sup> Juillet 1796.

*Endorsed:* Traduction de la Soudite Lettre.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Insertions follow the French copy in the Registre de la Paroisse de l'Assomption (Sandwich), July 31, 1725-December 31, 1824. Cited hereafter as Assumption Church Register.

*Translation*

Niagara, June 7, 1796

Having been informed that great difficulties have arisen respecting the occupation of a pew due to government in your church, at which I am greatly surprised; and the Bishop of Quebec leaving to me to determine who is the person who should have the enjoyment of it, I therefore pronounce that the said pew and honors pertaining thereto are one of the privileges to which the Lieutenant or, in his absence, the Deputy Lieutenant has an undoubted right. You will accordingly be pleased to give directions that the same conduct which was observed formerly towards the French Commandant be now kept toward the person who will in future occupy the pew in question.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
(Signed) J. G. S[imcoe], Lt. Gov.

It is ordered that [Mr. Dufaux,<sup>52</sup> the missionary at Assumption Church, also] the trustees and their successors, will observe the tenor of the above letter of His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, and in order to prevent such disputes hereafter it is further ordered that the same conduct will be observed in all the churches of Upper Canada.

(Signed) Edmund Burke<sup>53</sup>

Vicar General of the Diocese of Quebec, specially charged with affairs of Upper Canada

<sup>52</sup> François Xavier Dufaux was born in Montreal, Jan. 16, 1752. He became a Sulpician, Aug. 16, 1778, and in 1786 was sent to Detroit to serve the parish of Ste. Anne. The following year, Father Pierre Frechette of Assumption Parish, Sandwich, whose charges had recently been characterized by Father Bocquet as "stubborn rebels and great drunkards," persuaded Dufaux to exchange stations with him. See *B. H. R.*, I, 378. Father Dufaux remained in Sandwich until his death, Sept. 11, 1796. Under his administration the new church was completed and a school was established. During the last two years his pastorate was marked by frequent quarrels with Father Edmund Burke, in which the sympathy of the parish and the support of the bishop seem to have rested with Dufaux. The church-pew dispute, with which the present document deals, was one incident in this quarrel. There is much concerning Dufaux in a volume (anonymous) entitled *Memoir sur les Missions de la Nouvelle Ecosse du Cap Breton et de l'Île du Prince Edouard de 1760 à 1820* (Quebec, 1895). See also, Rev. J. C. Plomer's history of Assumption Parish, in *Letters of the Rev. J. B. Marchand* (Detroit, 1927).

<sup>53</sup> Edmund Burke was born in County Kildare, Ireland, in 1753. He studied in Paris and became a priest of the Catholic Church, but owing to local dissensions he determined to migrate to Canada. He reached Canada in 1786 and was shortly made professor of philosophy and mathematics at the Seminary of Quebec. He was subsequently appointed a director of the Seminary, and in 1794 came to Detroit with the title of Vicar-General and Superior of the Missions of Upper Canada. He remained in the western country until the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

INVENTORY OF CREDITS DUE JOHN ASKIN

Account of Expected<sup>54</sup> Remittances for the 30<sup>th</sup> September next—viz<sup>t</sup>

Adventure to Fort Miamis . . . . .	500	—	—
Andrew Todd Esq <sup>r55</sup> . . . . .	400	—	—
John Drake <sup>56</sup> . . . . .	43	3	8
Robert Hamilton <sup>57</sup> . . . . .	180	3	10
Ditto for M <sup>r</sup> Clinch <sup>58</sup> . . . . .	140	—	—

summer of 1796, spending some months of this time at Raisin River. Although a priest of the church engaged in proselyting among the Indians, he seems to have been on the payroll of the government and to have served as commissary for the distribution of supplies to the natives. He was believed by the Americans to have influenced the natives to acts of cruelty, and on July 4, 1796, a few days in advance of the American occupation of Detroit, he departed for Niagara. Here he obtained a grant of land from Governor Simcoe and undertook to establish a seminary for the education of priests. His activities in western Canada continued for several years. In 1801 he was appointed Vicar-General of Halifax, and in 1815, Bishop of Halifax. Here he died in 1820. He was the author of several books, and seems to have enjoyed high repute among his contemporaries. He antagonized many, however, and his narrative of his missionary achievements in the western country has been sharply called in question. See Dean Harris, *The Catholic Church in the Niagara Peninsula, 1626-1895* (Toronto, 1895), 172-78; and article in *The Catholic Encyclopaedia*, with references cited.

<sup>54</sup> In the manuscript the word "supposed" is written above "expected," apparently inserted parenthetically.

<sup>55</sup> Andrew Todd was a nephew of Isaac Todd, who shortly after the Revolution came west to Mackinac and entered upon the prosecution of the fur trade. His powerful connections in Montreal enabled him to play an important rôle in the Northwest trade during the following years. Early in the 1790's he located at Cahokia and from there found his way to New Orleans. He had perceived the utility of cultivating the favor of the Spanish authorities, and from them he secured concessions designed to give him a monopoly of the trade of all Spanish Louisiana north of the Ohio and Missouri rivers. See Houck, *Spanish Régime in Missouri*, II, 180 and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIII, 283. In exploiting this concession, Clamorgan's "Company for the Discovery of Nations of the Upper Missouri" was organized in St. Louis in 1793-94, and with the backing of Todd's energy and capital several expeditions were dispatched to the upper Missouri. See *ibid.*, XXII, 13 ff., especially p. 16, note. The further prosecution of Todd's far-reaching enterprise was cut short by his early death in New Orleans, Oct. 31, 1798. His will bequeathed all his property to Isaac Todd. See, in addition to references already cited, *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Houck, *History of Missouri*, *passim*; and ms. references in Burton Historical Collection, hereafter cited as B. H. Coll.

<sup>56</sup> For sketch of the career of John Drake, see *B. H. R.*, I, 448.

<sup>57</sup> For his career, see *ibid.*, 188.

<sup>58</sup> Ralph Clench, originally from Pennsylvania, served in the Eighth Regiment and later as a lieutenant in Butler's Rangers. He was in Detroit as early as the summer of 1780 when he served in Captain Bird's Kentucky campaign and was warmly praised by both Bird and Colonel De Peyster. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XIX, *passim*. He was given a grant of land at Niagara on account of his service as a ranger, and went there to live. He served in the War of 1812, being appointed assistant quartermaster with the rank of captain, and was captured by the Americans in May, 1813. His house at Niagara was the only one which escaped burning when that place was destroyed during the war. Clench was a member of the first Parliament of Upper Canada; he married Elizabeth Johnson, a descendant of Sir William Johnson, and one of their sons, in 1831, married Eliza, daughter of Major William Whistler of the U. S. army. Captain Clench died, Jan. 19, 1829, aged sixty-six years. See sketch in *ibid.*, XX, 686-87 and references there cited.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Francois Lafontaine <sup>59</sup> .....	14	-	-
William M <sup>c</sup> Clintock.....	43	15	-
Widow M <sup>c</sup> Kellip <sup>60</sup> .....	147	7	3
Th <sup>a</sup> Reynolds <sup>61</sup> for hire of the <i>Weaxell</i> = & 2050 Bricks.....	69	3	6
Ditto for 3488 Lbs Flour....[illegible]...	74	19	10
Choatts & Sandford.....	36	-	-
William Robertson.....	73	-	-
Gabriel Hunot.....	90	-	-
Jacques Lasselle <sup>62</sup> .....	21	4	2
North west Company.....	228	5	1
Captain Nelson <sup>63</sup> .....	19	1	-
Israel Ruland & Allen.....	227	16	10
Estate of John Askwith.... Supposed....	40	-	-
William Dummer Powell <sup>64</sup> .....	16	-	-
Furrs Sent down & here, Suppos'd worth..	900	-	-
Freights..... Supposed.....	800	-	-
Flour at River Raisin.....	150	-	-
Thomas Reynolds for Beef.....	47	6	10
<hr/>			
Carried over.....	£4261	7	0
Amount brought over.....	4261	7	-
Bill got for firewood....remitted.....	105	3	13/4
M <sup>r</sup> Reynolds for Carting with the Oxen..	29	13	4
In the hands of M <sup>r</sup> Andrew Todd 4423 <sup>n</sup> ..	294	7	4

<sup>59</sup> For his career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 269.

<sup>60</sup> Mrs. McKillip (Eleanor Little) later married John Kinzie, see *ibid.*, 305-306; for a longer sketch of her career, see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VIII, 33 ff.

<sup>61</sup> Thomas Reynolds, for whom see *B. H. R.* I, 308.

<sup>62</sup> On the Lacelle line, see *ibid.*, 197. The individual here noted was the eldest child of Jacques Lacelle and Therese Berthelet *dit* Savoyard. He married in Detroit, March 29, 1801, Mary Blue Jacket, a Shawnee woman, born in 1778, who was a daughter of Blue Jacket, the noted Shawnee chief of this period. They resided in Detroit for a time, removing subsequently to the Raisin River settlement, where Lacelle became both wealthy and prominent. About five miles above Monroe on the Raisin, he established a considerable settlement, in whose vicinity his daughter is said to have owned forty-five farms as late as 1836. Mary Blue Jacket was buried in Detroit, June 17, 1806. Jacques Lacelle was buried in St. Antoine, Raisin River, Dec. 8, 1815. Their daughters were educated at a convent in Montreal. Mary Ann, the eldest, married Thomas Caldwell, son of William Caldwell and Susanne Baby of Amherstburg. An interesting account of this family is given in Talcott E. Wing, *History of Monroe County, Michigan* (New York, 1890), 118-19. See Denissen, *op. cit.*; Casgrain, *Memorial des Familles Casgrain, Baby, et Perrault*, 100-101.

<sup>63</sup> Johnathan Nelson, for whom, see *B. H. R.*, I, 554-55.

<sup>64</sup> For sketch, see *ibid.*, 436.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Ballance of M Robertson's Draft not yet drawn for.....	184	1	-
	4875	1	9¾
Deduct over [ra]ted the Peltries.....	200	"	"
New York Currency.....	£4675	1	9¾

The foregoing is Exclusive of any Payments that may be made of Debts due at Post Vincent the sale of some Tobacco yet in the Hands of M Andrew Todd What I may dispose of here, or at the Rivers mouth the Sales of my Houses &ca in Detroit & Lands on this side of the River If I meet With purchasers & ready money.

However observe I have about 1200 N Y C<sup>y</sup> in Circulation, probably 900 of it may come in for payment; so much, of course must be deducted from the foregoing supposed Remittances.

*Endorsed:* June 11<sup>th</sup> 1796 Copy of an a/c of supposed remittances to be made Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>o</sup>Gill by Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin by Sep<sup>r</sup> 1796

CAPTAIN MAYNE SENT TO DETROIT

Niagara 13 June 1796

Dear Sir/ I beg leave to introduce to Your acquaintance Captain Mayne<sup>65</sup> of the Queens Rangers. He goes up to take the Command near Bois Blanc, & I have no doubt but you will find him an acquisition to your Society

I am dear Sir Truly Yours

D W Smith

*Addressed:* John Askin Eq<sup>r</sup> Detroit  
Honored by Cap Mayne DWS

*Endorsed:* Niagara June 13<sup>h</sup> 1796 D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> the 2<sup>d</sup> July Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup>

65 William Mayne, commissioned captain in the Queen's Rangers, Feb. 4, 1795, previous to which appointment he had held the rank of ensign. As indicated here, he was sent to the new post at the mouth of Detroit River (subsequently known as Amherstburg) in the summer of 1796. He was thus the successor of Colonel England as commandant of the British military establishment in the vicinity of Detroit. In a letter of June 24, 1797, he stated his desire for six months' leave of absence to enable him to go to England on private

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR ADHÉMAR ST. MARTIN

M<sup>o</sup>Kina Le 23 juin 1796

M<sup>r</sup> Askin Ecuyer

Monsieur J'ay reçu L'honneur de La votre du 25 May Dernier par Laquelle vous me Demandez un plein Pouvoir pour retirer Les Billets & Comptes que J'avois Laissé chez Monsieur Paul Gamelin. J'en ai donné Suivant vos intentions un Etat a M<sup>r</sup> Andrew Todd L'année dernière pour vous L'Envoyer et au Bas je vous donnois Pouvoir de Les retirer; Sans doute que vous ne L'aurez pas reçu; pour y Supplier je vous en Envoye un autre Etat que vous trouverez cy joint, dont vous pouvez disposer aux conditions que vous me marquez suivant nos Conventions a L'exception de ceux porté dans Le d<sup>t</sup> Etat Provenant dela Masse Pothier et Adhemar Dont je Crois M<sup>r</sup> R. Pollard chargé de cette affaire et qui doit En avoir La note.

