

SECTION II

LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1797-1798

## EQUIPMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FORT MALDEN

### ADVERTISEMENT

As there will be wanted in the Course of the ensuing year for the Service of *Government* at this Post, *Teams & Horses & Oxen*, Compleat, with, *Carts, Trucks, &<sup>ca</sup>* any Person or Persons desirous of furnishing the Same, to give in [to] my Office their proposals, in writing Sealed Up Stating the Condition on Which they will furnish the Same. they are to be ready when Called for & only to be employed as the Service may requ[ire]

By Order of Captain Mayne of Queens Rangers Com-mandant of the Post of Detroit River

Signed Tho<sup>s</sup> Reynolds Dep<sup>y</sup> Commis<sup>y</sup>

Jan<sup>y</sup> 10 1797

Proposals to be del<sup>d</sup> on Saturday 14 Inst

*Endorsed:* Maldon Jan<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1797 M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds his Ad-vertisement respecting Teams wanted to work for Govern-ment Coppy

### FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Woolwich Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1797

My dear Father, Your very affectionate and truly valu-able letter, came to hand about three Weeks ago, and I can only assure *mon tres cher Pere*, that the language contained in it, was so expressive as to cause me to burst into tears of gratitude to the Almighty for his great goodness to us all, and the joy I felt on finding that your circumstances were much improved, is not to be described. accept my dear Parent of my sincere thanks for the kind present you were so good as to enclose, a convincing proof if that had been required, that I was one of his first thoughts on the event of being clear of the World, it could not have come more apropos, as owing to my dear Meredith's illness, and the exorbitant expence of travelling had reduced the finances rather too low. however we trust that proper economy may soon retrieve the same. Your remark respecting the blessing

I have enjoyed of being so much with M<sup>r</sup> M is certainly a very just one, and I am very gratefull to the Author of all good for so great a comfort. My dear Meredith's perfect recovery from so dangerous and severe an illness, has made me one of the happiest of Women, and in the possession of so great a treasure as a kind and affectionate Husband, what more can I wish. I am resolved to be very careful of my health when my dear M leaves me in the Spring, and not affect my constitution by fretting, for it would be extremely unreasonable to suppose that I could be always with him. My Children are of an age to require vast attention, both in learning and manner, and our pride is that they should not be surpassed by any child. consequently my time will be well employed during his absence, in giving them that instruction, which it is the duty of every good mother to perform, and to an affectionate one cannot fail of affording vast pleasure. M<sup>r</sup> M writes you by this opportunity, and will inform you of all the Political news. I shall therefore only further add, that your dear little grandchildren are well, as likewise myself who really never enjoyed such good health as at present. accept of my sincerest love, present the same to *ma tres chere Mere* Sister Therese and *toute la cher famille*, and believe me to be my dearest Father, most truly your dutifull and affectionate Daughter

Archange Meredith

Woolwich Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1797

Ma tres chere Mere, Il me semble bien longtems depuis que je vous ai ecrie, cest parceque ma derniere lettre etoit adressé a Therese, et non pas a vous comme à l'ordinaire, cependant je suis resoluë a ne pas passer cette occasion de vous dire, que je vous aime fort tendrement. oui bien chere-ment. Sca n'est pas une nouvelle vous dirais, il est vrai, mais quand un sujet nous plait, l'on souhaite a le continuer tres longtems, cest le cas avec moi, mon affection pour une des mielleurs meres du monde est si extreme, que je pourroit en parler sans cesse.

Vous seriez flattez d'apprendre que mon cher Meredith est entierment retablié, pres avoir souffert des Maux violents pour l'espace de dix mois, il est tres maigre, n'ayant pas en le tems d'engraisser depuis sa geurison cependant il a bon

teint, est l'air de Santé, est je me propose bien quil soit aussi robuste que jamais, avant de vous payer une visite en Canada, une heureusté que je me desespere pas d'atteindre avant que plusieurs annees s'ecoule. Mon cher Meredith fait souvent usage, de la suivante expression, quand l'on me demande si j'aimerai a retourner en Canada. *Soyez persuadez, Monsieur ou Madame, que rien ne me donnerai plus grand plaisir, que de presenter ma chere petit femme a ses dignes Parents, est de dire voyez votre fille.* il nen faut que peu pour lui donner une Compagnie, est s'il pouroit arriver quil fute placé a une de ceux qui sont deja en Canada, sca seroit un grand bonheur.

les cheres enfans sont en parfait santé; nous fumes priée hier a passer la journée chez une tres agreable Dame de nos conaissances, qui a un beau garcon agée de six ans, Anne fute aussi priée. est s'est comporté comme une petite Reine, Son petit Compagnon en etoit ravie, est faisoit le petit galant dune facon a s'attirer l'admiration de la Compagnie, Anne s'est si bien acquittae que je vous laisse a desenir si j'en etois fiere ou non, ell commence a parler Francois, car cest le seulle language q'uson lui adresse, presentment, enfin je m'appercoie que la pratique fait tout en parlant de different langues, par consequent je ne laisse pas echapper cette avantage. David attrappe aussi quelques mots entendant parler Sa Soeur. Il faut ma chere mamam que je vous raconte une petite histoire, touchant un de nos amis nommé mercer. Mon cher M: a été passer deux jours avec eux l'anneé passai, est comme il etudie toutes occasions de me faire plaisir, il a pensai me faire un compliment, en achetant de jolies presents de la valeur de quarante chelins pour presenter a mes Cousines, eh bien, Mercer nous a retourné cette visite depuis notre retour de Yarmouth, est au lieu d'apporter quellque petite bagatelle en maniere de reconaissances, non il est venne les mains vades je n'est pas exprimé mes iddees sur ce sujet. mais j'ai bien vue que mon cher M: a été fort surpris, je vous ecrie ceci seulement pour vous presenter deux dispositions bien opposé, etant bien persuade, que sca n'ira pas plus loin, ma chere Tante est en bonne santé, comme nous avons appris peux de jours passai. En s'ca me voila devenue voleur j'ai pris le papier de mon cher Pere pour ecrire a ma chere

Mere, mais je suis bien placé entra les mains de deux juges, qui ne me feront pas pendre pour ce Vol. Comme je me propose d'adresser quelques paroles a une chere Soeur que j'ai, vous m'excuserai de vous en dire d'avantage sur ce papier, est je finis ma chere maman en vous priant, de me faire écrire par la bonne Therese les differentes ages de mes cheres freres et soeurs comme je ne m'en remet pas. Adieu ma chere Mere, ayez la bonté de donner une chere embrasse a mon tres cher pere, pour moi, est de lui dire au meme tems, que je le remercie encore pour son jolie present, souvenez vous maman de ne lui pas tourner votre joue, comme vous me faisiez tous les soirs avant de me coucher, sca doit etre une embrasse des levres que vous presentiez a mon cher pere pour moi, faite mes plus tendres amitez souvenirs a mes cheres freres et Soeurs, est croyez moi ma tres chere Mere, toujours votre tres affect[i]oné est bien aimé fille.

Archange Meredith

Woolwich Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1797

My dear Sister, I was made happy by receiving a Packet of letters from my dear Father about three weeks ago, they came by Capt<sup>n</sup> Salmon, and I am much inclined *de vous gronder un peu* as I could not perceive your signature in this Packet, altho my dear Father mentioned, that your Ladyship intended writing me all the news of the Place, no doubt there was a very good reason for the same, as I am well convinced that I am too dear, *a ma bonne soeur*, to be neglected by her, I have no reason to be displeas'd with you in general, for you are a very good correspondent, and write me very nice long letters, which I beg to thank you for, and still hope to hear from you soon, but I read in the newspaper, that a Ship from Quebec, was seen at Sea, and no [one] in her, so that it is imagin'd that she has been [torn] by some Diabls de Francois, who secured the Passe[n]gers and turned the ship adrift, if so it is most probable that the Capt<sup>n</sup> of *le Vaisseau*, threw the bag of letters overboard, ere he was taken, so that in some measure accounts for my not having heard from you. As I am no Politician, I shall leave the cares of the State to the Governours thereof, and proceed to inform you of the Fashions. *general remarks* the hair dressed very full and high quite of[f] the ears, with a bandeau

of gold or silver lace, or black velvet embroidered with gold, run through the hair, Some ladies wear plumes a la Wurtemberg, very few caps worn, artificial flowers much *le ton*, full dressed handkerchiefs trimmed with lace and left becomingly open, gold necklaces and lockets about the neck, petticoats either of muslin or crape, trimmed with lace, or bra[i]d fringe after the manner of a flounce, the sleeves of the gowns trimmed with lace, the trains of which must consist of either plain velvet or Sattin. long waists are also coming in fashion, and as yours is *a yard long*, I think you had better let it remain so but be sure to be *quite unie*. *ha ha ha he he he je nest rien de plus a ajouter ma bonne est digne Soeur*. only to beg that you will remember me most kindly to M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton and Richardson, likewise to Cousin *Wright* when you indite

As I was always a very assiduous workwoman, I have undertaken to make my dear Meredith eight shirts, *est comme il est un tres gallant monsieur*. he has bought a most beautiful peice of linnen, the Cambrick likewise very superb. he said he was determined that the *toile* should do credit to my work. there was a compliment after six years marriage *qu'en pensez vous* if you should be in doubt respecting my industry before marriage, only apply to my dear Mother for information, and ask her how many needles I have lost, and how much thread was wasted. tell her that I am a reformed being now I have a family of my own to superintend, and that I put out no work but my gowns now my dear M frequently says lay aside your work and come and take a walk, I often decline the invatation and proceed *avec mon ouvrage*. he fears I shall hurt my eyes. I am pleasd to find that my dear Father has a snug house on the old farm, it must put my dear mother in mind *de ses jours de jeunesse* when my grandfather occupied the spot. it is not the first race I have had in it *contre mon bon mari*. I should not mind if I was taking a ramble in the orchard now, and it would be just the thing for my little lambkins frisking about and picking the apples from under the trees. they desire their best love to you, and my dear brothers and sisters, and frequently mention my dear Parents altho they have never had the happiness to see them. I fancy my Aunt Grant

will not like giving up her Estate at Gross point. the situation pleased her much. pray give my love to her my uncle and my Cousins. Uncles Barthes and my Aunt, to John and his Wife, with kisses from me to my dear Brothers and Sisters, M<sup>r</sup> M joins me in love to yourself and them. tell Adelaide that when I can meet with a private opportunity, I shall write her. I make no doubt but she improves much at s[c]hool, as likewise Elonor. am glad to find my brothers are such clever boys. Adieu my dear Sister and believe me

your very affectionate Sister  
 Archange Meredith

Compliments to all enquiring friends. I hear M<sup>r</sup> Robertson is at Montreal in case of absence it will be better to address our letters for Capt<sup>n</sup> Meredith R A. to the care of Serg<sup>t</sup> Kane Royal Artillery *Woolwich* as he keeps the post office

*Addressed:* To John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> at Detroit  
 To the care of Mes<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merch<sup>ts</sup> at Montreal  
 Canada

*Endorsed:* Woolwich 1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1797 M<sup>rs</sup> Merideth to John Askin M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & to her Sister Theresa recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup>  
 y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> June 1797

### *Translation*

My dearest Mother: As I addressed my last letter to Therese, and not to you as I usually do, it seems a very long time since I wrote to you. Now I am determined not to miss this chance of telling you that I love you most tenderly, yes, very dearly. "That is no news," you will say, and say it truly, but when a thing pleases us very much we want to make it last as long as possible. So it is with me. My love for you, one of the best mothers in the world, is so great that I could talk of it forever.

You will be glad to hear that my dear Meredith's health is completely restored, after having suffered violent ills for ten months. He is very thin, but has not had time yet to fatten up. He has a good color and looks well, and I intend to have him as strong as ever before making you a visit in

Canada, a happiness that I do not despair of attaining before many years slip away. Often my dear Meredith will say, when people ask me if I should like to return to Canada: "Certainly, Sir, or Madam, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to present my dear little wife to her good parents, and say—'Here she is, your daughter!'" It is only necessary that he should be given command of a company, and if it should happen that it was one already in Canada, what joy!

The dear children are in perfect health. Yesterday we were invited to spend the day with a very dear lady of our acquaintance, who has a beautiful boy six years old. Anne was also invited and behaved like a little queen. Her little companion was charmed with her and showed himself the little admirer in a way to attract the pleased attention of all present. Anne acquitted herself so well that I leave you to guess whether I was proud or not. She is beginning to speak French, for now we talk to her always in that language. Practice is everything in speaking different languages, therefore I shall see that she does not miss this advantage. David picks up some words, too, from hearing his sister talk.

Dear Mama, I must tell you a little story about one of our friends named Mercer. My dear M. spent two days with them last year, and as he is ever on the watch for an occasion to give me pleasure, he thought he would show a regard for me by buying some pretty gifts of the value of about forty shillings for my cousins. Well Mercer returned this visit since our return from Yarmouth, and instead of bringing some little trifle in grateful acknowledgement, did he not come empty-handed! I said nothing of what I thought, but I could see plainly that my dear M. was much surprised. I write to you about it only to show you how the two natures differ, knowing well that it will go no farther. My dear Aunt is well, as we heard only a few days ago.

Behold how I have become a thief in this letter! I have used the paper of my dear Father to write to my dear Mother! But I am fortunately at the mercy of two judges who will not have me hung for the theft, and now as I propose addressing a few words to a dear sister of mine, you will excuse me from saying anything further to you in this

letter, closing with a request to you, dear Mama, that you will have that good Therese write for me the ages of my dear brothers and sisters, so that I shall not forget them. Good-bye, dear Mother, and please give my dear Father a loving kiss for me and tell him at the same time that I thank him again for his pretty gift; and mind, Mama, do not turn your cheek to him as you used to do every night when I went to bed. This must be a kiss on the lips that you give my dear Father for me. Remember me affectionately to my dear brothers and sisters, and believe me, dearest Mother,

Ever your loving and devoted daughter,

Archange Meredith

GRANTS OF LAND TO PETITIONERS

British Niagara 15. February 1797

My dear Sir, I have received your Letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> January last.

It is unnecessary for you to explain your Sentiments to me, I know they always are for the joint good of the Government & the people. I am in hopes that some steps will be taken to answer the purpose you mention, I have long foreseen the Difficulty & have conceived measures to obviate it, but whether or not I shall be able to effect it, time only can tell. You do me but credit with respect to a knowledge of the Country & the people, I am attached to both & the latter have a claim upon my gratitude. I hope those who have made purchases have taken all proper precautions, because very strictly speaking the Land is not alienable until after the patent issues, & improvement is a Condition. You do wrong to suppose yourself slighted, or not to be of trust. it certainly must be the chimerical production of some of your moments in Ennui; I feel personally your Situation, but you little know how unable I am to promote the objects you heretofore aimed at. more than 1200 acres cannot be given to any individual, unless for purely military Services. I wish it could be extended, but the Extension only remains in His Majesty's Breast. I know why *you* got 1200 acres; the Extent of the King's Bounty. I know why M<sup>rs</sup> Richardson, your daughter, has got 800, but why the person you allude to has, I do not know.

You will know, my good Sir, that so far as the dutys of my public Station will admit, you may demand my Interference, in any thing that may possibly tend to your Advantage, without apologizing to me for it. Should any opportunity offer, wherein I foresee the possibility of good to you, You may depend on Me; I wish you would come to see me & then I should personally have the pleasure of assuring you, how much I am my dear Sir, your faithful humble Servant

D W Smith

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

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

*Endorsed:* Newark Feb<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>h</sup> 1797 D W Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> of March & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> of April.

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Woolwich, 21 Mars 1797

My tres chere et bien aimé Mere, Une occasion se presente pour informer mes cheres Parens de mes nouvelles, que je commercerai par leurs dire que nous somes en bonne santé—ensuite que je vous apprend ma chere Maman que je suis encore veuve, cette a dire mon cher Meredith ma laissé trois jours passai pour aller en Irlande. la compagnie a laquelle il appartient est ordonné la, et cest l'oppinion de plusieurs personnes quilz seront fixé la pour plusieurs annees, l'ordre nous a beaucoup surpris, car mon cher Meredith ne devoit pas aller au Camp jusqua mois de mai, comme il ne venoit que de geurir d'une maladie forte dangereuse, et le Medecin avoit representé que de voyager si vite apres sa geurison pourroit peutetre lui faire grand mal. Mais mes cheres Parans vous conoissez mon cher mari assez bien pour etre assurez quil n'a volue dire un seul mot pour rester, non; au contraire il a préparé tout son butin, et ma priée d'arranger le mien, et celui des enfans, afin de partir le lendemain a six heures du matin, ceci etoit a une heure sur le mardi, comme nous devions aller le mecredi, tres peu de tems en verité, pour preparer tout, mais cest toujours le facon quilz agisse envers les officiers—Mon cher Meredith avoit grande envie de me prendre avec lui, et au meme tems ils etoit facile de voir, quil auroit souhaité que je demadasse a rester dernire.

apres un grand effort sur mon inclination, j'ai repeté ses paroles. *Mon cher mari, vous pouvez etre persaudé que mon heureusté seroit extreme de vous suivre, mais en meme tems, q'nallons nous faire, prendre un parti peutetre, que nous regretrons toujours, nous scavons que vous est ordonné d'aller a Cork en Irlande, Eh bien, supposons que nous arrivons sans accident, mais pas sans avoir depensé une grande somme d'argent, car il est impossible de voyager si loin sans etre quasi ruinée, apres etre de barqué, la, supposons que ces Mechants Francois essaye a decendre sur la Cote, comme ils ont deja essayé. vous avez ordre d'aller vous battre, me voila laissé dans un Payés etranger, sans conoitre aucun Personne et quoique vous faite votre devoir, vous est malheureux en le faisant, parceque vous scavez que votre femme et vos enfans ne sont pas dans une situation telle que vous souhaitez. au lieu que si je reste ici, j'ai une bonne maison, un tres bon jardin, je connois tout le monde, si aucun fracas arrive je suis bien placé, Woolwich etant une endroit tres saufe, et en etant tranquille, je peut faire mon devoir envers nos enfans, en leur instruisant tout en mon pouvoir. je recois des lettres de vous tres souvent, je vous escrit en retour, par cette facon d'agir l'on ne peut manquer d'etre aussi heureux quil est possible de l'etre separé. Sitot que j'ai finie de parler, mon chere Meredith ma remercie pour avoir fait des reflexions si apropos, et ma promis que si apres avoir été en Irlande quelleque tems, sils trouva quil devoit rester la, et que sca fut un endroit ou il pourroit prendre sa famille, ils viendroient me chercher, mais en tems de guerre sca n'est pas prudent de faire des voyages par mer, cette a dire, pour une femme et ses enfans, et jespere que nous aurons la Paix avant longtems, dans ce cas sa sera tres agreable de joindre mon cher Meredith, car jaimerai beaucoup de faire une visite au Payés ou mon cher Pere est neé, mon cher M: est tres aise d'aller la, et ma prie de vous dire quil vous aime tres tendrement come etant les Parens de sa chere petite femme, et outre cela ils vous respecte comme des personnes d'esprit et de bonté, il vous prie d'accepter ses plus tendres amitez, ainsi que ma chere soeur Therese, qui va toujours par le nom d'une digne soeur, un nom quelle merite beaucoup.*

J'ai recue une lettre de Madelaine la semaine derniere, me disant que ma pauvre soeur Hamilton etoit morte, une

nouvelle qui ma bien affligé, car elle meritoit toute l'affection de ses parens, comme etant une bonne fille, bonne femme, est bonne mere, sca doit avoir été une grande consolation pour elle, d'avoit vue ses deux ainées avant de mourir. je plaint beaucoup Mr. H. qui doit etre fort embarassé, avec de si jeunes enfans comme les siens.

Jai recue deux lettres de mon bien aimé Epoux depuis son depart, dans une il me mande avoir vue Mr. Dixon en ville, qui lui a dit tout les nouvelles du Detroit. Je suis heureuse d'apprendre que vous possediez de si bonnes santes. j'apprend cette occasion de vous ecrire par la lettre de mon cher M. qui s'informe toujours de tout ce qui vous regarde, afin de me donner plaisir.

Vous serai flattai d'apprendre que mes enfans et moi n'ont jamais eue meilleure santé qua present. Je suis aussi gaie que je puis l'etre sans mon cher M. avec moi. mes cheres enfans m'amuse beaucoup, je commenc a instruire Anne a ecrire, et a coudre, elle lit tres bien. David lit aussi un peu, je n'est pas oubliez ce que vous m'avez appris, car au lieu de depenser l'argent en faisant faire mon ouvrage, je fait tout ma couture moi meme, et je taille passablement bien.

