

SECTION IV

LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1800-1801

SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Amherstburgh Janu^y 8 1800

Sir I now send you the accounts of the Timber, Scantling, and Bricks, recev^d from you, for the Service of Government; you will observe the quantity of Scantling is more than was agreed for, M^r Backwell wished to have the Surplus accounted for as Timber, that would have been against your Interest, therefore I have drawn the accounts for the real quantites delivered. you will find the Bricks charged at 1/11 per hundred, more than your Charge. that is to pay the Men for fetching them down. Captain M^eLean¹ is to pay you, for 2000 Bricks, that has been applied to his own use. the Bills for the payment of the Several Sums are enclosed. please to Sign the receipts at the Bottom of the Accounts, and return them by some certain and Safe conveyance, as Soon as you can and Oblige

Sir Your verry Humble Servant

Thomas Reynold D^y Com^y

£ s d

Bills—391..7..3 Cur^y H/x

Endorsed: Amherstburgh Jan^y 8^h 1800 M^r Tho^s Reynolds to Jn^o Askin Answ^d y^e 9th.

¹ Hector McLean was commissioned a lieutenant in the Eighty-fourth Regiment, June 14, 1775. From 1779, when the regiment was ordered to America, until as late as the summer of 1801, he was serving in America, most of the time in Upper Canada. He succeeded Captain Mayne as commander of the post at Amherstburg on July 24, 1797, and in June, 1801, he was still at this station. He inherited the feud begun by Captain Mayne with the officials of the Indian Department, and it was due to his representations to Governor General Prescott that Matthew Elliot was dismissed from the service. Shortly prior to Aug. 27, 1799, McLean's wife died in Amherstburg, leaving him the care of "two fine children." At the time of his Amherstburg sojourn, his commission was in the Royal Canadian Volunteers, and in a letter of Sept. 13, 1798, he expressed an intention to memorial the Duke of York for rank in the army, having lost his position by being passed over in 1783, at the instance of General Haldimand. McLean's career subsequent to his departure from Amherstburg has not been traced. Data derived from British army lists, and from letters and documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*.

SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Detroit January 10th 1800

Sir Your Obliging Letter of the 8th reached me Yesterday & I'm thankfull for the manner in which you settled the Overplus Scantling. I have signed the accounts & will return them by the first person I can depend on who may be going to Malden. You have not furnished say Charged, as many Brick as I furnished There is 950 still even after my deducting 2000 for Captⁿ M^cLean, however we can settle this difference any other time. Your Drafts for the payment I have received £391. 7. 3½ Hf^x Currency

I am sir your most Obed^t Humble Servant
Thomas Reynolds Esq^r
Deputy Commissary at Amherstburgh

Endorsed: Detroit January the 10th 1800 John Askin
Senior to Thomas Reynolds Commissary at Amherstburgh
(Copy)

TRADE CONDITIONS IN MONTREAL

Montreal 18 January 1800

Dear Askin I wrote to you by the last boat since which I have received a few lines saying you was well, which you know allways gives me great pleasure, but much more could I see you which never will happen in this world. I have been laid up since october with a complication of disorders, so that I have kept the House, and a great part my Bed, but at present am mending and as soon as I can get strength sufficient will make a Trip to the Ball^a Town springs which renews ones age I wish you was there. M^r Todd is going with me. he is always complaining when his intestines are empty, but after Dinner recovers wonderfully.

I observe what you say respecting hiring young men for three or four years. the opposition to N West has raised the price so very high that I dont think they can be got without giving much more than they may be got for at Detroit boys asked me seven & eight hundred livers, and would engage only for one year. the old N West Company is all in the Hands of M^cTavish. Frobisher and M^cKinsey²

² The allusion is to Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer, who was one of the leading

is out. the latter went off in a pet, the cause as far as I can learn was who should be the first—M^cTavish or M^cK—and as there could not be two Cesars in Rome one must remove.

by the last accounts from England there is very bad appearance of furs, selling well. they say most of the furr buyers are bankrupts owing to several Houses in Hamburg failing, which has bankrupt all the foreign Houses in London, and several in New York. Seaton Maitland & C^o who had all the China business in hand of M^cTavish & C^o is shut. I suspect it will fall heavy on them. muskratts is the only article which may keep at 24—good—and this is owing to Astore and me being in opposition. if you can sell yours for that I think you ought as you may have buyers there, for should Astore & me agree they will fall—unless they should sell high in London. there is only 10,000 Shipt from Quebec, not one from this. Astore & me bought the whole—from 20^s to 24^s some small parcels at auction from the spirit of opposition sold at 26^s & 27^s I bought 700 Bear skins at auction when the account sales encouraged us, very high. that article I am informd will fall one half, and if some new place is not found for Raccoons they will go badly. the yankeys will trade Rum for Raccoons should you have any I would recommend you to do it. they may not be worth here 6^d.

another cause has happend contrary to our expe[ctations.] 50,000 men from England landed in Hol[land], the Duke of York commanded. all the Dutch fleet surrendered. the army within a few miles from Amsterdam was drove back to their Landing great numbers kill'd, and to save the remainder was obliged to make some kind of a convention

figures of his generation in the Canadian fur trade. He was born on the Island of Lewis, Scotland, in 1763; he came to Canada in 1779, and for five years served as clerk for Gregory, McLeod and Company in Montreal. In response to his desire to become acquainted with the fur trade in the field, he was sent to Detroit by his firm in 1784, and remained here for a year. He was then admitted to partnership in the company and went to the far Northwest. Thereafter, his rise to fame and wealth was rapid. In 1789 he descended the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean, and four years later crossed the continent from Fort Athabaska to the Pacific, being in each case the first explorer to reach these oceans from the interior. Between Mackenzie and Simon McTavish existed a bitter antipathy, which was the occasion of much discord in the Canadian fur trade until the death of McTavish in 1804. In 1808 Mackenzie returned to Scotland and there spent the remainder of his life. He died suddenly, March 12, 1820. His geographical discoveries have served to make his name one of the most renowned in Canadian annals. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.

or Treaty. one of the articles is, we are to deliver them 8,000 prisoners without exchange. they say there are other stipulations not known Robinson is well, General Washington Dead my family all join in p[r]aying for the Happiness of yours and remain your affectionate

Alexander Henry

Rum is selling 5/. Spiritts high proof

Mr Sharp Died yesterday of an inflamation of the Bowells, which will be a great Loss to Leath

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit.

Endorsed: Montreal Jan^y 18^h 1800 Alexd^r Henry to Jn^o Askin recv^d 27^h Feb^y & Answ^d 17^h May.

INDENTURE OF RACHAEL HUSTLER

D Etroit
County of Wayne }SS

This Indenture witnesseth that Thomas Hustler Sergeant belonging to the Artillerists & Engineers in the Army of the UNITED STATES at DETroit Affoarsaid hath put and placed and by these presents doth put and place his Daughter Rachael Hustler as an apprentice to Elias Wallen^s of DETroit afrsaid merchant The said Racheal to dwell with and serve him for the term of five Years from the date hereof which will End on the tenth day of March 1805 at which time the said Racheal to be dismissed if required, during which time she shall deligently serve as an apprentice affoarsaid to her said Master she shall do no Damage to her said Master nor Willfully suffer any to be done she shall not waste her Masters Goods nor len[d] them without leave of her said Master she shall not Absent herself but in all things shall behave herself as a true and faithful apprentice ought to do during the term aforesaid

³ Elias Wallen was in Detroit as early as January, 1799, when he voted in the election then held. Documents preserved among the Askin papers disclose that in 1800 he was acting as sheriff of Wayne County, although we have found no formal record of his appointment to this office. When the town of Detroit was incorporated, in 1802, by act of the Legislative Council of the Northwest Territory, Wallen was appointed to the office of marshal. In February, 1803, Charles Curry, on behalf of Wallen, endeavored to rent John Askin's house, and in April, 1804, Curry voted for Wallen (as freeholder) on the question of restoring the stockade around the town. No information concerning his further career has been found. Data drawn from mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*, and Burton, *Journal of the Board of Trustees, passim*.

And the said Elias Wallen doth bind himself his heirs Executors Administrators and assigns on his part and doth hereby promise Covenant and agree that the said Racheal shall be lernt to read write and sew and further doth promise that the said Racheal shall have sifficiant Clothing during her apprentice[s]hip as allso good and wholesom diet with two Suits of good Clothing when discharged.

In testimony whereof We have hereunto Interchangeable Set our hand & Seals at DEtroit affoarsaid the Tenth day of March In the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred.

Signed Sealed & Deliv ^d	}	E. Wallen
In presence of		Th ^o Hustler
Patrick M ^o Niff		Judge of the Court of Common Pleas
Wayne County		

DUEL BETWEEN JOHN WHITE AND JOHN SMALL

York 10th Feb^y 1800

Dear Sir I was favored with your [letter] Some days ago, and delivered its inclosure to Commissary M^oGill. he told me he would most probably be able to Answer it by the express. he Said at present he had no orders respecting the purchase of Corn.

It gave us much pleasure to learn you are all well. Thank god we continue in the Same State. however we expect to hear from you more fully soon. you will probably have heard of the very disaggreable event that has taken place here. what I allude to is M^r Small⁴ the Clerk of the Executive Council having shott the late Attorney General in a duel, the cause of which was something that M^r White⁵

4 John Small was born in Gloucestershire, England, in 1746. In 1792 he came out to Canada; the following year he was appointed clerk of the Executive Council of Upper Canada, and this position he filled until his death in York, July 18, 1831. His wife, who figured in the fatal quarrel with White, was Eliza Goldsmith, a native of Kent, in England. They had three sons, one of whom served in the navy. Another, Charles, was long a prominent resident of Toronto. The house built by Small in York in 1796 was still standing, enlarged and reconstructed, as late as 1894. Information adapted from J. Ross Robertson, *Landmarks of Toronto* . . . (Toronto, 1894), 95-98.

5 John White was a native of England who studied law at Gray's Inn and was admitted to the bar by the Inner Temple in 1785. He practiced law for a time in Jamaica, subsequently returning to England, where, in 1791, he was appointed Attorney General of Upper Canada. In 1792 he was also elected to the provincial assembly. He belonged, like

had said to D. W. Smith respecting Mr^s Small, which indeed was Saying She was everything bad, and which he repeated to the Chief Justice's family and to Mr Justice Powell. Mr Smith is much blamed as having endeavoured much to promote Mischief.

We received the apples and Cyder you was so kind as to Send us for which you will be pleased to accept our best thanks. Madlain joins me in best wishes for the health and happiness of all the family and all our friends near you and I am Dear Sir your most Obed^{nt} humb^e Serv^t

R. Richardson

Addressed: John Askin Esquire, Detroit⁶

Endorsed: York Feb^y 10th 1800 Doc^r Richardson to Jn^o Askin Rec^d Y^e 27th & Answ^d the 16th May

FROM WALTER ROE TO JOHN ASKIN

Sandwich, 11th March 1800

Dear Sir The Sheriff has sent me twelve bushels of Indian Corn & twenty nine pounds of Tobacco, which he says, you desired him to receive of Antoine Cencirnie⁷ I have it safely stored & whenever you send over it will be delivered.

I must add, at same time, that a few days since, I was called on by the High Constable to interpret between him & Mr Dimouchelle,⁸ on the Seizure of your Caleche, for some Assessments that appear to be in arrear.

Small, to the small official caste of the infant capital, and the duel between the two grew out of a squabble between their wives. White was mortally wounded, and died after thirty-six hours of great agony. He was buried "in a summer house on his own land adjoining the town," Jan. 7, 1800. Small was tried for murder but was acquitted through the neglect of the prosecution to introduce the necessary proof of the killing of White. See Jesse E. Middleton, *The Municipality of Toronto: A History* (Toronto, 1923), I, 83-84, and II, 670-71.