Mad<sup>me</sup> Adhemar et fort Sensible au Bon souvenir de Mad<sup>me</sup> Askin et Le votre Elle vous en fait Mille remerciement ainsy que moy et Souhaitant a tous Deux bonne Santé

J'ay L'honneur d'etre Monsieur Votre tres humble Serviteur

Adhemar St Martin

*Endorsed:* Mich. June 23<sup>d</sup> 1796 Mons<sup>r</sup> Adhemard to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin receiv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>

*Translation*

Mackinac, June 23, 1796

Mr. Askin,

Sir: I was honored with yours of May 25 last in which you ask for full authority to collect the notes and accounts I left with Mr. Paul Gamelin.<sup>66</sup> Following your wishes in that matter, I gave a statement to Mr. Andrew Todd last year to send you, and added below the authority for you to make collection. Doubtless you did not receive it. In its place I enclose herein another statement for your disposition on the

business connected with his becoming of age in April of this year. Apparently the request was granted, for he was soon succeeded at Amherstburg by Captain Hector McLean. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*.

<sup>66</sup> See *post*, 282-84.

conditions you mention according to our agreement, with the exception of those contained in the said statement which proceed from the partnership of Messrs. Pothier<sup>67</sup> & Adhémar. I think Mr. Pollard<sup>68</sup> has charge of that matter and must have a record of it.

Mrs. Adhémar is very sensible of the kind remembrances of Mrs. Askin and yourself. She returns you a thousand thanks, in which I join her, and wishing you both good health,

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your very humble servant,  
Adhémar St. Martin<sup>69</sup>

SALE OF INDIAN LAND GRANT BY GABRIEL HUNOT  
Detroit

PARDEVANT François Desruisseaux Bellecour Notaire, au Detroit, y résidant, et Témoin Soussignés, Fut présent le Sieur Gabriel Hunault Marchand Tretteur, de présent en cette ville, lequel reconnoit par ces présentes avoir vendu, cédé, quitté, transporté, et délaissé, dès maintenant et a toujours, avec Garantie de Ses propres faits, de Ses Hoirs et ayans Cause ainsi que de toutes, dettes, Hipotèques, Eviction, et aliénations qu'elconques; au Sieur John Askin Ecuyer, a ce présent, et acceptant acquéreur, pour lui Ses

<sup>67</sup> Presumably Jean Baptiste Toussaint Pothier, who was born in Montreal, May 16, 1771. His father, Louis Toussaint Pothier, was a prominent merchant of Montreal and one of the founders of the North West Company. The son entered upon the western trade in early manhood, and for many years was one of the most active British traders in the Northwest. He was active in the affairs of the Mackinac Company, and in 1811, when John Jacob Astor organized the South West Company with a view to strengthening his hold upon the western trade, Pothier was one of the British merchants taken into the new organization. Notwithstanding this alliance, Pothier remained staunchly British, and on the outbreak of the War of 1812 he bore a leading part in the activities which resulted in the capture of Mackinac and the subsequent downfall of American authority in the Northwest. Pothier lived in Montreal, where he was long a prominent citizen. He was for many years a member of the Legislative Council of Lower Canada, and for shorter periods belonged to the Executive Council and the Special Council. He died, Oct. 22, 1845. See biographical sketch in *Bull. Recherches Hist.*, XXVI, 223-24; documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, especially XV, 141-44; and William F. Coffin, *1812: The War and Its Moral* (Montreal, 1864), 45-46.

<sup>68</sup> Richard Pollard, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 252. On May 8, 1782, Felix Graham wrote from Lachine to Thomas Williams in Detroit, introducing Pollard as "a gentleman of merit." Ms. in B. H. Coll. Presumably this fixes the time of Pollard's advent in the western country.

<sup>69</sup> For the career of Toussaint Adhémar dit St. Martin, see *B. H. R.*, I, 177-78.



present and saw the within deed duely executed by Gabriel Hunault

Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1797

*Endorsed:* Vente par Gabriél Hunault au Sier John Askin d'un Terrain au Sud du Lac Erier aux environs de Sandosquit, du 27<sup>e</sup> Juin 1796. Une Vrai Coppie est enrégistré en l'office dudit Notaire F. D<sup>x</sup> B.

Rec<sup>d</sup> in my office 5<sup>th</sup> June 1797. P. A.

Registered in my office in the book N<sup>o</sup> 1. page 99.

Peter Audrain recorder

### *Translation*

Detroit

BEFORE François Desruisseaux Bellecour, notary at Detroit and there resident, witness undersigned, appeared Gabriel Hunot, merchant trader, now in this city who acknowledges by these presents to have sold, ceded, released, conveyed, and relinquished from this time and forever, with guaranty from his own acts and those of his heirs and assigns, also from all debts, mortgages, evictions, and alienations whatsoever, to John Askin, Esq., here present and accepting as purchaser, for himself, his heirs and future assigns, the one-half of all the land that he has acquired from the Indians on the south of Lake Erie near Sandusky, according as they are described in the deeds which the said Indians have given to him, one dated the eighteenth of October, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-five, and the other dated the nineteenth of January of this current year, executed by the notary undersigned, such and as the said lands extend and are on all sides, that the gentleman purchasing says he is satisfied.

This sale, cession, conveyance, and relinquishment thus made is for and because of the sum of one thousand pounds, New York currency, which the said Gabriel Hunot acknowledges to have received from the said Mr. Askin before the execution of these presents, with which he is satisfied and for the payment of which he holds the said purchaser and all others acquitted and absolved, and because of this, the said Gabriel Hunot has from this time conveyed, and



bounded on the South West by the River Rouge and on the North East by Lands belonging to the said John Askin in the Rear by Lands claimed by M<sup>rs</sup> Baby. As also all Appurtenances whatever to the said Tract of Land or Premises belonging or any ways appertaining, And all the ESTATE, RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST, CLAIM, and DEMAND whatever of the said John Askin of, in, and to the said Tract of Land and premises and every part thereof. To have and to hold the said Tract of Land and Premises and every part and parcel thereof with the Appurtenances, unto the said Isaac Todd and James M<sup>c</sup>Gill, their Heirs and Assigns and to the only proper use and behoof of the said Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill their Heirs and Assigns forever. And the said John Askin for himself and his Heirs the said Tract of Land and Premises and every part thereof, against himself & his Heirs and against every other Person or Persons whatsoever shall and will Warrant forever defend by these presents. IN WITNESS Whereof the Said John Askin has herewith set his hand and Seal at Detroit this Twenty Eighth day of June in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety-Six

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

in Presence of

John Askin (Seal)

William Robertson

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol<sup>71</sup>

*Endorsed:* N<sup>o</sup> 4 Tract of Land adjoining the entrance of River Rouge, 12 acres in front 4 Acres of M<sup>c</sup>Gill Bou[ght] of Jn<sup>o</sup> Shaw<sup>72</sup> & 1 of Beneau Todd 7 3 of Roger Beneau & 4 of Godfroy

The part of this Lot on which the Improvements are & bounded by the River Rouge on the 5 Acres in Front is for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill. the remaining 7 Acres bounded by on S is for M<sup>r</sup> Todd [torn]

<sup>71</sup> For sketch of the career of Robert Nichol, see *B. H. R.*, I, 324.

<sup>72</sup> John Shaw was a maker of bricks and tiles. He was living in or near Detroit as late as the year 1812. See mss. in *B. H. Coll.*, *passim*.

FURS TO BE FORWARDED TO FORT ERIE

Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> July 1796

Dear Askin I Leave in your Care 64 packs Mark<sup>d</sup> T M N<sup>o</sup> 1 to 64, which I request you will send to Fort Erie As soon as possible either in the Kings Vessels or any other sending with them an Acc<sup>t</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Warran<sup>73</sup> and M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton. there is allso 17 packs that M<sup>r</sup> Hands<sup>74</sup> has of a like Number with M<sup>r</sup> Dufresne if you can use it in Getting them down, I wish you would as they are for us. I think by going to the mouth of the River with Coln<sup>l</sup> England you might Get him to Leave an order or at Least a request with the Commad<sup>r</sup> there to give you the first Kings Vessel that returns from F<sup>t</sup> Erie to take packs this on Account of freight owing you, and on this assurance you might be ready to send the packs down

I am Yours Sincely

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Isaac Todd to Jno Askin Detroit 1796  
Col. England's departure

OBEDIENCE TO ORDER IN CHURCH-PEW DISPUTE

L'Assomption le 3<sup>me</sup> Juillet 1796

Messieurs Je Viens de recevoir un ordre de Son Excellence le Lieu<sup>t</sup> Gouverneur de cette Province, dont J'ai mis une Copie Collationé avec la traduction en Francais Sur le Registre de la Paroisse. J'ai toute raison de croire que vous montrerez cette obeissance aux ordres de Son Excellence qui leur est due, & serai tres faché que l'Opinia-treté dé quelques Esprits brouillon puisse Vous Induire a leur contrevénir en aucune maniere ayez la Bonté de me faire Scavoir apres les Vespres Si Vous êtes disposé d'obeir aux ordres de Son Excellence dans toute leur etendue afin que Je sache qu'il raport Je dois en faire.

<sup>73</sup> John Warren, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 584.

<sup>74</sup> William Hands, for whose career see *ibid.*, 308.

Je suis Messieurs avec tout le Respect Votre tres H<sup>le</sup>  
Serviteur

(Signé) E<sup>d</sup> Burke

A Messieurs les Marguillés de la Paroisse de L'Assomption.

*Endorsed:* Copie d'une Lettre de M<sup>r</sup> Burke aux  
Marguilles de L'Assomption

*Translation*

Assumption, July 3, 1796

Gentlemen: I have just received an order from His Excellency, the Lieutenant-General of this province, a verified copy of which I have entered in the parish register, with the translation in French. I have every reason to believe that you will give the orders of His Excellency the obedience which is their due, and I shall be very sorry if the obstinacy of any interfering person should induce you to oppose them in any way. Have the goodness to inform me after vespers if you are disposed to obey the orders of His Excellency implicitly, that I may know what report I should make concerning them.

I am, Gentlemen, with every respect, your very humble servant

(signed) Ed[ward] Burke

To the Trustees of Assumption Parish

*Endorsed:* Copy of a letter from Mr. Burke to the Trustees of Assumption.