Les Francois ont débarque en Wales quelleque tems passai, leur nombre etoit un mille deux cent, sitot que leurs vaisseaux les ont mit a Terre, ils on prit voile et les ont laissai pour etre assommé au eux meme assommer les gens du Payis. la consequence a été que le rapport s'est repandue, tout les laboureurs, Domestiques, Meussieurs et infin tout le monde, s'est assemble, pourvu les un avec des fourchettes pour le fumier, les autres avec des peles, d'autre avec des gros batons, est enfin tout ce qui pouvoit faire du mal, ils ont si bien agir, que les *grenouilles* se sont delivré prisoniers. depuis cette victoire il en est arrivé une a mer, une exp [seal] n'a jamais eu de pareille. Chevalier Jean Jervis a battue avec sept vaisseaux de geure, les Espagneols qui en avoit vingt sept et plusieurs de cent trente canons, nous avons pris quatre de leurs plus beaux vaisseaux, et le reste est bien derangé. Cette assez extraordinaire, que le vaisseaux dans laquelle mon cher Meredith fut fait prisonier dans le tems du seige de Gibraltar, est presentment un de ceux qui

est pris par notre gallant Amiral, il est mommi [nommé] le *Saint Isidora*—pour d'autres nouvelles je n en scait pas, mais cest peutetre une des meilleures choses qui est jamais arrivé pour cette Endroit, celui d'avoir battue les *Dons*, car sils avoit joint les Francois comm ils avoit intention, les Alemands auroit été aussi du nombre, et leurs marines auroit été si nonbreuse, que rien ne les auroit empeché de descendre dans ce Payis, est dans ce cas ils se proposoit de massacrer les hommes, femmes, et enfans sans en excepter aucun, car nous avons un plan de ce quils se proposoit d'executer.

Ayez la bonté Maman de demander a mon Pere sil scait la distance, entre l'endroit ou il est né, et la ville de Cork, car si mon cher mari n'en soi pas bien éloigné ils se feroit un plaisir de visiter cette endroit, jai idee que mon cher M; sera assez a son aise en Irlande, l'on dit que Cork est une belle Ville, est tres bon marché, est comme cette Compagnie a été demandé par le Government d'Irlande pour enseigner leurs Artilleries, l'on na pas de doute que les Irlandois payeront grand attention aux officiers et soldats. la santé de mon Cher M: est tout a fait retablie, est il ma promis de la bien soigner que dissipe ma crainte sur cette occasion. Un general de nos conaissances est en Irlande, je suis persaudé quil sera flattai de rencontrer mon cher M. comme il lui a montré grand attention pendant son sejour a Yarmouth, ils se nomme Loftus, je vous ai ecrie avant sur ce sujet. le premier du mois qui vient jecrirai encore a la famille, comme jai fait le mois passai. faite mes plus tendres amitié a mon tres cher Pere, ma soeur Therese, mes autres soeurs et freres. je leurs ecrirai cette Été. Souvenirs a ma cher Tante Grante, &c &c &c. Tante Mercer est en bonne santé, souvenirs a Jean oncles Barthes &c &c &c. adieu ma tres cher Mere, et croyez moi toujours la mem votre affectioné fille

Archange Meredith.

Souveniers au Domestiques, Je ne les oublie pas mes chers enfans vous fait leurs amitié.

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

*Endorsed:* Woolwich, 21 March 1797 Mrs. Meredith to Mrs. Askin.

*Translation*

Woolwich, March 21, 1797

My dearest and best beloved Mother: I have the opportunity to give my dear parents news of myself and shall begin by telling them that we are in good health; and after that, tell my dear Mother that I am a widow, that is, my dear Meredith left me three days ago to go to Ireland. The company to which he belongs was ordered there, and many think it will be stationed there several years. The order was a great surprise to us, for my dear Meredith was not to go to camp until the month of May, as he is just recovering from a very severe illness, and the doctor had said that traveling directly after his recovery might do him much harm. But my dear parents know my dear Husband well enough to be satisfied he would never say a word about remaining. No, on the contrary, he prepared all his equipment, and begged me to get my things ready and those of the children, so that we could set out the next day at six in the morning. This was at one o'clock Tuesday, and we would have to leave Wednesday, very little time, indeed, to get everything ready. But that is always the way they do with the officers. My dear Meredith was extremely desirous of taking me with him, and at the same time, it was easy to see that he would rather I should ask to remain here.

After great restraint on my inclination I said this: "My dear Husband, you may be assured that I should be only too happy to go with you, but at the same time we are not going to do anything that we may regret forever after. True, you are ordered to Cork, Ireland. Well then, suppose that we get there without any accident, it will not be without great expense, for it is not possible to travel so far and not be as good as ruined. After landing there, suppose that these wicked French try a descent on that coast as they did before. You are ordered off to fight. Now, behold me left in a strange country, not knowing a single soul; and

although you would do your duty, you would be unhappy knowing that your wife and children were not exactly in the situation you would like for them. Instead of all this, if I remain here, I have a good home, a fine garden, I know everybody, and if any fracas happens, I am well fixed, Woolwich being a very safe place. Besides, if I am easy in my mind, I can do my duty towards my children, teaching them as well as I know how. I get your letters frequently and write you in reply, and in this way we can be as happy as it is possible to be when separated."

As soon as I had finished, my dear Meredith thanked me for speaking so thoughtfully and wisely, and promised me that if after having been in Ireland some time he found that he must remain there, and that it was a place suitable for his family, he would come for me, but that in time of war, it was not safe to travel by sea, that is, for a woman and her children, and I am hoping we shall have peace before very long. In that event, it will be very pleasant to join my dear Meredith, for I should much like to visit the country where my dear Father was born. My dear Meredith is quite satisfied to go there, and begged me to say to you that he loved you tenderly because you are the parents of his dear little wife, and because, too, you are sensible and good. He begs you to accept his sincerest friendship, also my sister Therese, whom he always considers an estimable sister, something she richly deserves.

I received a letter from Madelaine last week, telling me that my poor sister, Mrs. Hamilton, had died. I was truly grieved. It was only right that we should all love her, for she was a good daughter, a good wife, and a good mother. It must have been a great comfort for her to have seen her two eldest children before she died. I am very sorry for Mr. Hamilton. He must be sadly inconvenienced with such young children as his.

I have had two letters from my beloved Husband since he left. In one he writes me of having seen Mr. Dickson in town, who told him all the Detroit news. I am happy to hear you are in good health. I learned of this chance to write to you from that letter of my dear Husband, who always inquires about you for my pleasure.

You will be glad to hear that the children and myself have never been in better health than now. That I can be so with my dear M. absent is a pleasure to me. My dear children are very amusing. I have started to teach Anne to write and to sew. She reads quite well. David reads a little too. I have not forgotten your teaching, for instead of spending money to have my work done, I do all my sewing myself, and I am fairly good at cutting out.

The French landed in Wales some time past, one thousand two hundred of them. As soon as the vessels unloaded they set sail, and left the men to be cut down or themselves to cut down the natives. The report has spread that in consequence of this, all the laborers, servants, gentlemen, everybody, in fact, gathered together, armed with pitchforks, shovels, and clubs, anything that could be used as a weapon. They did so well that the *frogs* surrendered as prisoners. Since that victory, there has been one at sea, the like of which we have never had. Sir John Jervis had seven men-of-war in the battle and the Spaniards had twenty-seven, many of them one-hundred-and-thirty-gun ships. We took four of their finest and the rest were badly damaged.<sup>1</sup> The strange thing is that the vessel in which my dear Meredith was a prisoner at the time of the siege of Gibraltar, is now one of those taken by our gallant admiral. It is called the *Saint Isadore*. I know nothing further, but it is perhaps the best thing that ever happened here, our having fought the Dons, for if they had joined the French as they intended, the Germans also were to have been of the number, and their navy would have been so great that nothing would have prevented their descent on this country, and then they had planned to massacre men, women, and children, without an exception, for we have information of what they intended to do.

Be so good, Mama, as to ask my Father if he knows how far from Cork is the place where he was born, because if my dear Husband is not too far away he will give himself the pleasure of a visit there. I have an idea that my dear M. will be quite content in Ireland. They say Cork is a

<sup>1</sup> The allusion is to the battle of Feb. 14, 1797, off Cape St. Vincent. The English fleet numbered fifteen ships, instead of seven, as here stated.

beautiful city, with very good markets, and as the Irish government asked for that company to train their artillery, there is no doubt but that the officers and soldiers will be well received. My dear M's health is completely restored, and he has promised me to take every care of himself, so that my fears on that score are dispelled. A general of our acquaintance is in Ireland. I know he will be pleased to meet my dear M. again, to whom he showed much attention during his stay at Yarmouth. His name is Loftus.<sup>2</sup> I wrote you before about him. The first of the coming month I shall write again to the family as I did last month. Give my most tender love to my dearest Father, my sister Therese, my other sisters and brothers. I shall write to them this summer. Remember me to my dear Aunt Grant, etc., etc., etc. Aunt Mercer is well. Remember me to John and my uncles Barthe etc., etc., etc. Goodbye, my dearest Mother, and believe me ever the same,

Your affectionate daughter,  
 Archange Meredith

Remember me to the servants, I do not forget them.  
 My dear children send you their love.,

FROM FRANCIS VIGO TO JOHN ASKIN

Poste Vincennes Le 29 Mars 1797

Monsieur J'ai Recu L'honneur de La votre en Datte du 1<sup>er</sup> Janvier. Je Suis on ne peut plus facher de ne m'etre pas trouvé chez moi j'etois alors dans mon voyage de philadelphie Lors de L'arrivé de M<sup>r</sup> Juanne et soyez Persuadés que j'aurois Remplis le tous au gré de Vos desir, en connoissant M<sup>r</sup> Trudeau je Lui aurois donné toute Les Recommandation qui auroient été en mon Pouvoir particuliere-ment m'etans adresser par vous et etans pour Les affaires de M<sup>r</sup> Todd.

Je viens d'arriver il y a que peu de Jours malade et ayant fait Le plus disagreeable voyage qui L'on puisse faire de toute Les manieres. Je souffre beaucoup dun mal de tête occassionné par une fraicheur ce qui me tient depuis longtems et aussitot que je serai Retablir Jespere avoir Le plaisir de

<sup>2</sup> Major General William Loftus, for whom see *ante*, 57.

vous voire au Detroit ainsi que toutes Les personnes a qui je Dois pour Les Payer soit en terres soit en billet provenant de La rente de ces mêmes terres.

Je nai Pu avoir Le plaisir de vous ecrire Lannée Passe quant jetois a Grineville Je crois que jai fourni environs soixante et dix sept Piastre au M<sup>rs</sup> que vous maviez fait Le Plaisir de mannoncer, mais Lorsque jirai jaurai Le reçu avec Moi. Je vous Prie de faire Agreeer L assurance de mon respect a votre famille et de Me croire Monsieur

Votre tres humble Serviteur

Vigo

M<sup>r</sup> Askin Detroit

*Addressed:* A Monsieur John Askin Equiller Au Detroit

*Endorsed:* Post Vincennes March the 29<sup>th</sup> 1797 Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recd ye 5<sup>th</sup> of May Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> contents ab<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Estate of the late M<sup>r</sup> Askwith. Feb<sup>y</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1799.

### *Translation*

Post Vincennes, March 29, 1797

Sir: I have received your favor dated January 1. No one could regret more that I was not home at the time of the arrival of Mr. John. I was then on my trip to Philadelphia, but be assured I would have done everything agreeably to your desire. Knowing Mr. Trudeau<sup>3</sup> I would have given him every recommendation in my power, particularly as being at your request and in connection with Mr. Todd's business.

I returned a few days ago, sick, having made the most disagreeable journey possible in every respect. I am suffering greatly from headache, occasioned by a cold that has troubled me a long time; but as soon as I am well I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you in Detroit, also everyone whom I owe, to pay them, either in lands or by note secured by the income from these lands.

<sup>3</sup> Probably Zenon Trudeau of St. Louis, to whom, apparently, Askin's agent sought a letter of introduction. Trudeau was born in New Orleans, Nov. 28, 1748, his father, Jean Trudeau, being a lieutenant in the French army stationed in Louisiana. In 1792 Zenon Trudeau, "lieutenant-colonel and captain of grenadiers of the Stationary Regiment of Louisiana," became commandant at St. Louis, where he continued to serve for several years. See Houck, *Spanish Régime in Missouri, passim*, and *History of Missouri*, II, 58.

I was not able to have the pleasure of writing you last year when I was at Greenville. I think that I furnished about seventy-seven piastres to the gentlemen whom you had done me the favor to introduce to me, but when I come I shall have the receipts with me. I beg you kindly to give your family the assurance of my respect and to believe me, Sir,

Your very humble servant

Vigo<sup>4</sup>

GRANTS OF LAND IN SANDWICH

Detroit April 3<sup>d</sup> 1797

Dear Sir I was favoured with your two kind letters bearing date the 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> of February last on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March & I am under many Obligations to you for your Friendly information & Advice not to purchase Lands untill Granted under the Great Seal of the Province. this I will attend to in future, but I have like most others bought a good many last year say About 80 Lots several of which I have made Improvements on as you may recollect I mentioned in former letters and I should hope Government would not deprive me of Lands which in my possession will in all probability be soonner settled than if in those to whom the Certificates were given. Had it pleased His Excellency Governor Simcoe to be as liberal to my Family as he was to many others I would not have been necessitated [to] lay out mony that I could badly Spare in order to Secure to them some fixed property after I was gone, however when a man is gone away it may not be fair to speek against him therefore I will drop the Subject so far as it relates to him, but I rely too much on the Generosity of the Administrator & Council to Suppose that they would deprive me of Lands which I have purchased fairly and from those who are British Subjects and according to the Regulations were entitled to Lands; I depend on your friendship to Settle this matter and if for forms sake the Grant must be given in the Names of those who got the Certificates its all the same I know they will readily Transfer them over to me Afterwards I have their Sales of them & Power of Attorney to

<sup>4</sup> For sketch of Francis Vigo's career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 227.

receive the Deeds. they are mostly all situated in the Rivers Ruscum, Belle Riviere, Puce & Peches<sup>5</sup> & along the Lake between these Rivers, under Cover herewith you have a list of their names & by a Map Transmitted you by M<sup>r</sup> Iredell<sup>6</sup> you will see their situations.

I'm sorry to hear that Deeds have been given or are made out for Sally Ainse<sup>7</sup> for those Lots that were in dispute on the River Thames for no other reason than it may discourage a Settlement that is advancing rapidly and injure those who possess them. You know this business it was in your time therefore shall not add [anything]. Please God my health will permit I will pay you and your worthy family a Visit in June next. The Gentlemen Interested in the purchase from M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville<sup>8</sup> return you thanks for what you have done & would be very happy [if] you could succeed in Obtaining the Grant I learn Government wishes or Intends to have a purchase made from the Indians at the Huron Church<sup>9</sup> in order to lay out a Town the situation is high and good but the Distance from the Water side owing to a Swamp is rather Great for people in Trade in particular. Whilst I was a Member of the Board I allways opposed Cardins<sup>10</sup> lands being given away to any person & wanted

<sup>5</sup> These streams all empty into Lake St. Clair on the east or Canadian side.

<sup>6</sup> Abraham Iredell's name appears among the list of Detroit residents who, in 1795, signified their intention of remaining British subjects. He was a surveyor by calling and, in 1795, he laid out a portion of the present townsite of Chatham, Ontario. He built the first residence here, in 1798, and here he continued to reside thereafter. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll., and from W. C. McGeorge's "Early Settlement and Surveys along the River Thames in Kent County," in Kent Hist. Soc., *Papers and Addresses*, VI, 5 ff.

<sup>7</sup> Sarah (Sally) Ainse, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 194.

<sup>8</sup> For the Detroit line of Loranger dit Maisonville, see *ibid.*, 325. Alexis, there mentioned, was born in Batiscan, Sept. 15, 1728. In 1758 he married Mary Frances Guevrement, a native of Sorel, who died in 1770. On June 30, 1773, Alexis Maisonville married (second) in Sandwich, Margaret Joncaire de Chabert, daughter of Daniel de Joncaire de Chabert, for whom see *ibid.*, 326. He had at least three children by his first wife, and eight by Margaret Chabert. He became the owner of Peche Island in Lake St. Clair, and of land on the river front in the immediate vicinity of modern Walkerville. He was buried in Sandwich, Sept. 16, 1814; Margaret Chabert was buried there, Feb. 6, 1811. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*, and from statements made to the editor by Harry Maisonville of Windsor, a descendant of Alexis.

<sup>9</sup> Assumption Church, in Sandwich.

<sup>10</sup> No record has been found of a landholder by this name in Detroit. The Ste. Anne's Church Register records the marriage, on June 16, 1770, of Véronique Cardin to Charles Sanguinet. Both bride and groom were residents of Mackinac, who had journeyed to Detroit to be married because of the absence of a priest at that place "during more than four years." The parents of Véronique Cardin were François Louis Cardin, royal notary

them to be reserved for some public purpose as a Town—their Situation having Advantages over any other that I know for that purpose but as it has pleased the Government to give them to M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville I should be glad he had deeds for them, his selling them to us would answer two good purposes namely that of our removing & several others speedily to the other side & furnish him with the means of paying some debts he owes. Last Sunday Therese<sup>11</sup> was published (for the first time) to be married to Captain M<sup>o</sup>Kee. his Father & our good Friend M<sup>r</sup> Selby<sup>12</sup> are very desirous for the Match. The goodness of his Character added to the respect we have for his Friend and the Colonel renders it pleasing to us. There is nothing new in this Quarter. The Commodores & my Family are well & sincerely wish you & yours May enjoy this greatest of earthly blessings I remain &<sup>ca</sup>

John Askin

*Endorsed:* A Copy to D W Smith at Newark April 3 1797

GRANT OF LAND NEAR LAKE ST. CLAIR

Personally appeared before me James May Esquire<sup>13</sup> one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas for the County of Wayne Robert Nichol who being Sworn on the Holy Evangelist sayeth that he was present and seen the within Chiefs Seal Sign and affix their Respective marks to the within deed after the same having been fully and clearly Explained to them and that the said Chiefs were perfectly Sober

Given under my hand at Detroit this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 1797  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

Sworn before me at Detroit 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 1797  
James May J. P. C. W.

at Mackinac, and Constance Chevalier, who at the time of her marriage to Cardin had been the widow of Joseph Ainsie. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII and XIX, *passim*.

<sup>11</sup> Therese, eldest child of John Askin and his wife, Marie Archange Barthe, was born at Mackinac, Feb. 10, 1774. She was buried in Assumption churchyard, Sandwich, June 23, 1832. For sketch of her husband, Capt. Thomas McKee, see *B. H. R.*, I, 376.

<sup>12</sup> Prideaux Selby, for whom see *ibid.*, 429. It seems probable that instead of removing to Queenston in 1799, as there suggested, he remained in Amherstburg until the autumn of 1807. See memorial to Governor Gore, printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXV, 267-68. Letters printed *post*, 480, disclose that Selby served for a time as district judge in Sandwich.

<sup>13</sup> For sketch of the career of James May, see *B. H. R.*, I, 307.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS That we the Chiefs and Principal Leaders of the Chippewa Nation of Indians at the River à Huron, for ourselves and by and with the advice of the whole of Our Said nation in Consideration of the good Will and affection which we and the whole of our nation have and bear to JOHN CORNWALL senior,<sup>14</sup> JOHN ASKIN Senior, and JOHN ASKIN Junior, all of Detroit and the new Settlement on Lake Erie, and also for divers other good Causes and Considerations, the Said Chiefs and rest of our Nation us hereunto moving HAVE given, granted, aliened, enfeoffed, and Confirmed, and by these Presents, do give, grant, alien enfeoffe and Confirm unto the Said JOHN CORNWALL Senior, JOHN ASKIN Senior, and JOHN ASKIN Junior, their heirs and assigns for ever a certain Tract of Land Situate, Lying, and being on the north side of Detroit River but not on its Borders, in the Province of UPPER CANADA, Commencing at the end of the Lands belonging To Louis Tremblé<sup>15</sup> near his Mills at the Grant Marrais, and running from thence in a Strait Line to the old Moravian Tow[n] or So near it as where no Lands are already granted on the River à Huron as near as may be the same Cours as a Road made from Tremblé's Bridge to said place Some years ago; running in Length nearly Twenty four Miles and Extending back on each Side of Said Line or Road the distance of one League or Eighty Acres french measure Let Such Tract of Land Continue [contain] what number of acres it may, as also the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, Rents Issues, Profits of All & Singular the said Tract of Land, hereby Given and Granted, and of every part and parcell Thereof, and also every the Estate, Right, Title, Claim, Interest, and demand of us the

<sup>14</sup> For the career of John Cornwall, see *ibid.*, 229.