6 The following contemporary notation precedes the address: "IN4 York 12th Feby 1800."

7 Antoine Saint Cerny (Cernie) was born in the parish of Repentigny in Canada in 1759. On Nov. 26, 1787, he married in Sandwich Mary Therese Valade, who was born there, Jan. 27, 1774, daughter of Joseph Valade and Therese Bineau. Information adapted from Assumption Church Register.

8 The first American ancestor of the Dumouchel (Demouchell, Desmouchelle, etc.) line of Sandwich and vicinity was Bernard Dumouchel dit Laroche, a native of Rouen, who lived in Lower Canada. In 1673 he married Jeanne Juin. Their son, Paul, a shoemaker by occupation, who spent his life in Lower Canada, made a journey to Detroit in the spring of 1708. On Nov. 18, 1709, he married Mary Louisa Tessier, a native of Montreal. Their

Louis Vezina⁹ has just called on me & wishes to make a final Settlement with you. He has been trying to exchange his Land for a Lot in Malden as I understood while I was down there yesterday. The Character that he is concerned with, is such that I have advised him *off*, & I hope that he will Afect with you, something determinate.

I detain your Statutes longer than my promise, finding them *useful* If at some time you require them they shall be immediately returned by, Dear Sir Yours

W. Roe

Addressed: John Askin Esquire. Detroit

Endorsed: Sandwich March 11th 1800 Walter Roe Esq^r to Jn^o Askin, Rec & answ^d same day.

AFFAIRS OF ASKIN IN VINCENNES

Detroit March the 20th 1800

Sir Untill now, I have not had an Oppertunity of answering your obliging letter dated the 9th of October last wich with your remarks on my claims at Post Vincent, and in that Quarter, I have received and am very thankfull to you for the Information it contains. The Bearer hereof, M^r

sons, Louis Joseph Dumouchel, born, Oct. 25, 1712, and Paul Dumouchel, born, Jan. 11, 1717, both came to Detroit about the middle of the century. Paul married here on Jan. 26, 1749, Jane Chapoton, daughter of Jean Chapoton and Mary Magdelene Estève. She died the following July, and Paul seems shortly to have returned to Montreal where he contracted a second marriage in 1752, and where he was buried on Sept. 25, 1780.

Louis Joseph Dumouchel, the elder brother, married in Montreal on Jan. 12, 1739, Mary Louisa Leclerc, a native of Quebec. Their son, Louis Vital, is the person alluded to in the present document. He was born in Lower Canada, Dec. 12, 1745, and on Nov. 22, 1773, married, in Sandwich, Marie Madelaine Goyau. She was buried, April 24, 1796, and Louis Vital on Feb. 8, 1826. They had twelve children born in the years 1774-96. Louis Vital Dumouchel served as church warden of Assumption Parish from his election on Aug. 24, 1788, until 1822, and officiated as godfather or as witness at scores of baptisms and marriages. A militia return of 1805 lists him as a sergeant in Jean Bapiste Baby's company, belonging to the Northwest Regiment of Essex County militia. Data derived from Cyprien Tanguay, *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes* (Montreal, 1886); Assumption Church Register; and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

⁹ The ancestors of Louis Vesina (Vessina, Vesinat, Vezina, Viscenau) resided for several generations in Lower Canada. His father, also named Louis, was born at Pointe aux Trembles, March 23, 1735, and on Oct. 3, 1774, he married in Quebec, Mary Joseph Charlotte Allegrain, a native of Three Rivers. They removed to Detroit during, or soon after, the Revolution, and on Oct. 15, 1790, Louis appeared before the Land Board, took the oath of allegiance, and applied for an allotment of land in New Settlement. He was subsequently given lot 44 in the Two Connected Townships. He was buried in Sandwich, Dec. 13, 1797. Documents in the Askin papers disclose that he was indebted to Askin, and that his widow (who was buried in Detroit, Feb. 5, 1799) living in New Settlement, undertook to discharge the debt. A subsequent report of the Land Board, listing disbanded

Smith¹⁰ not being able to give me any Assurance of his going any further than Fort Wayne prevents my sending you the necessary papers for the recovery of what's due me or the part that can be got, but as every Spring some person of confidence comes from the Post & returns there I most Asuredly will not neglect forwarding them by the first safe conveyance, for I believe your remarks to be very just, that the longer those matters lie over the more I will suffer.

My Post Vincent papers have been in so many Hands, that I fear some are lost or mislaid, I cant find what relates [to] Etiene S^t Mary, but as it has been registered, I suppose Monsieur Tousaint Dubois will not hesitate to purchase it as my right is on record & if you still think the Horse Mill^{&ca} not worth more, I hereby authorize you take that sum for them, however as he has been making use of them without authority I think he should be compeled to pay more & happy he gets off so easy. Nothing but Cash will answer or his draft on Forsyth¹¹ & Smith here & the Deeds returned untill the

soldiers and others in Detroit entitled to the royal bounty, classifies Vesina along with four others as having served at the siege of Quebec as an artificer or "with other pretensions."

Louis Vesina, our present subject and son of the foregoing, was a native of Lower Canada. He married Catherine McLean, prior to the year 1800, when a son, Jean, was born, and was living in or near Amherstburg as late as February, 1815, when another son, Charles, was baptized. Data compiled from Ontario Bureau of Archives, *Third Report, passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll., especially the Ste. Anne's and Assumption registers.

¹⁰ William Smith of the firm of Forsyth and Smith. Documents among the Askin papers indicate that he had considerable connection with the Wabash country. For many years he resided in Amherstburg, and he served as captain of a troop of cavalry and as adjutant of the Second Regiment of Essex militia in the War of 1812, participating, among other engagements, in the capture of Detroit and the battle of Frenchtown. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 239, and Irving, *op. cit.*, 91-92. Smith was born in 1757 and was buried in Sandwich on March 6, 1833. He married Mary Cowan of Sandwich, Aug. 11, 1801, and they had six sons and two daughters born in the years 1802-15. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*; St. John's Church Register; and Marriage Register of the Western District of Upper Canada.

¹¹ Robert Forsyth, son of William Forsyth of Detroit, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 307. He was one of those residents of Detroit who, on the advent of American rule, personally signified their intention of remaining British subjects, and on July 14, 1801, he obtained a grant of land in Sandwich. He later changed his plans, however, and on May 15, 1812, was formally admitted to U. S. citizenship. Taken prisoner and subsequently paroled by General Brock the same year, he was accused by General Procter of having violated the parole and served under General Harrison. Upon his death in 1816, John Kinzie, his half-brother, was appointed administrator of his estate. At the time of the appointment (March 21) Kinzie was living in Detroit, but in July he removed to Chicago, and in 1819 was dismissed by the court on the ground that he was neglecting his duties as administrator. At the time of his death, Forsyth owned a lot in the vicinity of modern Shelby Street and Jefferson Avenue, and 694 acres of land, comprising Private Claims 620 and 621 in Grosse Pointe.

Forsyth was twice married, although there is some question about the regularity of his

Bills are accepted. In any payments you get for me please return [retain] your dues & send me the Balance. I agree to the Terms you propose of doing my Business. I should think that whoever Administered or took property otherwise in Charge and Disposed of it that belonged to any person Dead who owed me that they could be made Accountable for my proportion of the Deceased's Estate. Therefore that Mr W^m Mackintosh¹² & the Widow of Monsieur Francois Bossering¹³ are in those situations. I'm sorry to have reason to complain of a former Friend of mine & a man who I supposed to be possessed of the greatest Probity nor will I untill I hear from [you] suffer myself to think the contrary, this is Monsieur Francois Vigoe we dealt largely together and never had any misunderstanding. in the course of our dealings, he in 1786 delivered me 98 Packs and supposing it more for his advantage to have them sold in London on his acc^t than in Montreal to serve him I agreed to his proposals. when they went to Canada prior to their being Shipt a supposed value was put on them as is usual untill the sales were known & I credited his account for that

union with Mary Scott. Mrs. Eleanor Kinzie Gordon, a granddaughter of John Kinzie and an ardent family partisan, stated that Mary Scott was the wife of a soldier who "obstinately refused to divorce her," and consequently was never legally the wife of Forsyth. They had three children: Robert Forsyth Jr., born in 1798, who was graduated from West Point in 1817 and spent most of his life in the army; Maria Forsyth, born in 1801, who married Benjamin Kercheval, who held several territorial and state offices; and Alice Marion Sophia, who married Major Thomas Hunt, son of Colonel Thomas Hunt and brother of Henry Jackson Hunt. By Forsyth's second marriage, with Jane Little, he had one daughter, Jane C. Forsyth, who on Oct. 15, 1833, married Charles R. Brush, son of Elijah Brush and Adelaide Askin. Data compiled from Burton, Forsyth-Little-Kinzie genealogy.

¹² For sketch of William McIntosh, see *B. H. R.*, I, 328-29. Considerable additional information concerning his career is given by William W. Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1883), 378-83. At Vincennes, McIntosh engaged in a violent controversy with Judge Benjamin Parke and Governor Harrison, and thereby incurred the united opposition of Harrison's friends, who sought to drive him from Indiana. During the War of 1812, McIntosh served as army contractor. He is said to have been a free-thinker, and he joined a group of kindred spirits to purchase a tract of land on the Illinois side of the Wabash, on which they located the city of Mount Carmel. McIntosh removed thither, and according to an informant of Woollen who had known him, lived here until his death. He reared a family of illegitimate children by his negro housekeeper, and a son of this union, to whom he gave a good education, became a well-known preacher of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

¹³ Francois Bosseron was one of the prominent citizens of Vincennes in the Revolutionary period. He was enrolled in the British militia force, but on the advent of the Americans under Clark, gave them his hearty support. He served with Captain Leonard Helm on the latter's expedition up the Wabash in 1779, and furnished ammunition for the invading army. He was later district commandant and territorial judge, dying in Vincennes in 1791. A street in Vincennes still bears his name.