ACCOUNT OF PETER CURRY WITH OWNERS OF THE *DETROIT*

The Owners of the Sloop *Detroit* To Peter Curry<sup>75</sup> D<sup>r</sup>

1792

Nov<sup>r</sup> 8 To my Services in Conducting  
N<sup>o</sup> 1 and Building the Sloop *Detroit*  
commencing this Date and  
ending on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1793  
inclusive being 192 Days at  
11/ £105 " 12

---

<sup>75</sup> Peter Curry, shipbuilder and master, was on the Detroit River as early as 1790, and

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

N <sup>o</sup> 2	To my Allowance for Issuing			
1793	91¼ Galls Rum while build-			
Dec <sup>r</sup> 8 <sup>th</sup>	the Said Sloop	18	"	5
N <sup>o</sup> 3	To my Pay as Master of the			
	<i>Detroit</i> commencing 19 <sup>th</sup> May			
	1793 & ending this Date In-			
	clusive being 6 Months and 21			
	Days at £12 P <sup>r</sup> Month	80	"	8
N <sup>o</sup> 3	To primage on £1556 " 15 " 4 at			
	2½ p <sup>r</sup> C <sup>t</sup>	38	"	18 " 4
1794				
N <sup>o</sup> 4	To paid Superintendants Fees			
	&c	12	"	2 " 10
Dec 8	To One Years Pay as Master of			
N <sup>o</sup> 5	the <i>Detroit</i>	160	"	"
N <sup>o</sup> 6	To primage on £1951 " 11 " this			
	Year @ 2½ P <sup>r</sup> Cent	48	"	5 " 3
1795				
N <sup>o</sup> 7	To Superintendant fees &c	19	"	3 " 6
Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	To One Years Pay as Master of			
N <sup>o</sup> 8	the <i>Detroit</i>	160	"	"
N <sup>o</sup> 9	To primage on 954 " 9 " 10 this			
	Year at 2½ P <sup>r</sup> Cent	23	"	17 " 3
N <sup>o</sup> 10	To paid Superintendants Fees			
	&c	11	"	18 "
Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	To my pay as Master of the			
N <sup>o</sup> 11	Sloop <i>Detroit</i> commencing this			
	date and ending on the 5 <sup>th</sup> of			
	July 1796 inclusive being 6			
	Months & 28 Days @ £160			
	P <sup>r</sup> Year	92	"	8 " 10½
1796				
July N <sup>o</sup> 12	To primage for this Year	8	"	"
N <sup>o</sup> 13	To Paid Superintendants Fees	4	"	"
N <sup>o</sup> 14	To a Chest of Tools in the Build-			
	ing the vessel	9	"	6 " 8

at the Rouge River, as here shown, in 1792. He subsequently (during the American régime) claimed the land where his operations had been conducted, and it was granted to him, being known as P. C. 340. In 1806 Curry was captain of the schooner *Tracy*. He made his will, June 3, 1810, and died the same year. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 186.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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N <sup>o</sup> 15	To 37½ Months allowance of Tea for the Use of the Cabin at 1 <sup>b</sup> P <sup>r</sup> Mo 12/	22	"	10	"
N <sup>o</sup> 16	To 37½ Months allowance of Loaf Sugar for use of the Cabin at 4 <sup>b</sup> P <sup>r</sup> Mo 4/	30	"	"	"
N <sup>o</sup> 17	To Transportation of Merchandize in the Cabin	100	"	"	"
New York Curr <sup>cy</sup> E. E.		£945	"	5	"
				8½	

Detroit 5<sup>th</sup> July 1796

This Acc<sup>t</sup> was deliv<sup>d</sup> me by Cap<sup>t</sup> Curry on the 26 of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1805

*Endorsed:* Acc<sup>t</sup> The Owners of the Sloop *Detroit* with Peter Curry £945 "5 "8½ NY C<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> July 1796

ARRIVAL OF CONNECTICUT SETTLERS IN OHIO

Queenstown 6<sup>th</sup> July 1796

Dear Askin I got here yesterday to dinner and finding no Goods on the communication except Some Sail Cloth Cordage &<sup>ca</sup> for you, I have wrote Cap<sup>t</sup> Fearson<sup>76</sup> to sail immediatly & I Trust to you dispatching her for Michilam<sup>a</sup> as I dont wish to have any thing to do with Publick Vessels. you will no doubt receive from M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright an Invoice of these Sail Cloath Cordage &<sup>ca</sup> and perhaps sell some to the Americans. M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton will inform you what he is to pay on your Acc<sup>t</sup> & as I before requested to please M<sup>o</sup>Gill Let your remittance exceed the £2000 as much as posible as by the Statement he will see you purposed paying this Sum before selling the *Detroit*, and now My good friend as you

<sup>76</sup> John Fearson was born in England, Nov. 11, 1753. He was a seaman and migrated to Salem, Mass., where he commanded a whaling vessel for a time. He came to Detroit as early as 1793, and in 1796 was among those who signified their intention of remaining British subjects. He was in Detroit as late as June, 1797, but subsequently removed to Sandwich, where he lived for many years; he died in Detroit, June 11, 1835. For some years Captain Fearson was master of the *Saguinah*, in which Askin had an interest. He married Maria Amable Lajumodière, who was killed by lightning, Aug. 14, 1820. They had several children. One daughter, Mary Julia, married William Whistler, who served for sixty years in the U. S. army, rising to the rank of colonel. Another daughter, Victoria, married William Watson of Detroit; another, Felicity, married George Johnston of Green Bay. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 179-80.

clearly know your situation regulate your self accordingly & neither enter into schemes to employ people, nor burthen yourself with your relations, it is certain the Connecticut people with surveyors &c had a meeting at Buffalo creek with the five Nations and have agreed with them for the Native right as farr as they had power to give to the Cahago [Cuyahoga] river and are now gone there<sup>77</sup> I think you ought to send out Huno. Some of the Indian Chiefs and a Terrible cliver fellow with them who you could intrust to Make or receive proposals for the Native right of what you purchased If your Son John could goe it might be worth while I think this is not to be neglected and send a Schenectady boat for speed I hope youll endeavour to get the pack I left with your own [and] those of Hands & Dufresne in first Kings Vessel & dont value your furr too high you shall not Lose by that in the Sale Rememb<sup>r</sup> me kindly to M<sup>ra</sup> & Miss Askin & believe me Dear Askin

Yours Sincrelly

Isaac Todd

Excuse heaste as I have several things to do & Sail this even<sup>s</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Hamilton says you must Send a Power of Att<sup>v</sup> from the proprietors of the Lots you purchased to get the Deeds. the sooner you do this the better & by the French Notary

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston July 6<sup>h</sup> 1796 M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>h</sup>

DEPARTURE OF COLONEL ENGLAND FROM DETROIT

Detroit July 10<sup>h</sup> 1796

Dear Sir I was favoured with yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> June a few days ago but have not as yet had the pleasure of seeing Captain Mayne owing to his not having come up here. I purpose tomorrow going as far as the mouth of the river with our most worthy Commandant to whom I'm under

<sup>77</sup> The allusion is to the party of colonists led by Moses Cleaveland, which held a council with the Iroquois at Buffalo Creek on June 23, 1796, and a month later founded the city of Cleveland.

many Obligations. I shall then let Captain Mayne know how ready I am to render Service to any Friend of yours, however the opportunity I fear will be few untill I remove where he is & that cannot well be before I have disposed of my property here M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin joins in Compliments to all your good family & I remain

Dear Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) John Askin

Cap<sup>t</sup> D. W. Smith

*Endorsed:* (Copp) Detroit July 10<sup>h</sup> 1796 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Cap<sup>t</sup> D. W. Smith at Newark

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

Detroit<sup>78</sup> July 18<sup>th</sup> 1796

My Dear Sir I feel too sensibly Your very kind and friendly Attention to me and every Individual of my Family, not to be convinced that it will give You pleasure to hear that we All arrived here safe Yesterday, after a very pleasant Run of thirty four hours from the Islands. I am now making every exertion to proceed immediately to Newark in Order to Arrange Our Embarkation over the Ontario And propose if possible to set out immediately. No Account of the Arrival of the Fleet has Yet reached this post and consequently no news. From the Distribution of Quarters, I think there is much Reason to apprehend that the two Battallions of Royal Americans are destined for the West Indies. But as this information naturally will not be pleasing at Grosse Point,<sup>79</sup> don't mention it as coming from me particularly as it is only Conjecture

As I shall ever feel interested in Yours, and Your Familys Welfare I shall be happy to hear from You, and shou'd I be so fortunate as to have it in my power to be of the most trifling use or Convenience to You, I request you will Command me wherever I am placed. Mention any Circumstances relative to the late change at Detroit that You may think proper to communicate, And if any thing shou'd

<sup>78</sup> This is an error, as the letter was obviously written at Fort Erie.

<sup>79</sup> The allusion is to Commodore Grant, whose daughter, Therese, was married to Thomas Wright, surgeon in the Royal American Regiment. For the domestic tragedy that ensued upon this order, see *B. H. R.*, I, 461.

Occur before I reach Montreal, You shall again hear from me

Be sure [to] say something short, civil, and *new* for me to Maisonville, and my Friends at L'Assomption, give my best and Sincere Regards to M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Askin and best Wishes to M<sup>r</sup> Robertson M<sup>rs</sup> England waits for my Pen to Assure M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Askin how sensible she is of their Goodness to her

Shou'd there be a *proper* Opportunity convince those Scoundrels that so basely deserted from the 20<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> That His Majesty, and the British Government has Friends on his Side of the Detroit River. I will pay Five Pounds N Y C<sup>y</sup> for every One of them delivered to the Officer Commanding at Malden, On his Certificate being sent me

I am My Dear Sir with great [torn] very Sincerely and most Faithfully Ever Yours

R. G. England

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> &c &c

*Addressed:* To John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> &c &c Detroit

*From:* R. G. England

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 18<sup>h</sup> 1796 from Colonel England to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND

Detroit July 30<sup>h</sup> 1796

Dear Sir It was with no small degree of Pleasure I received Your very Obliging Letter of the 18 Ins<sup>t</sup> Announcing the Safe Arrival of you & your Worthy Family at Fort Erie. M<sup>rs</sup> Englands not being sick on this Passage added much to Our satisfaction.

Your great goodness has much over rated our poor little Attention to your good Family. I can however with great truth say we possess the Inclination, but it has pleased Fortune to put the means out of Our Power. By the way of Michilimackinac we some time Ago learn[ed] of the Arrival of the Frigate for Lord Dorchester & Armed Vessell for L<sup>t</sup> G Simcoe. was it to be our good Fortune for you to replace the latter, in this Quarter I'm sure it would give almost General Satisfaction for I dayly find that mankinds sentiments of a Person in Authority is Seldom known when they are present

& you seem to have an Advantage over almost all Others that the few Who showed some discontent whilst you were here are now lavish in your Praise. In short my Oppinion is that many People who Intended residing here will move Over, some of them no doubt more from Interest than Attraction. at same time I cannot say since the Arrival of L<sup>t</sup> Colonel Hamtramck<sup>80</sup> that he has given any Cause of dislike. Orders has been given untill the arrival of General Wayne or Gov<sup>r</sup> Sinclair<sup>81</sup> to prohibit the Sale of Spiritis Liquors to Soldiers or Indians without permission. I'm happy at this on Account of some rum Sellers who shewed much Ingratitude for the Indulgences they rec<sup>d</sup> in that way under your command

I'm at a loss to Express my Gratefull feelings not only for the many Services you were so kind as to render me but those also you are so good as to Offer. Its more than possible that I will take the liberty one day of troubling you. I did not forget your Commands respecting M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville & the People of Lassumption. M<sup>r</sup> Robertson received with much pleasure your kind remembrance of him and begs his respectfull Compliment to M<sup>rs</sup> England you & your Sweet Young Family. I have not as yet met with any Purchaser *who has the Counter-Sign* for any part of my Property on this side of the watter, but in order to be ready I have removed the House that was at the Spring to my Farm which will serve me as a lodging Untill I have disposed of what I have here. I will be attentive to what you write respecting the Deserters & Endeavour to have your wishes put into Execution

M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin joins with me in most Sincere wishes for the Prosperity of you M<sup>rs</sup> England & your Dear Children and I remain with Much respect & Esteem

<sup>80</sup> John Francis Hamtramck was born in Quebec, Aug. 16, 1757, the son of a German barber and a French mother, who were married there, Nov. 26, 1753. At the opening of the Revolution he joined the American army, serving as captain in a New York regiment. In 1785 he became a captain in the U. S. Infantry Regiment, and major of the First Infantry in 1789. He served under Wayne in the Northwest, commanding the First Sub-legion from Feb. 18, 1793. He became colonel of the First Infantry, April 1, 1802. On the American occupation of Detroit in 1796, he became the first commandant here. He was returned to this post on the removal of Colonel Strong, and here he died in April, 1803. He was first buried in Ste. Anne's churchyard; in 1866 his remains were removed to Mount Elliott Cemetery. The township and city of Hamtramck are named in his honor.