<sup>15</sup> On the Detroit Tremblay line, see *ibid.*, 194. Louis Michael Tremblay was a son of Pierre, one of the three brothers who came to Detroit in 1750 and located in the Grosse Pointe region. Pierre married Magdelene Simard of Baie St. Paul, in 1733, and all of their eight children were born before the removal to Detroit. Louis Michael, our present subject, was born at Petite Rivière, Nov. 1, 1738. He was a boy of twelve years, therefore, when he came with his parents to Grosse Pointe, where the remainder of his life was passed. On Jan. 12, 1767, he married Cecilia Yax, daughter of Michael Yax and Catherine Herbine, whose parents are supposed to have been Detroit's first German family. They had sixteen children, born in the years 1768-94. Louis Tremblay was buried in Detroit, Dec. 5, 1825. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

Suscribing Chiefs and of our nation of in, and to the Said Tract of Land or any part or parcell Thereof to have and to hold the Said tract of Land hereby granted with its appurtainances unto the Said JOHN CORNWALL Senior, JOHN ASKIN Senior, & JOHN ASKIN Junior, their Heirs and Assigns for ever; and we the Suscribing Chiefs for ourselves and the whole of our Said Nation DO, for ourselves and our Heirs, and for the whole of our Said Nation grant that the Said JOHN CORNWALL Senior, JOHN ASKIN Senior, and JOHN ASKIN Junior and their Heirs shall and may at all times and times hereafter peaceably have, hold, use, Occupy, and enjoy the herein before mentioned tract of Land and every Part and Parcell Therof with every of their Rights against us the Suscribing Chiefs or our Heirs, or against the whole of our Said Nation, or against all and avery other Persons Whatsoever.

IN TESTIMONY whereof the Said parties have to these presents Set their hands and affixed their Seals at Detroit aforesaid this Thirtieth day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hindred and Ninety five.

Witnesses	Omissass (totem)	(L. S.)
Rob <sup>t</sup> Nichol	Ochaisie (totem)	(L. S.)
Alexis Maisonville	Withannesse (totem)	(L. S.)
	Wasson's Son	
	Nangui (totem)	(L. S.)
	Weshebanwai (totem)	(L. S.)

*Endorsed:* Recorded in the Land Office at Detroit in Liber E. folio 22. &° By me G° Hoffman Register

Upper Canada. The Chippawa Ind<sup>s</sup> to John Cornwall et al: Deed of Gift. Dated 30<sup>h</sup> June '95.

Registered in Western Dist<sup>t</sup> Register. fo. 399 & 400 by W. Roe D<sup>r</sup> R<sup>r</sup> W D

Rec<sup>d</sup> into my office this day 3<sup>d</sup> of april 1797 Peter Audrain Proved before James May on this 7<sup>th</sup> April 1797.

Registered in my office, book N° 1 pages 38 & 39 N° 9 Peter Audrain recorder

## PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH WAR

On Board the Boyne Transport  
Cove of Cork, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1797

My dear Sir, You will have heard ere this from my beloved Archang's letters that no sooner had I recovered from my illness than it so happ[e]ned the Company to which I belong received orders to proceed to Ireland and be there Stationed. I consequently joined it at Plymouth and thank God after a very short of passage of only Three days arrived here last Night. we expect to disembark at [and] March to Cork tomorrow. the orders for our going to Ireland were so sudden that I had no time to make any arrangement respecting my beloved Family accompanying nor indeed did I conceive it prudent they should at this crisis untill matters are settled and the Country less agitated than at this moment. however I have learnt this morning with great satisfaction that things wear a much more pleasant aspect. It is a novel buisness, a Company of the British Artillery in this Country, but I hope we shall be well received, it having been a pointed requisition from the Irish Government. The only Consolation I have at leaving my most truly dear Wife and Children is that this command has most probably saved me from the West Indies, as our Company stood first on the Roster for any service that might happen therefore I believe the old Saying is a good and just one, *Whatever is is right*. I think you are of the same opinion I can readily suppose you will excuse the small and ill wrote letter, but the want of more paper and the confused Noise on board and hurried state we are in will I am conscious plead the cause. A Vessell came in last Night dismasted. She was Chased by a French Frigate. I learn She is bound to Quebec, and therefore intend putting this Scrawl on Board, which I hope may reach you. I wrote by the Post of today informing my own Archange of my Arrival, a circumstance which will afford her heart felt pleasure, if I find it likely that the Comp<sup>y</sup> will be Stationary in Ireland, and that it may be long ere I get one of my own (for I only stand Twelve above me), why it is my intention in such case after matters are settled in this part to contrive that My dear Family join me. this matter depends upon circumstances.

I thank the Almighty when I reluctantly left her both She and our Ducks enjoyed the fullest health which has since been confirmed to me by several Subsequent affectionate letters from her. my prayers will never cease that such blessing may long attend her, and that the service may soon enable me to again rejoin so worthy a partner. I have left her in regard to circumstances as comfortable as my finances will possibly permit, for I would rather She enjoyed every comfort than myself. my pride will ever be & w[h]ether present or absent, to convince her how great my affection is. in speaking thus to her Esteemed Parent; He will receive it as it is meant & give me credit for a better motive than mere flattery.

The Politicks of the Country are strange and complicated. I fear the Emperor will at last be obliged to give up, from the recent Successes which the French have had in Italy England still goes on Gloriously with her *wooden Walls* viz<sup>t</sup> *Navy*. You will ere this have heard of the Capture of Four Spanish Ships of the Line by the Fleet under Sir John Jervis, who with 15 Sail of the Line engaged 27 of D<sup>o</sup> and captured Four one of 120 guns. Two of 80 and one 74, the *St. Isadore*, by the bye, the one which I was a Prisoner on Board when *captured at Gibraltarr last war*. Lord Bridports Fleet at Spithead is ready to sail but I am sorry to add that a Serious Mutiny has shewn itself amongst the Crews, who refuse to go to Sea unless their wages are raised. how it will end I know not, but I hope happily for their own honor, and the Character of British Seamen. M<sup>r</sup> Pitt is making another Loan, but where the Money will come from is uncertain. the Sum to be borrowed is 13 Millions. The National Debt is now become enormous. however I trust old England will still rear her head and confound all the bad intentions of her Enemies, who seem firmly leagued against her. if She be but true to herself She has yet nothing to fear. Should they make another attempt on Your native Country Ireland, I am now here to lend a hand in her defence and be assured I will make the *great* Boys roar upon the occasion. if the oppertunity serves and which is really expected they have again the intention of putting in practice. I wish I had the good fortune to succeed to a Company in Canada. with what pleasure should I join it. who knows

but such a thing may occur; we often wish it realized. The Princess Royal is soon to be married to the Duke of Wirtemberg he is arrived for that purpose. I dare say my dear Archange will give you all the particulars, as She has promised to write you very often and say everything from me to you, as I may not have opportunity. God bless you. present my best regards to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, Sister Theresa and all the Family, also to the Commodore, his Family &c &c &c &c &c &c and believe me with great Truth My dear Sir

Most affectionately Yours,  
D Meredith

*Endorsed:* recvd<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1797

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

London April 24<sup>th</sup> 1797

It is probable that an Account of my Misfortune on my passage from Quebec, has reached you, As M<sup>rs</sup> England wrote to Miss Askin immediately on her Arrival here. A Detail of all Our Sufferings, Escapes, and Losses, would be by far too tedious to torment you with, and therefore will Only say, that I was with my Family ten *long* Weeks on Board an Enemys Ship, which you will allow was by far too long to be on Board a Friends Ship, considering the Latitude and Season of the Year that we were Captured in. After a variety of Sufferings we were permitted at Length to land at Brest, but without a single Article either of Use or Comfort that we possessed, All which we were early pillaged of, and in about two Months after, I was permitted to come here to endeavour to effect my Exchange for a particular Officer mentioned by the French Government, who Owing to a Combination of very distressing Circumstances Our Government will not permit to be exchanged, and I am Obliged to return to France, and to Captivity, for the Remainder of the War. I have however Succeeded in extricating my little Boy<sup>16</sup> from the Cruel Conditions I was Obliged to sign for his

<sup>16</sup> Apparently the allusion is to Richard England, who was born in Detroit in 1793 and died in London in 1883. He entered the army as an ensign in the Fourteenth Regiment in February, 1808, and retired in 1877, having held for many years the full rank of general, and having been for several decades one of the foremost soldiers of England. He served in many lands and several continents during his long career, most notably, perhaps, in the Crimean War against Russia, of 1854-55. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

Return, And he, His Mother and the rest of my Family are to remain here during my absence. All this Bears hard and cruelly severe on me, particularly As I could at this Moment be very eligibly employed, and situated much to my Satisfaction, but I really think my Situation unparalleled, and the cruellest that ever Occurred

On my Arrival here, I was favored with a Letter from You, giving a very laughable Account of the Changes that took place, immediately after Detroit was evacuated by the British Troops, and of the Honors conferred on some of *my Acquaintances* there, which must have set very awkward On them. I certainly have no Ambition to see them in their new Situations, tho I think they must Apear very ridiculous. A Little Time will shew how far they will prove themselves worthy of such Dignities, and without pretending to much penetration, I think they will deceive their new Masters, As they have those they quitted. At all Events, I don't imagine that those new *created Gentlemen* will add much to the Society of Detroit.

Your Letters by the Quebec Fleet will inform You of the ruinous and deplorable Situation of this unfortunate Country, and of the very low State it is brought. A Picture of it is far beyond my reach, and would besides exceed the Limits of a Letter. I will therefore refer You to the Public Papers that no Doubt by some means will find their way to You. M<sup>r</sup> Hammond the late British Minister at Philadelphia, is gone to Vienna to endeavour to avail himself of any Opening there may be in the negotiations for Peace between the Emperor & France, and to propose Terms for Great Britain. M<sup>r</sup> Pitt says that he is gone with full powers, and as he is known to be an Able Man, therefore have hopes that the remaining small share of Credit this Once flourishing Country possesses, may be saved, and that we will not become a Province of France. Great Preparations are making in France for an Invasion on either this or our Sister Kingdom, And all Communication between this Country and France is forbid, for the present, by the French Governm<sup>t</sup> in Order to enable them to make their preparations, and their embarkations with more Secrecy. To this prohibition I owe a temporary Reprieve, As I certainly would have been this Fortnight past in France, if any neutral Vessel

from England was allowed to land there, And I am in constant alarm, as I will be obliged to set Out the Moment the Communication Opens

As I at all times feel much interested for you, M<sup>rs</sup> and Miss Askin, and indeed for all Your Family, I shall be Obligated to you to let me know what measures You have taken Since we parted, and what You propose in future doing, and beg You will write to me Occasionally directed to the Care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cox & Greenwood, Craigs Court London, and when I return You shall hear from me. M<sup>rs</sup> England is at present in her Bed, and has *increased my Riches* by the Birth of a Fair One. She begs her very sincere wishes to you M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin, and says that the Latter shall hear from her, when she is able to write. Judge Powell<sup>17</sup> is here, but has not seen General Simcoe who is gone to S<sup>t</sup> Domingo, but is to return some time in the Year, his Governm<sup>t</sup> of Upper Canada is kept Open for him 'till his Return, in Order to give him an opportunity of *Gratifying the people* there by again administering the Governm<sup>t</sup> And of Conciliating them Let me know how the Town at the Rivers Mouth goes on, if it increases, and if it meets with encouragement. And also if You disposed of Your Houses and Land at the Detroit side. I shall also be Obligated to You to let me know if the Commodore and *his numerous Family* have quitted Grosse Point, I am concerned to find that Judge Powell expresses himself with some Jealousy to him.

Should You see Doctor Harffey<sup>18</sup> give him my best Compliments, and tell him I now write with the Assistance of his Spectacles. His Acquaintance poor M<sup>r</sup> Durham was taken on his passage home, and carried into the same Town where Captains Hinn Shears [Spears?] and Pinfold were. They are fortunately exchanged And he remains a Prisoner.

I hope the Arrival of our Packet which is anxiously expected will afford me some Accounts from You. Our Last

<sup>17</sup> Powell had gone to England to appeal to the ministry for appointment as chief justice of Upper Canada. He did not enjoy the favor of Simcoe, but he was favored by the latter's successor in the governorship, Peter Russell. See Riddell, *Life of William Dummer Powell*, 88 ff.

<sup>18</sup> Dr. William Harffy, whose career is noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 304. For a comprehensive narrative of his life, see Louise Rau, "Three Physicians of Old Detroit," *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VIII, 17 ff.

from Canada were by the Fall Fleet. Accept of my very Sincere Regards. give my best Wishes to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and Love to Miss Askin, and believe me My Dear Sir most Faithfully and very Sincerely Ever Yours

R. G. England<sup>19</sup>

John Askin Esqr.

&c &c &c

*Addressed:* To John Askin Esqr Detroit  
To the Care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill Montreal Canada

*Endorsed:* London April y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1797 General England  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1797

FROM THERESE MCKEE TO JOHN ASKIN AND WIFE

Petite Cote Avril le 28<sup>me</sup> 1797

Jai eu une Lettre de mon cher Pere qui m'apprend que vous ne vous ne vous portez pas bien. Jespere Ma chere Maman que s'a n'aura pas eu de suite le mauvais tems nous a causée à toutes deux inquietude—Je desiroit beaucoup savoir coment vous vous portiez J'apprend avec plaisir que mon cher Papa doit venir nous voir avec les deux Alexanders pourquoi ne pourriez-vous pas venir au Moulin s'il faisait beaux nous nous ferions traverser dans peu d'intants. Je suis et etat dassurer mes tendres parens que Je prouve tout la bonheur qu'il est possible de jouir avec un Mari qui a pour moi toutes les attentions possible. Son affection pour moi paroît augmenter d'heure en heure enfin tot paroît s'empreser à venir au devant de tout mes souhaits je suis sure qu'il vous plairoit infiniment de voir tout nos petits arrangement. Mon cher Beau Pere nous a laisse ce Matin avec promesse de revenir dans peu de tems apres lequel nous irons a La Riviere a La Tranche. M<sup>r</sup> Selby est à present à table avec Doctor Harffy il vous assure de ses compliments et meilleurs souhait. M<sup>r</sup> Marchand m'a fait le plaisir de venir nous voir deux fois il est venu ce matin avec M<sup>r</sup> Burke. M<sup>r</sup> et Madame Hands sont aussi venu ils doivent etre nos voisins. dites a M<sup>r</sup> Borrele qu'il m'a oubli. Je souhaiterai bien voir Ma Tante Barthe engagez la à venir. Mon cher McKee à tue ce matin un Renard. Voulez vous me menvoyer

<sup>19</sup> In the manuscript the signature, after being written, has been crossed out.

mon parassole, et si vous pourriez me donner un des Livres d'Epelante je vous seroit bien obligé Ce petit James m'ennuie beaucoup et je veut ce faire Lire. Adieu Le Docteur demande son The. Jespere que Alice a pres mon place pour faire dire les prieres aux domestiques. Je suis votre

Affectionné Fille

Mon chere Mari vous embrasse de tout son coeur. Votre tendre

T. McKee

Ne M'oubliez point à tout les freres &c les cousins je les aime tout.

*Addressed:* Madame Askin Au Detroit.

### *Translation*

Petite Cote, April 28, 1797

I have had a letter from my dear Father in which I learned that you are not very well. I hope, dear Mama, that this has not continued. It has worried us both. I want very much to know how you are. I was glad to hear that my dear Papa intends to come to see us with the two Alexanders.<sup>20</sup> Why could you not come to the mill if the weather is fine. We could get you across in a few moments.

I can now assure my loving parents that I am as happy as it is possible to be with a husband who gives me every attention. He seems to love me more each hour and to endeavor to anticipate my every wish. I know it would give you infinite pleasure to see all our little household arrangements. My dear Father-in-law left us this morning promising to come again soon, after which we shall go to the Thames River. Mr. Selby is now at table with Dr. Harffy. He assures you of his compliments and best wishes. Mr. Marchand<sup>21</sup> has also given us the pleasure of coming

<sup>20</sup> Probably the allusion is to Alexander Grant and Alexander Askin, sons respectively of Commodore Grant and John Askin.

<sup>21</sup> Rev. Jean Baptiste Marchand, Superior of the College of Quebec, was appointed parish priest of Assumption Church, upon the death of Father Dufaux, and arrived at Sandwich on Christmas day, 1796. Here he continued to serve until his death at the age of sixty-five years, on April 14, 1825. "His death aroused in the hearts of his people a regret at losing so good a father. The poor especially will miss him," wrote Father Crevier, his associate, in reporting the event. Information adapted from Plomer, *Letters of the Rev. J. B. Marchand*.

twice to see us. He was here this morning with Mr. Burke. Mr. and Mrs. Hands have also called. They are to be our neighbors. Tell Mr. Burrell [?] that he has forgotten me. How I would like to see Aunt Barthe! Do get her to come. My dear McKee killed a fox this morning. Will you send me my umbrella, and if you could give me a spelling-book I would be much obliged. Little James<sup>22</sup> is very troublesome and I should like to have him read it.

Adieu. The doctor is asking for his tea. I hope Alice is taking my place in saying the prayers to the servants.

I remain your very affectionate daughter. My dear husband embraces you with his whole heart.

Your loving,  
T. McKee

Do not forget me to all my brothers, etc., and to the cousins. I love them all.

MACHINATIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
(Copy) Detroit 12 July 1797

Sir We the undersigned Majestrates, and Sherrif of Wayne County in the territory of the United States of America, impressed with every degree of attachment to the Government of the United States and most Sincere wishes for the Safety of this Country and its Inhabitants, have Sincerely to regret its present Situation; and for its Safety, disagreeable apprehensions from the dangers that at present MENACE its tranquility from an approaching Ennemy, as well as from internal and increasing factions. Twelve months ago, we Knew of no more than Ten of its Inhabitants that were avowed British Subjects, they remaining here for one year after the evacuation of this place by the British, during that period, they with Some other Emissaries, found means by indirect insinuations and circulating-papers to corrupt the minds of the Inhabitants and alienated their affections from the Government of the States

<sup>22</sup> James McKee, natural son of the writer's husband, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 376. It seems probable that James was about seven years old at the time of his father's marriage with Therese Askin. He was drowned in the Detroit River, Sept. 3, 1808, and buried in Amherstburg the same day by Rev. Richard Pollard. See Register of Marriages, Christenings and Burials, by the Church of England, at Sandwich, in the Western District of the Province of Upper Canada. Cited hereafter as St. John's Church Register.

to Such a degree, that it was with difficulty that the Sherrif could procure a Jury of real Citizens to attend the last Sessions, or Ballifs to do their duty. Some Scores (It is Said Some hundreds) of the Inhabitants having signed the Said circulating papers<sup>23</sup> declaring themselves British Subjects Which gives us reason to fear, that little or no dependance can be put in the Militia of the County If called upon. This being truly the State of the Country, We feel the greatest anxiety for its Safety. We therefore conceive it our duty to transmit you every part of our apprehensions, and the causes exciting them, hoping that you will See the propriety of vesting Sufficient power in the Commander in Chief now here, or the commanding-Officer, for the time being to take Such Steps as may check the progress of the present prevailing faction, and prevent a further corruption of the Inhabitants, we by experience finding it out of the power of the civil authority at present to do it

(Signed)	James Abbott Senior <sup>24</sup>	}	Esq <sup>rs</sup>
	James May		
	Nathan Williams <sup>25</sup>		
	Charles F Girardin <sup>26</sup>		
	Joseph Voyer		
	Patrick M <sup>e</sup> Niff		
	Herman Eberts <sup>27</sup>		
	John Dodemead		
	Joncaire chabert <sup>28</sup>		
	Antoine Beaubien <sup>29</sup>		
	Robert Abbott		
	Daniel Sawyer <sup>30</sup>		

<sup>23</sup> Apparently the papers referred to were identical with the documents published in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VIII, 410-11.

<sup>24</sup> For a sketch of the career of James Abbott, see *B. H. R.*, I, 304.

<sup>25</sup> For a sketch of the career of Nathan Williams, see *ibid.*, 195.

<sup>26</sup> For a sketch of the career of Charles Francis Girardin, see *ibid.*, 387.

<sup>27</sup> For a sketch of the career of Herman Eberts, see *ibid.*, 593.

<sup>28</sup> Francis Chabert was a son of Daniel de Joncaire de Chabert, who is noted *ante*, 101. He was born in 1757, probably in Montreal. He came with his parents to Detroit, served as an officer of militia under Governor Hamilton at Vincennes, and was one of the Detroiters whom Clark released upon taking an oath of neutrality. On April 10, 1780, he married Mary Josette Chêne, daughter of Isidore Chêne and Therese Becquet, and eleven children were born to them in the years 1781-1808. Chabert was appointed lieutenant colonel of militia soon after the American sovereignty was established in Detroit. A tract of land which Chabert claimed (having been originally given by the Potawatomi to Isidore Chêne

Wayne County ss

Personally appeared before me Mathew Ernest<sup>31</sup> Esquire, one of the Justices for Keeping the peace in the County aforesaid—Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff, Esquire, who being duly sworn upon the holy Evangelist of almighty God, declares, that the foregoing Instrument beginning with “WE”, and ending with “It” is truly a copy of the petition transmitted to Colonel Sargent<sup>32</sup> thro’ the commander in chief in July 1797 by the Several Persons therein named, of which number himself was one.

Sworn before me at Detroit, the 13<sup>h</sup> March 1797

(Signed) Mathew Ernest J. P. W. C. (L. S.)

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 12<sup>h</sup> 1797 a Memorial or Petition from Several Magistrates &<sup>ca</sup> of Detroit to Colonel Sargent.  
Coppv

and by the latter transferred to him), lying westward of the mouth of the Rouge, occasioned a notable legal contest which vexed the courts for many years about the opening of the present century. Chabert was buried in Detroit, Nov. 24, 1813. Information adapted from *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VI, 1-16, and Denissen, *op. cit.* An extensive account of the careers of Chabert's father and grandfather is in Severance, *Old Frontier of France*.