Value. as he did not return to this Post after I received the acc^t of sales, his acc^t with me went on without any notice being taken of what his packs neated, Untill about nearly two years ago he reminded me by letter of this circumstance and even, in a note of hand he gave my agent for the Ball^o then suposed due me he Inserted a condition relative to the sales of said Furr's a copy of which note I here Inclosed. I then recollected the whole matter which realy for some time had Escaped my memory and drew a fair statement of his acc^{ts} with me charging him with what his Peltries neated less than the estimated value, which account with a letter dated the 6th of May last I sent him per Monsieur Tousaint Dubois requesting his conformation of the Ballance in my favour of £735.9.1 N.Y.Cur. which if not then convenient to discharge he would Experience from me such Indulgence as he had before received; to this letter I have not received any answer tho I have no doubt he must have got it. Surely to an Honest man it should make no difference whether he finds himself more or less in dept [debt] than he suposed. What I have to request of you is, that as my Attorney you call on him & request his acknowledgement of the aforesaid Ball^o which by the account I transmitted him you will see is fairly and justly due, & let me know his answer, for in case of refusal, I will furnish you with such proofs as will put [it] in your power to recover the sum, & were [where] any thing unfair is meant I'm & allways have been determined to sue should it cost me half the original Sum. There is one deficientcy in settling with the Widow Gamlin¹⁴ which is she Offers certain property in Order to get a discharge from M^r Sharp, M^r Adhemar & myself the two latter I could answer for as M^r Adhemar gave over his property to me,

¹⁴ For sketch of the Gamelin family of Detroit, see *B. H. R.*, I, 27-28. Two of the sons of Laurence Eustache Gamelin and Mary Joseph Dudevoir, there mentioned, in mature life became prominent residents of Vincennes: Pierre, born in Detroit on Aug. 31, 1752; and Paul, who was born, Nov. 1, 1757. Paul Gamelin was one of the militia who volunteered for Governor Hamilton's expedition against Vincennes in the autumn of 1778, which probably marks the occasion of his first visit to that place. Pierre Gamelin was already a resident of Vincennes, where in July, 1778, he married Ursule Vaudry of that place. Another permanent Vincennes resident in this period was Joseph Antoine Gamelin, who was probably a second cousin of Paul and Pierre. He was also their brother-in-law, for he married in Detroit, Nov. 24, 1766, Mary Catherine, daughter of Laurence Eustache Gamelin and Mary Joseph Dudevoir. Genealogical data from Denissen, *op. cit.* On Joseph Antoine Gamelin, see also note in *B. H. R.*, I, 320-21.

but Mr Sharp is dead, & even before that [the] debt because [became] the property of Widow W^m Macomb¹⁵ and she is at New York. I have got her agent Mr Angus Mackintosh to write her to know if she will give an Acquittance but I have not heard her answer. I would share with her in proportion to her claims as I formerly did with Mr Sharp when I received any payment from the late Paul Gamlin. if M^{rs} Gamlin will give me my share I will take it and clear her of all demands that Mr Adhemar or I have on her, at the same time I expect she will give whats fair as to a few Cows, Household furniture if not too Considerable and other small Matters, I do not wish to strip her off. Please let her know what I have wrote you on this Subject & also that I request she may deliver you for me as my Attorney all the Books papers &^{ca} which Mr Adhemar left in her late Husbands hands as will appear by his order & memorandum of them Inclosed, & I give you full Authority to do the best for my Interest with such Notes Bonds Morgages Books Debts &^{ca} compounding when you think it better than Sueing but doing the latter when you think it Necessary. Since writing the forgoing I have seen Mr Angus Mackintosh who says he has authority to discharge Widow Gamlin and agrees with me that his Brother W^m on his part and you on mine settle that matter with her. You will please make the transfer of the property for the sole purpose of paying to me for myself & what her late Husband owed Mr Adhemar & to Mr Mackintosh for what he owed the late George Sharp in proportion to the sums due each & when the property you and Mr W^m Mackintosh receives is realized to forward the acc^t to Mr Angus Mackintosh & one here. he says he will by this

¹⁵ For sketch of the Macomb family of Detroit, see *ibid.*, 108. William Macomb, son of John Gordon and brother of Alexander, married in Detroit, July 18, 1780, Sarah Jane Dring, the ceremony being performed by Major De Peyster, the commandant. Alexander Macomb removed to New York about the year 1785, where the further fortunes of his family were identified with that locality. William Macomb remained in Detroit, where he was a prominent citizen until his death, April 16, 1796. The present letter indicates that his widow soon thereafter followed the other members of the family to New York. She died, May 20, 1849, and was buried in Bellville, N. J. She was the mother of eleven children, all born in Detroit in the years 1781-95. One of them, Anne Macomb, married Col. Aeneas Mackay of the Third U. S. Artillery. Another daughter, Catherine, married her cousin, General Alexander Macomb of the U. S. army. A son, David Betton Macomb, married Mary, the daughter of Governor Thomas Worthington of Ohio. Data from *The Macomb Family Record*, *passim*.

oppertunity write his Brother to the same Effect. Please ascertain clearly how much the late Paul Gamlin owed M^r Adhemar and what part of the debt arrises from what said Gamelin collected or sold of said Adhemars property left in his hands. In the list of Debts &^{ea} I send you, there appears a House & two notes belonging to Adhemar & Potheir. keep those matters apart and dont dispose of the house untill you hear from me. There is some notes &^{ea} I got in payment from M^r Celeron¹⁶ for want of time I send them without Examination do the best you can with them.

Please let me know if there is a Louis Dubois an engage at the Post he left this about a year ago in my debt is a fair haired round face & thick made man about 24. years of age as I suppose.

When I began this letter I was fearfull I should not have time to collect any papers to send you, however as I have I now send you several that may be of use and among them a Cobby of M^r Vigoe letter to me dated the 11th of April 1799 by which you will see he agrees to the London account of sales and only requires the am^t should be made known to him. As he is a man I esteem If he is not now able to pay, I only require his Obligation bearing Interest and Land or other good security [I] hope you may be able to settle this acc^t as it would be painfull to me to take violent Measures with Monsieur Vigoe. Nicholas Dubois should be compelled to pay, his Brother if he is put in Goal will I dare say pay the debt lenity with such people

¹⁶ Jean Baptiste Céloron de Blainville was born in Montreal, Sept. 15, 1729, the son of Pierre Joseph Céloron de Blainville and Marie Madelaine Blondeau. Céloron's father was twice commandant at Detroit (in 1743-44 and 1751-54); he is best known to history, perhaps, for his expedition down the Ohio River in 1749 for the purpose of taking formal possession of the valley for France. Céloron Island, at the mouth of the Detroit River, probably derives its name from him. Jean Baptiste, our present subject, served in the marine department before the conquest of Canada. He remained in Canada, entered the British service, and during the Revolution was a member of the British Indian Department at Detroit. Governor Hamilton stationed him at Ouiatanon and Clark sent a detachment to capture him. Céloron hastily retired in advance of this blow, meeting Hamilton's army at the mouth of the Maumee, en route to the capture of Vincennes. Hamilton bitterly accused Céloron of treachery to the British cause, probably with justice. In 1789-90 Céloron was living in Miamitown (modern Fort Wayne), engaged in trade. Evidently he had made his peace with the British authorities, for this place was then wholly subject to British control. See history of Céloron family in *Bull. Recherches Hist.*, XV, *passim*; Henry Hay's journal, *passim*; and biography of Pierre Joseph Céloron in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 33-48.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

answer[s] no end. I have only to add that I am with regard

your Most Obedent Humble Servant

General Washington Johnston

Endorsed: Detroit March 20th 1800 John Askin to
General Washington Johnston (Copy)

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Detroit March the 29th 1800

Dear Sir I have carefully examined the Debtor side of my acc^t Cur^t as stated by you in the book you left with me and have admitted such charges in whole or part as I firmly believe any impartial man would do, some others realy my good Friend are so badly founded that I have taken notice of them in the credits I have given you; in May say the 1st 1790 when you sent me an acc^t you mentioned I might settle it to my liking I accordingly did and I dont find you found fault with what I had done. you might give me the same descretionary power in this, for I most asuredly would not wrong you a Copper with a design to do so. According to strict equity after the aforesaid examination I find a Ball^o of £ 70.3.4 N.Y. Cur. my favour. however as a few charges are suposed ones (for want of Information) It may not be exactly that Sum, but the difERENCE I think will not be much as by your statement the Ball^o would be in your favour, & I foresee that coming to Explinations might cause Misunderstandings and destroy a Friendship that has long subsisted between us. In order to preserve that I propose a Block as the French call it as the only Friendly manner of settling our Accounts. say how it should be (without any further remarks) for the reason I have Assigned, and you will find that a few Pounds (tho my circumstances can not well afford it,) shall never make any difference between me and a man with whom I wish to continue on the footing of Friendship Its Absolutely proper that our Accounts should be finally settled, as I mean all others before I leave this, but to go over them and remark on each charge, I fear much would create Misunderstanding, which I wish to avoid, (as I before mentioned) and thats my reasons for writing you

preferable to saying anything to yourself which might bring on reflections.

I remain with Usual Friendship Dear Sir
Your most Obed^t Humble Servant
Thomas Smith Esquire¹⁷ Petite Cote

Endorsed: Detroit March the 27th 1800 John Askin to
Thomas Smith (Copy)

SPECULATION IN FLOUR

Detroit March 30th 1800¹⁸

Dear Sir I hope this will find you safe arrived at Fort Erie. Your Family here are all well. M^r Hamilton wrote me that he gets 7 dollars from Government for a bar^l of Flour of 224^{lbs} nett W^t. If you cannot buy cheaper I'm willing to take a half share with you in the purchase of 100 Barrels at that rate payable the 1st of Sep^{tr} next & if you write me that you have made the purchase I will send the little Vessell for it at the worst I think we will get 10 Dollars the barrel for it here but I meant to send it to S^t Mary's where I think some of the North West C^o who are in Opposition to each other would give a good price for it, & If that failed they would go to Michilimackinac where no doubt it would sell well.

We begin to have a little cold Weather again I have only to add that I am, Dear Sir,

Your Friend & Very Humble Servant
Captain Fearson at Fort Erie.

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Detroit April the 26th 1800

Dear Sir Your favour of the 24th Ins^t reached me to day as entering into reasoning on the accounts subsisting between us our Ideas are so different it would not answer any purpose, but when I have the pleasure of seeing you here, if you Please, we will give them a trial ourselves in Order to

¹⁷ For the career of Thomas Smith, see *B. H. R.*, I, 287-88.

¹⁸ The day of the month is uncertain.

bring them to a close and if we fail we will then Adop[t] such other modes Friends and Old Acquaintances should. I believe your wish never was to injure me and I'm sure mine never was to injure you. Under these circumstances there is little fear but our Settlement will End in the manner we have lived together Namely Friendly

I am Dear Sir as Usual

Yours truly

Thomas Smith Esq^r

P. S. Your place of geting fire Wood at the River aux Ecorse I dont think bad. If I was not going to York we might join. You had better Buy my little Vessell she would answer that purpose

Endorsed: Detroit April 26th 1800 John Askin to Thomas Smith Esq^r (Copy)

ESTABLISHMENT OF U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

(circular)

D'Etroit May 2^d 1800

Sir I some time since received an appointment of Inspector of the Revenue, for the port of D'Etroit, without the necessary instructions to govern me in the duties of the office. I therefore declined acting until these were furnished me. Yesterday they arrived & I find myself compelled to call on you, for the duties on all the spirits, wines & teas in your possession, imported into this territory since 2^d March 1799.

I hope that this fair notice will save me the unpleasant task of enforcing a compliance with the Laws, to which my oath of office compels me.

The form of a statement necessary to be made to this office may be had, by applying to Sir,

your most obt Serv^t

Matthew Ernest Insp^r of the Revenues

Jn^o Askin sen. Esq.

Addressed: John Askin sen Esq; Merchant near D'Etroit

Endorsed: Detroit May 2^d 1800 Matthew Ernest Esq^r as Inspector of the revenues to Jn^o Askin rec^d the same day

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Sandwich 24 April 1800

Dear Sir, I just now received your letter dated in March, and in respect to the account standing between us, I have to make this observation; That the statement of it by me is so plain and the materials so well founded, that it cannot bear but little alteration without deviation from right. If any, it must be to my advantage. Instance the 56 packs which you mention; They were laid in at one shilling per Skin less than the offers of R. Pollard and Tho^s Williams and shipped to London & Sold on our joint Account, being almost all Buckskins and the best that ever was shipped from this Country, on the Sale of which according to the prices of that year I could not have expected much less than £500 of neat proceeds. you allowed me only £40 from which deduct my expence for packing, pressing, packstrings, Cartage & Shipping £18 remains only £22 for my share of Profits: Had I gone to England myself I should have made more than 500[£] on those packs, if sold seperate from the bad skins sent home that year, which I requested of you to have done. This is not the only instance where I am a great loser. There is no intricacy in our accounts; most of the articles have been acknowledged on both sides and from the regard for a good old Friend I am much disposed to preserve his friendship and do feel for his situation as well as my own, and were I in circumstance more opulent, there should be but very little altercation on the subject, and therefore to make a final end of the matter I am willing to receive in payment whatever article you may feel the least want of, even Land itself, altho' God knows that I am at this very moment much distressed. I am D^r Sir,

Your Sincere humble Servant

Tho^s SmithJohn Askin Esq^r

P.S. I have been Surveying at the River aux Ecores and find it such a handy place for wood that I have an idea of cutting 1000 Cords in order to be prepared when the Contract is given for the Garrison. there is also fine Clay for Brick and Pottery. Should you be willing to join in any enterprize of this kind I would be glad T. S.