<sup>81</sup> General Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory.

Dear Sir Your Most Obedient & devoted very Humble  
Servant

J A

P. S. Compliments to Cap<sup>t</sup> Obron<sup>82</sup>  
L<sup>t</sup> Colonel England of 24<sup>h</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 30<sup>h</sup> 1796 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to L<sup>t</sup> Colonel  
England Coppy

PARTNERSHIP IN CARPENTER TRADE

THIS INDENTURE made the Eleventh day of August in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Ninety-Six Between John Hembro<sup>83</sup> of Detroit, Carpenter of the one Part and John Armstrong of the other part Witnesseth that the Said John Hembro and John Armstrong having had Experience of Each other's Care and Fidelity, in Confidence thereof for the future advantage of Each other have agreed upon a Copartnership and Joint Trade in Carrying on the Trade of Carpenter & Ship or boat Building and therefore Each of them Doth Respectively and for their Several and Respective Executors and Administrators Covenant promise and agree To and with the other of them his Executors and administrators by these presents that from and after the Twelfth Day of August Instant, they the Said John Hembro and John Armstrong Shall be and Continue Copartners and Joint Traders in the art Mystery Trade and business of Carpenters Viz house and Ship building that is To Say in buying Selling Vending Exchanging and uttering of all Sorts of Workmanship and other things Incident and belonging To the Trade of Carpenters &<sup>co</sup> and also in the Management and Doing of all such other business as they shall think fit and mutually agree and Consent To Trade in and

82. Edward James O'Brien, who was commissioned ensign in the Twenty-fourth Regiment, Feb. 28, 1788, and captain, Oct. 28, 1795. He was stationed at Detroit during Colonel England's régime.

83. John Hembrow was born in Devonshire, England, about the year 1744. He became a seaman in the navy, but in 1784 he was in New York and apparently had left the navy. On Nov. 19, 1796, he leased for ten years a tract of land on Grosse Ile, belonging to the estate of William Macomb, and in this document he described himself as a shipbuilder. In 1800 he seems to have been living in Sandwich, where he died, June 6, 1809. He married Margaret Wilson, a native of Amsterdam, New York, and children were born to them in Detroit in 1787 and 1789. Margaret Wilson died in 1793. Descendants of Hembrow were living in Sandwich until recent years. Information adapted from letters in B. H. Coll. and burial inscriptions in Hembrow family plot in St. John's churchyard, Sandwich.

for the full Term of Seven Years from thenceforth Next Ensuing and fully To be Compleat and Ended. If they Shall both So long live and for the Carrying on of the Said Joint Trade Each of the parties To these Presents doth Covenant promise Grant and agree To and With the other of them, that they will Each of them bring in Severally into the Said Joint Trade and Stock In money and Goods To be used in the said Trade on or before the Twelfth Day of August 1796 the Sum of one hundred and Seventy pounds Lawful money of New York To be used and Employed in the Said Joint Trade upon the Said Joint account and It is hereby and herein also mutually Covenanted and agreed by and between the Said Parties To these Presents that the Said Joint Trade of Carpenters &c Shall be Carried on at Detroit or Elsewhere and for the orderly proceedings and Carrying on of Said Intended Trade upon the Said Joint au<sup>ty</sup> they the Said John Hembro and John Armstrong Shall be Just and faithful To each other in all their buying and Sellings, accounts, Reckonings Disbursements and Dealings Concerning the Said Copartnership and Shall Each of them Endeavor by all Just Care and Deligence To advance and promote the Said Joint Trade and Stock without fraud or Deceit, and Give there attendance upon the said Trade &° and Equally Interested In Profit and Loss &°. In Witness Whereof the Parties To these Presents have hereunto Interchangeably Set their hands and Seals the Day and Year first above Written

John Hembro  
John Armstrong

Sealed and Delivered In the Presence of  
Reuben Reynolds  
Peter Loop Jun.

*Endorsed:* John Hembro & John Armstrong Aug<sup>t</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>  
1796 agreement

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

Quebec August 29<sup>th</sup> 1796

My Dear Sir I am much indebted to you for your very kind Letter which reached me here two Days ago. I feel

much flattered by the very friendly Interest you ever take in whatever belongs to me and Family. Thank God we are all well, but at this moment much distressed in consequence of Information this Morning received that the Frigate *Pearl* which we have hourly expected here for this last Fortnight is gone away to Halifax with the stores and Crew belonging to the unfortune *Active* which you must have heard was wrecked on the Island of Anti Costi with Lord Dorchester and all his Family on Board

This unpleasant Circumstance throws me and mine into a very distressing and disagreeable Situation as Our Alternative is to sail tomorrow in a single ship (The *Progress*) or wait the Fall Fleet and encounter all the very bad Weather my little Babes must be exposed to at that late and boisterous Season, and if we sail in a Single ship, we are on the other Hand exposed to the merciless *Sans Cullottes*. You may easily Judge that at this moment I am much perplexed but wou'd not think of quitting the Country without again writing to you, or wou'd on no Other Account take up a Pen. You shall please God hear from me from the Other Side of the Great Lake, where perhaps I may have it in my power to say something more favorable of myself than I can at present. Report says that I was appointed Major General in May Last if so I don't apprehend that I shall remain long at home at least it shall not be my fault if I do. I heard with great pleasure from my Friend Leith to whom I beg you will mention with my Compliments that I shall write a few Lines Addressed to the Care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Forsyth and Richardson Say everything kind and affectionate for me to M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Askin and be sure [to] give my best wishes to M<sup>r</sup> Robertson M<sup>rs</sup> England propose[s] to write to Miss Askin before we sail. She had the pleasure of hearing from her at the time that your Letter reached me.

Write to me every Occurrence relative to Yourself and Family, and Address your Letter to the Care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cox & Greenwood Craigs Court Charing Cross London. Call me Colonel till you again hear from me

Excuse my Hurry, as I am really not only in that Situation but exceedingly distressed and in real Misery. Adieu My Dear Sir Pray for the *Progress* and Your Friends in her.

And believe me ever Your very Sincere Friend and most  
Obliged Humble and Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. G England

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> &c &c

*Endorsed:* Quebec Aug<sup>t</sup> 29 1796 Colonel England to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> October Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Yarmouth Septembre le 5 1796

Ma tres chere Mere Je prend la plume avec le coeur  
bien gaie pour vous adresser, ayant recue de vos nouvelles  
la Semaine derniere, une lettre de ma chere Therese a moi,  
est une de mon tres cher Pere a Monsieur Meredith, ils  
sont datté du 23 D'Avril, est sont exprimé dune facon qui  
ne peut pas manquer de nous donner grande satisfaction, il  
faut avouer, que je commençois a etre impatiente, n'ayant  
pas recue de vos lettres pour quatre mois, mais a present, je  
suis toute rejouis, dans l'idée que vous possédez bonne santé,  
et que les affaires de mon tres cher Pere porte une apparence  
souriante, que cette favorable apparence, soit confirmé au  
comble de vos souhaits, est la priere sincere, d'une Archange,  
qui a tous les biens de sa Famille a coeur, est s'occupe de  
leurs succes.

Dans ma derniere lettre, je vous ai marqué la triste  
maladie que mon cher Meredith avoit souffert pour plu-  
sieurs mois, il est a present, je suis heureuse de vous dire,  
presque retablie, un Medecin tres Habile, en a eu le soin  
pour quelleque tems, est s'est acquitté a merveille envers  
lui, je suis persuadé, que si vous pouviez le voir, vous ne le  
reconaitriez pas, car il est aussi maigre que mon cher Pere,  
cependant il a bonne mine, et possede le meme beaux visage,  
et je ne doute pas, qu'avec grand soin, qu'il aura meilleure  
santé que jamais. Pour moi, je merite le Nom de Deesse de  
Santé, car je n'est jamais eu une heure de maladie, depuis la  
petite verole, les enfans sont passablement bien, ils ont un  
petit Rheume presentment, qui n'est cependant d'aucune  
consequence, car ces jeunes gens sont sujet a ces petit maux,  
est il faut les attendre.

*Preparez vous tous a faire vos obeissance a la Dame dun Aide  
de Camp, nommée Madame Meredith, A ca, qui ose me con-*

*tredire, je les ferai sauter, parbleu me voila de consequence, dite a Mon Oncle Grant de se souvenir de ses paroles, the little Monkey will be something at last, mais badinage a part, il faut vous raconter q'un Generale nommé Loftus, qui est Gendre du Marquis Townshend, commande a present dans cette Endroit, il a pris fantasie a mon bonne homme, et l'a appointé son Aide de Camp, sans aucune application de la part de mon cher Meredith, par consequent cest une Distinction assez flatteuse; le Marquis Cornwallis qui est grand maitre de l'Artillerie, a fait une visite a Yarmouth, la semaine derniere, une Reveu en a été la cause, a laquelle jai fait mon apparence, et qui ma beaucoup plait, comme tout a été conduit a la vrai facon Millitaire, le Marquis a beaucoup approuvé l'appointment de mon cher M: qui fut introduit selon l'etiquette du grand Monde.*

Jai oui dire que Messieurs les Francois se propose de visiter l'Angleterre, ils ont batie des batteaux expres pour tenir leur carcasses et les mener ice dans peu de tems, quils se garde de débarquer ici, car nous avons peu de grenouilles, est la seule nourriture quils puisse attendre sont des boulets de canons tout chaude.

Ma Tante Mercera abandonné l'idée de vous payer une visite cette Année, la raison quils donne est que leurs enfans n'ont pas encore finie leurs education, comme la Famille ne leurs a pas ecrie par la derniere occasion, j'ai pensé leurs faire plaisir en leurs envoyant la copie de mes lettres, j'attend une reponse tous les jours pour me remercier de ma complaisance. Je suis flatté d'apprendre que ma Tante Grant a augmenté sa Famille, cèst un grand dommage quils ne sont pas tous garçons, s'ca feroit un beau Reg<sup>t</sup> tous du meme nom, j'ai intention d'ecrire a ma Cousine Wright par cette occasion, je ferai le meme envers Madame Hamilton et Richardson, si je puis trouver une oppertunité par quellque Messieurs qui vont au Canada, mais il n'est pas en mon pouvoir a present, parceque c'est une depense un peu pesante. Therese aura la bonté de leurs faire mes amitez quand elle leurs ecrie, ainsi que mon Oncle Barthe est sa Famille.

Comme cela vous allez perdre la Famille des Hay si j'etoit a leurs Place je m'aurai pas regret de laisser un En-

droit ou j'avoit perdue mes Parens, car plusieurs circonstances me rappelleroit mon malheur, au lieu que dans une autre Place les souvenirs ne seroit pas si souvent devant mes yeux, je ne scait pas si les filles tiennent de la Pauvre Mere, mais vous savez ma chere Maman que sa sensibileté n'etoit pas extreme, cette un bonheur peutetre pour ceux qui possede une Disposition si peu sensible au chagrin, car dans ce Monde l'on a souvent grand besoin de toute sa fortitude pour surmonter les affliction qui nous accable. Dieu merci je n'est jamais souffert aucun chagrin depuis mon mariage, excepté celui de vous dire adieux a mon depart du Detroit, mais cette douleur s'est perdue dans les attention dun cher affectioné Mari qui me flatte de l'esperance de vous voir avant que plusieurs Annees se soit ecoulé, vous seriez charmé de vos petit enfans qui sont tous c'est q'un tendre Pere est Mere peux souhaiter. Ma petite Anne lit extremement bien, pour la coture elle paroît faire autant de progres que faisoit sa mere a son age, mais cela viendra par la suite, et je vous promet fidellement que vous serez les premier Judges de son Ouvrage. Je me propose s'il plait a Dieu de conserver David de l'envoyer a l'ecole l'Eté qui vient, il aura quatre Ans, est cette une bonne age, il a eu tant de Maladie est sa constitution est si delicate quil est un peu gaté.