29 For an account of the Beaubien line, one of the most numerous and notable of the French families of early Detroit, see Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, II, 1353-55. The person here noted was probably Louis Antoine Beaubien, son of Jean Baptiste Beaubien and Marie Lootman *dit* Barrois. He was born in Detroit, July 6, 1754; on Feb. 2, 1784, he married Catherine Lootman *dit* Barrois, who was born in Vincennes in 1767. She was buried, July 1, 1785. Louis Antoine Beaubien was buried, March 24, 1836.

30 Daniel Sawyer apparently came to Detroit shortly after the American occupation and remained here but a short time. A letter of Tarleton Bates of Pittsburgh to Frederick Bates in Detroit, March 21, 1798, narrates the recent drowning in the Ohio River below Pittsburgh of Mr. Sawyer, “lately from Detroit.” See photostat copy in B. H. Coll.

31 Matthew Ernest served as a private in the Fifth New York Regiment from 1779 to January, 1781. In October, 1786, he became a lieutenant in the U. S. artillery, and from June to November, 1790, served as battalion paymaster. He resigned from the service in 1791. His doings in the next few years are unknown to us, but in 1797 he engaged as partner with General John Wilkins of Pittsburgh and James Henry (for whom see *post*, 305). in establishing a store and tanyard in Detroit, of which Henry was local manager; and in 1799 he was appointed collector of the port of Detroit. During the following years, he served also as justice of the peace and county treasurer, and in 1803 was appointed by Governor Harrison, quartermaster general of militia of Indiana Territory with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He had a farm between modern Junction and McKinstry avenues, fronting seven arpents on the river and forty arpents in depth. This was confirmed to him in 1807 as Private Claim 30. In 1805 Ernest defaulted in his accounts as collector, the shortage of funds being upwards of \$7500. His sureties were George Meldrum and James Henry, who were sued by the United States government to compel payment of the money defaulted. Information adapted from Francis B. Heitman, *Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army from Its Organization, September 29, 1789 to March 2, 1903* (Washington, 1903); and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

32 Winthrop Sargent, born in Gloucester, Mass., in 1753, served in the Revolution as a captain of artillery; he subsequently became connected with the Ohio Company and was appointed by Congress surveyor of the Northwest Territory. From 1798 to 1801 he was

## THREAT OF REVOLUTION IN DETROIT

Detroit July 16, 1797

Gentlemen, The growing amicable alliance, subsisting between the British Nation and that of the United States supersedes the necessity of an apology for this address to His Britannic Majesty's Judiciary of the Western District of Upper Canada.

When concert and coöperation become essential to the preservation of a community of Interests, all inferior considerations necessarily yield to the motives of self preservation and social duty; these principles apply strictly to the present circumstances of the approximate settlements of the United States & of your Royal Master, bordering upon the Strait, menaced at this moment by common dangers; and they will not only warrant, but enjoin upon the servants of these States respectively, coincidence of plan & arrangement to preserve tranquility & to prevent misfortune.

The introduction of foreign force to these sequester'd regions, by the Mississippi, is a chimerical Idea, but the apprehension of internal commotion is well founded, and, if not seasonably guarded against will burst forth in a moment when least expected, and involve these Settlements in scenes of Bloodshed & desolation.

the solid preventative to insurrection is the maintenance of an efficient regular military force. destroy this strong Arm of Government, & the hands of the Civil Authority will be found too feeble to repress the inclinations & to control the caprices of the great Mass of the Inhabitants, who will be followed in every excess by their numerous friends & relatives among the Savages.

A Competent armed force has been ordered to this Post, & I am informed that a reinforcement is daily expected at His Majesty's Garrison of Amherstburgh but [it] is in vain Gentlemen that our respective Governments extend their paternal cares, and take precautions for the safety of these settlements while an Asylum is opened to desertion on

governor. He served in the northwestern wars of 1791-94, and was wounded while in St. Clair's campaign. He died in New Orleans, June 3, 1820. Sargent was a man of scholarly tastes, and numerous members of the Sargent line in succeeding generations have been distinguished for talent and achievement in their respective professions.

either bank of the narrow Sheet of water, which marks the territorial limits of the two nations & while countenance & protection is held forth to the most infamous of the human race, by vicious & interested Individuals.

My sense of the occasion, & the conduct which I shall steadily pursue, are fully testified by the enclosed extract from my general Orders; to which I will take leave to add the sentiment, that the public functionary who refuses his aid, to restrain practices tending directly to enfeeble the reins of Government, & to endanger the public Interests, neglects his duty, & offends against the power which he is bound to serve.

The desertions from the Troops of the United States, have of late sensibly increased, & what at first originated probably in the wicked propensities of Individualls, I have good cause to believe has now become a subject of political Speculation: By desertion two ends are proposed, the dismemberment of the military force & the dispersion of a desperate band of Villains among these settlements, ripe for revolution, & ready to ride on any tempest which may be excited.

That dangerous designs are pointed to this Quarter, needs no proof, because the fact is as unquestionable, as that the Duke of Orleans, has very recently reconnoitred Fort Erie & the Settlements in that vicinity.

In this eventful posture of Affairs, it becomes my duty, to maintain the force subject to my orders, in the best condition for offence or defence; to this end the prevention of desertion becomes a primary object, & by your coöperation it is readily attained, but without it, the evil is incurable & the consequences must follow. You are not to be informed Gentlemen, of the fundamental maxim in British Jurisprudence, that a Subject cannot dissolve his allegiance at his will, nor need you be told, that the Government of the United States has, in the 21<sup>st</sup> article of the Treaty of Amity Commerce & Navigation so far acquiesced in the principle, as to subject its Citizens taken in Arms against Great Britain to be treated as Pirates. Why then Gentlemen are the Citizens of the United States, deserters from its colours, permitted so soon as they pass the Strait to swear allegiance to His Majesty and to call themselves British Subjects? is

not this a contravention of the Spirit of the Treaty, & a violation of good Faith replete with tendencies of the most destructive cast.

The same Treaty in the 20<sup>th</sup> article, not only provides against the reception & protection of such fugitives, but for their punishment; and in the 27<sup>th</sup> article Asylum is positively refused, to the perpetrators of murder & forgery, & provision is made for the apprehension and surrender of such offenders. Now Gentlemen, if forgery be weigh'd against desertion, in all its dangerous consequences to King, State or community, & if Crimes be estimated by their probable influence & effects on Society surely the last must be transcendent a forgery may ruin an Individual, but a Desertion may betray a Nation.

I look Gentlemen to your liberality as Men, to your loyalty as Subjects, and to the purity of my own intention, for Justification to this intrusion; & in the firm persuasion that your Wisdom may desire an effectual remedy to the evil complained of. I subscribe myself with great good will, & with high Consideration & respect.

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> & most Hble Serv<sup>nt</sup>

Sign'd Ja<sup>s</sup> Wilkinson  
Commander in Chief of the  
Troops of the United States

To the Hon'ble the Justices of  
his Britannic Majesty's West-  
ern District of Upper Canada

*Endorsed:* Copy, General Wilkinson To The Justices of  
His Britannic Majestys Western District Upper Canada  
1797

FROM THOMAS MCKEE TO JOHN ASKIN

Petite Cote July 18<sup>th</sup> 1797

My dear Sir, As we have understood that the Commodore and M<sup>rs</sup> Grant have been good enough to say that they would spare us their Phaeton, we therefore beg that you will have the goodness to Know from the latter whether she can with convenience let us have it now or when the Commodore shall return, in either case, we will want your assistance in

bringing it down from Grosse Point, we however will have occasion for your Calash<sup>33</sup> notwithstanding

M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee sends by this opportunity a few Paccans<sup>34</sup> which she begs her Dear Mother will accept of, and a Couple of Matts, she also requests that if you have received any letters from Captain or M<sup>rs</sup> Merideth that you will be Kind enough to send them over.

My dear Wife joins me in Love to our dear Parents & to the Children.

My dear Sir believe me to be yours most affectionately

T. M<sup>o</sup>Kee

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Petite Cote July 18<sup>h</sup> '97 Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

REPLY OF BRITISH MAGISTRATES TO APPEAL OF  
GENERAL WILKINSON

Sandwich, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1797

Sir, Yesterday we had the Honor of having your Excellency's Letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> Instant laid before us by the Clerk of our Court and have maturely considered the same.

In answer to which, we beg leave to assure your Excellency that nothing could afford us greater pleasure (were it in our power) than to give effectual aid to remedy the evil complained of; we are perfectly aware of the necessity of Coöperation of the servants of the respective Govern-

<sup>33</sup> The calash (calèche) came into use in France toward the middle of the seventeenth century, as an improvement upon the gig theretofore in use. Its body, curved like the bottom of a boat, was attached by leather thongs to curved uprights extending from the axles in lieu of springs. It was ordinarily a four-wheeled vehicle, having two seats facing each other, accommodating four persons, and a small elevated box-like seat in front, on which the driver rode.

In Canada, where calashes were introduced by the year 1700, certain changes in the construction of the vehicle were made. Two wheels were employed instead of four, and thereby the seating capacity was reduced to two persons and the driver. Sometimes a folding top was added to the calash, affording a certain degree of protection and privacy to the occupants. From these tops the French women conceived the idea of the headdress of the same name, which was so designed that it could either cover the head or be folded back on the shoulders at will. Information adapted from *Bull. Recherches Hist.*, II, 10-13, and John Lambert, *Travels through Lower Canada* . . . (London, 1810), I, 172.

<sup>34</sup> The paccan (pecan) was a fur-bearing animal, the largest member of the weasel family. By the English traders it was called the fisher (*mustela pennanti*).

ments to suppress the effects which the alarming and dangerous situation of internal commotion or insurrection may involve us in, however, we do not find that our authority as civil magistrates extend to the apprehending deserters of another State, however great our inclination may be. At the same time we beg leave to assure your Excellency that we have the strongest disposition to cultivate cordiality and promote the respective and reciprocal interests of the United States and Great Britain so essentially linked together by the Treaty. We further beg leave to inform your Excellency that guided as we have always been by the existing Laws and Statutes of our Country and conceiving the inferences you draw from the 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> articles of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation insufficient to authorize us to act upon them consistent with the dignity and honor of our nation, Yet anxious to convince your Excellency of our Wishes to co-operate we shall immediately transmit your Letter to the Administrator of the Province of Upper Canada with every recommendation in its favor that we can legally or conscientiously give, and his answer shall be made Known to you as soon as possible.

We have the Honor to be with profound respect Sir, your Excellencys most obed<sup>t</sup> & very hble Serv<sup>ts</sup>.

*Endorsed:* Copy, Justices of His Britannic Majesty To General Wilkinson.

ESTATE OF GEORGE KNAGGS

Territory of the United States north-west of the river Ohio. Wayne County ss. (L.S.)  Peter Audrain J. of P.	WHEREAS George Knaggs Senior, <sup>35</sup> Trader, lately died Intestate, and Whereas John Askin Sen <sup>r</sup> Esquire, mer- chant of Detroit, has applied to Peter Audrain Esquire Judge of the Court of probate in and for our Said County of Wayne to administer upon the Goods and Chattels, rights & credits which were the Said George Knagg's deceased: KNOW YE that I have au-
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<sup>35</sup> George Knaggs, founder of the family of this name which figures in the early history of Detroit and the Maumee region, was a native of Wales. He married Rachel Schley, of Dutch descent, who was born about the year 1738. According to the memoir of a descend-

thorised, and appointed, and by these presents do authorise and appoint the Said John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> as Administrator to the Estate of the said George Knaggs, deceased and there in, do, & fulfil the duties in every particular as Administrator, according to law, and a true Inventory there of to be made and returned to the Said Court of probate, at Detroit, aforesaid, in the Said County of Wayne, on the first Monday in December next; WITNESS the Said Peter Audrain Esquire, Judge of our Said Court of probate, at Detroit this Twenty third day of August in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twenty Second.

*Endorsed:* Letter of administration for John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> to administer upon the Estate of George Knaggs Sen<sup>r</sup> deceased. Detroit 23<sup>d</sup> august 1797.

BRITISH ALLEGIANCE OF DETROIT RESIDENTS

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 26, 97

My Dear Sir Since writing to you I have been Served with a Summons, the Copy of which I inclose & beg you will make it Known to his honor the administrator So that I may be furnished with advice how to act before the general Court is held here, which I learn is to be Soon. the paper aluded to, I sent you a Copy of. it contained the names of a number of people who made their election to continue British Subjects<sup>36</sup> & I carried it to the recorders

ant, they were married in Philadelphia shortly prior to the Revolution, and coming west located at Roche de Bout (see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XVII, 217-18), but the Detroit censuses of 1779 and 1782 disclose that the family was residing here in this period. The family descendant also reports that George Knaggs went upon a whaling voyage, from which he never returned; aside from the improbability of this statement, it seems to be belied by the present document. Several of the children of George and Rachel Knaggs became locally prominent. George, the eldest, married Elizabeth Chêne in Detroit in 1795. Whittmore, born in Fort Miamis in 1763, married Mary Joseph Descomps dit Labadie in Detroit, June 23, 1797. Rebecca, baptized in Sandwich, March 1, 1778, married Captain Joseph May, who was drowned in Lake Erie. James, born in Roche de Bout in 1780, was thrice married. Different members of the family were engaged in the Indian trade. Whittmore and James bore an active and locally prominent part in the War of 1812. See Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Robert B. Ross, *History of the Knaggs Family of Ohio and Michigan, Historical, Biographical and Genealogical* (Detroit, 1902).

36 For the American view of this transaction, see the document printed *ante*, 112-14.

to have it enregistered, for which much trouble & interruption is given to me. I have once before been called before the Court about this matter, & Asked if I did so or not So clear do I feel that I had *not only* a right to do So, but also even advise Subjects to continue under the British Govern<sup>mt</sup> (which I however did not meddle in), had I been so disposed, that I most certainly acknowledged not only my doing So but that I was perfectly right, & *that it was in conformity to the treaty.*

J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 97 Aug<sup>t</sup> 26 J Askin to D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> Niagara

ADVICE FROM GOVERNOR RUSSELL CONCERNING  
CITIZENSHIP DISPUTE

West Niagara 5 September 1797

Sir Mr Smith has just sent to me your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> & the Copy of the Summons for your Appearance before the General Quarter Sessions of the County of Wayne & a Copy of the Letter from the British Inhabitants of Detroit to Peter Adrain Esqr.

I am extremely sorry that I do not feel myself competent to give you the advice you desire, as your place of Residence is without the Power of my Jurisdiction. Nor do I see any possibility of even the British Minister's Interference, until you are able to State to his Excellency the Nature of the Offence you have given to the Government of the United States and the Sort of Notice which has been taken of it. This I presume to advise you to do without loss of Time immediately from Detroit as the quickest mode of communicating with his Excellency.

I am Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

Peter Russell

John Askin Esqr British Merch<sup>t</sup> at Detroit

*Endorsed:* West Niagara Sep<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> 1797 Petter Russell Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Administering the Govern<sup>t</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

## TITLES TO LAND ON LAKE ST. CLAIR

Detroit 6 Oct 97

D Sir I'm fav<sup>d</sup> with your two Kind Letters of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> last month to myself, also another relative to the Claims of M Ferry to me Jointly with others. I have Seen this man two days ago, who declares to me that the Lands the Board gave him, does not come within a whole lot of where mine is, Snyder's Farm lyes between us & that he has sent you (I suppose since you wrote) a clear map by which you will See it's the Case. but I have taken the precaution at same time to write the Attorney General least a deed might be made out that included any part of my Lands in that quarter. Whatever confusion may appear to be respecting the Lands at Petite Riviere above Peach Island, I'm Sure the Commissioners will Settle the matter equitably in an hours time. If M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Niff or any other Surveyor makes out more Lots on paper than there really is, in consequence of Said plann the Land Board Grants them, I suppose prior Certificates Will have the preference & those thrown out get Lands elsewhere, in this case the two Lots purch<sup>d</sup> by Comm. Grant & me, above 11 years ago, & ocupied by us Since which were with others, confirmed by the Land Board cannot in Justice be considered as the two deficient or we thrown to give way to others whoes claims must be about 8 years later.

I return you many thanks for allowing M<sup>r</sup> Barthe to take up his Lands where he desired & have Wrote you on that Subject, there is no claims on those Lands I ever heard of except one made by Maisonville & I lately have learnt that it's not him but one old Schoolmaster that was at his House as his Son tells me. however as I never wanted any thing which another has a right to If he Claims Six acres in front there, I will desire him to make Known the nature of his Claims to you & If you think them good M<sup>r</sup> Barthe will get So much less in that quarter If not I will be very thankfull to you to let him have the whole as it will answer him better than in any other Quarter. Mrs Askin Joins in Compliments to your good mother & Mrs Smith, her apple tree is this year before my eyes, therefore

She Shall taste of the f<sup>t</sup> when ripe excuse bad paper yrs  
J A

D Sr Since writing I have Seen Mr Maisonville, to whom I have told what I have wrote you respecting the 6 acres of Land in point Claimed by him & desired him to make Known to you on what grounds he founds his Claims So thus If he does not get them M<sup>r</sup> Barthe may he says he will.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 6. Oct 97 J Askin to D. W<sup>m</sup> Smith esq<sup>r</sup> Niagara

LAND TITLES ON LAKE ST. CLAIR

Yorke S G O. 22 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1797

Dear Sir, The removing to this place prevented me from sooner acknowledging the Rec<sup>t</sup> of yours of the 17<sup>h</sup> & 20<sup>h</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> I have heard nothing from M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville.

M<sup>r</sup> Iredell will of Course locate M<sup>r</sup> Barthe upon the indisputable Lots.

The persons in the vicinity of Fere's Mill will be involved in difficulty, unless a caveat is lodged to stop his deed, in order to get time to have the Claims adjusted.

Every Certificate which has been lodged in my office for Patents, have passed through long since.

M<sup>r</sup> Baby lodged a warrant the 16<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> for L<sup>t</sup> François De Quindre,<sup>37</sup> to make up his lands with what he has received 2000 Acres. Also on the same day, a warrant to L<sup>t</sup> Guill<sup>e</sup> Dequindre, to the same Effect, & to Fontenoy Dequindre The Same.

The Whole of the Shores of Lake S<sup>t</sup>Clair, from the River la tranche to Lassomption is open to M<sup>r</sup> Iredells Interference for the accomodation of all persons indiscriminately.

<sup>37</sup> On the Dequindre family line, see *B.H.R.*, I, 205-206. A son of Louis Césaire Dagneau de Quindre and Mary Ann Picoté de Bellestre, there noted, was François Guillaume Dagneau de Quindre, Sieur de la Picanier, who was born in Montreal, July 23, 1747, and married in Detroit, Feb. 11, 1779, Therese Boyer, widow of Jean Baptiste Casse *dit* St. Aubin. François Guillaume De Quindre was buried in Sandwich, May 23, 1823.

A brother of the foregoing, Charles Stanislas Dagneau de Quindre *dit* Fontenoy, married in Sandwich, Nov. 18, 1780, Mary Catherine Chêne *dit* Labutte, who was born in Detroit, Feb. 23, 1761. He is evidently the Fontenoy Dequindre of the present document; unless François Dequindre and Guillaume Dequindre were the same person (i. e. the François Guillaume mentioned above), we are unable to identify them. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

The wretched situation I am in here, must apologize to you, for not hearing more from me at present; My Mother is necessarily obliged to you for the apples. they came here by mistake & I sent them back. M<sup>rs</sup> Smiths best Comp<sup>s</sup> believe me Yours truly

D W Smith

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

*Endorsed:* Yorke S. G. Office Nov<sup>r</sup> the 22<sup>d</sup> 1797 D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1798 & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. JOHN ASKIN

Le Camp a Laughlinstown

Novembre 28<sup>th</sup> 1797

Celle ci ma tres chere Mere, est pour vous rendre conte dun nouveaux voyage, que nous allons entre pendre, dans le cours de dix jours, a une autre partie de ce Pays. il faut avouer que nous etions fort a notre aise ici, et comme l'arrangement de cette petite Cabane, ne s'est pas accomplie sand depense, aussi bien que fatigue a mon cher Meredith, mon regret est augmenté en consequence, nous l'avions acomodé dans un jolie gout, et nous nous flattions de rester ici l'hyver, mais apresent tous nos *Chateaux en Espagne* sont evanouie. je vous assure ma chere Maman, que je me console de l'ideé, de posseder un grand bonheur en la compagnie de mon cher mari, et je prefere cent fois mieux, voyager continuellement, que d'etre separé de lui. la seulle chose qui me chagrine infinement, est la depense quil faut soutenir par raison de ce mouvement.