25th April. By the apparent arrangement which you and Mr. Robertson have made together I am also among the rest of my losses to sink a House which cost me 500[£] including the 500[£] paid you for the ground to discharge a supposed debt which in reality does not exist. The House was sold Mr Robertson for half the cost (250[£]) in consideration of Cash being paid down, which I was then in much want of indeed: Mr R. is therefore indebted to me that sum with Interest & damages incurred for breach of contract; altho' I can have no objection of your stepping into Mr R Shoes whenever our old Account is settled, until then I must have great reluctance, for I will not blend an established debt with a supposed one. The account between us is now reduced to that plainness that it will not require half an hour examination, & should I have committed any mistake; It will afford me more pleasure to substract, than to add, in order to preserve that good understanding with a person, whom I have ever esteemed my Friend.

T. S.

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Sandwich April 24th 1800 Tho^s Smith Esquire to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^o 26th & answ^d same day

NEWS FROM QUEENSTON

Dear Sir I have much Pleasure on the Opening of the Navigation of this Season to say that we all here Continue to enjoy our usual Good health, and we shall rejoice to hear the same good Accounts from your Quarter.

The vessell[s] detained at Fort Erie have now got over What to the Men must have been a tedious Winter. They have however as well as their Cargoes been preserved free from harm & they are all now ready for sailing.

The *Saguinau* in her Misfortunes of last year incurred Considerable Expençe in lading Unlading & Storing her Cargoe of which I now inclose you the Account as far as it has been furnished me. Hoping tho not knowing Whether the owners may not lay a part on the Goods as Additional freight. A futher charge yet Remains for Storeage of Wines in Private Cellars with which I have not yet been informed—

but shall request M^r Warren to send up to you that you may at once have the whole before you. I have credited you £24.6.0 York for the Anchor lent the *Washington* & now returned Which is the only Alteration in our Accounts since my last.

We have had only one Vessell from Kingston this Season & she left it before any boats had come from Montreal so that we are without Intelligence from our freinds in that Quarter. We Learn from York that General Hunter is expected there about the 24th of this Month—The Legislature meets on the 2^d of June. I think it probable that the session will not be a long one, probably not exceeding three Weeks and tis said the Governor after that returns to lower Canada to Meet the Duke of Kent.¹⁹

I mention these Reports that if founded you may Regulate your Motions thereby.

The Newspapers Accumulated for some time now Wait on you. All here Join in Respectfull Compliments and in best Wishes for You & Yours with Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely
R. Hamilton

John Askin Esq
Queenston May 3 1800

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Queenston May 3^d 1800 Rob^t Hamilton
Esq^r to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 9th Answ^d y^e 16th.

AFFAIRS AT MACKINAC

Michilimackinac, 6th May, 1800

Dear Askin By the *Thames*, I have received your favours of the 18th March & of the 2^d instant. By Which I am happy to learn that you & family are all Well. And that the buffalo robes contributed in keeping you Warm in the

¹⁹ Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent, who was born in 1767 and died in 1820, was the fourth son of George III. He spent most of his active life in the army, and was stationed in Canada on several occasions: the first time from the summer of 1791 to the early winter of 1794, the second from 1796 to 1798, and the third from the summer of 1799 to the autumn of 1800. He was the father of Queen Victoria.

Winter. At the Same time I am sorry you Should make any apology on that head about returns, as I acknowledge my self highly indebted, for your many kind reme[m]brances in that respect.

In your Letter of March, you request to know about the settlement & distribution of the estate of the late John Coates,²⁰ & &. I not being in this Country for some years after that haponed, I can give you no information on that head; Only, that M^{rs} Coates (when here) lived on a large Lot With pretty Good house on it, Which she said Was her Own, the House is now emty but in charge of D. Mittchelle.

With respect to Lyons,²¹ if I am to Judge from appearance, he has for some years past lived in the family of the late Alexis Laframboies, and still lives in the Widows family, Without doing anything. It appears to me that he made Over his all to the late A. Laframboies, in Order for his future suport. He has Owed me money for this seven years Past, but he pays nobody.

With respect to News, We have none here. The Winter in this part of the World Was very Mild And the Spring early. It is thought there has been a good hunt in the Indian country, Only 2 or 3 little traders are as yet come in. Some days ago I had letters of the 3rd instont from Montreal, but no late News.

The price of flour & corn for the season is not known here as yet. It is said sugar Will be plonty;

Please make my best respects to Madam Askin & all your family. Wishing you & them all manner of happiness. And belive me to be with esteem Dear Sir,

Your Very hum^e Servont
Charles Morison

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

²⁰ John Coates was living at old Mackinaw prior to Sinclair's removal to Mackinac Island in 1780. Coates followed the garrison to the Island, and in 1781-82 was serving both as commissary and as clerk of the Indian Department. Documents of this period are also signed by him as notary public. The date of his death has not been found. A Mrs. Ann Coates was living in Detroit, keeping a tavern, prior to the fire of 1805, and for her losses on that occasion was awarded a donation lot. Whether she was a relative of John Coates of Mackinac has not been determined. See documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X and XI, *passim*; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 490; and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 230-31.

²¹ Apparently Benjamin Lyon, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 51.

Endorsed: Mich May 6th 1800 Mr Charles Morrison to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 29th About M^{rs} Cotes. Wrote him— Mr Morrison y^e 18th Sept. 1800

TRADE CONDITIONS IN DETROIT

Detroit May the 15th 1800

Dear Sir I wrote you the 8th Ins^t & Inclosed the Duplicates of some Accounts Against Mess^{rs} Giasson & C^o and Mess^{rs} Buisson Coursolle & C^o²² since which the Vessells are Arrived from Fort Erie but no Letters from Lower Canada. The *Saganah* will begin to take in on Monday next & in her I will send the flour for Mess^{rs} Giasson & the Remainder of Mess^{rs} Buisson Coursoll & C^o flour & Corn. No direct Opportunity having Offered before I have now to Answer your favour of the 20th Jan^y last Under cover with my Account Current & that Of John Anderson & C^o both of which I find right at their dates, but a remittance made you by the Winters Express will reduce the Ballance a little & the whole of the latters will be paid off] with the Interest, I Suppose in Next Month. it would make me a very happy man was it in my power to say as much for the former, but realy at present I cannot say what my remittance or prospect of them with any degree of certainty will be, The appearances are realy bad & I fear will prove so with many Others as well as Myself. however all in my

²² Although positive identification is lacking, it seems probable that the firm members were Michel Coursolle and Louis Buisson. Both were traders in the Great Lakes region in this period, and both were active British partisans in the War of 1812. Captain John Whistler's map of Chicago in 1808 shows a house and an enclosed field on the north side of the river, the property of "Mr. Coursoll." In 1814 Coursolle was trading on Grand River in western Michigan. At the close of the war, when the British garrison was removed from Mackinac to Drummond Island, Coursolle was given a building lot, and a report made in 1816 indicates that he was then occupying it. No record of his further career has been found. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and Quaipe, *Chicago and the Old Northwest*, 167.

Louis Buisson was at Mackinac in 1811, at which time, letters among the Sibley papers disclose he had for several years been engaged in the Indian trade, apparently on a somewhat extensive scale. He was in Chicago in 1813 and in 1815, and on both occasions was reported by Thomas Forsyth to be actively hostile to the American government. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 341. In 1818 and following he was in the employ of the American Fur Company, attached to the Illinois River outfit. Gurdon S. Hubbard describes him as at this time about sixty years of age, and as having spent forty years in the trade on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Illinois rivers. He had a Potawatomi wife, enormously fat, and two half-blood daughters. He had owned a house and land in Peoria prior to the war, and was numbered among the settlers of Peoria whom General Howard drove into flight in 1813. *Autobiography of Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard* (Chicago, 1911), 29.

my favor [power] shall be done between this & Sep^t the Usual time of our getting in Debts here, but as I once said before Thank God there is sufficient to pay Every One but I am well Aware how much better it is for Every Man in Business to get his Remittances regularly than any Other Mode. that Interest to them is not a Compensation for lying Out of their Money. but really this Country is Overdone & he who has sold least in My Oppinion has done best. I'm hardly Out of any Article & of some I have a considerable Quantity but no Cash to be got, & to sell for Wh[e]at corn &^{ca} & give great Credits I will not, those who have done so cannot now get a purchase for their Grain. I mean for certain to set off[f] for York in the beginning of Next Month to take out deeds for my Lands & in hopes of Geting some More. If I when there find I can have time to pay my Old friends in your Quarter a Visit I will, as nothing could give me More pleasure but if I find my Business here would suffer from so long an Absence, I must deprive myself of that satisfaction not being in circumstances to loose anything. Thank God I enjoy tolerable good Health & whilst that remains I will not dispair could I part with Even some of my Fixt property here to any One who could pay me I would soon reduce your Acc^t Against me very considerable. Among Other Evils here are 17 large Merchant vessels to transport the loadings of 3 or 4 at Most. ruin Detroit is not far from you. M^{rs} Askin begs to join in best respects to M^{rs} M^cGill & I remain &^{ca}

J. A.

Mess^{rs} Jam^s & And^w M^cGill Merch^{ts} Montreal

I have Also wrote at this time to

Isaac Todd Esq^{re}
 W^m Robertson Esq^{re}
 Rob^t Hamilton Esq^{re}
 Doctor Richardson
 Alexd^r Henry
 Rob^t Nichols

} But for want of time these Letters
 are not Coppied

Endorsed: Detroit May 15th 1800 Jn^o Askin to Jam^s
 & And^w M^cGill Copy

Wrote at same time but kept no Copy to Other Persons
Named Within

A SCHOOLMASTER'S CONTRACT

Articles of agreement made and entered into at Detroit in the County of Wayne, and Territory of the United States North west of the Ohio this nineteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one-Thousand eight Hundred, between Peter Joseph Dillon of Detroit aforesaid of the one part, and John Askin, George Meldrum & Mathew Ernest of the same Detroit, of the other part Witnesseth. that the said Peter Joseph Dillon for and consideration of the Covenants and agreements herein after mentioned & contained and which on the part and behalf of the said John, George & Mathew; are to be observed, fulfilled and kept, hath engaged and by these presents doth engage himself as a Schoolmaster to the said John, George & Mathew for one whole year next ensuing the date hereof and fully to be compleated and ended during all which said time as aforesaid, the said Peter Joseph Dillon is to teach & Instruct the Children of the said John, George and Mathew (and such others as they may please to send not exceeding twenty-two in number) in the science of reading, Writing and speaking the English language, Grammatically, in Arithmatic, Geography & Trigonometry: and in any other Branch of Literature that may be thought most useful.