Nous sommes assez gaie dans cette Endroit Yarmouth, nous avons quatre Comedies par semaine, est deux Balle qui occupe les six jours, j'ai participé de plusieurs de ses amusemens car vous n'est pas ignorante de la disposition de mon cher M: qui sent une fierté pour tous ceux qui lui appartient, est prend plaisir a me voir en public. Environs trois semaines passé j'ai commencé l'exercice de me baigner dans l'eau de Mer, nous avons des bain tres commode ici, est beaucoup de monde viennent chaque Année pour la meme occasion; je n'en avoit pas besoin, mais cetoit pour mon plaisir est celui de mon cher M: qui me souhaitoit de l'essayer, je nen suis pas pire, mais comme le tems est froid j'ai l'ai quitté, les enfans en ont pris avantage pour un mois, s'ca leurs a fait grand bien.

Je suppose que notre bon Ami Monsieur Robertson restera au Detroit, comme Therese marque quil embellit sa maison, je ne l'avise pas de marier une Americane, s'ca feroit trop enrager les Canadiennes, il n'auroit pas de repos parmi eux,

faite lui ma chere Mere mes tendre souvenirs, je scait que mon cher Pere le mangera beaucoup s'il ne va pas de votre coté, comme cest un de ces meilleurs Amis. A quoi sert etre Membre de Parlement dans votre Payés, s'il faut Navigé les Vaisseaux, je metoit bien imaginé que Mon Oncle n'auroit rien a faire pour l'avenir que de declamer dans la Maison de Conseil; est ensuite de s'asseoir dans une chaise a bras bien molle, est avoir le tems de soigner la Goute car il faut avoir la Goute pour etre grand homme, dite lui d'excuser sa petite Niece, car elle aime le badinage, est ne l'estime pas moin pour cela, je voudroit etre aupres de lui de tems au tems pour lui voir secouer les cotes, est le joindre a rire.

Mon cher Pere est dans sa glorie vers ce tems si je ne me trompe pas, car il aime a etre employé, il doit avoir assez a faire a mouver tous vos meubles a l'autre coté, je suppose que vous etes si brave ma chere Mere que vous pouvez aller dans un Canot d'ecorce sans le faire caller, est l'aiser le soin de l'Aviron a ma Tante Grante sans quereller.

Les modes ne sont pas changé depuis ma derniere lettre a Therese; les tailles longues commence a etre un peu en vogue, mais les petit Mantelets Canadien ne sont pas encore parvenue ici, nous n'avons pas de tailleur qui comprene cette espece d'habblement. Je n'est rien ma tres chere Mere a ajouter, comme les Nouvelles interessantes pour vous sont assez rare ici. faites mes tendres amities a mon tres cher Pere, le meme a Therese, embrassez les cheres enfans pour moi, mes tendres souvenirs a tous la Famille, mes compliments a tous mes connaissances, et croyez moi ma tres chere Mere, votre tres affectioné fille.

Archange Meredith

Mon tres cher M. vous fait ses plus tendres souvenirs a Tous. la gazette vient d'annoncer la perte dun vaisseaux qui venoit de Canada, j'en suis bien faché peutetre quil n'avoit des lettres pour moi.

*Addressed:* M<sup>rs</sup> Askin at Detroit Upper Canada  
To the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merch<sup>ts</sup> at Montreal  
Canada.

*Postage:* 2/1 Inland Post. P<sup>d</sup>

*Endorsed:* Yarmouth 5<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1796. M<sup>rs</sup> Archange  
Meredith to M<sup>rs</sup> Archange Askin.

*Translation*

Yarmouth, Sept. 5, 1796

My dearest Mother: With a joyful heart I take my pen to write you, having had news of you last week, a letter to me from dear Therese and one to Mr. Meredith<sup>84</sup> from my dearest Father. They are dated April 23, and are written in a tone that cannot fail to give us great pleasure. I confess that I was getting impatient not having received any letters from you for four months. Now I am perfectly happy in the thought that you are well and that my dear Father's business affairs look so cheerful. May this favorable prospect be confirmed to the fullest extent of all your wishes is the prayer of one Archange, who has every welfare of her family at heart and their success ever in mind.

In my last letter I told you about the painful illness of my dear Meredith for several months past. He is almost recovered now, I am happy to say. A very good doctor has had him in charge for some time and has done wonders for him. I am sure you would not recognize him if you could see him. He is as thin as my dear Father. He is cheerful, however, and has the same happy countenance, and I feel that with great care he will have better health than ever. As for me I should be called the Goddess of Health, for I have not had an hour's illness since the smallpox. The children are fairly well. They have slight colds now, nothing of any account. Little folk are subject to such ills and one must expect them.

*Get ready, all of you, to make your bow to the wife of an aid-de-camp, Madam Meredith. Let anyone dare to contradict me and I shall make them jump. For I am a lady of consequence, if you please. Ask Uncle Grant if he remembers saying "the little Monkey will be something at last." But joking aside, I must tell you that a general, named Loftus,<sup>85</sup> the son-in-law of Marquis Townshend, at present in command at this station, has taken a fancy to my good husband, and appointed him his aid-de-camp, and that without any application what-*

<sup>84</sup> David Meredith, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 15.

<sup>85</sup> William Loftus, colonel of the Twenty-fourth Dragoon Regiment, who was commissioned major general, May 3, 1796, and lieutenant general in September, 1803. As a junior officer he had seen service in the American war. See British army lists, *passim*.

ever from my dear Meredith, so that the honor is quite flattering. Marquis Cornwallis,<sup>86</sup> who is a past master in artillery maneuvers, visited Yarmouth last week, and it all came about because of a review, where I put in an appearance and enjoyed myself very much indeed, for everything was conducted in true military style. The Marquis strongly favored the appointment of my dear M. who was introduced to him with all the ceremony of polite society.

I answer yes, the French gentlemen do intend to visit England. They have built boats expressly to bring their carcasses over and take them back quickly, as they will take care not to land here seeing that we have so few frogs and that red-hot cannon balls are the only nourishment they can expect from us.

Aunt Mercer has given up the idea of visiting you this year. The reason they give is that the children have not yet finished their education. As no one at home wrote to them by the last opportunity, I thought I would please them by sending copies of my letters. I am looking for an answer every day thanking me for being so obliging. I am glad to hear that Aunt Grant has added another to her family. What a pity they are not all boys. They would make such a fine regiment, all the same name. I intend to write to my cousin, Mrs. Wright, this time, and to Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Richardson when I have a chance to send them by some gentlemen who are leaving for Canada. I cannot write to them now because it costs rather too much. Therese will kindly give them my love when she writes, and the same to Uncle Barthe and his family.

So you are going to lose the Hay family.<sup>87</sup> If I were in their place I should not be sorry to leave a town where I had lost my relatives, so many things would remind me of my trouble, and in another locality these remembrances

<sup>86</sup> Charles, second Earl and first Marquis Cornwallis, born in 1738, died in 1805. His service in the American Revolution was largely attended by failure, but the government and British public absolved him from responsibility for this. He later achieved solid successes in India and in Ireland, being made governor-general of the one and lord-lieutenant of the other. He was created Marquis Cornwallis in 1792 in recognition of his achievements in India. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.* for an extended account of his career.

<sup>87</sup> The allusion is to the family of Lieutenant-Governor Jehu Hay, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 67. For further data concerning Governor Hay, see the biographical sketch by M. M. Quaife in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VIII, 1-16.

would not be so continually before my eyes. I do not know if the girls take after their poor mother, but you know, dear Mama, she was not particularly sensitive, a good thing, perhaps, to have a disposition so little affected by trouble, for in this world one needs all one's fortitude to meet the afflictions that overwhelm us. Thank God, I have not had a grief since my marriage, except saying goodbye to you when I left Detroit, and even that was dispelled by the attentions of a dear loving husband, who soothed me with the hope of seeing you again before many years had passed. You will be charmed with your grandchildren. They are all a loving father and mother could wish. My little Anne reads remarkably well, and in sewing she seems to do as well as her mother did at her age. But that will come in good time, and I promise you faithfully that you shall be the first judge of her work. I am planning to send David to school next summer, if it pleases God to spare him. He will be four, quite old enough. He has been sick so much and has such a delicate constitution, that he is a little spoiled.

We are quite gay here in Yarmouth. We have four plays a week, and two balls, which fill the six days. I have taken part in several of these amusements, for you know the disposition of my dear M., how proud he is of anyone belonging to him, and it pleases him to see me in public. About three weeks ago I began the exercise of bathing in the ocean. It is very convenient here for bathing, and many people come every year for that privilege. I did not really need it, but it was for my pleasure and that of my dear M. who wanted me to try. Nor am I any the worse, but when the weather became cold I stopped. The children took advantage of it for a month. It did them lots of good.

I suppose that our good friend Mr. Robertson will live in Detroit, since Therese tells me that he is fixing up his house. I advise him not to marry an American. That would make the Canadian girls so angry he would have no peace among them. Give him, my dear Mother, my kindest remembrances. I know that my dear Father will feed him well if he goes over to your side for he is one of his best friends. What good is it to be a member of Parliament in your country if one must go off sailing. I thought surely my Uncle would

have nothing to do in future but declaim in the Council chamber; then sit in his comfortable armchair and nurse his gout, for to be a man of any consequence one must have the gout. Tell him he must forgive his little niece, she loves a joke, and does not think any the less of him. I should like to be there sometimes, to see him shake his sides and to join him in a laugh.

My dear Father is in his glory about now if I am not mistaken, for he loves to be busy. He ought to have enough to do in moving all your things to the other side. I suppose, my dear Mother, that you are so brave that you can go in a bark canoe without a shudder, and that you leave all care of paddling to Aunt Grant without quarreling over it.

Fashions have not changed since my last letter to Therese. Long waists are beginning to be somewhat fashionable, but the little Canadian mantles are not yet in style here. We have no tailors who understand that kind of garment. I have nothing further to add, my dear Mother, as news which would be interesting to you is scant enough here. Give my love to my dear Father and to Therese, and kiss the dear children for me. My kind remembrance to all the family, my compliments to all my friends, and believe me, dearest Mother,

Your most affectionate daughter,

Archange Meredith

My dearest M. sends his kindest remembrances to all. The newspaper has just announced the loss of a vessel coming from Canada. I am worrying because there may have been letters for me.

LEGAL OPINION CONCERNING INDIAN LAND GRANTS

Eliz<sup>th</sup> Town Sep<sup>r</sup> 1796

Sir, In determining what is proper to be done, with respect to the Indian purchase, in which We are interested, three modes of proceeding offer themselves.

First, To make an Application on your part as a British Subject to our Executive, thro' your Minister, complaining of the Act of Congress, passed at the last Session, as an Infraction of the late Treaty, between the two Countries.

Second, To apply to Congress, at their next Session, for a confirmation of Our Title or,

Thirdly, To settle the Land if practicable, and submit Our Title to a Judicial Decission before the Court of the United States, wherever it may be questioned, by future Grantees under their authority.

To apply to the Executive of the United States will not, I fear, be attended with any good consequences. The President, may with propriety answer, That as it appertains to the Courts of Law to construe the Treaty, no British Subject need apprehend any Injury from an Act of Congress derogatory to that Instrument, which is the Supreme Law of the Land and which Our Courts are bound to observe as such.

Besides I do not think the British Minister will think it his duty to make the application, Judging the Affair to be altogether of Judicial cognizance And that the Act, in its present form which relates only to offences committed within Our Territories, is no breach of the Treaty Should this be His opinion, It may effect Our Title, at least in the public estimation.