Je suis heureuse de vous dire que cher M: est parfaitement retablie d'une dangereuse maladie dont il a été affligé. J'en ai ecrie tous les particuliers a mon cher Pere quelleque tems passai, et je vous ai fait a tous les deux mon compliment sur le mariage de Therese. je le repete encore et leurs souhaitees toutes especes d'heureusté. je nest pas encore recue de lettre d'elle depuis cette evenement, mais J'espere que je n'aurois pas longtems a dire cela.

l'arrivé de ma cousine Wright en Engleterre environs un

mois passai ma bien surprise, je n'avois jamais appris quil avoit fait une echange dans une autre Regiment, j'aurois souhaité etre a Woolwich au tems pour lui avoir donné une bonne reception, surtout comme ma Tante Mercer venoit laisser Uuxbridge pour une endroit bien éloigné, mais cest a esperer quils se rencontrerons avant longtems; pour moi je n'est pas d'esperance de retourner en Angleterre avant que la guerre soit finie, aumoins que mon cher Epoux succede a une compagnie, mais vous pouvez dire a mon cher Pere, que j'admire beaucoup son Pays, je voudrois que nous fussions assez chanceux de passer pres de la Paroisse ou il est née, dans notre Route au Camp de Blavis, cest le nom de l'endroit ou nous allons, cest éloigné a environs sept milles de la ville de *Belfast*. les gens qui entoures cette ville possede des Principes affreux, cette a dire quils sont tous disposé a joindre les Francois s'ils mettes peid a terre, mais je ne desespere pas de les faire taire au bruit de notre canon, j'ai grand confiance en ma profession, et comme je l'ai embrasé de bonne accord, je fait un Soldat courageux. *Parbleu*, sca vaut la peine de me voir fermer les yeux au rapport dun canon, mais cest seulement parceque j'ai la vue foible, sil ont besoin de moi en cas que quellque chose arrive ils me donnerons un Poste ou l'on na pas besoin d'ouvrir les yeux, et je me distinguerai sans doute.

\* \* \* \* \*

Comme je suppose que chere soeur Adelaide commence a se meler de suivre les modes, vous avez la bonté de lui donner cette partie du papier. *Allons Adelaide, pretez attention*. les coiffes du present ton sont fort *unie*, ils cederons a Madam *McGee*. la maniere de les former est apres la facon d'une calotte dun chapeau, cette a dire plus grand enhaut que la partie qui touche la tete. ils doive etre couvert de sattin noir ou blanc, arrangé en plis, et une rosette de ruban sur le cote, et une egrette de fleur devant, si vos cheveux ne sont pas tout a fait noir, ne les poudrez pas, mais frisez les bien haut devant, et laissez les pender derriere, les cheveux doive etre court au coté peigné uniement, et deux morceaux des cheveux de derriere *platted* et les mettre a chaque cote de la tete, de maniere a les faire joindre devant ou les cheveux sont frisé. touchant les Robes la mode n'est pas changé,

seulement j'aime que les jeunes demoiselles ne portent pas de mouchoir, ils peuvent s'habiter modestement sans cela, et si votre taille est bien faite vous la montrerez à l'avantage, tant pour les modes.

Vous aurez la bonté ma chère Mère de m'adresser à l'ordinaire de cette façon, *M<sup>r</sup> Meredith at Capt<sup>n</sup> Meredith's R. British Artillery Laughlinstown Camp near Dublin Ireland.*

Mon époux comprend mieux les affaires de l'état que moi. tout ce que je sais est que les Français ne veulent pas conclure la paix avec nous, cela fait à présent que les Braves Anglois n'ont pas d'autre partie à prendre que se battre comme des Lions, car l'Empereur de Germanie nous a déserté, et nous sommes les seules qui restent pour défendre nos droits. n'importe, tant que nous pourrions en tuer tant par Mer comme notre Brave Amiral Duncan a fait l'11 d'octobre et que nous pourrions instamment souscrire la valeur de treize ou quatorze mille pontes, pour le bien des veuves, enfants ou autres parents des Mâtelots qui ont péri sur cette Bataille, nous n'avons rien à craindre, je n'ai pas le talent de raconter une telle Bataille à merveille, les gazettes vous les diront mieux, la seule chose que j'ai à ajouter sur le sujet est que nous avons eu beaucoup de jouissances en conséquence, et je suis un peu fier d'avoir pris le thé, et passai une soirée en compagnie du Brave Amiral à Yarmouth, il est un bel homme. Mes plus tendres amitiés à vous, mon cher Père, mes frères et sœurs, à Madame McKee, et mes souvenirs à son époux. Monsieur M me joint en tout cela, à Jean & c oncle Grante Barthes & c & c & c Compt<sup>s</sup> à mes connaissances M<sup>r</sup> R. L. T. mes enfants vous font témoignages de leurs tendres affections et je suis avec plus grand tendresse votre affectionné fils

Archange Meredith

Mes compt<sup>s</sup> à M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton & c je voudrais savoir comme cela va depuis cette triste affaire. souvenirs à Madeline et les siens.

*Appended:* My dear Madam. I intended writing you by this Packet but my beloved Archange has so fully expressed herself to you that I could have little to say only to assure you that I am with much affection [illegible] faithfully D. Meredith

*Addressed:* A Madam Askin Au Detroit Via New York Packet To the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & McGill, merchants at Montreal, Canada.

*Endorsed:* Camp at Laughlinstown 28 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1797 M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin

*Translation*

Camp in Laughlinstown  
November 28, 1797

This, my dearest Mother, is to give you an account of another journey we intend to take in the course of ten days, to a different part of the country. I must say we have been very comfortable here, and as the arrangement of this little cabin has not been accomplished without expense and great fatigue for my dear Husband, my regret is increased in consequence. We have fixed it up in good taste and were having the pleasure of thinking that we would be here through the winter, but now all our *castles in Spain* have vanished. I assure you, dear Mama, I console myself with the thought of having much happiness in the company of my dear Husband, and I would a hundred times rather be on the move continually than to be separated from him. The only thing that gives me infinite vexation, is the expense incurred in moving.

I am happy to tell you that dear M. is entirely recovered from a dangerous illness with which he has been afflicted. I wrote all the particulars of it to my dear Father some time past, and I have also complimented you both on Therese's marriage. I repeat this now and wish them all kinds of happiness. I have not yet had a letter from her since that event, but I hope that I shall not have long to say that.

The arrival of Cousin Wright in England about a month ago was a great surprise to me. I had not heard that he had made an exchange into another company. I wish I had been in Woolwich at the time to have given her a good reception, especially as Aunt Mercer had just left Uxbridge for a place farther away, but I hope that we may meet before very long. I myself have no hope of returning to England before the war is over, at least unless my dear

Husband succeeds to a company, but you can say to dear Papa that I admire his country very much. I wish we might be so lucky as to pass near the parish where he was born on our way to Camp Blavis, the name of the place where we are going. It is about seven miles from the town of Belfast. The people in that vicinity have frightful principles, that is, they are all disposed to join the French if they land, but I do not despair of silencing them by the noise of our cannon. I have great confidence in my profession, and as I entered it willingly, I am a courageous soldier. Faith, you should see me close my eyes when a cannon goes off, but that is only because I have weak sight. If they should need me in case anything happened, they might give me a post where I did not have to keep my eyes open, and I should distinguish myself, no doubt.

\* \* \* \* \*

As I suppose that dear sister Adelaide has begun to be interested in the fashion, you will kindly give her this part of the paper. Come now, Adelaide, pay attention. Caps of the present style are all of a piece, "uni," like Madam McGee. You make them like the lining of a hat, that is, larger at the top than the part that touches the head. They should be covered with satin, black or white, arranged in folds, and a rosette of ribbon at the side, with a bunch of flowers in front. If your hair is not really black, do not powder it, but curl it quite high in front, leaving it hanging at the back. It should be short (cropped) at the side, combed smoothly, and the back hair plaited in two braids and brought around each side of the head so that they join in front where the hair is curled. Dresses have not changed in style, only I like to see young ladies without the neckerchief. They can dress modestly without that, and if you have a good figure, show it off to the best advantage. So much for the fashions.

You will please, dear Mother, address me generally in this way: *Mrs. Meredith, at Capt. Meredith's, R. British Artillery, Laughlinstown Camp, near Dublin, Ireland.*

My Husband understands state affairs better than I. All I know is that the French do not want to conclude peace with us. That makes it now so that the brave English have

no other course than to fight like lions, for the Emperor of Germany has deserted us, and we are the only ones left to defend our rights. Never mind! So long as we can kill as many of them at sea as our brave Admiral Duncan<sup>38</sup> did October 11, and can at once subscribe to the value of thirteen or fourteen thousand pounds for the benefit of the widows, orphans, and other relatives of the sailors who perished in this battle, we have nothing to fear. I am not clever enough to describe such a battle correctly. The newspapers will tell you about it better. The only thing that I have to add on the subject is that we have had great rejoicings in consequence, and I am quite proud to have taken tea and spent an evening in company with the brave Admiral in Yarmouth. He is a fine man.

My tenderest love to you, my dear Father, my brothers and sisters, and to Mrs. McKee, and remember me to her husband—Mr. M. joins me in all that—to John etc., etc., Uncle Grant, Barthes, etc., etc., etc. Compliments to my friends, Mr. R. L. T. My children assure you of their tender affection, and I remain with much love

Your affectionate daughter,

Archange Meredith

My compliments to Mr. Hamilton, etc., etc. I should like to know how he is since that sad event. Remember me to Madelaine and her family.

#### GRANT OF LICENSE TO OPERATE FERRY

BY WINTHROP SARGENT ACTING AS GOVERNOUR OF THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED STATES NORTHWEST OF THE RIVER OHIO

(SEAL) Be it known to whom it may concern: That John Askin, Esquire, of Detroit in the county of Wayne

<sup>38</sup> Adam Duncan (1731-1804) entered the British navy in 1746 and, save for certain periods of enforced retirement, devoted the remainder of his life to it. He attained the rank of admiral, June 1, 1795, at which time he was serving as commander of the North Sea fleet. In 1797, the Dutch government planned an invasion of Ireland. The plan went awry, but the fleet was sent to sea as a political gesture, and on October 11 Duncan defeated it in a furious battle off the Dutch coast. This exploit roused great popular enthusiasm in England and Duncan was rewarded by elevation to the peerage. He continued in command of the North Sea fleet until 1801, and died on Aug. 4, 1804. He was a man of remarkable physique, six feet four inches tall and correspondingly broad, and possessed of unusual muscular strength. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

having applied for License to keep a Ferry From the Landing to the Shore of the River Detroit I have thouth[t] fit to grant the same for and during the Term of one Year from the date hereof and do by these Presents authorise and empower him the said John Askin, to ask demand and receive from all persons he shall transport across the said Water, and for all horses and Carriages and Cattle of every kind such rates and sums of Money as are now used to be taken. Enjoining upon, and requiring of him that when the Court of Quarter Sessions shall establish the rates of Ferriage he shall exactly conform thereto, and also to provide and keep good and sufficient boats and the proper compliment of able & skilful pers<sup>ns</sup> at all times in readiness for the transportation of Passengers at reasonable hours in the day time, otherwise this License to be void.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory this first Day of february A. Domini 1798.

Winthrop Sargent

*Endorsed:* ferry Licence for John Askin Esquire Detroit 1<sup>st</sup> february 1798.

FROM MADELAINE RICHARDSON TO JOHN ASKIN

fort Erie 18 fevrier 1798

Mon Cher Papa Je suis flatte dapprendre par la lettre que M<sup>r</sup> Richardson a recue de vous que vous ete en bonne santè. ainsi que Maman et toute la famille. Je suis bien desapointe de ne recevoir auchûnne lettres et bien mortifie de voir que mes soeurs moublie si vitte. Je nai Certainnement point manqué a leurs ecrire souvent mais comme Je ne recoit point de reponse Ca me dècourage. Je craint que mes lettres les Importune. Nous avons eu la visitte de M<sup>r</sup> et Madame Hamilton et les enfants la semaine derniere. il ont pasé deux ou trois Jours avec nous ils se porte bien. Nous avons pase les fêtes de Noël avec eux. Je suis flatte daprendre que vous avec une hiver bien Gaiè au Detroit. Nous avons ausi une hiver bien agrèable. les enfant se porte bien John marche partout et est toujours gras a lordinaire. il aime Beau coup la Cariole pour lamour du cheval. Jane parle souvent de Maman et de Nelly Jespere

que cette lettre vous trouvera tous en parfaite sante. M<sup>r</sup> Richardson vous marque le peu de Nouvelle qu'il y a Assure Ma chere Maman de nos amities ainsi que la famille. et la famille de Comodor Grant Je suis avec respects

Votre affectionnè fille

M Richardson

### *Translation*

Fort Erie, February 18, 1798

My dear Papa: I am pleased to learn by Mr. Richardson's<sup>39</sup> letter from you that you are in good health, also Mama and all the family. I am much disappointed not to receive any letters and most mortified to see that my sisters have forgotten me so quickly. Certainly I have never missed a chance of writing to them often, but when I receive no answer I am discouraged, and fear that my letters weary them.

We had a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and the children last week. They passed two or three days with us. They are well. We spent Christmas with them. I am glad to hear that you have had such a gay winter in Detroit. It has passed very agreeably here also. The children are well. John<sup>40</sup> walks everywhere and is as fat as ever. He is very fond of sleigh riding for he loves a horse. Jane<sup>41</sup> speaks often of Mama and of Nelly.

I hope that this letter will find you all in perfect health. Mr. Richardson will tell you what little news there is. Assure my dear Mama of our love, also the family, and

<sup>39</sup> Dr. Robert Richardson, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 14, 441-42.

<sup>40</sup> John Richardson, eldest son and second child of Dr. Robert Richardson and Madeline Askin, was born in Queenston, Oct. 4, 1796. In mature life he achieved fame as an author of works of history and of fiction. Most of his boyhood was spent in Amherstberg and at the home of his grandfather, John Askin. At the opening of the War of 1812 he joined, as a volunteer, the Forty-first Regiment and served with it throughout the entire period of the war on the western front. Following the war, he served for many years in the British army in Europe; at length, returning to Canada, he devoted himself to literature, in which he achieved much reputation but little financial reward. Failing in his efforts to earn a livelihood in Canada, he removed to New York, where on May 12, 1852, he died in great want. The best sketch of his career that has been written is the biography by A. C. Casselman, published as an introduction to a reprint edition of his *War of 1812*.

<sup>41</sup> Jane Richardson, eldest child of Dr. Richardson and the writer, was born in Queenston, May 19, 1794. She married Robert Rist of the Thirty-seventh Regiment on Jan. 15, 1816. She died, Oct. 31, 1831, and was buried in the Butler burying ground at Niagara. See *ibid.*, xlvi.

Commodore Grant's family. I remain, with respect,  
Your affectionate daughter,  
M. Richardson

FROM MADELAINE ASKIN TO JOHN ASKIN

Riviere Raizin marce 4 1798

Mon Cher papa Votre faveur du 18 de fevrié a etté  
Reçu avec boucoup de plesir d'aprandre que tout la famille  
se porte bien, je reçu une lettre de mon Cher John il se  
porte bien il manvoyez mon frere pour passer le restan de  
lhiver avec moi, vous receveré par M<sup>r</sup> Duval treze livres  
de Sindoux. si vous an voule davantage vous pouré mecrire  
jantrouve a acheté mes bien cher a trois sheling la livre  
vous piré maman davoit la bonté de manvoyez la chaudiere  
je crois que M<sup>r</sup> Duval san chargera. je averti plusieurs  
persone que sil voyoit votre Negre de le prandre et de allé  
vous le mené et je leur et dit la recompance que vous leur  
donnerez il mont promi quil le feroit avec plaisir je vous  
prie danbraser ma cher maman pour moi ainssi que tout la  
famile

Adieu Mon cher papa je suis votre obeisante fille  
Madelaine Askine

*Addressed:* Monsieur Askin, Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Riviere Au Raizin Le 4 de Mars 1798 M<sup>rs</sup>  
Madelaine Askin to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin. Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>

### *Translation*

Raisin River, March 4, 1798

My dear Papa: Your favor of February 18 was received  
with much pleasure, saying that all the family are well.  
I received a letter from my dear John. He is well. He is  
sending my brother to pass the rest of the winter with me.  
You will receive, by Mr. Duval,<sup>42</sup> thirteen pounds of lard.

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<sup>42</sup> The Duvals of Detroit and vicinity were descended from Pierre Edmund Thuot, who married Mary Louisa Duval and resided in the city of Tonnerre, France. Their son, Pierre, born there in 1681, came to Canada and married in Montreal, in 1708, Elizabeth Guilbert *dit* Laframboise, a native of that place. She died before 1712; and Pierre married (second), July 11, 1712, Mary Fournier, daughter of Antoine Fournier and Mary Roncelay of Boucherville. A son of this marriage, Thomas Ignatius Thuot *dit* Duval, was born in

If you want more you can write me. I shall find some to buy, but very dear at three shillings a pound. Ask Mama please to send me the big kettle. I think Mr. Duval will take charge of it. I gave notice to several people that if they see your negro, to arrest him and take him to you, and I told them what reward you would give. They promised to do it with pleasure. I beg you to embrace dear Mama and all the family for me.

Goodby, my dear Papa, I remain,

Your obedient daughter,  
Madelaine Askin

BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN AMHERSTBURG

Malden March the 9th 1798

Sir I am Very Sorry I did not See You when I was in Town Last as I had no other Business up to Detroit than Respecting what we wer a talking of but it is Impossible for me to [go] up at Present on account of Some Boatwork on hand & more over we Daily Expect the Town Lots to be Run out here and if I am absent at that time I am Certain to be a Loser by it

& as to the Corn there is no Such thing here to be purchac<sup>d</sup> for M<sup>r</sup> Sheppherd [h]as Bought all that was to be Sold in this place I can Scarce get Enough for my own horses.

If you Intend having a house Down here this Summer now is the only time to get the Timber Cut for it for they are all Constantly Cutting & hawling So that all that is Good & Convenient will Soon be gone if [you] have it Cut whilst I am here I will hawl it for you

You may Expect me up in about 10 Days or Two weeks at furthest.

I am S<sup>t</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Very Obt Serv<sup>t</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> Hutchings

Montreal, Jan. 3, 1725. He married in Longueuil, Feb. 17, 1749, Mary Piedalu *dit* La-prairie. Their son, Ignatius Joachim Thuot *dit* Duval, born in Longueuil, Sept. 19, 1751, came to Detroit and on Jan. 15, 1776, married in Sandwich, Lisette Le Beau, daughter of Francis Le Beau and Mary Joseph Bigras *dit* Fauvel. Presumably he is the individual mentioned in this document. They reared a large family. They seem to have removed to the Raisin River settlement, where Ignatius Duval was buried, July 5, 1826, and his wife on April 2, 1827. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

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

*Endorsed:* Malden March 9<sup>h</sup> 1798 M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Hutchings<sup>43</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>.

TRADE CONDITIONS AT FORT MIAMIS

Fort Miamis 19<sup>th</sup> March 1798

Dear Sir Thear is an Ideay Struck Me Since Thease few Days which I am very Sorey did Not before You wrote for the Engages to Mountrell, that is that we did Not think of gating them to Com up in a boate with the Spirits. as You Know thear is always boats a Coming up in the Spring for Diffrent People & with paying the Cundocter a triffel He would heave Cundocted them up. For You Know that in Cuming up in the Veassels they Cost a grate Dale. the bote Is always worth More thin it Costs. If You think it is in any ways likley Word Couled gat Down before they are Sant off I think it would be a fine thing Fort [for] I wouled want Liquer Early in the Spring. You will please do as You please In that Busness. Trade is but verey poor Hear at preasent on Account of the Merchents at Fort Defiance who is M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Dougell and M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Donall<sup>44</sup> they Sall to the Indins For Merley Nothing. that is they take three Raccoons for a Buck & give thear Goods in the Same Rate M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Dougell Saes that M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Danall Shall Not under Sell Him on any Account for if the Latter gives his away for Nothing he will do the Same. The Indians talks all of going thear I tell Them they ar welcom to go whear they please For I will Not give My goods a way for Nothing. So I am verey Much afriad I will Heave but a poor trade this Spring. But I think thease Gentle Men Will Not hold out long, and then I will Come in for Som, for You Know it is Batter to Keep the goods on Hand then give them away for Noting. My Beast Respects to Mis<sup>a</sup> Askin and all the Femelly, and belive Me to be You H<sup>e</sup> Sv<sup>t</sup>  
To M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Detroit John Anderson

<sup>43</sup> William Hutchins was a carpenter and probably a boat builder. In 1799 he was employed on the King's work in Amherstburg, at which time Askin desired him to come to Detroit to repair a vessel belonging to him. Information from mss. in B. H. Coll.

<sup>44</sup> Probably George McDougall and Ronald McDonell, for whose careers see *B. H. R.*, I, 374, and 367.