And should it so happen that the said Peter Joseph Dillon at any time during the time aforesaid, through sickness, Or any other necessary course, suffer a temporary discontinuance in his school, the time which he may so loose shall be made up at the expiration of the aforesaid time of one Year. In consideration of which said services the said John, George & Mathew hereby obligate and oblige themselves to pay or cause to be paid unto the said Peter Joseph Dillon, the sum of five Hundred Dollars in manner following (that is to say) fifty Dollars to be paid on the opening of his school and four Dollars per week afterwards: during the time aforesaid and the remainder of the said sum of five hundred Dollars shall be applied towards the discharge of a demand which the said John Askin & Mathew Ernest now have

against the said Peter Joseph Dillon, for advances already made. He shall keep a fair & just account of all moneys he may receive for instructing any other Children that may be sent him (except those of his employers) and a true statement render thereof every three months; and the money he may so receive shall be considered as applied towards the payment of the said four Dollars per week; and should it so happen that at the expiration of six months, he shall not have suffered a sufficient discount in his wages to satisfy the aforesaid demand which is now due the said John & Mathew; by drawing only the aforesaid sum of four dollars per week, this said sum of four dollars, shall be subject to such further discount as will discharge him from debt at the expiration of the time aforesaid. They shall also find & provide the said Peter Joseph Dillon with a commodious school house and fire wood as the season requires it. And further it is consented and agreed upon by and between the parties to these presents that no Children shall be received into the said school but such as are sent or approved of by the said John, George & Mathew: neither shall any be dismissed or turned out of the said school but with their approbation

And for the true and faithfull performance of all and singular the Covenants and agreements herein before contained and set forth: the parties to these presents bind themselves each to the other in the penal sum of five hundred dollars. In Witness whereof we have here unto set our hands and seals at Detroit aforesaid the day, Month & Year first above written

Signed, Sealed &
Deliver'd in presence of

Peter Joseph Dillon
Schoolmaster
George Meldrum
John Askin

FROM PETER JOSEPH DILLON TO MATTHEW ERNEST

May the 24th, 1800

Sir, As I can no otherwise acknowledge your unabated friendship but by complying with what you recommend, I have signed the articles, and will attend any time when

desired to acknowledge the signature. It is not necessary to take a copy. I want none, and this may be left with you. If it is agreeable to you to send me 50 dollars in the course of the day, you will greatly oblige me; and I will take care to call for money only according to the quarterly sums mentioned in my last, nor even for that, except I should really want it; and not to trouble you with more on this subject, I subscribe myself, Sir, with great respect,

your most obedient humble servant

Peter Joseph Dillon,

Mathew Ernest, Esq^r

Endorsed: M^r Dillons agreement May 1800

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN²³

Montreal 26th May 1800

Dear Askin Yesterday I returned from the United States, where I have been since the first of February. I have been endeavouring to repair this old frame of mine which begins to decay. I have been at the Balls Town Springs, where I left our friend Todd, repairing his Brases, and drinking salt water instead of Medeira. I expect he will be here next week. I wrote to you by the Winter express. am much surpris'd you could harbour any doubts of my friendship for you & yours becoming rusty. no—that can never be while I live, I have not many old friends alive—and but few of them on that footing of friendship that has continued between us for so many years. my only regret is that chance, fortune, or what ever you may call it, has obliged us to live so distant one from the other, but I am Happy to find you intend coming down, this summer. dont think of returning from York. there is no one in the World that I want to see more than you. while I was at the Springs I dayly see James Gordon²⁴ who would be very glad to see you. we only wanted you there to make the party square. Gordon, Todd, you and me, would have been company enough.

²³ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

²⁴ James Gordon had been a partner of Askin in Albany, prior to the removal of the latter to Mackinac in 1764. *B. H. R.*, I, 5.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I brought no news from the States. no sales of furs come as yet to Hand, but we have reason to hope from the Hudson Bay sales that Beaver, Bear & deer & Otters will sell as well as last year William Robertson lost his wife some time past and remains inconsolable.

adieu my dear Askin. my famely all join in wishing you and yours every Happiness this World can afford, which at the best is not much.

Your old friend

Alexander Henry

Since I wrote this we have news from London with sales of furs.

common Bears very bad, not worth shipping
fine Bears very High.

Deer 10^d to 1/ worse than last year
raccoons—will neat about 1/3 Halifax.

Muskratts the only ones sent Home was by [torn]ston which he orderd to be sold [torn] 23^d & bought in a mercantile Trade if you have any order them to be sold here at public auction.

Otters Better than last year 6/ pr Skin.

Todd is arrived. I will expect to see you soon

A H

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit

SALE OF CUYAHOGA PURCHASE SHARES

River Thames June 20th 1800

Dear sir As you declind bying of M^r Ruland our share of the Cyahaughga purches at the price it cost, I will now make you the offer to pay you for all your shares the prime Cost for them, as I am informed that they Cost you about one hundred pounds a share, & as I understand that you are an agent for several of the shares I take the Liberty to rite you on the bisness pleas to Let me know as soon as possible from sir your very Humble servant

E Allan

John Askin Esq^r

N.B I must inform you that I have not amediately the money but I Con give you god security, or morgage my

Mils & land property, [which] as you know is of ten times the value. dont fail in closing this bisness amediately if ever for if there is much time Lost I am of the belief we shall make nothing of it. alan

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit or York

Endorsed: River Thames June the 20th 1800 M^r Ebenezer Allan to Jn^o Askin relative to purchases of Indian Land [torn]

THOMAS SMITH'S VIEWS ON LEGISLATIVE CONDITIONS

Dear Sir I am very happy to hear of your arrival safe to your family. The heat of the weather has been so intense and my having been obliged to walk the greatest part of the road from York threw me into a Fever, and have been unwell from the time I left the River Thames to few days ago.

It has been my misfortune always to differ in sentiments with great men in general, altho' God knows it arises from that pure principle "of doing what I thought was right" This four years past I have served the public, & however blamable my conduct may appear to some, I have nothing to reproach my conscience.

Our mother Country has given us a Constitution approaching to her own, as near as circumstances & local conveniences could well admit—and it is now left to us to preserve the purity of that constitution to our descendants, and which can only be affected but by the choice of upright, liberal, & independent characters, who have resolution & integrity to withstand the torrent of the Imperious. The House of Assembly consisted only of 16 Members—four of them were absent, and eight of the remainder unfit to go through the duties of the House—so the weight of the whole House fell upon the Shoulders of Four members in the drawing of Bills, addresses, Examination of Provincial Accounts and the expounding of the laws as well as to withstand the Usurpation of ambitious characters, who are endeavouring to trample on our rights by the corruption of our delegates—and which is too evident to all enlightend men, that they are sowing the first seeds towards the annihilation of our free Constitution.

The man whose lot it is, to be a Repres[en]tative of free people must (from the experience I have just had) lay himself out "to betray the Trust reposed in him or receive the frowns of the Great"—one of these situations is too evidently mine.

Walter Roe and Iredell have been canvassing for 6 or 8 days past for Jarvis,²⁵ Selby and Elliott—whom in justice to myself I set my face against, as Representatives, altho' perhaps worthy persons in any other situation.

Selby and Jarvis are not eligible according [to the] act of Parliament which says "That no person holding an office under [the] Government created since 1705 shall be eligible to be a member of Parliament" see Blackstone under the title "Electors" I think it incumbent on me also to remark from my experience in Parliament of the Conduct of Lawyers, that they are not eligible from their being influenced by the Chief Justice, & consequently the Executive Government. and moreover it will be a shame to us not to be able among us to find liberal Characters without borrowing persons from other Districts, who are influenced and in short, who have neither qualifications or talents to recommend them. If yourself, Meldrum, Park or any liberal man of my old acquaintance should put up I will heartily give them my vote and all my Interest, But should they not, I shall make all the opposition I can, *and let the people at York know, that Mr. Roe or Iredell has no influence here*—and I therefore beg of your Interest and your Son's and those of your acquaintances. Essex sends two Members, Beginning at a certain place in Lake Sinclair & extending towards Point au pins, being the extremities of the County.

I forgot to mention to you before I left York that I resign[ed] my Commission as Capt. of Militia and all other Employments under Government. I am

very truly & sincerely yours etc [?]

Tho^s Smith

Sandwich 24 July 1800

²⁵ William Jarvis was a native of Connecticut who in the Revolution adhered to the loyalist cause and in 1782 became a cornet in the Queen's Rangers under command of Colonel John G. Simcoe. When the latter became lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, he brought Jarvis with him as provincial secretary, which position he continued to hold

N.B. The day of Election is the 6th of August at Sandwich—M^cIntosh returning officer, It would be [a] great shame to our old standards to have it said at York that Roe & Iredell—you may say Strangers should have as much influence in our Country as to take the lead and put in who they please as Representatives. It will make us appear trifling.

Addressed: John Askin Senior Esq^r

Endorsed: Sandwich July 24th 1800 Tho^s Wood [Smith]
to Jn^o Askin Answ^d

LAND CLAIMS OF JOHN ASKIN

Detroit, August 4th 1800

Dear Sir I wrote you a line from Queenston, when I heard of your arrival in this Country. I hope Ere this you are got to York with your good Mother, & Child & that you are all in good Health.

This goes by your old Acquaintance M^r Heward, who at his Excellencys request, I have recommended to him as a Clerk or Secretary. I never knew but one fault to him, and that Exists no more, nor had he it to such a degree so far as I have ever seen, to Incapacitate him for Business.

What of my Land Matters I could not get thro the Offices, I left with M^r W^m Allan,²⁶ & have taken the Liberty to direct him in case of any dificulty to beg your Assistance. Tho I do not foresee any that can arise on what I left with him to be done. The thirteen Claims, that the Commodore mislaid, for thirteen single Lots, I'm like to loose owing to their not being located, tho I have the Deputy Surveyors Certificate of my having Tim[e]ously applied to have them located & the Chief Justice to Whom I shewed these papers declares that he believes the whole Transaction relative to

until his death in York on Aug. 13, 1817. Jarvis married, in 1785, a daughter of Rev. Samuel Peters of Connecticut Blue Law fame. They had seven children, several of whom intermarried with the children of Robert Hamilton. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

²⁶ William Allan was born near Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1770. He came to Canada in early manhood and located at Niagara and later at York, where he quickly became an influential figure in governmental affairs. During the administration of Peter Hunter as lieutenant-governor, his frequent absences from York necessitated leaving the affairs of government in the hands of a commission of executive councilors, thus giving rise to the so-called "Family Compact," of which Allan was regarded as one of the pillars. He served as major of militia in the War of 1812, became wealthy, and was long prominent in banking activities. He died in Toronto in 1853. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.

them is fair, and Honist in me, but that if the Council Admitted of them he knew a House where there was 500 claims of a similar nature & who If I recollect right he said were waiting to see the event of mine. Under such circumstances I thought it best to defer bringing them forward, and in Particular as you were absent. Next year on my way to Canada, if god Spare me I will see you and take your advice what's best to be done. I know I have Interest with the General²⁷ thro some Friends therefore have not given up all hopes. It was a great Loss to me your Absence and I Staid longer than I intended in hopes you could come out before my departure.

I have only to add that M^{rs} & Miss Askin joins me in Compliments to your good Mother & best wishes for you all and that I am as Usual Dear Sir

Your Obliged very Humble Servant

P. S. If all the descriptions are not gone from your Office I beg you will have as many Lots put in each as well can be as it will save Expences, of which I have much need.

The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq^r at York

Endorsed: Detroit 4th August 1800 The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq^r (Copy)

NEWS OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Queenston Aug^t 9th 1800

My Dear Sir I have not been favoured with any of yours Since I last wrote you. it gave me pleasure (however) to learn that you had a tolerably agreeable passage to Detroit & upon the whole I think that your journey to & from York has not been unpleasant, & I must think that you have been in a peculiar manner the favourite of Fortune in your passages over both Lakes. I hope also that travelling has not in any respect injured your health, but the contrary.