An application to Congress, will I am convinced, prove ineffectual. They will never recognise a Right in the Indian Tribes, to make a good Title, to Lands within the limits assigned by the Treaty of peace, without their concurrence. They will consider the peace & interest of the United States, opposed to such an acknowledgment.

The third mode, is attended with some risque to the Settlers, but perhaps, is the only one which ought to be pursued. I think Congress have no right to say, that the Indians shall grant no Lands without their permission. They have acknowledged them as Independent Nations. They make Treaties, and settle Boundary Lines with them, as such; It is therefore, interfering with their Sovereignty to declare, that they shall not grant their own Lands. We must meet this question in some shape or other, & perhaps the sooner the better, and our Courts & they alone, must decide it.

Upon the whole, my opinion is, that We either settle part of the Land without delay, or if that be impracticable, that

We do nothing for the present, for fear of prejudicing our titles

I am Sir with respect;

Your very obedient Servant

(Signed) Brockholst Livingston<sup>88</sup>

Mr J. Schieffelin<sup>89</sup>

*Endorsed:* Brockholst Livingston Opinion on the subject of Indian Titles to Land granted by the Indian Nations at Detroit.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN ASKIN AND  
JOHN ANDERSON

Articles of Agreement made Concluded and Fully Agreed upon this 24<sup>b</sup> day of September One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Six between John Askin of Detroit Merchant of the One part and John Anderson of Fort Miamis Trader of the other part, both in the County of Wayne in the Territory Nort West of the Ohio.

Whereas the Said John Anderson purpose to carry on a Trade with Indians and others at Fort Miamis or ElseWhere in the Indian or Interior Country as he may think fit, As he for that purpose will want Goods and some person at Detroit to Assist him its therefore agreed between the parties above Mentioned that they become partners and Equal Sharers in all Trade carried on by said John Anderson as Aforesaid and that they Equally share in all profits or Suffer Equally all Losses arising from said Trade during its Continuance and as there has not been made any provision for geting Goods Liquors &c: for to carry on said Trade this Year John Askin on his part promisses to furnish or purchasse for the Concern for this Year at this place what

<sup>88</sup> Henry Brockholst Livingston was born in New York City, Nov. 26, 1759. He was a member of the noted Livingston family, whose American founder, Robert Livingston, migrated from Scotland to Massachusetts in 1673 and shortly thereafter located in Albany, where he was prominent for almost half a century. Henry Brockholst Livingston was a great-grandson of Robert, and a son of William Livingston, who was prominent in the Revolution and served as governor of New Jersey. The son became one of the foremost lawyers of his time, and in 1807 was appointed to membership in the U. S. Supreme Court. He died in Washington, March 19, 1823. See *Appleton's Cyclopaedia Am. Biog.*

<sup>89</sup> Jonathan Schieffelin, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 316-17, *et passim*. His letters to Solomon Sibley during his Philadelphia sojourn are preserved in the B. H. Coll.

may be Necessary on the Most General Reasonable Terms the Whole not Amounting to more than Two Thousand pounds NY k Including what of said John Askins Goods may be taken by said Anderson at Fort Miamis and in future Years the purchases of such Goods and Liquor as the Concern may want are to be made at Montreal and the peltries of next year as well as Every Insueing Year during the period of this Concern to be disposed of by Said Askin for the joint Benefit of him and said Anderson at Montreal And Whereas said Askin has now in the Care of said Anderson at Fort Miamis some Goods provissions Liquors Houses &c: its agreed on by the parties that so soon as said Anderson returns from this to Fort Miamis he will take an Exact account of all property belonging to said Askin there and Transmit it to him specifying what Goods provissions Liquors Houses &c he would wish to purchasse for the New Concern All which said Askin promises to furnish or sell to said Concern on verry Reasonable Terms thats to say the Dry Goods a little high on Account of Risk and Transport than what they are Generally Sold for at this place, the liquors and provissions no higher than here and Charges of Transport and Building on as reasonable Terms as they can be sold for also a fair discount will be made on all Debts due and Contracted since said Anderson began to act for said Askin at Fort Miamis or Foot Rapids the Firm of this Company to be John Anderson and Comp<sup>y</sup> and to Commence the first day of October next and Continue untill the first October One Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Nine, the said Anderson to make no charges against the Concern for Managing the Business at Fort Miamis or Elsewhere nor said Askin for anything he may do here or have done at Montreal Except such Charges as may be made against him in Consequence, Neither partner to withdraw any Money for the discharge of their private Debts unless due them without the Consent of the Other partner, the said Andersons Expenses for living to Carry on the Bussiness to be borne by the Concern but no such allowance to be made to said Askin and as to Cloathing each of the parties must purchase their own on their private Accounts

In Witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their

Hands and Seals this Twenty fourth day of September One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Six.

Witness Present	John Askin	(L.S.)
John Askin jun <sup>r</sup>	John Anderson	(L.S.)

*Endorsed:* Articles of Copartnership made an[d] Ent. between John Askin and John Anderson this 24<sup>th</sup> day Sep<sup>r</sup> 1796.

FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1796

My dear Askin I am favor'd with yours of the 20<sup>th</sup> July the House has several Letters from you of a Latter date which they will Answer. your packs are not all yet got here which prevents finishing the Baling as you will be informed they are going home on your Account, nor his half the packs I bo<sup>t</sup> from Teabeau yet come to hand. I am verry sorry you have not advised of the Sale of the House nor any part of the property, I hope yet to hear of the Sale this fall I am perticularly anxious for this as I transacted the business & gave a favorable report to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill which would hurt me to be contradicted. I am told there has been speculators who was in treaty with M<sup>r</sup> Baby for Lands on River Sinclare dont miss an oppertunity to sell where even one third can be paid in Cash, even at Less then it cost. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill is of opinion if the house cannot be sold by next Spring at private Sale to sell it at publick, but I would wish to avoid this. I think the *Sagana* will make a good Summer of it, and I depend you will retain for us the preference of Loading her with packs at the Michilam<sup>a</sup> for two Trips certain. I hope to hear this fall what prospect you have of securing something certain from the Native right of the Large Indian Grants. Our friend Robertson has I suppose made some arrangement with M<sup>r</sup> Ogilvy<sup>90</sup> which I am not acquainted with as all his packs is to be shipp<sup>d</sup> this year by that Gent<sup>m</sup>

<sup>90</sup> John Ogilvie of Montreal, North West Company partner, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 208. Ogilvie's mother was the second wife of William Robertson. He was engaged in the Northwest trade for many years. In 1800, he was a member of the Montreal firm of Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvie & Co. Davidson, *North West Company*, 84, 86. He is said, also, to have founded the house of Gillespie, Moffat & Co. He belonged to the St. Gabriel Street Presbyterian Church of Montreal, and in his will, read, Jan. 29, 1820, left that institution £100. See Campbell, *St. Gabriel St. Church*, 237.

and all we know of the business is by an open Letter delivered us by M<sup>r</sup> Ogilvy from M<sup>r</sup> Robertson desiring us to deliver him some Goods of his we had in hands but not a Line giving a reason for it, which I dont think kind, peticularly as we have allways done his business people naturally must think there is some cause for the change. as a friend I am sorry such an Idea should take place. with respect to Interest I am pleased he has formed another connection. I am sorry to Lose a friend, but not so to Lose a Correspondant, as I told you my intention of retiring from business which I adhere to.

I received a sensible gratefull & friendly Letter from Miss Askin. I have began two Letters in Answer but find myself unequal to the task assure her of my esteem & respect and that the part I have acted which she seems so sensible of gives me as much pleasure, that I had it in my power to do so, as it can her, and may You M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & her enjoy every happiness you can wish & belive me My dear John

Yours Sincerely

Isaac Todd

P.S. your friend Coln<sup>l</sup> (now Gen<sup>l</sup>) England with wife & family is sailed for England Coln<sup>l</sup> Blake now commands here there is 3 Companys in town, his, Maj<sup>r</sup> Doyle-s & Cap<sup>t</sup> O Bryans. I have these 3 weeks been verry unwell with a Complaint in my Stomach Slow fever & Loss of appetite, which has reduced me more then you ever saw me, I hope I shall soon get better, if not it is of Little consequence to me, I shall *goe* with the hopes and trust that in my situation I have done my duty

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit favored by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregore<sup>91</sup>

*Endorsed:* Montreal Sep<sup>t</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 1796 M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

GOODS ORDERED FOR INDIAN TRADE

Sep<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 1796

Memord<sup>m</sup> for M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Robertson

Under cover herewith is an Order for Goods to be Im-

<sup>91</sup> Probably Gregor McGregor, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 292-93.

ported from England They will Am<sup>t</sup> to About £1000 Ster<sup>e</sup> I have priced Each Article According to what they before cost me & tho the prices may change the difference it can make will be Inconsiderable. The Charges of Every kind with the Commissions may bring them to £1400 Haf<sup>x</sup> or a little more this with as much Spirits & Wine as would make the whole when leaving Montreal Amount to £2000 Haf<sup>x</sup> is all I want for next year & for which I do not feel the least doubt of being able to pay the year following when due.

M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd when here, said tho M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & him Meant in future to do little Bussiness in the Upper Country yet if I had a Small Order they were willing to Execute it to serve me. Nothing could give me greater pleasure as I much dislike change & I believe you will agree with me from the Situation their Generosity have put my Affairs in that they will not run the smallest risk, Indeed if I thought they did after their kindness to me I would rather beg than make the Proposition, but Surely with the property & debts I now have on Hand my Current Money being almost all discharged, & I not Owing any person but them £1000 Haf<sup>x</sup> to which the goods of this year may add £1000 more, I cannot be pinched this Next Year or Any Other to trust £2000 Haf<sup>x</sup> & for the present I do not Intend to Extend my Trade to a greater Sum. I have made a Partnership with M<sup>r</sup> Anderson at Fort Miamis for the Trade of that place for three years & tho it is not Extensive it is very Sure & has remitted not less than £1500 N Y C per year in Peltries & money, this Added to what is sold & [at] Malden & here with my Share of Freights can Never fail of giving from £3500 to £4000 York yearly; However should you find Mess<sup>r</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill not desirous to Compleat my Order it would be very rong in me to Urge it. the next person I would wish it was offered to is M<sup>c</sup>Tavish Frobisher & C<sup>o</sup> as I have a Contract with them for Corn & flour it might Answer however I think I heard M<sup>r</sup> Gregory say they Only Imported for the N. W. C<sup>o</sup> in that Case make choice of Whom you please, but let the Agreem<sup>t</sup> be that no paym<sup>ts</sup> are to be made before the year After the goods are Imported and they should alway come over with the fast Vessells. If you should find a shiness in geting any One to Execute

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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my Order let me know & drop the Matter After a trial or Offer to One or two after Mess<sup>a</sup> T & M<sup>e</sup>G for I would not wish to give you the Trouble to halk it About.

I am Dear sir Yours

John Askin

*Endorsed:* Detroit Sept<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 1796 Memord<sup>m</sup> from John Askin to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Robertson (Copp)

RETURNS OF ESSEX COUNTY MILITIA

L'Assomption 27<sup>e</sup> Sep<sup>bre</sup> 1796

Sir Being directed by Colonel M<sup>e</sup>Kee Lieut of the C<sup>o</sup> of Essex to transmit to him Returns & Lists of the Militia & of all such as are capable of bearing Arms agreably to the Act, You will therefore be pleased to compleate that List of all such and also a Return of your Battalion without delay

Colonel M<sup>e</sup>Kee requires also information of the increase or diminution of the Battalion at the end of every Quarter I beg therefore to be furnished with correcte Lists at the periods he directs.