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

*Endorsed:* Fort Miamis March 19<sup>h</sup> 98 M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Anderson  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>

CAPTURE OF FUR CARGO

Montreal 23<sup>d</sup> March 1798

Dear Askin By the Winter express I wrote you & Meldrum & Park a joint Letter in answer to your proposal respecting the *Sagana* saying I would give her all the freight I could procure at Fort Erie & Detroit for Michelam<sup>a</sup> and depended on the preference to Load her with Packs the first Trip at Michelam<sup>a</sup> on a Supposition she will be there not sooner then the 15<sup>th</sup> June and for you to give orders to be under the direction of my Agent there; I think there will be 3 or 4 Batte[a]u Load[s] for her at Fort Erie as soon as they can get there being now at La Chine, and its probable you may recieve proposals for a second Trip. I am now favord with yours of the 23<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> febr<sup>y</sup> to which I have only time (having Just heard of this oppt<sup>y</sup>) to say I am happy to hear you & family are in good health and that there is a prospect of seeing you here this Summer we have disagreeable news from N York of the Capture of one (and the richest of our Furr Ships in which we had to Amo<sup>t</sup> of £12000 of which your musk was part as we believe it all Insured if no Loss by underwriters in my opinion the con[c]erned will have no reason to regret as I feared a Loss on the Sales, but what Leaves me in a State of A[n]xiety is our having no certainty of the Arrival of the *Euretta* the other furr Ship. I will write you fully the first Navigation perticulatly respecting M<sup>r</sup> Hands & at same time answer his Letter, M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Gill & I wrote you by the express a joint Letter respecting our property in your care and with best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin & M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee I remain D<sup>r</sup> Askin Yours Sincerely

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Isaac Todd

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

*Endorsed:* Montreal March 23<sup>d</sup> 1798 M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> April Answ<sup>d</sup> May the 2<sup>d</sup>

FROM FRANCIS VIGO TO JOHN ASKIN

Poste Vincennes Le 6 Avril 1798

Monsieur Par votre Derniere que j'ai eu Le plaisir de recevoir vous m'engageés a aller au Détroit. vous devez être reellement persuadés du plaisir que j'aurois a y aller mais Je Suis si foible qu'a peine puis je Sortir de ma maison. recevez je vous Prie L assurance de ma reconnoissance Pour Linteret que vous voulez bien Prendre a mes affaires. En Consequence J'ai Ecris a M<sup>r</sup> abbot Javois vendre Des terres J'ai été obligé d'en reprendre une Partie. je craignois quelques Difficulté—cest ce qui ma Engagé a Le faire et—par consequent rendre quelque argeant que Javois reçu. Maintenant tous mes regards—Je portent sur Le Détroit. Je ne Dois Pas un seul sol en amerique et Jespere avec un Peu de tems Terminer mes affaire avec honneur. J'ai L honneur D'être Monsieur

Votre Serviteur

Vigo

Si Pourtant ces Messieurs vouloient accepter des terres Je Pourrois Terminer tout de suite. faite agréer a M<sup>dme</sup> votre Epouse L assurance de Mon respect. mille amitie a toute La famille.

M<sup>r</sup> Simon Porteur de La Presente ayant quelque affaire avec La Maison de M<sup>r</sup> Todd a La Nouvelle orleans, J'ai Prie La Liberté de vous Ladresser Pour les renseignements quil Pourroit avoir besoin ayant envi de faire quelque Payement a M<sup>r</sup> assek Todd.

*Addressed:* Monsieur Askin Equiller au Détroit Par la faveur de M<sup>r</sup> Simon Gonzales

*Endorsed:* Post Vincent April 6<sup>h</sup> 1798 Mons<sup>r</sup> Francois Vigo to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> of May

*Translation*

Post Vincennes, April 6, 1798

Sir: By your last that I have had the pleasure to receive, you make an engagement for me to go to Detroit. You must surely know with what pleasure I would comply, but I am so weak that I can scarcely leave my room. Accept,

I beg you, the assurance of my gratitude for the interest you so kindly take in my business. In consequence, I have written to Mr. Abbott that I had sold some lands. I have been obliged to take a part of them back. I was afraid there would be trouble. That was why I did it, and therefore returned the money I had received. Now all my thoughts center in Detroit. I do now owe a single sou in America and I hope with a little time allowed, to close my business honorably.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your servant,  
Vigo

If nevertheless, the gentlemen will accept lands, I could close the matter at once. Kindly give Madam, your wife, assurance of my respect, and many good wishes to all your family.

Mr. Simon, the bearer of this, having some business with the house of Mr. Todd in New Orleans, I have taken the liberty to refer him to you for any information he may need as he wishes to make some payment to Mr. Isaac Todd.

INDEBTEDNESS OF SIMON GONZALES

New Orleans 25<sup>th</sup> April 1798

(Copy)

M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd

Sir Having just heard that a Spanish Trader of the name of Simon Gonzales,<sup>45</sup> who had been fitted out here by me some time since for Post Vincent, instead of returning to this place has proceeded to Detroit with a considerable Quantity of Peltries, I am under the necessity of applying to you to request your assistance in recovering his debt, in which the Estate of M<sup>r</sup> Andrew Todd is one half Concerned, It amounts to 2786 $\frac{1}{8}$  Dollars with Interest from the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November 1796 till paid. I have forwarded his Note

<sup>45</sup> This letter illustrates interestingly the widespread ramifications of the western fur trade. Simon Gonzales was a resident of (or at least a trader in) Vincennes, who obtained his goods from Clark of New Orleans. The latter, to enforce payment of the debt due him applied to Isaac Todd in Montreal to have Gonzales seized in Detroit. Todd forwarded a copy of Clark's letter to Askin, who procured the arrest of Gonzales in Detroit in May, 1798, when he gave as security for the debt three tracts of land owned by him in Vincennes. See *post*, 143-44.

to M<sup>r</sup> Porter at the Illinois with directions to go to Post Vincent to endeavor to obtain payment, but fearful lest he should have left that place, I have to entreat you will request some friend in Detroit to make Enquiry about him and take measures to secure him & his property, until an Application to Porter or the person he may appoint as his agent in Post Vincent, his Bond can be sent after him.

I have written to M<sup>r</sup> Robert Bunton and M<sup>r</sup> VanderBurg<sup>46</sup> of the Post to give M<sup>r</sup> Porter assistance and flatter myself they will extend their good offices to him. I have likewise written to General Wilkinson with whom I am well acquainted intreating him to write to the Commanding Officers & Magistrates at Detroit & Post Vincent to recommend this business to them and request they would see Justice done to me and I flatter myself he will comply with my request and do me every service in his power.

Your Recommendation of it to your friends in Detroit may be of great utility, and I hope you will be kind enough to interest yourself in it, and by your means secure this debt.

I remain with Esteem Sir Your most obedient & most humble Servant

(Signed) Daniel Clark Jun<sup>r</sup> <sup>47</sup>

*Endorsed:* New Orleans April the 25<sup>h</sup> 1798 Daniel Clark Jun<sup>r</sup> to Isaac Todd

<sup>46</sup> Henry Vanderburgh was born in Troy, N. Y., in 1760. At the age of sixteen he was appointed a lieutenant in the Fifth New York Regiment of Continental troops, and he subsequently became a captain in the Second Regiment. He served until the close of the war, and soon thereafter came west to Vincennes, where in February, 1790, he married into one of the French families of that place. He early became influential locally, and in February, 1799, was made chairman of the Legislative Council of the Northwest Territory. Upon the organization of Indiana Territory he became one of the three judges of the Supreme Court, and he continued to occupy this position until his death, April 12, 1812. Vanderburgh County, Indiana, is named in his honor. Information adapted from Logan Esarey, *History of Indiana from its Exploration to 1850* (Indianapolis, 1915), *passim*; and sketch in Joseph P. Elliott, *History of Evansville and Vanderburgh County* (Evansville, 1897), 66.

<sup>47</sup> Daniel Clark Jr. was born in Sligo, Ireland, in 1766. In December, 1786, he arrived in New Orleans, where his uncle (also named Daniel Clark) had resided for many years. In July, 1801, Clark was appointed consul of the United States at New Orleans, serving until the transfer of Louisiana in 1804. He subsequently served as territorial delegate to Congress from Louisiana. He was long a firm opponent of the political and other designs of General James Wilkinson. About the year 1802, Clark entered upon a connection with Madam Zulime Desgranges of New Orleans, and a daughter was born to them who subsequently became the wife of General E. P. Gaines of the U. S. army. Clark died in New Orleans, Aug. 16, 1813. He left important property interests, and the question whether he

## FRENCH DESIGNS AGAINST CANADA

Mount Dorchester 7<sup>th</sup> May 1798

Dear Sir, on my return from Europe last fall, I found myself your Debtor for a kind remembrance by the winter's Express, which I purposed to have acknowledged by the return of our friend Pollard this winter, but his very pressing affairs deprived us of the pleasure of seeing him here, and his Arrival from York at Niagara was not announced to me untill after his departure for Detroit. I trouble you with this detail as the only apology for permitting a letter from my worthy friend to remain so long unacknowledged. I wish my Situation here enabled me to render my Correspondence useful or entertaining, but in truth I am a mere Hermit, taking no part in the public business of the Colony, other than a qua[r]terly attendance to my Duty on the Bench. I had not the Satisfaction of seeing your Connections in England. M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith was, I understood, at Yarmouth when I was in Norfolk, but my time did not permit me to go from Norwich to pay my respects, and I had no guide where to enquire after M<sup>rs</sup> Mercer. I heard that M<sup>rs</sup> M. enjoyed Health, Spirits & Beauty, the great desiderata of youth.

The public Papers which find their way to your Quarter will inform you of the very critical Affairs of Europe, which seems to be universally convulsed by the new republic of France. The Cession of the Provinces on the Missisipi to France<sup>48</sup> appears to me to be a Prelude to some Commotion among us. I consider Louisiana at present valuable to France only as a Point of Attack on the U. S. and as Quebec is the other Point, I should not be surprised if they were to make an Attempt on the good will of the lower Province. in such Case we shall be between two Guillotines and I think probably have the Tomhawk raised over our Heads.

was married to Madam Desgranges vexed the state and federal courts for half a century. Many of Clark's consular papers are printed in the *Am. Hist. Rev.*, Vols. XXXII and XXXIII. For a statement of his relations with Madam Desgranges, see *U. S. Supreme Court Reports*, 6 Wallace, 645 ff.

<sup>48</sup> The cession of Louisiana by Spain to France actually occurred on Oct. 1, 1800; that well-informed men had long anticipated such a development is shown by Judge Powell's present letter.

for our wisecracs have given to Jo. Brant<sup>49</sup> so decided a Superiority in the late negotiation, that the Missasague's who own the Territory between York and the western population of the Province have adopted him in the Place of their great Chief Wabkenine who was murdered it is supposed by some rangers. They say that Brant is fittest to be their Chief because he alone knows the value of Land.

I think much Matter may arise from this Transaction and not greatly to the Credit of our Politicians.

M<sup>rs</sup> P. and her flock enjoy good Health and She unites cordially in the assurances of Regard and Respect to M<sup>rs</sup> A yourself and family with Dear Sir Your fr<sup>d</sup> & Servant

W<sup>m</sup> Dummer Powell

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit. recommended to the Care of M<sup>r</sup> T Dixon

*Endorsed:* Mount Dorchester May 11<sup>h</sup> 1798 Judge Powell to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> of June but no Copy kept

ABSCONDENCE OF ANDREW JOHNSON

river Raisin May 21, 1798

Dear Father If M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson<sup>50</sup> had not been in such a Great hurry (en Passant) this way on his return to Detroit I would have wrote you before this Period. I re<sup>d</sup> a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Marshall wrote by M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville in your Name Acquainting Me of Johnsons<sup>51</sup> having run away & that you was a great Sufferer by it. he passed the Cahayagai river the 29<sup>th</sup> April; I had five Indians who was to have Seized & bound him & brought him back to Detroit but he unfortunately did not come on this side of the Cahayagai river & the Indians were not willing to commit any Offence on the other Side. As I mean to go to Detroit in a Short time I will give you a full acc<sup>t</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Johnson. Please present my

<sup>49</sup> For a sketch of the career of Joseph Brant, see *B. H. R.*, I, 541.

<sup>50</sup> Richard Pattinson, for whose career see *ibid.*, 594.

<sup>51</sup> Probably Andrew Johnson, who according to various letters among the Askin papers had been running a flourmill as Askin's agent at Raisin River.

respects to Mamma & my Love to my Brothers & Sisters I remain

Y<sup>r</sup> Dutiful Son,

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin ju<sup>a</sup>

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

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* River au Rasin May 21<sup>t</sup> 1798 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> same day no Answer requisite as he is coming here.

INDEBTEDNESS OF SIMON GONZALES

L' An mil sept cent quatre vingt dix huit, et le vingt troisième Jour du mois de mai fut present, Simon Gonzales Negociant du Poste Vincennes, dans le territoire des Etats unis, et actuellement au Detroit, lequel reconnoit avoir hypothéqué, et par ces presentes hypothèque pour Surêté d'une dette qu'il doit à M<sup>r</sup> Clark negociant à la Nouvelle Orleans, et dans la quelle dette il est possible que defunt André Todd, mort à la nouvelle Orleans, Soit interressé, Trois Contrats de Terre, Size et Situé dans le voisinage du Poste Vincennes.

SCAVOIR Un de cent arpens de terre des donations du Congrès, dans le premier carré dans le Lot nombre cent vingt trois, à prendre dans un bout ou à l'autre, acheté par le dit Simon Gonzalés du Sieur Manuel de Liza pour la Somme de cent piastres, par Acte passé au poste Vincennes le 4 Janvier 1798.

Un autre de quatre cent Arpens, ou acres, de terre provenant des donations du Congrès, nombre Soixante Sept dans le premier quarré acheté par le Sieur Simon Gonzalés du Sieur Manuel de Liza pour la Somme de quatre cent piastres, par acte passé au poste Vincennes le 4 Janvier 1798.

Une Terre de Six arpens, de front, Sur la profondeur de quarante Arpens, Situeé à la riviere aux Embaras, acheté par le dit Simon Gonzalés du Sieur Francois Cantebury pour la Somme de Six cent livres en argent par acté passé au poste Vincennes le 24 mars 1798.

Les quels trois Contrats restent et demeurent déposés dans les mains de John Askin Ecuyer, negociant au Detroit,

et agent de M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd de Montreal, lequel M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd est executeur et Adminiistrateur de la Succession de defunt André Todd, Son neveu La condition du present hypoteque est telle que Si le dit Simon Gonzales donne des preuves dans l'espace de douze mois de ce Jour, qu'il ne doit rien, à la maison de Todd & Clark ou même à la maison de Clark Seule, alors le present hypoteque devient nul, autrement il restera en pliene force et vertu pour la Securité de la Somme que le dit Simon Gonzales pourra devoir, Soit à Todd & Clark Soit à Clark Seul. Et pour l'execution des presents le dit Simon Gonzales à elû Son domicile dans l'Office du Prothonotaire du Conté de Wayne au Detroit, et à Scellé et Signé au presence de Temoin le Jour et an que dessus.

(Signé) Simon Gonzales (L. S.)

Signé, Scellé et delivré en presence de Peter Audrain Proton<sup>y</sup>

Wayne County ss.

Personnally came before me James May, Esquire, one of the Judges of the court of common pleas for the said county, Simon Gonzales who acknowledges the foregoing to be his act and deed for the purposes therein contained, and that as Such, it may be recorded. In testimony whereof I have hereunto Subscribed my name at Detroit this 26 day of may 1798.

(Signed) James May J. C. P. W. C.

Wayne County ss.

L. S. I certify that the above James May Esquire,  
Seal of is one of the Judges of the court of common  
y<sup>e</sup> county pleas, in, and for the Saïd county, and that  
as such, faith ought to be given to his signa-  
ture. In testimony whereof I have hereunto  
subscribed my name & affixed the Seal of the County, at  
Detroit this 26<sup>h</sup> day of may 1798.

(Signed) Peter Audrain Proth<sup>y</sup>

Wayne County ss

SEAL

I certify the above to be a true copy of the Original, as recorded in my office in the Book N° 1 Pages 349 & 350. In testimony whereof I have hereunto Subscribed my name and affixed my seal of Office, at detroit this 19 april, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred & ninety nine.

(Signed) Peter Audrain  
Recorder of Wayne County

### *Translation*

In the year one thousand seven hundred ninety-eight, the twenty-third day of the month of May, personally came and appeared Simon Gonzales, merchant of Post Vincennes in the Territory of the United States, and now in Detroit, who acknowledges to have mortgaged, and by these presents does mortgage, as security for a debt he owes to Mr. Clark, merchant of New Orleans, and in which debt it is possible the late Andrew Todd, deceased in New Orleans, may have an interest, three deeds for land, located and situated in the vicinity of Post Vincennes.

NAMELY: One of one hundred arpents of land, donated by Congress, in the first square in lot one hundred twenty-three, taken from either end, bought by the said Simon Gonzales from Manuel Lisa<sup>52</sup> for the sum of one hundred piastres, according to deed executed in Post Vincennes, January 4, 1798.

Another of four hundred arpents, or acres, of land, comprising the donations of Congress, number sixty-seven, in the first square, bought by Simon Gonzales from Manuel

<sup>52</sup> Manuel Lisa (De Lisa) was born in New Orleans in 1771, his father having come to Louisiana, it is said, from South America when the Spaniards took possession of the province. About the year 1790, Lisa came to upper Louisiana, locating for several years in New Madrid and subsequently in St. Louis. He engaged in the fur trade, first with the Osage and later with the tribes of the upper Missouri region. For almost a generation he was known as one of the most enterprising and successful traders of this region. He died in St. Louis in 1820. In 1818 he married a daughter of Stephen Hempstead, who survived him almost half a century. Information adapted from Houck, *History of Missouri*, II, 253-54.

Lisa for the sum of four hundred piastres according to deed executed in Post Vincennes, January 4, 1798.

A tract of six arpents in front by forty in depth located at Embarrass River, bought by the said Simon Gonzales from Francis Canterbury for the sum of six hundred livres cash, according to deed executed in Post Vincennes, May 24, 1798.

Which three deeds rest and remain in the hands of John Askin, Esq., merchant of Detroit and agent for Isaac Todd of Montreal, the said Isaac Todd being executor and administrator of the estate of the late Andrew Todd, his nephew.

The condition of this present mortgage is that if the said Simon Gonzales furnish proof within the space of twelve months from the date hereof that he does not owe anything to the house of Todd and Clark, or even to the house of Clark alone, then this present mortgage becomes void, otherwise it remains in full force and effect for the security of whatever sum the said Simon Gonzales may owe, either to Todd and Clark or to Clark alone.

And for the execution of these presents the said Simon Gonzales has appointed the office of the prothonotary of the County of Wayne, in Detroit, and has set his hand and seal in presence of witness the day and year above written.

(signed) Simon Gonzales (L. S.)

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of  
Peter Audrain, Prothonotary

#### REFUSAL TO VALIDATE LAND TITLES

Detroit 12 July 1798

Dear Sir Tho I wish to be as little troublesome to my old acquaintances as possible, yet in the present case, my Interest as well as that of Mssrs Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill is so deeply concerned, that I am obliged to call on all my Friends not only to exercise their personal Influence in my behalf but also to call to their aid such as are capable from their situations, of giving any, provided you and them think me right after you have heard what I have to Say.

Some years ago, when the Governor's proclamation declared that Lands should be given to certain persons on the Certificate of a Majistrate, finding many of those who possessed these Certificates were disposed to sell them, and being desirous by every means in my power to render my property more valuable for the sole purpose of discharging as far as in my power lay the heavy Balance I owed the best of men, I accordingly purchased several at the rate of from £10 even to £50 for each 200 acres & never entertained any doubt as to their validity, having as every British Subject should a perfect reliance on the word or proclamation of the Servants of Government Those who obtained the Majistrates Certificate carried them Immediately to M<sup>r</sup> Iredell the Deputy Surveyor and mentioned at same time where they wished to take up those Lands, and as I purchased them I reported to M<sup>r</sup> Iredell likewise my having done so & that as soon as the Country was surveyed where these people made their choice I would wish to locate the Lands I purchased in Said place, not from the goodness of the Lands but their Situation as being nearer some others I had got I also frequently mentioned to the Acting Surveyor General my Friend what I had done and was doing and for a certain time did not understand that there Was any objections to such purchaces. I afterwards learnt some doubts arose; but when the Legislature in the last years Sessions passed that most equitable Law respecting the purchase of Lands, I then was perfectly satisfied that they were mine, and that If my purchases were proved to be fair & honest, before the Commissioners Deeds would be Issued in my name. I therefore begged the acting surveyor General would order that part of the Country to be laid out in Lotts where those I purchased of had made choice, and where I still wished to take up these Lands.

A Letter which [I] received the 7<sup>th</sup> Instant from the Honorable W. David Smith, (paragraph from which I here inclose), has alarmed me not a little and is the reason of my troubling you. The Gentleman I just now named, the Commodore & M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton to all of whom I have sent Copies of this my Letter to you which will give them like information. added to this my son who is the Bearer, &

Walter Roe Esq<sup>r</sup> can give further information If requisite, and as I understood that it was once supposed that several Magistrates had given certificates to People undeserving for the purpose of purchasing them, I deny any such conduct in me. I have therefore transmitted by my Son in order to shew it to you & other Friends a list of the names of the people of whom I got the Lands, what Majestrates signed their Certificates and their present place of abode. by this you will See that few of them are on the American side of the River, and those that are have either served under Governor Hamilton (who promised them Lands) or at Fort Miamis when General Wayne came against it, and are recommended for Lotts by Capt Montigny who was then there.