I wrote you a hasty Line from Chippawa & mentioned how I had been employed the preceding week What I then

²⁷ Peter Hunter, who in addition to being Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, was commander-in-chief of the British forces in Canada. From 1795 to 1802 he held the rank of major general, and from 1802 until his death that of lieutenant general in the British army.

hinted has actually happened & M^r Street²⁸ though every Exertion was made by his friends was at the Closing of the poll on Monday Evening the 4th ins^t *Minus* 22. this is the more to be regretted as M^r Streets long acquaintance with publick business, & active talents would have been of great Service to the Country & added respectability to the Legislature. M^r Dickson²⁹ on the 28th Ult^o came forward on the Hustings & in one of the best Speeches (perhaps) ever delivered in Upper Canada avowed himself a candidate for the Sufferages of his fellow Subjects, he had the Support of all the discerning & respectable part of the Freeholders, which however was of little avail as the other party had a decided Superiority in point of numbers. In consequence of which he on the 3^d day of the Poll came forward & declined being any longer Considered a Candidate M^r Clench & M^r Swayze³⁰ have therefor been returned duly Elected, You know the first the other you must have heard is accused of Stealing Horses &^o in the United States. The people of York & the District of London have made rather better choices than us. Judge Allcock & David Smith being chosen for those places.

My troubles are now just beginning, the English Goods Continue to arrive & what with them & the vast quantity of Packs now upon the Communication I have Scarcely a Moment to Myself

Our large Boat on its way to Chippawa with 19 Souls on board & 200 packs was in a most violent Hurrricane Swamp'd yesterday forenoon M^r Clark³¹ happened to be on the way

²⁸ There were many Streets in the Niagara region in the period under review; a brief account of the family relationships and history is given in *Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs.*, No. 22, pp. 57-61. There were two Samuel Streets (uncle and nephew), the former of whom served in the second parliament of Upper Canada (1797-1800), and may have been the person here alluded to; the nephew, Samuel Street of Bridgewater, was also nephew and for some years partner, of Thomas Clark of Queenston. Whether he, rather than his uncle, was the unsuccessful candidate in the election of 1800, we have been unable to determine.

²⁹ Apparently William Dickson, for sketch of whose career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 461.

³⁰ Isaac Swayzie was a New Jersey loyalist who took up his residence in the Niagara district, where he died in 1828, aged seventy-seven years. He was a member of the first assembly of Upper Canada in 1792, and of several subsequent assemblies. See Janet Carnochan, *History of Niagara* (Toronto, 1914), 247 *et passim*; Irving, *op. cit.*, 40.

³¹ Thomas Clark of Queenston. The sketch of his career given in *B. H. R.*, I, 585, incorrectly identifies him with Thomas Alexander Clarke of the British Indian Department. Thomas Clark was born in Dumfries, Scotland, about the year 1770. He came to the Niagara region prior to 1790 and was for many years a merchant of Queenston. Numerous

down & Endeavourd to get off to them but without Effect, & was obliged to ride to Chippawa 10 Miles before he could get any Assistance the people after Sitting 3½ Hours up to their Chins in Water were Saved, likewise all the packs to the Exception of 30 or 40—Most of which I am Sorry to understand are the property of M^r Pattinson M^r Heward, M^r Innis, M^r Stedman,³² M^r Macombe, M^r Powers & a number of other passengers were among the Sufferers

I now Send you forward a parcel of papers rec^d by last Mail. They Contain a great deal of very interesting information on which however I shall not now descant.

I spoke to M^r Clark respecting the Magazines the loan of which he has accorded, I shall Send them up P[er] Judge Powell, who goes the Western Circuit should not a Safe opportunity offer before.

I request my best respects to M^{rs} Askin [torn] family—and though I have had a hard days work to day I do Assure you that I continue with Sentiments of Esteem & Respect My Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t & very Humble Servant
Rob^t Nichol

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Queenston Aug^t 9th 1800 M^r Rob^t Nichols to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 20th & Answ^d y^e 28th

ARRIVAL OF MORAVIAN MISSIONARY

Goshen, Moravian Indian Town,
River Muskingum 12 Aug^t 1800

M^r John Askin,

Dear Sir, The bearer of this is my worthy friend the Rev^d M^r Dencke,³³ who arrived here lately from Bethlehem, and

letters and accounts pertaining to him are preserved in the B. H. Coll. His partner for a considerable period was his nephew, Samuel Street of Niagara. At another time he seems to have been in partnership with Robert Nichol. His wife was a granddaughter of Sir William Johnson and Molly Brant. He was lieutenant colonel of the Second Lincoln Militia in the War of 1812, and colonel in 1818. For more than twenty years he was a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada. He died in 1837. See Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 19, pp. 62-63; *ibid.*, No. 22, pp. 57-58; Irving, *op. cit.*, *passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

³² For the career of John Stedman, see *B. H. R.*, I, 108.

³³ Christian Frederick Denkey (Denke, Dencke) had spent several months with Zeis-

is going to reside as Indian missionary on the River Thames. You, my dear Sir, we have the best cause to regard as a sincere friend and well wisher to the good cause in which he is engaged. As such, on the bare mention of his name & character to you, you will I am sure be happy to render him any civility in your power. I flatter myself also, that on acquaintance, he will acquire your personal esteem. He is desirous to apply himself with zeal to the study of the Chippeway as well as of the Delaware language, with the benevolent intention of endeavoring to make that benighted heathen nation acquainted with the saving truths of the gospel. The loan of a vocabulary of Chippeway words, or any other assistance or advice to promote the speedy acquisition of their language, will be particularly acceptable to him.

M^r and M^{rs} Zeisberger & M^r Edwards³⁴ unite with me in best respects to Yourself, M^{rs} Askin & family.

I am very truly Dear Sir Your most obed^t Serv^t

Benjⁿ Mortimer

Addressed: John Askin Esq^{re} Detroit By favor of Rev^d M^r Dencke

Endorsed: Goshon Muskingum Aug^t 12th 1800 The Rev^d M^r Mortimer to Jn^o Askin Rec^d y^e 26th

PROSPECTS OF HUGH HEWARD IN YORK

York 14th Aug^t 1800

Dear Sir I arrived here the 12th Ins^t and was most favourably received by Major Green³⁵ and His Excellency who has appointed me to his Office with Liberty when other Depart-

berger at the Moravian mission at Goshen before his removal to Fairfield on the Thames, as noted in the present document. In 1802, he endeavored to establish a mission at the head of Harsen's Island (letter of Askin, Sept. 20, 1802, printed *post*, 381-82), and he seems to have continued his missionary activities during the years that followed.

The invasion of western Canada by General Harrison, in 1813, compelled the Indians to flee from Fairfield and Denkey and his wife went with them to Burlington Heights, where he conducted a mission for a time, returning with the Indians to Fairfield in 1815. See *History of the Moravian Mission by a Member of the Brethren's Church* (London, 1838), 295 ff. Letters in the B. H. Coll. show that he spelled his name as here printed.

³⁴ For the career of William Edwards, see *B. H. R.*, I, 221, *et passim*.

³⁵ James Green was commissioned lieutenant on Sept. 1, 1779. On May 11, 1795, he was appointed Military Secretary of the Indian Department, and he continued to serve in this capacity as late as the autumn of 1807. Numerous letters to or from him are printed in the *Mich. Pio. Colls.* During most of his service as military secretary, he seems to have

ments want Assistance to write for them and be paid for it. my present pay is a Dollar a Day and His Excellency has promised that some time hence it will be made better, that it is his Intention. I have a Small House in the Garrison of two Rooms appointed for me until the beginning of September when they Depart from here and when I am to return to Detroit to bring down my Family & C and winter here. I have wrote M^r Henry³⁶ & M^{rs} Heward on the Subject, to give M^r Henry more time to provide a proper person to receive my Charge, and I will do everything to render up all

been stationed in Quebec. A letter from Hugh Heward to Askin, Aug. 12, 1802 (ms. in B. H. Coll.) presents Green's private character in a highly unfavorable light. See also British army lists, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and *Simcoe Papers*, IV, 42.

³⁶ James Henry was a native of Lancaster, Pa., who came west in the late autumn of 1796 in the capacity of agent for General James O'Hara (for whom see *ante*, 148), who had the contract with the government to provision the western army posts. Henry's instructions from O'Hara contemplated that he should operate from Fort Washington (Cincinnati) to Detroit, and he first visited the latter place on Jan. 6, 1797. O'Hara withdrew from the army contracting on Oct. 1, 1800, and Henry, who, in 1797, had established (in partnership with General John Wilkins of Pittsburgh) a tannery and general store in Detroit, seems to have terminated his employment with O'Hara about this time. As a citizen of Detroit, he quickly won both local esteem and financial success. On Aug. 21, 1798, he was appointed justice of the peace by Governor St. Clair. He was judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions, 1802-1804; was appointed, in 1802, a member of the first board of trustees of Detroit; was county commissioner in 1804; tax assessor in 1807; and on April 15, 1807, was appointed by Governor Hull Associate Judge of the Court of Huron and Detroit. He ran a tannery and a leather-goods store, and in 1807, was president of the Bank of Detroit. He lost heavily in the fire which burned Detroit in 1805, and seems never wholly to have recovered from this blow.

Henry belonged to a large family. His father, William Henry, was an important figure in Revolutionary Pennsylvania, having held numerous public offices, among which were that of member of the Assembly in 1776; Treasurer of Lancaster County from 1777 until his death, after which his wife, Ann Wood Henry, held the office several years; manufacturer of guns and superintendent of arms and accouterments for the army; member of Congress, 1784-86. He was an intimate friend of Thomas Paine and Benjamin West; and an inventor of no little merit. One brother of James, Matthew, engaged in trade at Mackinac, and died there on March 29, 1804. Moses Henry of Vincennes was an uncle. Another brother, John Joseph Henry, served as president of the several courts of common pleas in the Pennsylvania counties of Lancaster, York, and Dauphin. In 1810 his son, Stephen Chambers Henry, a graduate in medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, came to Detroit to engage in the tannery business with James, and after the death of the latter conducted the business for several years.

In a letter of April 27, 1810, Henry expresses a wish to return east and states that he has therefore contracted no marriage ties. Notwithstanding, he had a daughter, Maria, born, May 10, 1803 (the mother was Charlotte Quimfers), for whom he seems to have evinced the usual paternal regard. She was reared by her uncles in Pennsylvania, and attended the Moravian seminary in Bethlehem for a time. She subsequently returned to Detroit, where on July 23, 1821, she married Charles Rouleau. James Henry was a man of some education and culture. Among his possessions were such books as Gibbon's *Rome*, and the works of Homer, Milton, and Shakespeare. There is some uncertainty about the date of his death. The nearest contemporary record is a letter of Elijah Brush to John Askin, undated by the writer but endorsed by Askin as of Dec. 31, 1812, which indicates that he died on December 29 of that year. See *post*, 744. Data chiefly adapted from biographical sketch by Louise Rau in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 65-80.

Accounts to his Satisfaction to the End of the Contract. I hope he will take it in good part, as a Man who has always wished my Happiness and Interest. should you see him you can well explain my Motives as reasonable.

I am most thankfully and truly

Your Obed^t hum^e Servant

Hugh Heward

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit

Endorsed: York Aug^t 14th 1800 M^r Hugh Heward to
Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 10th Sep^t

PROMOTION OF DR. HARFFY

I thank you My D^r Sir for your favor of the 16th which I received early this Morn^g and have in My power to return an answer thus early. how much is the Heart at ease, when we have a Friend to communicate our pleasures and that will partake of our pains, by administering to our bodily relief, and Mind distress'd. I expect Cap^t M^eKee every day—and believe me My first vacant hour will be dedicated to you on either Side, that that will be for your happiness let be done God only knows what is for our good. I think I now see you smile at the poor Doctor, smile on it will be the Smile of a well tri'd Friendship, that I know. Now to the point. This morn^g the *Charlotte* came to the Mouth of the River, from Fort Erie on Wednesday. by her I had an answer to my Memorial from the Prince, through the hands of My Friend Holmes,³⁷ a very flattering one, and an augmentation of pay 2/6 p^r day Hallifax. the Prince express'd every Satisfaction, but as My Situation was provincial, he wish[ed] to know from what time & by whom, that M^r H. has cleared up. I think 26 years Service Requires it, & I am very thankful for it. Not any news. M^r Allison³⁸

³⁷ Holmes was military surgeon in Quebec. For his possible identity with William Holmes, formerly surgeon of the Fifth Regiment, see *B. H. R.*, I, 378.