I am Sir your most Hu<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

F. Baby Dep<sup>y</sup> L<sup>t</sup> C. E.<sup>92</sup>

L<sup>t</sup> Colonel Askin &c

*Addressed:* Public Service Lieut Colonel Askin County Essex

*Endorsed:* L'assomption the 27<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1796 M<sup>r</sup> Francis Baby as Depty L<sup>t</sup> of the County of Essex to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup>

RETURNS OF MILITIA TO BE MADE

Detroit Sept 28<sup>th</sup> 1796

Sir Its Colonel McKees orders to his Deputy that returns from each Battalion be immediat[e]ly made & transmitted to him I therefore request that you will without Loss of time send me a list of the names of all those who are subject to Serve as Militia Men on the South side of the River

92. For sketch of the career of François Baby, see *B. H. R.*, I, 377.

Thames & let me know how many of them are come to settle there since you sent me the last returns Allso at the end of every three Months how many comes or goes away.

I am Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

John Askin

L<sup>t</sup> Col Com<sup>s</sup> N E B E M<sup>93</sup>

Captain Fields<sup>94</sup> River Thames

*Endorsed:* Detroit Sep<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1796 John Askin to Capt<sup>n</sup> Fields (Copy)

#### RETURNS OF ESSEX COUNTY MILITIA

Detroit Sept<sup>r</sup> 28 1796

Sir I was favoured with your letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> yesterday Evening & will comply with its Contents so far as in my power & my duty as Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Commanding a Battalioin requires at same time please observe, that in order to make my returns I must have one from each Captain or Officer Commanding a Company and as one lives at the River Thames it will require some time. however there shall be no delay so far as I can prevent it.

I apprehend that there is some misunderstanding relative to your duty as Deputy Lieu<sup>t</sup> of the County & mine as Lieut Colonel of a Battalioin. the first time I have the pleasure of seeing you we will Explain our Ideas with each other So that the Service may not be retarded

I am Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> very Hble Servant

John Askin

Lt Col<sup>l</sup> Com<sup>s</sup> of the N E B E M

Francis Baby Esq<sup>r</sup> Deputy Lieut for the County of Essex

*Endorsed:* Detroit Sept 28 96 from John Askin to F Baby Esq<sup>r</sup> Deputy Lieu<sup>t</sup> Copy

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

KNOW all men by these Presents that we John Askin

<sup>93</sup> Northeastern Battalion, Essex Militia.

<sup>94</sup> Probably Captain Daniel (Donald) Field (Fields), for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 582.

Senior. John Askin Junior, John Dodemead, Israel Ruland, Patrick M<sup>e</sup>Niff all of Detroit holding jointly with Alexander Henery and Todd & M<sup>e</sup>Gill of Montreal Nine Shares out of Fourteen and they Three (as is more fully Expressed in a Shedale Annexed) in a certain Tract of Land called by us the Cayahoga purchase Situated on the South Side of Lake Erie in the County of Wayne and North Western Territory of the United States Reposing great Trust and Special Confidence in the Integ[r]ity Wisdom and Abilities of our Friend William Robertson of Detroit Esquire (who is with us a Copartner holding the Remaining two fourteenth Shares of Said Tract of Land) Have made Ordained Constitu[t]ed and Appointed & by these Presents to [do] Ordain Constitute and Appoint the said William Robertson our true and Lawfull Attorney for us and in our Names and on our behalf and to our use to take under his care and directions our Joint Proportions in the Aforesaid Tract of Land and also in Six other Tracts of Land Numbered on the face of a plann or Sketch of that part of the Country herewith N<sup>o</sup> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7. Our Respective Shares or proportions being nine out of Twelve which we hold Jointly with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd M<sup>e</sup>Gill & Alexander Henery as Aforesaid, and the Whole of our Shares or Proportions in said Six Tracts of Land Either Jointly or Severally to dispose of for Cash Goods or Otherwise in Whole or part as may Appear to him most proper for our Joint Interests or to do any other Lawfull Act, Matter or thing in and about the Premisses the Same as we or Either of us might or could do were we personally present and one or more Lease[s] and Releases for us or any of us in our names or in Either of our Names to Sign Seal & deliver for our Shares of Said Tracts or any of them or any part of them As the case may more Especially Require Referance being always had in said Deeds of Lease and Releases to the Indian Deeds by which we hold said Tracts of Lands Hereby Ratifying and holding firm and Valid all and Whatever our Said Attorney shall or may Lawfully do or cause to be done in and about the Premesses without he being answerable to us or Either of us for any part of his Conduct therein and One or more attorney or attornies under him for the purpose Aforesaid to Appoint and make and at his pleasure to Revoke the Same. In

Witness whereof We have unto these Presents Set our Hands and Seals at Detroit aforesaid in the County of Wayne this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Ninety Six

*Endorsed:* Cobby Power of Attorney from Proprietors in Indian Lands to W<sup>m</sup> Robertson Esq<sup>r</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1796

Schedale to the Power of Attorney

John Askin Sen <sup>r</sup>	}	Each one Seventh Share in the Cayahoga Purchase or Tract N <sup>o</sup> 6
John Dodemead		
Patrick M <sup>o</sup> Niff	}	One Fourteenth Share each in the Aforesaid Purchase N <sup>o</sup> 6
Israel Ruland		
Jn <sup>o</sup> Askin Jun <sup>r</sup>	}	Each one Sixth Share in Tracts N <sup>o</sup> 1, 2, 3 4, 5, & 7
John Askin Senior		
Patrick M <sup>o</sup> Niff	}	Each One Twelfth Share of Tracts N <sup>o</sup> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 7.
Israel Ruland		
John Askin jun <sup>r</sup>		

MILITIA TO BE PROVIDED WITH ARMS<sup>95</sup>

(Circular)

Niagara 23<sup>d</sup> Oc<sup>ber</sup> 1796

Intelligence of a very serious nature having reached me from Lower Canada which may require the Exertion of His Majesty's faithful subjects in this Province, I am to request that you will recommend it to the Officers and Soldiers of Militia Battalions and Independent Companies under your command to provide themselves with proper Arms and a sufficiency of Ammunition forthwith; and you will be pleased to make a Report to me without loss of time of the number of Muskets & quantity of Ammunition which you may want to supply those who are absolutely incapable from Poverty or other Causes to supply themselves

F. B.

a true Copy

*Endorsed:* Cobby Niagara Oct. 23 1796 The Honorable Petter Russell Administrator of Government to Coll. M<sup>o</sup>Kee recv<sup>d</sup> by J. A. the 14<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 10 oClock

<sup>95</sup> Apparently this order was dictated by apprehension of an attack upon Canada by way of Spanish Louisiana. In this connection, see also the documents printed *post*, 115, 139.

## FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Woolwich 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1796

My dear Father, You will observe by the date of this letter that we are returned to our old Quarters, but I am sorry to say M<sup>r</sup> Meredith's ill health was the cause of our removal from Yarmouth, the air of the latter Place is extremely cold and damp, which by no means agreed with his constitution. the disorder under which M<sup>r</sup> Meredith labours is termed a Diabetis, it is a very uncommon complaint and is rarely to be met with, it had made so rapid a progress ere we left Yarmouth, that the Phys[i]cian who attended M<sup>r</sup> M advised him by all means to leave the Place, as if he remained there he would not answer for his life. we accordingly departed the 10<sup>th</sup> of last month, made three days of the Journey, and arrived in London on the thirteenth spent two days there whilst our House here was putting in order for our reception, and came to Woolwich on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Our mode of travelling was in a Post Chaise by far the easiest conveyance, and also the most expensive that could have been adopted, but we were obliged to submit to it as my dear M was forbid to use any exercise but the most gentle, it has so far reduced the Finances that I hope my dear Father will think of us when he has any spare cash, as it would prove very acceptable. when a Person is ill there are a vast many extra expences which cannot be dispensed with, consequently the *vino* runs away much faster than it comes. however My dear M is so much recovered already that I am delighted at having left Yarmouth, and flatter myself that by next Spring he will be as well as ever.

I trust that you are by this time well settled in your new Habitation,<sup>96</sup> pray God grant your every wish, and make you trully happy, in one respect you have the advantage of us as our troubles in this Kingdom cannot extend to you. Spain has declared War against England, which is a very unpleasant bussiness at this time, as it may prevent a Peace

<sup>96</sup> Evidently Askin had planned to move to the Canadian side immediately after the American occupation of Detroit. In fact, several years elapsed before the removal was effected, and although he conducted himself at all times as a loyal subject of the British Crown, he was even appointed, in 1802, a member of the first board of trustees of Detroit.

taking Place betwixt us and the French, Lord Mamlsbury is at present in Paris endeavouring to effect the same, it is most ardently wished for both by the lower order of People in France and likewise by us, but we cannot determine how it will be decided. Mr Pitt proposes raising a large body of men in addition to what we already have for the defence of this Country should the French refuse our terms. It is generally believed that an Invasion will be attempted on some part of the Coast this Winter, god preserve us from such an evil for how many poor wretches must fall before the proper measures could be put in practice to quell the panic which would naturally prevail amongst the common people.

The Packet sails tomorrow and I was conscious you would get no news from us by the Winter Express did I not avail myself of this opportunity, which determined me to write at all events, and I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of three very long letters from the Family which I received the 15<sup>th</sup> of Last Month, the day after my arrival here, Mr Lowrie<sup>97</sup> did not pay the Postage of the letters as you mentioned having requested him to do I know not from what reason.

My children are in perfect health Ann has lost the advantage of a School as I cannot meet with such a good one here as I could wish to send her to, however, I keep her up in her reading, and her dear papa intends amusing himself by teaching her to write. David does not much perplex his head with learning, he begins to say his Alphabet, they are nice children and my dear M does not a little admire them, I only wish you could see them that you might be a judge.

I have no pleasant news to communicate, you will be sorry to hear that Colonel and Mr<sup>s</sup> England with many of the 24<sup>th</sup> Regt and some Artillery officers were taken by the French soon after leaving Quebec, General Simcoe and Family were more fortunate as they arrived safe in England,

<sup>97</sup> Probably Peter Lowrie (Laurie) of London, merchant. When William and David Robertson dissolved partnership in Detroit in 1795, a notice thereof was sent to Peter Lowrie, indicating that the firm had had dealings with him. In 1803 Peter Lowrie was named by William Robertson as one of the trustees of a trust fund established for the benefit of his daughter. See William Robertson papers (mss.)

he is going out as Lieut Gen<sup>l</sup> to St Domingo, rather a more unhealthy place than the River *la Tranche*, from what I hear he could be no vast loss to you for he did not seem to be a favorite.

The change of having no Troops with you must appear great at first, I trust you are well settled in your new habitation by this time, My dear Mother if I mistake not shed a few tears on leaving poor, old Detroit. no wonder it is very natural to regret lavg [leaving] the place of her nativity, no want [of] employment I dare say with you for this som[e]-time?) to come, pray give my Mother a nice flower garden to amuse her, I cannot forget the pains she used to take with the little one near the House, may she succeed as well with another is my sincere wish, and may all your undertakings my dear Father be crowned with success is my fervent hope and daily prayer. I find M<sup>rs</sup> Graham did not long remain [a] Widow, her present husband is very young, but it is to be hoped that he possesses steadiness without which a marriage like that must prove very *so so*. Be so good my dear Father as to give my most affectionate love to my dear Mother, add a kiss to it if you please, tell my sisters and Brothers that I often think of them and wish I was near enough to give them a kiss round. my love to Therese and sincere thanks for her last letters. M<sup>r</sup> Meredith joins me in the same to her for the one she wrote him, his ill health will not permit him to answer it at present but he will soon, he begs his kindest remembrances to my dear Mother and yourself, likewise to Therese and family

if any of you write to M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton and Richardson I beg my love to them also to my Cousin Wright my time is very much taken up as nurse to my dear Meredith, therefore I cannot spare much time for any other employ, so I trust it will plead my excuse with you for this horrid scrawl my next shall be more *comme il faut*, if our good Friend M<sup>r</sup> Robertson has not left you pray present him with our best respects, the same to M<sup>r</sup> Leith,<sup>98</sup> with compliments to all enquiring acquaintances. *Souvenirs* to John and his Wife the same to my Uncle Barthe and Aunt other Uncles, best

<sup>98</sup> George Leith, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 207.

and kind love to Aunt Grant & family, and belive me to be  
my dear Father

Your truly affectionate Daughter

Archange Meredith

We have just had a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Mercer<sup>99</sup> they are  
very well. adieu.