I now, agreeable to my Friend M<sup>r</sup> Smith's Letter Memorial-  
[ize] the president & Honorable Council to direct that the Lands I claim may be surveyed and allotted to me or to those of whom I got them and that when the Commissioners come here If my pretentions are found good that Deeds may be granted me for them.

I do not recollect having ever been more interested in any Event than this as my worthy Friends Mess<sup>r</sup> James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Gill have agreed in their settlement with me to take 40 of these Lotts In lieu of £4,000 & I was to give them free of charges. Should I not obtain Grants for these Lands I purchaced I will not be able to fulfill my Engagements with them & consequently ruined. and tho you & M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton are not of the executive Council yet you have influence with those that are and If you find my Claims right & Just I hope & firmly believe from your general Character exclusive of your Friendship that you will have my Memorial Supported so as to obtain what I ask for, and think my Just due. If the majestrates certificates belonging to me were not located it is none of my fault. my applications for a survey of the Quarter where I was given to understand I could get the Lands were frequent (as every other place seemed to be taken up as soon as laid out) and untill the receipt of the acting Surveyor Generals Letter, dated the 1<sup>st</sup> June last I neither had, nor had reason to have any doubt respecting them further than I must wait untill other

service would admit these Lands being surveyed, and then my Claims would be complied with. I would have went in person to transact this business was I not so subject to Sickness from catching the Slightest cold, but, Should my presence be absolutely necessary in order to obtain what I require I will even at the risk of my life undertake the Journey or any thing else in order to do Justice to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill.

I have laid out above £500 in improvements &° on Lotts I purchased from those who had Land-Board Certificates which is more than those I purchased of would have done in a long time.

I am Dear Sir with real regard your most obedient humble  
Servant

[John Askin]

The Honorable Rich<sup>d</sup> Cartwright at Yorke

ALARM IN AMHERSTBURG

My Dear Sir, The Bearer hereof you will be pleased to let have the Celery plants, as many as can be conveniently spared. We are all confusion, Cauldwell arm'd Cap à pie expecting a Visit of civility from your garris[on] rusty swords, unlocked Muskets and unpointed Bayonets, form a tremendous appearance at his Chateau, under the Command of a Colonel Captain & Surgeon who is to attend all consequences that may result from a Besieged Mansion, such as women in Hysteric fits, Cowards half roasted in the oven, and Children frightened at the tales of Ghosts Hopgoblins and long stories of former wars and a variety of matters that must arise, and must be delivered from a *Head* well heated with imaginary *Nothings* in that state is now our poor Chateau which the Lord in his great Mercy safely defend us, is D<sup>r</sup> Sir the present prayer of the Surgeon in distress, but yours in every Situation

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Monday night.

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

*Endorsed:* Malden July 30, 1798 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> Y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>.

SALVAGING WRECK OF THE *ANNETTE*

Dear Sir I have now before me your favor of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and shall attend in order to the Various Contents. One of my last respects Mentioned my having Received the Freight Account from you by the Way of the River LaTrench 8 Months after date. That Matter is therefore Settled. I am very Sencible of your kindness in the bussiness of the *Weaxells* freight, and have Accordingly placed the £55. to your Credit on that Account for Com. Besides the 21. 4. 0 made by her from M<sup>r</sup> Colt in Voyages to Presque Isle I have Charged M<sup>r</sup> O Harra<sup>53</sup> the Contractor, for the freight of 123 barrels Salt £49. 4. 0. at your Credit. I am still without my Teas from the States. I have however Received from Montreal some Hyson & Breakfast teas for my own use, which I will chearfully share with you, & a portion of each shall be sent up before the last Vessell shall Sail. Bohea Costs in Montreal 3/9 Cash, Which with Commission Charges &<sup>c</sup>, brings it near 8/ yorck here, at which price it could be no Object to send you any. I have forwarded to you to Fort Erie the Shott Sope & Candles as p<sup>r</sup> inclosed Bill of Parcels, Amounting with all Charges her[e] Shiped, to £62. 17. 3 York which I hope you Will find right. I hope in the Course of this Week to forward you some Barrels of Whiskey. The demand for this Article has of late been so Considerable, I can hardly get a sufficient Supply for the Shop. M<sup>r</sup> Nichol got back from the Grand River only on the day the *Saguinau* Sailed. I could not therefor benefit by her, to send you any Information respecting the Unfortunate business at Long Point. [I] now inclose M<sup>r</sup> N<sup>e</sup> Report & Voutc[hers for] his Expenditures, which were as you see defrayed by the Sale of

<sup>53</sup> James O'Hara, born in Ireland about the year 1751, was educated in France and was commissioned in the Coldstream Guards before coming to America in 1772. He soon found his way to Pittsburgh, where he became identified with the Indian trade prior to the outbreak of the Revolution. He took an active part in that struggle, rising to the rank of brigadier general. Aside from his military employment he held, at different times, various public offices, and engaged in numerous business enterprises—among others the one here noted of contractor for provisioning the western army posts. Pittsburgh remained his home until his death, Dec. 21, 1819. He has been characterized by one writer as "the first Napoleon of industry in Pittsburgh," with whose early development he was prominently identified for almost half a century. See *Americana (American Historical Magazine)*, IV, 295-99. For O'Hara's Detroit connections, see Louise Rau, "James Henry," *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 65 ff.

some of the Articles more exposed to dam[a]ge than the others. I have Received from him 15 dollars being the balance of Sales over his Charges, as you Will Observe by the Statement. In Which however nothing is Charged for his personal trouble and Excertion. What may be proper to Allow in this Case you must Judge. And also inform me how to dispose of a bal. of £4 in my hands as out of the £6 Received, I had advanced M<sup>r</sup> Nichol 40/ on setting out. I think you will do well to present the Conduct of the Magistrates in that Quarter, to the President. & if you thought proper, the purchasers of Goods so well known to be Stolen deserve prosecution. I only fear the distance Will Cause more trouble, than can Well be given. You Will Observe that all the Articles saved, have been [sent] to Presque Isle, except the few [torn] belonging to the Sloop. This, I hope you have Received in the *Saguinau*. M<sup>r</sup> Daly who has Visited you is I beleive very little better than Captain Grummett.<sup>54</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Nichol could find no Remains of the Wreck of the Vessell, but What have been sent you. Hoping to have the pleasure of again Writting you in a few days I offer from this best Wishes & most respectfull Compliments & Am D<sup>r</sup> Sir Your very hum. s<sup>t</sup>

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Oct. 28, 1798

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> 98 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MRS. PAUL GAMELIN

Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> Novem. 98

Madame Paul Gamelin

Madame Mon agent M<sup>r</sup> Maisonvill le Jeune etoit pret de partir pour le Poste demain matin avec des plein pouvoirs de regler finalement toutes mes affaires dans votre quartier. Mons. Ant. Laselle lui avoit promis passage, il dit pre-

<sup>54</sup> Timothy Grummett (Grummond) was captain of Askin's vessel, the *Annette*, which was wrecked, through his misconduct, as charged, near Point Abino in Lake Erie in the summer of 1798. See documents printed *post*, especially 174-76. Grummett fled to the United States to escape prosecution, after which nothing further has been found concerning him.

sentement qu'il est si chargé qu'il est impossible de le prendre avec autre Baggage que lui même et ses Papiers et comme il ne pourra pas aller Sans hardes ni lit je suis obligé d'abandonner l'entreprise pour le present et pour cet hyver aussi.

Vous aves tres bien fait de ne pas livrer rien de ce que Mons. Adhemer a mis entre les mains de M votre defunt mari Sans mes ordres. M<sup>r</sup> Adhemar m'a fait un abandon de tout cela & J'ai Les plains pouvoirs, peut etre que Je vous rendre visite moi même le printems prochain en attendant J'ai l'honneur d'etre votre tres humble & obeissant Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signé) John Askin

*Endorsed:* Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> Novem 98 John Askin to Madame Paul Gamelin

*Translation*

Detroit, November 2, 1798

Madam Paul Gamelin

Madam: My agent, Mr. Maisonville Jr., was ready to leave for the post tomorrow morning with full authority to close up my business in your quarter. Antoine Lacelle<sup>55</sup> had promised him passage, but now says he is so loaded that it is impossible to take Mr. Maisonville with his additional baggage and papers. As he could not go without clothing and bed I am obliged to abandon the enterprise for the present and even for this winter.

You did right not to give up anything Mr. Adhémar entrusted to the care of your late husband, without my orders. Mr. Adhémar has relinquished it all in my favor and I have his full authority. Perhaps I shall visit you myself next spring. In the meantime, I have the honor to remain

Your very humble and obedient servant,

(signed) John Askin

<sup>55</sup> For the ancestry and career of Antoine Lacelle, see *B. H. R.*, I, 197, and 366-67.

## FROM ROBERT HAMILTON TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir From the Circumstance now dreaded that the *Saguinau* will not Return this Season to Fort Erie I am Sorry to say that about 100 Barrel bulk of the Goods now at that place and Twice that Quantity at present between Kingston & this place must winter on the Communication. As this is the Case I am prevented from sending the Whisky ordered. Should Cowan<sup>56</sup> however whose Vessell is still under the Rapids get up in time to Sail I will make Interest with him to get a few barrels on board if possible. I send William tomoro to Fort Erie to see what Remains behind & he Will Write you should any of your things be in that predicament.

Since my last Respects I have had the Satisfaction of hearing from Scotland that my three boys there were in good health.<sup>57</sup> George poor fellow had been confined for some Weeks by a Worm fever, but was able at the date of the Letter again to go to School.

I this day inclose to the Comodore a paper Stating a very Glorious Victory Obtained by Adm<sup>l</sup> Neilson over Buona-partie in which the latter was taken, tho at the Expençe of the Life of the first. I have requested the Comodore to forward it to you.

Our Ministry have at last Adopted a plan long thought of, to dispose of some of the French Emigrants in this Province as Settlers. For this purpose A Count Puijsay<sup>58</sup> with fourteen respectable Characters, have come out in the

<sup>56</sup> David Cowan was captain of a vessel in the naval establishment on the upper lakes at least as early as 1793. He subsequently located in Amherstburg, where he was living as late as 1804. From 1800 to 1804 he served as member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He died at Niagara or vicinity about the beginning of October, 1808. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll., and *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*. The death of Cowan is recorded in Charles Askin's diary for Oct. 16, 1808. Ms. in Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>57</sup> On the departure of these boys for England in 1795, see *B. H. R.*, I, 540-43.

<sup>58</sup> Joseph Geneviève, Comte de Puisaye, was born in Mortagne-en-Perche, France, in 1755. He entered the army and during the Revolution achieved prominence as one of the most active leaders of the royalist cause. He commanded the disastrous Quiberon Bay expedition of 1795, and three years later undertook to establish in Canada a colony of French royalist emigrés. The story of this enterprise is told by Janet Carnochan in *Niagara Hist. Soc.*, pub., No. 15. It did not succeed, and Puisaye returned to England in 1802 and died there in 1827. The house he built facing the Niagara River on the road from Queenston to Niagara may still be seen.

Fall fleet, to make Arrangements for the Reception of a very Considerable number expected in the Spring. They are now at Kingston where they purpose remaining for the Winter. By a Letter from the house of our much Respected freind M<sup>r</sup> Buckwood I learn that they have Lodged for the Count a Credit in Quebec of £5000 NewY. I hope the others may be as well provided. I have now to Wait on you with M<sup>rs</sup> Hamiltons best Wishes Joined to mine that Health & Happiness may be the portion of you & yours for the following & for many ensuing Winters.

I am Dear Sir

Your very Affect. freind & very hum. Servt

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esquire  
Queenston Nov. 7. 1798.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Queenston Nov<sup>r</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> 98 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>h</sup>

CONTRACT TO BUILD SAILING VESSEL

(L. S.) Be it remembered that on this day, ninth of November, in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety eight, it is agreed between John Askin Esquire, of Detroit, Merchant, and William Daly, of Detroit, Ship Carpenter, in manner and form following, To wit, the Said William Daly for the Consideration hereafter mentioned doth for himself, his Heirs, Executors, and administrators covenant with the Said John Askin, his Executors, administrators, and Assigns, that he the Said William Daly shall and will, against the fifteenth of may next ensuing the date hereof, in good and workmanlike manner, and according to the best of his Knowledge and Skill, well and Substantialy build and finish a vessel of Twelve Tons burthen: that he Shall furnish all the materials whatever at his proper cost and expence: that the Said vessell shall be builded of white oak; shall have her mast and bowspritts fixed: Shall have a Small Cabin with Two births and Two lights, and that her dimensions Shall be agreable to a memorandum Signed & delivered by the Said John Askin to the Said William Daly.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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IN consideration whereof the Said John Askin doth for himself his Executors, and Administrators covenant with the Said William Daly, his Executors, administrators and assigns well and truly to pay unto the Said William Daly, his executors, admintrators, and assigns the Sum of ONE HUNDRED & TEN POUNDS, new york Currency of lawfull money of the United States.

It is understood & agreed between the parties that Should the Vessell prove to be more or less than [than] Twelve Tons Tonnage the price Shall be Regulated accordingly; and that the work of the Said Vessell Shall be inspected by Two Ship Carpenters, and Two Sailors to determine whether the Said vesell is builded in a workmanship like manner; the Vessell to be delivered at Detroit.

AND for the performance of all and every the articles and agreements above mentioned, the Said John Askin and William Daly do hereby bind themselves, their Executors, Administrators and assigns, each to the other in the penal Sum of one hundred and ten pounds, new york Currency, firmly by these presents.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably Set their hands and affixed their Seals at Detroit the day and year above written.

Sealed & delivered  
in the presence of  
Peter Audrain

John Askin  
William Daly

*Endorsed:* Articles of agreement Between John Askin, Esquire, and William Daly, Ship carpenter. Detroit 9<sup>th</sup> November 1798.

Rec. in my office the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1798.

Peter Audrain recorder

Registered in my office in the book N<sup>o</sup> 3, page 314.

Peter Audrain recorder

TRADE CONDITIONS AT THAMES RIVER

River Thames 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1798

Sir Not finding an Opportunity of forwarding your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Senseman I rode up to the Moravian Town and delivered it to him in person. I asked him if it required

an Answer he told me no; that he had wrote to you Some time ago, and had fully Satisfied you about the Corn which will be Sent down in the Spring as soon as the Vessel Arrives. there has been no Traders there this Season therefore I apprehend there will be no difficulty in collecting all your Corn.

I must inform you that my wife was Cast away near the Belle River and Lost all she had except the Cyder. I cannot procure either a Boat or a Canoe to take your Corn down, and the Season is so far advanced that it is dangerous to take down a Load. I hope therefore you will condescend to wait till the Spring.

The Letter you Sent to W. Jackman I have Sent you enclosed. his Brother thinks you will find a better opportunity of Sending it from Detroit, than he could from the River Thames. You will be pleased to Address it to M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Jackman living on Cooks Run near the Mouth of Little Redstone; Fayette County, State of Pensylvania.

There is considerable Trade to be made with the Indians, there being no Trader within 12 Miles of this place

I would like to have half a piece of Stroud and a proportionable quantity of other Articles Suitable, likewise a Barrel of Spirits. I Shall not trust a farthing and what remains unsold I will return. I have Sold some Cyder but the Indians will not buy it while they can get Whiskey, neither will they buy whiskey when they can get Rum.

If you can Supply me with the above articles (which I hope I will be able to pay you for without any difficulty) please to let me know by the Bearer John Kennedy who intends to put up at Carpenters

I remain your Humb<sup>l</sup>e and Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Hugh Holmes<sup>59</sup>

Mr Askin

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* River Thames Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1798 M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Holmes to J<sup>n</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Hugh Holmes was living at the Thames River settlement in January, 1791, when his name was included in the list of disbanded loyalists claiming lands in the District of Hesse, in report of the Land Committee upon this subject. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIV, 178. In

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

OVERSIGHT OF CONTRACT FOR SAILING VESSEL

River Thames Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>, 1798

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir, I rec<sup>d</sup> your kind favor of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I would Comply with it's Contents with the Greatest pleasure had it been in my power, But your Master Builder took Care for to go One hundred miles from you, for to perform his Contract. I am told that he is to Build your Vessel at the pinerry which is Sixty miles from my place. however I shall do all that lies in my power for to inform myself of his proceeding during the Course of the winter.

I remain Sir Your Most hum<sup>ble</sup> & Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

John Drake

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

*Endorsed:* river à Tranche Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1798. Cap<sup>t</sup> Drake to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>

TUITION CHARGES OF MATTHEW DONOVAN

1798

M<sup>r</sup> John Askin

To Matthew Donovan D<sup>r</sup>60

	£	s
To the Tuition of His Son Charles from the Beginning of January to the first of September	8"	0" 0
To the Tuition of James, Alick, & Alick Grant from the first of January to the 15 <sup>th</sup> of Novemb <sup>r</sup>		
	31"	10" 0
	<hr/>	
N.Y. Cur <sup>ry</sup>	39"	10" 0
C <sup>r</sup> By Cash Received	8"	0" 0
	<hr/>	
Balance due	31"	10" 0

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1798

1799 he was in debt to John Askin, who procured the issuance of a warrant for his arrest and incarceration in Sandwich, but being "luckily" absent from home when the officers called, he escaped this humiliation. See documents in Askin papers, *passim*. Either he or another of the same name was a schoolmaster in Detroit in 1790 and for several years thereafter.

60 Matthew Donovan was an early schoolmaster of Kingston (from 1788 to 1792), where he is described in a letter of Rev. John Stuart as "an Irishman, an excellent Latin

*Addressed:* Colonel John Askin Detroit<sup>61</sup>

*Endorsed:* This a/c of M. Donovans for Schooling is all sett<sup>d</sup> & paid. see my Books

TUITION CHARGES OF MATTHEW DONOVAN

Detroit 26 Nov. 98

Sir I am sorry to find you made out your account for the Schooling of my Children & Commodore Grant's Boy, higher than our agreem<sup>t</sup>. It cannot serve you but may be hurtful which I do not Wish; for it may lead others to think that when they remove their Children to an other School you will charge them much higher, therefore may take precautions to put it out of your Power which may be injurious to your Interest. Please therefore to make out a new Account and charge me as heretofore, and according to our Agreement and I will pay you, tho' Charles went only, or not even half the time as the other Children.

What is right I will always pay, and more I will not by Compulsion to any man I am &<sup>ca</sup>

J A

M<sup>r</sup> Donovan

*Endorsed:* Detroit 26 Novem. 98 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Mathew Donovan Copy

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Scholar, and of long experience in his profession." See A. H. Young (ed.), *The Parish Register of Kingston, Upper Canada, 1785-1811* (Kingston, 1921), 56 *et passim*. He came to Detroit as early as 1794, where he continued his profession of schoolmaster, remaining here until some time after the fire of 1805. He then removed to Amherstburg, where he died, July 22, 1809. Considerable interesting information concerning his teaching career is given in Burton's *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 708-709. On June 4, 1804, a police complaint was lodged against him "for not sweeping the street before his schoolhouse." He owned certain lots in Detroit, and in August, 1807, was a petitioner before the Land Board for P. C. 49 (in Ecorse), a tract of 389.80 acres.

Donovan left a widow and several daughters. One of the latter married Captain Jonathan Nelson, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 554-55; another married Robert Innis of Sandwich; a third became the wife of Matthew Elliot. See sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 165-66; Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit*, *passim*; and St. John's Church Register.

61 On the same sheet with the address and the endorsement are some figures, not here reproduced, which may represent Askin's refiguring of the account.

## PROFFER FOR PURCHASE OF LAND

Dear Si<sup>r</sup> To informe you that Yesterday there was a gentleman whome I have had a long acquaintance with who is an agent to look out a good tract of land for about fifty Famelys many of them my former [n]labours and they having the opinion of my being a little acquainted in Chuesing Good Stands as well as Settling new cuntry depend on our exploreing and Chuesing And agreeing with some gentleman for a sutable Place for that purpose. Should you wish to give us a reasonable encoragement we will trade with you to liten your taxes and make the rest of your lands of more value. You may depend on oure fidelity of defending your rites if we can Onely agree on the price when we Come to see the lands which we Expect to be in detroit as soon as the winter closes up.

I Am Sir your Most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

E. Allan<sup>62</sup>

The River Thames November 29<sup>h</sup> 1798  
John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup> at Detroit

*Endorsed:* River Thames, Nov<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> 1798 M<sup>r</sup> Ebenezer Allan to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

62. Ebenezer Allan was the first white resident on the site of Rochester, N. Y., and all real estate titles in the "One Hundred Acre Tract" in the central part of the city derive from him. He was a Tory during the Revolution, and although a man of much energy and force of character, was a hardened villain, whose life story would supply material for more than one dime novel. As a Tory he joined the Indians in various operations against the colonists, in which he gained the reputation of being more bloodthirsty than were the savages themselves. Mary Jemison knew him, and in her life narrative relates horrible deeds which are attributed to him. About the close of the war Allan engaged in trade, being located for a time at Mount Morris, N. Y. In July, 1788, he contracted with Oliver Phelps, one of the proprietors of the Phelps-Gorham land purchase, to build saw and grist-mills at the Genesee Falls. He carried out this agreement, becoming thereby the first settler on the site of Rochester. A few years later he sold his interests here and located once more at Mount Morris. About this same time he procured from Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada a grant of 2200 acres of land in what is now Delaware Township, Middlesex County, Ont. Here he located toward the close of the century (year uncertain). He sold a portion of his grant prior to March, 1799, for 3000 pounds. A condition of the grant required him to build a mill, church, etc. While carrying out these enterprises in the early years of the nineteenth century, he became cramped for funds and resorted to counterfeiting to supply the deficiency. For this offense he was subjected to a long term of imprisonment at Long Point. Apparently he was released prior to 1812, for in July of that year he was seized by the military on a charge of treasonable behavior. He died in 1816, and was buried in Delaware Township.