³⁸ Captain Thomas Allison, brother-in-law of Captain William Caldwell, for sketch of whose career see *ibid.*, 386-87. The death of his wife, Therese Baby, occurred March 27, 1839, instead of Aug. 6, 1847, as there stated. See *Bull. Rech. Hist.*, XX, 306. Her age at death is there given as seventy-three and one-half years. Captain and Mrs. Allison left an only daughter (a son, Thomas, died in boyhood in 1809), Susanne Allison. She married,

& his Wife & Children are arrived, & now at Caulwells. The house of Bourginione, I have look[ed] at & taken the opinion of a person £65 or 70, is the entire worth of it as it now stands. Cap^t M^oLean will not give him a Grant for the Lot, altho there is a house on it, as it is not puting in a way of furnishing. the person who may buy it, will have it in His name. I hope I have answer'd yours in some particulars. I am ever yours

W^m Harffy

Tuesday Morn^g Aug^t 19th 1800

P. S. The Vessel is loaded for M^r M^oIntosh with English goods. it is coming up very fast as the Store at the Chippaway are full therefore you May expect the *Saganah* Soon

Addressed: Jn^o Askin Esq^{re} Detroit with Care & Soon

Endorsed: Malden Aug^t 19th 1800 Doc^r Harffy to Jn^o Askin Rec^d 20th & Answ^d y^e 22^d

DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING LAND TITLES

Detroit Aug^t 22^d 1800

Dear sir As perhaps you may think it right to Mention the whole or part of the Contents of this Letter to his Excellency General Hunter I will not mix it with any Other Matters.

For the sole purpose of Obtaining Deeds for my lands I went last Year to York the only Voyage I have made for Nineteen Years past as I wished much to deliver M^r James M^o Gils & you Patents for the Lands I sold you & get others for my own that Remained. for this purpose I took with me Above 700 Dollars & gave dayly Attendance at all the Offices for One Month & two days which I remained there Sundays Excepted. When I came Away I did not Understand nor do I now of any Objections to my Grants being made Out but yet I cannot get them. The Descriptions for many I myself carried from the Acting Surveyor Generals office to that of the Solicitor Generals & took Fiats from him & delivered them to M^r Jarvis the Secretary who told

in 1811, Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, author of *Les Anciens Canadiens*, and other important works, and died Aug. 6, 1847. Their descendants have long been prominent in Canada and elsewhere.

me the only delay would be Untill he got a proper Sized Book from Canada to Cobby (As I Understood him) the Patents into for that he had Parchemnt to make them out On. As I was disireous of bringing a few with me which I wanted much, I offered to go to the Expenche of having these copped on paper from which he could Afterwards take them into his Book. to this he Seemingly Assented at all Events gave me Reason to suppose that some would soon be Ready & the Others not be detained long After. However by a Letter rec^d from Doctor [?] Richardson dated the 28th July & an Other from M^r W^m Allan of York dated y^e 4th Ins^t (with whom I left 500 Dollars to pay for the Patents as when ready) for the Other fees of Office I p^d myself, that's to say at the Council & Acting Surveyor Generals Office. yet Neither have been Able to Obtain from M^r Jarvis as they wrote me a Single patent, tho I do not know of any Excuses for delay or detention, for once the *Fiats* are delivered at his office all seems to be settled. At the Solicitor Generals Office there arose a difficulty which was this, he said before he was Authorised to make Out *fiats* for the Persons in whose favour the Commissioners had deeded respecting Lands purchased, a Cobby of the Commissioners report should be sent him from the Council Office. This I Applied to M^r Small the Clerk of the Council for, he said he must first have the report from the Acting Surveyor Generals office. the Clerks then said thay had no such report to make to him, Unless when they found some Mistake in the Commissioners Report & as they had not found any that related to me they had Only to give me descriptions for the Lands that by the [?] Commissions were Reported to be mine & which they did from day to day as far as Other Business would permit & promised to send the remainder to the Solisitor Generals office. finding That the Disputes at the Offices prevented my geting *Fiats* for the Lands (only reported on by the Commissions) I mentioned the matter to the Chief Justice³⁹ the day before I came Away who said he would go to these offices & put that matter soon right whether he has done so or not Doctor Richardson in his letter has not Explained to me, but I

39 John Emsley, for whom see *ante*, 78.

rather suppose they [illegible] to Mr Jarvis not making out & delivering the Patents for these Fiats I had actually lodged at his office before I came Away. it is a very great hardship indeed that Disputes of Office or Neglects should cause such Expence & delays to Individuals & I'm sure it is very contrary to his Excellencys Instructions, for when I was at York he Obliged the Clerks at Each office to report to him what they had done in the Week to prevent them as I believed from being Idle as The Day I came away I mentioned to his Excellency my Anxiety to get the Patents out as I owed Mr M^o Gill & you the [several words illegible] when taking my leave of him, (but not before) [illegible] could he would Serve me, had he given me this oppening before, I would have presented him with a [two words illegible].

Whatever Bussiness I had to do with the Council I there meet with no delay. they meet Every Day when anyone had Bussiness to do with them.

I Remain my Dear Sir as Usual

Your Ever Obliged Friend

J. A.

Isaac Todd Esquire at Montreal

TITLE TO MORAVIAN LAND

Detroit, June 29th 1796

Sir Tho I have not had the pleasure of receiving a Letter from you these many Years I have made it my Business to inquire of every Gentleman who had seen or heard of you at home how You & Your good Family were & it made me happy to hear in general that you were all well.

In a very few days the Americans will take Poesion of this Fort & from every Information I can get I Understand they are very unfavourable to Indian Grants, however as I do not Mean to give up your pretentions or mine to the 4,000 acres of Land on the River aux Hurons formerly where the mauravians lived, I should be glad to bring forward the best authority in my Power for making the Purchase & as I understood from you that you once wrote the late L^t Gov. Hope on that Subject & had a favorable

answer If you are still possessed of that Answer & will Send it to me it may perhaps be the means of preventing our loosing S^d Lands, which probably will Soon be valuable or If you have any other papers or matter to advance to Strengthen our Claim I Should be glad to have them. Gov. Sinclair⁴⁰ I understand is to reside here. M^{rs} Askin's Comp^{ts} to M^{rs} Ancrum

I am Sir your &^{ca}

(Signed) John Askin

Major William Ancrum⁴¹ 34th Reg^t Near Dublin Ireland

Detroit Aug^t 22^d 1800

Sir The foregoing is the Duplicate of a Letter I wrote and to which I havenot had any Answer. The Claims to Indian Lands arenot yet decided On, but Commissions for that purpose is Expected next Spring or Summer before which time I hope to have your Answer. Conner⁴² keeps Possession of the whole but If the United States proved favorable to Our Purpose, I will soon set the Lawyers at him. before it would be Needless. Your Old Friend M^r Leith is here. to him I will give this letter in charge & I Dare say he will be Able to have it conveyed to you in Safety. Of your Old Acquaintances here I only know of Colonel M^eKee, M^r Sharp⁴³ & M^r Abott Dead.

I remain with Real Regard Sir Your Most Obed^t very Humble Serv^t

J. A.

Endorsed: Detroit June 29 96 and The 22^d August 1800 Jn^o Askin To Major Ancrum

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH DISTILLERY

Montreal 23^d Aug^t 1800

Dear Askin My last was p^r your Grand Son W^m Robertson I at same time wrote M^r Hamilton acquainting him I

⁴⁰ Governor Arthur St. Clair.

⁴¹ For the career of Major William Ancrum, see *B. H. R.*, I, 222.

⁴² Richard Connor, for whose career see *ibid.*, 228-29.

⁴³ Alexander McKee, for whose career see *ante*, 209, and *B. H. R.*, I, 301; George Sharp, for whom see *ante*, 15.

had proposed to you to Try a Distillery at Detroit on a moderate Scale in which his opinion would be wanting having had experience in that Business I find M^r Hamilton has two Stills arrived at Quebec perhaps he could spare them to you but the first & essential part is to obtain a Man who understands the business and will manage on a share of profit & to be economical in erecting the building &^{ea} To all this I expect your answer. I hope you will pay attention to my letter to you of the 2^d July respecting my concerns at Detroit and dont neglect [illegible] M^r Gratiers Note for without that Mess^{rs} Forsyth & C^o [illegible] pay his Draft. I think it probable if I live I will visit Niagara & York Next Spring. Remember me kindly to all your family & belive me Your Sin[c]ere Friend

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq^{re}

Addressed: John Askin Esq^{re} Detroit Favor'd by—
Elliot Esq^{re}

Endorsed: Montreal Aug^t 23^d 1800 Isaac Todd Esq^{re} to
Jn^o Askin Rec^d y^e 1st Oct^r & Answ^d same Day

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Grand River, Aug. 30. 1800

Sir, It is a considerable time since I first was made acquainted with the land Affairs you are engaged in latterly you more fully informed me yourself in a conversation we had together that I have taken it into consideration. before I can with any propriety engage in it, I think it necessary that we should be fully acquainted with the conditions of your agreement for which purpose M^r Jones,⁴⁴ now setts off for your quarter and I hope you will

⁴⁴ Augustus Jones was a native of New York, born, according to one authority, in 1763. His son, Rev. Peter Jones, states that Augustus studied surveying in New York City, and, armed with a recommendation from the son of Governor Colden, journeyed to Upper Canada, where Governor Simcoe gave him employment as deputy surveyor of the province. Another account states that he came to Upper Canada in 1786 as a United Empire loyalist, and secured a tract of land on the shore of Lake Ontario, immediately west of Stony Creek. He ran the line of Dundas Street from Burlington Bay to the forks of the Thames (modern London), and in 1796 he surveyed Yonge Street from Toronto northward to Lake Simcoe. In May, 1798, Jones married a squaw of Grand River. Scadding represents her as belonging to the Mohawk tribe, but Peter Jones, her son, states that she was

please to give him every necessary information. when he returns, and I have an explanation of the business I shall let you hear of our determination, but as I have already hinted I think it adviseable that you should go thro' the agreement again and get the Wyndotts, and other Indians to agree that there may be no future discontents or uneasinesses. when this shall all be settled it will then be proper for me to get it confirmed and our people may then sitt down on it with security

Sir, I am your very humb & Obed^t Serv^t

Jos. Brant

John Askin, sen. Esq^r

Addressed: John Askins, sen. Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Grande River Aug^t 30th 1800 M^r Joseph or Capt. Brant to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 12th Sept^r Answ^d Oct^r 26th

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FOR REV. DAVID BACON

Detroit Sepr 13th 1800

Friends & Brothers The Bearer hereof M^r Baken⁴⁵ is one of the *Great Spirits* representitives on Earth. he Asked me where shall I go to render Service to Indians and point out to them & Their Children the Means of happiness here & hereafter, I Answered to my Frinds the Ottawas at Arbre à Croche & the Mission where I once lived they are the Nation best disposed to hear what the *great Spirit* has to say to them & who knows how to behave to his representative. He now goes to see you. *Brothers* Treat him well & dont make me a liar. he will shew you and your Children how to be happy here & hereafter Adieu Friends & Brothers

John Askin

the daughter of a chief of the Missisauga. Ten children were born of this union. One of them, Peter, born at Burlington Heights in 1802, became a Wesleyan Methodist minister and for over twenty years served as missionary to the Ojibway, dying in Brantford on June 29, 1856. He was the author or translator of various works, including a history of the Ojibway tribe, published in London in 1861. Augustus Jones was living as late as 1826. Data adapted from Wallace, *op. cit.*; Henry Scadding, *Toronto of Old: Collections and Recollections Illustrative of the Early Settlement and Social Life of the Capital of Ontario* (Toronto, 1878), 415 ff.; and mss. in B. H. Coll.