Will you tell the servants that I have not forgot them  
and I hope they do their duty well I fear there is a vast  
deal of tatology in this paper but hurry is the Cause of it.  
Pray excuse it. God bless you all adieu best of fathers.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant at Detroit Upper  
Canada

To the care of Mess. Todd and M Gill Merchants at  
Montreal Province of Quebec single sheet

*Endorsed:* Woolwich 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1796 M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith to  
John Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> June 1797

SALE OF PROPERTY OF TODD AND MCGILL

Montreal 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1796

Dear Sir Having seen your Letter to I. T. of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Sept<sup>r</sup> respecting the Lands &<sup>ca</sup> purchased from you as allso  
those of the Indian Grants, and having had some conversa-  
tion with our friend W<sup>m</sup> Robertson We request that you will  
immediatly advertise the Houses & Lands bought from you  
in the Town and on the American side of the river a descrip-  
tion of which you can take from the deeds of Sale and and  
a more Ample one if Necessary, we intend sending a descrip-  
tion of the same to be published in the Philadelphia papers  
desiring application to be Made to you and where a pur-  
chaser offers who can pay half the Purchass money with  
security on the property for the remainder with Interest we  
shall be contented, the House in Town we wish disposed off  
if Possible, untill Sales can be made we advise your Letting  
the House farms &<sup>ca</sup> but Lyable to quit them on three  
Months Notice or on being sold, as M<sup>r</sup> Robertson is left  
Detroit it may be proper & necessary to appoint another  
attorney to act with you we therefore wish to have your

<sup>99</sup> David Mercer, for whom see *ibid.*, 77.

opinion who is most proper M<sup>r</sup> Robertson recommends M<sup>r</sup> Sharp, and we were thinking of M<sup>r</sup> Row [Roe].<sup>100</sup> we recommend your renewing the Advertisement of Sale every Month. When M<sup>r</sup> Robertson Goes to Philadelphia he will do the needfull respecting the Indian Grants We are

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> hbble Serv<sup>ts</sup>

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

James McGill

P S if proposals are made for any of the Large Tracts of Land &<sup>ca</sup> with which you dont like to comply without our aprobation, you can transmit them to us. I. T.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>h</sup> 1796 Mess<sup>s</sup> Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin relative to Houses & Land to be sold

#### LEASE OF FARM OF WILLIAM MACOMB

It is this day agreed upon by and between Angus Mackintosh, of Detroit, Esquire, one of the Executors of the last Will and Testament of William Macomb,<sup>101</sup> late of the same place, Esquire, deceased, of the one part and John Hembrow of Gross Isle, of the other part as follows.

The said Angus Mackintosh<sup>102</sup> in his aforesaid Capacity

<sup>100</sup> For sketch of Walter Roe's career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 180. A letter of John Askin to Robert Nichol, Aug. 12, 1801, records that "Poor Mr. Roe was found suffocated where there was very little watter on his way from Malden to this on Sunday morning last [August 7]." Roe was the son of a resident of London, a man of some means. Owing to the death of his father, and the subsequent remarriage of his mother, he went to sea, serving as a midshipman in the navy from 1779 until the close of the Revolution. He subsequently came to Canada, where he studied law and was admitted to practice in Quebec in April, 1789.

The date of his coming to Detroit is unknown, but his inclusion in Major Mathews' list, Oct. 1, 1787, of disbanded troops and loyalists to whom lots on the north side of Lake Erie (later known as New Settlement) were granted implies that he had been here prior to that date. See Ontario Bur. of Archives, *Report*, 1905, p. 88 ff. In this list he is described as a warrant officer in the marine department. On March 1, 1790, Roe married Ann Laughton at Detroit. A son, John James, was born Nov. 25, 1792; William was born, Feb. 1, 1795; Walter Thomas, on Jan. 27, 1798; and Maria Ann, on July 16, 1800. See Marriage Register for the Western District, and St. John's Church Register, *passim*. William Roe, in later life, was a merchant of Newmarket, Ont. He was a government clerk in York (Toronto) in 1813, and when the American army captured the place he saved much of the public money by burying it on the farm of John Beverley Robinson. Riddell, *Legal Profession in Upper Canada*, 168-70.

<sup>101</sup> For his career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 108.

<sup>102</sup> For the career of Angus McIntosh, see *ibid.*, 293-94. The Marriage Register for the Western District of Upper Canada (ms.) shows that the date of his marriage (there

by these presents, leases and to farm lets to the said John Hembro all that Messuage and Premisses, situate on the East side of the said Gross Isle, commonly called and Known by the name of Lot Number            bounded in front by Detroit River, and in the rear by the unimproved Lands belonging to the Estate of the said late William Macomb, on the North side by the Lot occupied by Jacob Iler, and on the south by Elias Horn, together with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and this, for and during the term of two years, to commence and be computed from the day of the date of these presents, and to finish on the Nineteenth day of November, which will be in the year of our Lord, One thousand, seven hundred and Ninety Eight

In consideration whereof, the said John Hembrow hereby promises and obliges himself to pay and render to the said Angus Mackintosh in his aforesaid Capacity, at the late Dwelling House of the said late William Macomb, on the said Gross Isle, on the first day of November next, & annually during this lease, Twenty five bushels of good merchantable Indian Corn

And it is hereby expressly stipulated between the parties to these presents, that it shall not be lawful for the said John Hembrow, at any time, or times hereafter, to cut Wood on the said Island, except such as may be on the herein before leased Premisses, unless the same be for the erection of Buildings thereon. Nor shall the said John Hembrow, during the term of the present lease, take to pasture or Farm, any Cattle of what description soever, the property of other persons, unless the same be carefully kept within his own inclosures. And that any Buildings or other improvements that may hereafter be made by the said John Hembrow on the herein before leased premisses, shall continue and remain thereon, and be delivered to the said Angus M<sup>e</sup>Intosh his Executors, Administrators and Assigns, at the expiration of the said term. And also that it shall not be lawful for the said John Hembrow to transfer his interest in the present lease, to any person or persons whatsoever, without the permission of the said Angus Mackintosh first had and

given as 1788) was June 17, 1783. A son, Duncan, was born, Sept. 24, 1785; and another, Alexander (mentioned herewith), Aug. 23, 1787.

obtained to that effect. And for the true performance of all and singular the covenants and Agreements herein before expressed, and set forth, the said Angus Mackintosh and John Hembrow do bind themselves each to the other in the penal sum of One hundred and Sixty pounds New York Currency. IN WITNESS whereof, they have to these presents, set their hands, and affixed their seals at Detroit aforesaid, this nineteenth day of November in the year of our Lord, One thousand, seven hundred and Ninety Six

Signed Angus Mackintosh Ex<sup>r</sup>

Signed, sealed & delivered  
in the presence of  
Signed, Rich<sup>d</sup> Donovan<sup>103</sup>

Signed John Askin in behalf of  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Hembrow acting by Power of  
Attorney

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> 1796 Lease of a Farm on  
Gross Isle from Angus Mackintosh Esquire to Jn<sup>o</sup> Embro  
(Copp)

AMITY BETWEEN BRITISH AND AMERICANS

Niagara. 19<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1796

Dear Sir, As a certain description of people are entitled by the Kings Instructions, & others by provincial Authority, to have their deeds free of any Expencc; I am in hopes that the Government will fall upon some plan of making it easy to those who reside at a distance; this has been agitated in conversation but nothing settled. there are some difficulties to be got over, but they are all I hope, to be compassed.

I am glad to hear so good an account of your New Acquaintances. the conduct of the British Merchants have been universally to be admired; the unanimity they have shewn at Detroit, is very singular. I fear your moving may

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<sup>103</sup> Various papers and accounts in the B. H. Coll. indicate that Richard Donovan was engaged in trade in Detroit. His name is among those who, in 1795, signified their intention of remaining British subjects, but he seems not to have removed from Detroit for on Dec. 6, 1805, Peter Audrain, clerk, issued a letter of administration to Angus McIntosh on the estate of Donovan, who had recently died intestate. The manuscripts in Donovan's hand which have been preserved disclose a rarely beautiful penmanship. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VIII, 411, and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

be disadvantageous to you, I think this place would suit you Better than the petite Côte. do you never mean to come & see me? I am sorry on your own account that the Indians have been necessitated to eat your apples; & tho you say you have sent me none; I have received a Barrel of Cyder, without advice, the direction of which is apparently in your hand writing.

We agree very well with our new neighbors here. The *Mohawk* is now aground on a reef of rocks off the Harbour, & the troops of both nations are giving their assistance. We think it best here to go hand in hand together.

Our Chief Justice<sup>104</sup> is daily expected from Oswego. part of his baggage is arrived here, God only knows where we shall put him.

My Mother & wife unite with me in very sincere Wishes for you & all Yours, & believe me to be my dear Sir, faithfully & affectionately,

Your friend & humble Servant  
D W Smith

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit River D W S.

*Endorsed:* Niagara Nov<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> 1796 D W Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1797

MILITIA RETURNS DELINQUENT

Detroit Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 96

Sir I think it necessary to let you Know for the Information of Colonel M<sup>o</sup>Kee that I have not as yet received any return from Captain Fields to enable me Make the report required tho' I Sent him orders by his Sister the next day after I rec<sup>d</sup> yours. these delays in the Execution of my orders are very unpleasant to me & I attribute them in a great measure to the Want of Officers being appointed to these Companies when defficient as likewise an adjutant in the room of M<sup>r</sup> Hay. Captain Smith's note to me, sent you

<sup>104</sup> John Elmsley, an English lawyer, who was appointed Chief Justice of Upper Canada in 1796 and arrived in the province in January of the following year. In 1802 he became Chief Justice of Lower Canada, and this office he retained until his death in Montreal, April 29, 1805. See Riddell, *Life of William Dummer Powell*, 84-85; Wallace, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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some time ago leave me no Expectation of receiving any return from him up till a Sufficient number of men is given over to him & which he says Col M<sup>c</sup>Kee promised. M<sup>r</sup> Hand & my Son were officers on this side & I believe would have no objections as Such to serve on the other Side. Young M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville was likewise offered a Commission on this Side which he declined accepting.

I am &ca

J Askin

Fr Baby Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov. 30 96 John Askin To F<sup>r</sup> Baby Esq<sup>r</sup> Deputy Lieut. for Essex County

MILITIA RETURNS REPORTED

Detroit December the 7<sup>th</sup> 1796

Sir Agreeable to your wishes, communicated to me yesterday by your Brother M<sup>r</sup> Baptist,<sup>105</sup> I under cover herewith, send you a return of the men, belonging to the Battalion under my Command; who are deficient in Arms, or Ammunition; without waiting any longer for Capt. Fields his report. I therefore was necessiated, to suppose [supply] the deficiency; not only in his Company, and the Vacant one on the river Thames, that he has charge of; but likewise that of Capt. Smiths, who as I before wrote you, will not make any return, untill a Sufficient number of men is Alotted to him, such as form a Company. I beg you will Acquaint Colonel M<sup>c</sup>Kee, that I cannot be Answerable for any Inaccuracy that may be in the return, I now send; nor for its not being sent sooner. The want of officers, & the want of Obedience in some of them is the cause; neither of which I can prevent; what depends on me, I Execute, to the Utmost of my Abilities.

I have the Honor of being Sir, Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> very Humble Servant

John Askin

L<sup>t</sup> Col Comd<sup>t</sup> of the N E B M

Francis Baby Esquire

Deputy Lieu<sup>t</sup> for the County of Essex at Lassumption

<sup>105</sup> Jean Baptiste Baby, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 376.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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*Endorsed:* Detroit 7<sup>th</sup> decem, 1796 John Askin to Francis  
Baby Esq<sup>r</sup> deputy Lieut for County of Essex Copy