The details of Allan's private life are sufficiently lurid. Apparently there was no crime in the calendar he was incapable of committing, and of many of the graver crimes he stands accused. He had a choice assortment of wives, white, red, and black; his affection for them

## FROM GOTTLÖB SENSEMAN TO JOHN ASKIN

Fairfield Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> '98

D<sup>r</sup> Sir A few Days ago, I was favoured with Your obliging Letters, accompanied with some foreign Letters for me, in Your Case, for which I return you my sincere Thanks. as much as I known, all my Letters send to me, by your Care, have arrived safe; I should be very happy, if I could send now & than a Letter with the Post from Detroit to Philad. but I am at a Loss to whom I should send it, perhaps you may not stay long there, or els I don't doubt you would do me the Favor, to put on[e] in the Post. if there is any Postage to be paid in Detroit, I am willing to pay it.

Your Corn here, owing to you by our People, they are collecting already. I have appointed an trusty Ind<sup>n</sup> to collect & measure it, & keep a true Account; who has also a proper House to store it. Your Account, you send me, agrees with that, M<sup>r</sup> Nichol your late Clark, left here at my House. About the Tea, which he left with J. Henry,<sup>63</sup> which was 23<sup>rd</sup> he has sold but a Little of it, which Account he brought to me, before he went from here to Muskingum, which I have added to every ones Account, as they had not payed him. the Rest of the Tea he sent to you according to your Desire. I think you will recollect that you wrote a Letter to me late last Spring, and desired me, that J. Henry should send the Rest of the Tea down to you, as you were than in Great Want for Tea, accordingly he did, and I myself have helped him packing up the Tea; if you have

is indicated, to some extent, by the story that on removing to Canada he abandoned his squaw wife and hired two men to drown his white wife. They placed her in a canoe which they purposely ran over the upper Genesee Falls, but by some chance she escaped, followed her lord to Canada, and in the end lived to see him buried. The careers of several of Allan's descendants were almost as lurid as his own. A convenient summary of his New York career is in William F. Peck, *Semi-Centennial History of the City of Rochester* (Syracuse, 1884), 76 ff.; for his Canadian career, see *History of the County of Middlesex, Canada* (Toronto, 1889), 476-78.

<sup>63</sup> James Henry was captured in boyhood by Indians, and brought to Detroit. In Jacob Lindley's journal of the Quaker peace delegation which visited Detroit in 1793, Henry is described as "a smart young man, a prisoner with the Blind Chief, near the mouth of the river Roosh [Rouge], twelve miles from Detroit. He is adopted, which renders his case difficult. They have put jewels in his nose and ears, and figured him like an Indian. He is desirous of returning to this relatives near Georgetown, Eastern Shore of Maryland." It seems apparent that this youth of 1793 is the man mentioned in the present document. Nothing has been learned of his further career. Another James Henry came to Detroit about the time of the American occupation and soon achieved local prominence. See *post*, 305.

received the Tea I cannot tell. One M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Daily has been here; he tells me, that he is a going to build a small Vessel for you this Winter, above us at the Pinery. he further told me, that he will be down with the Vessel early in the Spring by the first Flood, and then your Corn can be put in the Vessel. he will carry it to Detroit to you for 18 Pence p<sup>r</sup> Bushel. If the man is to be dependit on, it would be the safest Way for you, getting your Corn in Time; but if not, I see no other Way, but that you send a small Vessel or large Boat early in the Spring. our People will bring it down near the Mouth of the River to the Vessel for one Shilling p<sup>r</sup> Buhl, which they always received from our Town to M<sup>r</sup> Dolsens Place; with there small Canows they do not like to venture over the Lake with so much Corn, as it is dangerous by Stormy Weather; the Amount what you have to get; comes to about 460 Buhl. at 6/ p<sup>r</sup> Bushl. I have taken the Pain of making an exact Calculation of every ones Debt, what Quantity of Corn he has to pay at six Shil<sup>g</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Buhl. and I shall be circumspect about it, that all shall be payed.

I have only to add that I am with much Esteem Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> & very hum<sup>be</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

G Senseman

p Excuse Errors I wrote in hast.

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit P<sup>r</sup> Favor of M<sup>r</sup> M. Dolsen at Dover

*Endorsed:* Fairfield Dec<sup>r</sup> 1 1798 The Reverand M<sup>r</sup> Senseman to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> same day.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN ANDERSON

Detroit 3<sup>d</sup> decemb<sup>r</sup> 98

Dear Sir Your favor of the 20 reached me a few days ago & that of the 28 Instant now. I think I have been fortunate enough to get a promise of 4 Barrells high wines for you at 20/ the Gallon as this will admit of one Gallon of water to 2 of liquor & be very strong Rum<sup>64</sup> it will reduce

<sup>64</sup> It was practically universal in the Indian trade to dilute with water the liquor sold the red men. The proportion of water added varied with the circumstances of the given case; commonly it was much greater than Askin here proposes.

the price to 13/4. as for whisky, none is to be got at Niagara nor here, the demand has been so great that I have not got any great quantity of liquor. the price will very soon rise. Indeed some now sell spirits at 28/. I will try & get your licence & send it by this opp<sup>y</sup>

Letters for you in C<sup>o</sup>, with accounts are come from the House of Mess<sup>rs</sup> McGills, I have kept them untill you come in. they have taken yours & my Peltries to their accounts at the rates you will See by the inclosed note from them & say that is the price they paid M<sup>r</sup> Dufresne, and above what M<sup>r</sup> Laselle sold for at public Vendue. I am satisfied for my small parcell You will say If you are or not. however as you do not like risk, perhaps it's as well. you would have Sold them for less here, besides it pays for the old a/c & some small matter over. your Earbobs, Crosses & broaches are come and amount to £50. 16. 8 Hx. as they may be carried on a man's back, perhaps you would do better to send for them, than I [to] give them in charge to a Stranger. the candle wick I will send and the liquor also If I like the weather when the Boat returns I will pay your Order, tho' it runs me so hard for money that I cannot buy any Pork myself tho' offered here at 10½<sup>d</sup> which is as low nearly as yours for 9<sup>d</sup> where you are. I must look to you for about 3 Bbls of yours. Please do not forget to send the Bale of Blanketts for Johnny, he wants them much, & If you can Spare me 6 pairs 3 P<sup>t</sup> Send them in. I will do as you desire about your Boat whether it remains here or goes back.

It is now December the 5<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon & the winter Seems to have Set in I have recived your Boat as the man Says he will set off tomorrow morning & gave receipt for all I got. I can get a Bble Jamaica Spirits for one of your high wines givin[g] the difference of Price this Will answer you better for tavern Keeping & the other 3 for your Indian trade. I have given your Candle wick to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. your Licence is also ready. Compliments & ca

Signed J Askin

P. S. I suppose you will send a Slay or two for your Rum. If So, it can bring in the Blanketts & two Barrels Pork. If you have more Silver works than you want I believe you could sell some here at 20 or 25 p<sup>r</sup> Cent. you have here 500

Pairs earbobs cost 8 sols 500 cost 9 sols 500 cost 10 sols.  
5,000 Broaches cost 9 [sols] the 100 & 50 Small crosses cost  
10 sols.

dec<sup>r</sup> 11. the Pork Merchant Still here, as I have bought  
of him for 9<sup>d</sup> to day I will not want any of yours.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 3<sup>d</sup> december 1798 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>  
to John Anderson & Co Copy

#### ATTITUDE OF JUDGE POWELL CONCERNING LAND TITLES

Detroit 4 decm. 98

My good Sir I wrote you a few days ago on a melancholy  
occasion, the present is in answer to your very obliging  
letter of the 19 October which reached me only a few days  
ago

from what you Say respecting Judge Powell I fear I have  
not in mine, to you, of the 4 October last explained myself  
so fully as I should have done and that you have been led  
to think Some misunderstanding exist[s] between us. as  
there is not the Smallest imaginable I Should be Sorry that  
our material [mutual] friends thought there were. So far  
from any thing of the Kind If M<sup>r</sup> Powell was capable of  
partiality (from which I Know him to be free) was I to  
require it I have every reasen in the world to think he  
would exercise it towards me as soon as any man in this  
Quarter. our families and Selves have always lived on the  
most friendly footing which I do not beleive is now lessened.  
we last met & parted as good friends as ever my differing  
in opinion with him respecting the latitude which the act  
gave the Comissioners, and Idias that he was Stricter re-  
specting testimony or proof, than the act required, could  
never cause any misunderstg. between men of Sense &  
liberal Sentiments. was I on the Bench to Say as he did  
whilst I thought otherwise I am sure he or you would  
despise me for so doing or that I Should be offended that  
he as President of the Board, and a professional man would  
change his mode of proceedings on my account or in con-  
formity to my Ideas would be truly ridiculous. In this  
particular point we differ I Say the Bill has authorised the  
comissioners in Some causes to take the word of one man

and not of another respecting the Claims to Lands when no other or better proof can be obtained. I think Judge Powell either Says it does not or that If it does, he will not put it in practice. his opinion for many reasons must be the best of the two, yet I cannot divist myself of mine. as to his being thought a fit person to decide the different [differences] respecting lands in this Quarter was [blank] & I dare Say no other would have answered better nor perhaps so well, tho he requires proofs, the collection of which at this late period is attended with expense. however when he returns next we will be better prepared. for my part I Shall have all mine except one or two at most who are dead and their Certificates not transfere'd on their part & mine not thinking it necessary. If for want of this piece of formality I should loose them it's no great matter they can be replaced by a purchase from Government of others that will not cost half as much. the whole of mine on an average cost above £20 each & I have had & am likely to have trouble equal to as much more before they are all admitted & Deeds got for them. apropos on the Subject of Deeds, pray could I not get one Deed for Several farms or lots So as to save expense, it would be a great object for me who have no Spare money nor likely I ever will, as *madame bad luck* took a passage in all my small vessells this fall.

I have several lots that Join, these at all events I suppose may be included in one Deed. I do not for the present wish that Deeds should be immediately granted for all my Claims passed at the Board. by the Winter express I will write you those I am desirous Should have a preference. however perhaps there are regulations contrary to what I wish. If so, they will no doubt be complied with. I beg If possible that M<sup>r</sup> Iredell may be directed to lay out the Lands about the Small Rivers where I wrote he had always promised me mine. I want to take up the family Lands there and some other orders of Council. I know not when it may please God to call me off, therefore wish to have as much Settled before as I can. You were so obliging in a Letter dated 12 November 1795 to say that it was likely there might be a Lot got in the 2<sup>d</sup> Concession near Chatham, this I at that time mentioned to M<sup>r</sup> Iredell & he located me

N<sup>o</sup> 23 or 24 I do not recollect which, from which time untill lately, I, and I believe he, thought it to be mine but now otherwise. please Settle that matter as you think fit. I perhaps may have been premature in getting it located, these long winded storms must be dischargeable therefore shall conclude with assurances of being my Dear Sir Yours  
&<sup>ca</sup>

Sd J A

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit 4<sup>h</sup> december 1798 John Askin to  
D. W<sup>m</sup> Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy

PROFFER TO FURNISH GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES

Detroit december 9<sup>th</sup>[?], 1798

Dear Sir As the slaying is now begun, many People have applied to me to know If I would take firewood Some of whom owe me & others would take goods in payment. If you could without any interference with your Arrangements, take five hundred Cords of me, or even less, at the rates you pay others, it would be obliging me very much. Prior to your last arrival, I mentioned to M<sup>r</sup> Warren that I had it in my power to furnish Hay for your department of a better Quality than what you generally got, & on as reasonable terms, he said when you came home he would mention the Matter to you, I do not Know whether he has or not. I have always considered the furnishing of any Government with Such articles as were wanted a very great advantage to those who did it, not so much from the highness of the price as the certainty of the payment, whilst our Commanding Officers & he who purchased was on a good footing. I often had preferences at the rates others sold at, but that, owing to their misunderstandings is now over and a mode adopted by which the worst as well as the best of characters may get the Contracts I do not mean by this to infer that I should have a preference under your Government being a British Subject, but only that when you have purchases to make of any indifferent Persons, If in that case you would be pleased to give directions to apply to me it would be rendering me a great Service & I would always

consider it as Such. this next Summer I will have Boards, Plank, Shingles & other timber to dispose of, also the best of Bricks, and at all times lime, I am &<sup>ca</sup>

Signed J Askin

Mathew Ernest Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 December, 98 John Askin to Mathew Ernest Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO REV. GOTTLOB SENSEMAN

Detroit 10 decem. 98

Reverend Sir I am this day favoured with your very obliging Letter dated the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant & return you many thanks for the pains you are taking to have whats' due me by your people collected, and I will pay the person you have employed to receive & Store my Corn whatever you think right respecting the transport here, If the man who is to build my Vessell has her ready in time it will be best both for him and me as I can allow him One Shilling P<sup>r</sup> Bushel for so doing which will be clear gain to him, M<sup>r</sup> James Henry did return me the Tea that remained. I had not forgot it I am glad the Letters for you, thro' my care have always got so Safe, any you may have to Send I will take charge of, and tho there is no regular Post yet there is frequent opportunities, and I'm Sure the Colonel, or Quarter Master of this place will forward any letter I may give them, with pleasure; besides I Know they have a great liking to your people in general, and many of them are acquainted with M<sup>r</sup> Hackenwelder

The 6/ per Bushel allowed your people on the Spot I believe is a very fair price Corn is by no means Scarce here & I think it will hardly fetch 8/ any time between this & the new Crop. I remain &<sup>ca</sup>

Signed J Askin

the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> G. Senseman Riv. thames

P. S. I Inclose John Henry say Cristiaín Henry's Orders on you for 7½ Dollars which I have Char<sup>d</sup> to your Account

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 decem. 98 John Askin to Rev<sup>d</sup> Gotlob Senseman River Thames Copy

## FROM JOHN ASKIN TO WILLIAM DALY

Detroit 11 December 1798

Sir The young man with your letters, Power of Attorney &a, did not get here before yesterday, and as the court was then almost over, nothing whatever could be done in your demands against M<sup>r</sup> May for this term I will befriend you in this matter If you are right (and Which I am told you are) with all my heart, thats' to say I am in hopes M<sup>r</sup> May will pay you without a Suit, or leave it to arbitration. If not, M<sup>r</sup> Sibley<sup>65</sup> Who you have employed I am Sure will act fairly by his clients therefore will have Justice done to you

Respecting your Commands on Colonel Strong<sup>66</sup> for the Services you rendered the united States, he has told the young man you Sent in that there is money in the Quarter masters hands for you, If I find when he receives it, that there is not enough to make the £14-9 you owe, rather than See you distressed I will give money to make up the difference I will likewise send you your watch and the tools you Wrote for If I can find them, in short as you appear an honest man in your dealings I will Serve you all

65 Solomon Sibley was born in Sutton, Mass., Oct. 7, 1769, and came to Detroit in the early summer of 1798. A lawyer by profession, he soon assumed a prominent place in the community. In 1799 he was elected to represent Wayne County in the legislature of Northwest Territory. In this capacity he was influential in securing the incorporation of the town of Detroit in 1802, and in 1806 he became the first mayor of the city under the government established by the governor and judges. He served as territorial auditor from 1814 to 1817; U. S. district attorney from 1815 to 1823; was elected delegate to Congress in 1821; and from 1824 to 1837 was a justice of the territorial Supreme Court.

Sibley married Sarah Whipple Sproat, Oct. 31, 1802, and to them nine children were born. One son, Henry H. Sibley, achieved fame as a foremost citizen of Minnesota in the pioneer and territorial period. Solomon Sibley died in Detroit, April 4, 1846. His extensive private papers are preserved in the B. H. Coll. Information adapted from sketch in *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 157-58, and references in B. H. Coll.

66 David Strong was a native of Connecticut who served throughout the Revolution in the Connecticut state troops, rising from sergeant to the rank of captain. On July 15, 1785, he was commissioned captain in the U. S. Infantry Regiment, and four years later became captain in the First U. S. Infantry. He served during the northwestern Indian wars of the nineties and on Feb. 19, 1793, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in Wayne's Legion. On Nov. 1, 1796, he was transferred to the Second Infantry, and some time prior to the close of 1798 he became commandant at Detroit, where he remained until the summer of 1800. In 1799 he was sued by John Dodemead for \$5000 damages for having posted a sentry in the rear of Dodemead's tavern to prevent soldiers' resorting there to purchase intoxicating liquor. The suit was but one expression of an acute conflict of opinion between the military and a certain element among the citizens over the respective limits of military and civil authority in Detroit. He died, Aug. 19, 1801. Information adapted from Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*, and mss. in B. H. Coll.

I can, and as to any necessary services you rendered me When the *Annette* was cast away when you and I meet and are Settling our other matters you may depend on my Allowing you whats' fair & honest for my part. As to the trouble you Say you give me, I do not think it any to help an honest man.

I Sent you in a letter the dimmentions of the vessell you have engaged to build for me, but for fear that Letter may be lost, I will now mention them again. viz<sup>t</sup> 28 feet Keel, 10 feet Beam & 4½ feet hold which I suppose is deep enough to Stow two Rows of Barrells over each other, the dead rising as Captain Fearson told you is 4 inches & the Quarter Deck is to be a foot higher than the main Deck If you finish the vessell in the manner I expect you Will, besides our agreement I will make you a present and as I have about 500 Bushels of corn at the Mauravian town, If you have her ready early in the Spring I will give you one Shilling the Bushel for bringing it down which will make about £25 more for you, & you may have Cable, Anchor Sails to bring her down.

It's now the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month & your man has been with the Quarter master, who, he tells me, Says he will not give a penny for the present. I therefore think it cannot be Settled untill you are here yourself in the Spring. as that is the case & you are pressed, I have given an order on M<sup>r</sup> Shibly to pay you in Cash £9 - 10 - 0 which with 4 - 19 - 0 I now give your man will make the £14 - 9 - you wanted, I have also bought what of the tools you wanted which I could get and paid M<sup>r</sup> Strong for your man £1 - 13 - 6 an account of the whole is inclosed & Amounts to £16 - 13 - 6 I have also Sent your watch.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 11 Decem. 98 John Askin to William Dealy Copy

PROSPECTS FOR INDIAN LAND SPECULATION

Detroit 15 decem 98

Dear Henry I had the satisfaction of receiving yours dated the 8<sup>th</sup> October on the 26 of last M<sup>o</sup> and by it I am sorry to find my Letters as some of yours must have mis-

carried, had your Rum got up here, most certainly it would have met with a good market. no Spirits have been under 24/ and I believe it will get to 32/ being Scarce I myself for customers have been obliged to engage 16 Barrells had yours been here they would have had a preference it's true I pay but 23/ but that's cash down however I do not think you will catch that advantage in the Spring for the people from Albany will be up before you and I am told the Same Quality of Spirits is got 3 or 4/ less in York than in Montreal, and as to dry Goods the place is quite over Stocked with them.

As your opinion is so unfavourable about Indian Lands, and perhaps well founded, M<sup>r</sup> Robertson, Mess Isaac Todd & James McGill & yourself Should empower one or more of the proprietors to do the best they can with them here. I think I could block some part off at a low rate and the purchaser run all the risks If you give a Power of attorney it Should be without limitation only that nothing shall be Warranted Your determination of not paying a penny more to the Indians my good friend is very embarassing to the others concerned whose Sentiments are different and think that it's better Still to give Some Small matter than loose all that's given. will you renounce your right to any one who will reimburse you all you have paid. I believe If you consent I will find such a person tho I do not assure it. If I do, and you agree I am sure he will pay his share of future expenses I prefer you to any other If you would pay your share but otherwise you may hurt us much. M<sup>r</sup> Todd & you may both go towards York but I don't think either of your necessities so great as to oblige you to run the risk of your lives & I think you are too old to do such Boyish tricks

We have accounts here of M<sup>r</sup> Buonaparte having taken a very different Rout from what he intended or you hear'd. England is a better Climate than Egypt or the holy land. in Spite of him or any other man on earth, most people will enjoy their own Sentiments respecting religion. I think before a man's two hours dead he Knows more about the Matter than all those who remain behind. at Same time surely there can be no risk, in being what all the world

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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agrees is good; and this is in the power of all who are disposed to be so. I am happy to hear all yours are well thank God mine enjoy the like Blessing. may there be a long continuance of it to both is the most Sincere wish of your old & Constant friend

(Signed) J. A.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 15 december 1798 John Askin to Alexander Henry Copy