⁴⁵ The spelling "Bacon" is interlined at this point in the manuscript. David Bacon, the person alluded to, was born in Woodstock, Mass., in 1771. He studied for the ministry, and in the early autumn of 1800 came west to Detroit on an appointment to do missionary

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Endorsed: To the Chiefs & Principal people of the Ottawa Nation at Arbre à Croche & the Mission.

SCARCITY OF CURRENCY IN DETROIT

Kingston 16th Sept^r 1800

Dear Sir On the 12th I received your Favour of the 25th Ult^o and M^r Leith delivered the Sum of fifty Pounds York on Account of the Consignment of Pork. I am sorry to find that Money & Bills are so scarce, and as Matter of Accommodation to such as may be disposed to purchase, I would be willing to take a Pack or two of good Buffaloe Robes & Mackason Leather in Payment, and a Macinac Feather Bed or two might not come amiss. At all Events I wish you to do as you would were the Articles your own: only let me know what Marks have & what have not been sold that I may settle with the Furnishers.

With best Respects to M^{rs} & Miss Askin, I remain
Dear Sir,

Your most ob^{tt} Serv^t
Rich^d Cartwright

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Kingston Sept^r 16th 1800 Rich^d Cartwright
Esq^r to Jn^o Askin Rec^d the 9th Oct^r Answ^d y^e 11th

DIFFICULTIES AFFECTING LAND TITLES

Detroit Sept^r 18th 1800

My dear Sir I wrote you so fully per our friend M^r Lieth the 24th last Month that most of what you require per

work among the Indians. Shortly after the writing of the present letter, he embarked for Mackinac, but his vessel being becalmed on Lake St. Clair, he was persuaded by his interpreter, Bernardus Harsen (son of the owner of Harsen's Island), to remain among the Indians of this vicinity. Before long he returned to the East, and in the summer of 1801 was back in Detroit with a bride. Here he opened a school for boys (meanwhile preaching in the town), while Mrs. Bacon opened one for girls. On Feb. 19, 1802, a son, Leonard Bacon, was born in Detroit, who subsequently became professor at Yale University and one of the foremost Congregational divines of his generation. David Bacon was not conspicuously successful as a missionary, although he exerted himself intermittently in this field for several years. He founded the village of Tallmadge, Ohio, a settlement to which only Congregationalists and Presbyterians were admitted. He died in Hartford, Conn., Aug. 7, 1817. Data condensed from Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 714 ff.

yours of the 6th August (that came to hand two days ago) is answered The Distillery I mean to sett up & think it most Advisable or sure, tho perhaps not more advantegious to erect them on the other Side on or very near the Farm of yours got from M^r Hands. A man this Minuet offers to deliver the Stille here in May next for 10/ per Gallon or at Presqu'ile for less so that getting this part of the Bussiness done will be a small Expence & indeed I hardly know of any thing except the Grain (after the Still) that will require Money, nor will that If I have a Store of Goods. I have wrote the Mess^{rs} M^cGill & C^o how you & M^r Jam^s M^cGill are to receive the Money due by M^r Innis, it will be in a Draft with some of theirs. I inclosed you the Copy of a letter I got from my agent at York If you think proper you may mention the Matters to His Excellency but keep back the informers name. I also inclose you a paragraph from a letter I received which will shew you what the General can do when he pleases. my Recommendation got M^r Maisonville 3000 Acres of Land that had been refused him in every Quarter in lower & upper Canada &^{ca} for many Years and the Council with whom he had been rejected all his demands and claims on that score and said He never did nor would for him or any man enter into any knowledge of losses. he plagued me so much the day I left York to speak to the General about him when I was taken leave that I promised I would and did tho I had not the most distant idea of his reaping any Benefit from it you see how much I was mistaken & I now find whoever the General thinks fit to give land to the Council dare not deny I wish my Friends & self had so much Interest to get Lands for my just Claims as I have had for others. God Knows for a good faithfull Subject of Governments I am straightly deal with. respect is shewn me & confidence placed in me yet I cant get a foot of my local Demands.

I got a letter from our Friend M^r Robertson and [am] happy to find he is something better. his Agents here M^r Roe & M^r Fraser⁴⁶ are by no means so active in his affairs as I think they should be. Neglect and a worse cause has

⁴⁶ James Fraser, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 300.

great share in the matter, for his good I meant to write him to authorize me to employ such Attorneys for him as I think fit.

Judge Powell the Commodore & Myself were ready as commissioners to hear & determine on M^r Robertsons claims to a good many Lots M^r Dolson⁴⁷ & the Surveyor (necessary proof) attended. but his Lawyer M^r Roe from a cause too evident to the World could not bring any one claim forward when it should therefore they must lye over to an other Year and [he] has lost the best chance they must ever have of being passed. you may mention the circumstances to him. I have only to add that the Family are all well and will ever retain a due sense of your Friendship. Adieu my Dear Sir

Your ever Obliged Friend

Isaac Todd Esquire

Endorsed: Detroit Sept^r 13th 1800 John Askin to Isaac Todd Esquire (Copy)

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JAMES MACKLEM

Detroit September 18th 1800

Dear Sir I was favoured with your of the 4th Ins^t a few days ago. I have sent your Letter to M^r Artell and required a friend of mine to ask for payment. M^{rs} Askin is not disposed to part with the Negro. The feathers are to be got at Michilimacinac (not here) but nothing on my part shall be wanton to procure them but it's probable they may not be obtained before next year. The Cider you shall have, but in order to get it good it must be made as late as possible so as to go by the last Vessell.

What do you ask for the House (partly finished and Land) about 7 Miles below Fort Erie I am Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient Very Humble Servant

M^r James Macklin⁴⁸ at Chippawa

Endorsed: John Askin to James Macklin (Copy)

⁴⁷ Probably Matthew Dolsen, for whom see *ibid.*, 222-23.

⁴⁸ James Macklem was a native of Tyrone County, Ireland. He is said to have migrated to Pennsylvania in 1789, and about the year 1790 or 1791 to have come to Chippewa, where he and his sons established several industries of local importance. He was living as late as

FROM JAMES MACKLEM TO JOHN ASKIN

Chippawa 1st Oct^r 1800

Dear Sir I have Received your favour of the 18th Ult. which perfectly Satisfies me concerning the Negro, Feathers & Cyder; and you are certainly very Good to give yourself so much trouble for my Accomodation. The Farm & In-closed Frame (with a Cellar under it) which you mention, I have for some time held at five hundred pounds York; Instalments being the common mode of Receiving payment for Lands: but four hundred & fifty pounds in hand, will purchas it. Should you have any commands, which may be in my power to execute, I hope you will honour me with them.

I am Dear Sir Your Obedient humble Servant

James Macklem

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit

Endorsed: Chppawa Oct^r 1st 1800 M^r James Macklan
to Jn^o Askin Rec^d y^e 6th Answ^d y^e 20th

AFFRAY OVER BRITISH DESERTER

Detroit Oct the 15th. 1800

My Dear Sir I have just finished a Letter to You in Your Official capacity in Answer to one of Yours. as I learn our friend M^r Heward may leave this About the 20th I would not let him depart without dropping you a line. I know it will give your good Mother & You pleasure to Hear that my Family & your Friends in General in this Quarter are well. An Unlucky accident happened here some Nights ago. a Serjiant from the Other side with some Soldiers, Endeavouring to free a deserter from the British, Over the River Reced. Some Wounds & he also gave the Disarter Several Wounds with his Bayonett of Which the Latter is since Dead. This I apprehend will be a Serious Business & those concerned required by the American Government to

1821, when he was made a trustee of the church of all denominations to be erected in Lundy's Lane. This became the Presbyterian church. See "Some Graves in Lundy's Lane," Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 22, p. 45; and Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VIII, 225, and XXV, 305-306.

be delivered up for trial. I hope both Governments may put a stop to forcing Over Desarters from Either Side. Otherwise I fear it may be attended not only with the loss of several lives but also create Misunderstand^s Which should in my Oppinion be prevented. I have got a Small House on the British side now fitted up for the Reseption of Myself & Family so that should I meet With a Purchaser for where I now live I can give it up at a very short Warning.

Your Mothers Tree bears no Apples this Year, but I have Directed to you a Bar^l nearly of the same sort.

M^{rs} Askin & your Acquaintances of My Family beg leave to Assure you & yours of their best Wishes as Does My Dear sir

Your Obliged very Humble Serv^t

The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq^r

Endorsed: Detroit October 15th 1800 John Askin to The Honorable D. W. Smith (Copy)

AFFRAY OVER BRITISH DESERTER

Dear Sir I have an Appearance of a good oppertunity of writing to you. I have seen M^r Reynolds, the Bricks will be Accounted by Capt M^oLean as you mentioned. My expectation of seeing you at Sandwich on Tuesday, I am sorry was not attained. you might expect as usual Selby would be the first mention'd and first he was made, it is true, the reason evident. The unfortunate affair on your Side with the Deserter, Made it necessary as some thought to Sport & Send to the Govenor a presentment, concirning that outrage—and who better to take care that it was securely done & strongly worded than the Chairman & very likely set on foot by him & Elliot: *if possible to ruin the Cap^t*. I will allow it was doing a very unjustifiable Act, and that Some Meanes should be taken to prevent anything of that sort in future. but I thought it was taken up with too great Acrimony, and more attention paid to it, by them than ever I have seen before from the Bench. If I can continue in My present Mind My Visits there will be very Seldom until the Spring, then this System *Must* be altre'd. to show how well the Minds of Men like the Grand Jury May be play'd on by a smoothe tongue, *Not one could write or read*, and by the

Bench it was Requested that it might be *Strong* & well drawn up. as much as to say not for Attention to the Community at large but to answer private Malevolence. M^r M^eKee has been much out of order for this two or three days, is now getting better. as for M^{rs} M^eKee she tells Me She is perfectly well, her looks certainly bespeak it.

with truth I am

Yours Sincerely
W^m Harffy

P. S. I received your note on the Bench
Amherstburg Oct^r 17, 1800

Addressed: Jn^o Askin Esq^r Detroit W. H.

Endorsed: Malden Oct^r, 17th 1800 Doctor Harffy to
Jn^o Askin Rec^d & Answ^d y^e 18th.

CONTRACT FOR BEEF IN AMHERSTBURG

Detroit October the 17th 1800

My Dear Sir As I have wrote you frequently of late on different subjects this will be only one namely that of a Contract with Government for furnishing Beef for the Garrison of Malden. I do Assure you I know not anything that would be more Advantagious to me nor anything I could Undertake with such certainty The finest of Beef comes in from the States from the 1st May to the 1 November and in such Quantities that Stall fed Beef in the Spring is got for 5 Dollars the Hundred, Hide Tallow & Offalls in and now the good Beef is at 3 Dollars the Hundred Cows, & Calfs with them for 12½ Dollars the Price. If you could prevail on the General to make such a Contract, nothing but a Warr with the United States could in any Degree render the fullfilling of the Contrac doutefull. If even 6 per lb could be got from the 1st of June to the 1st of November a 8 from that to the 1st of June again it would prove an Excellent Bussiness. If more could be got so much [the better] Surely this mode of furnishing the Troops would be much Cheaper than giving them Pork and as I know the General wishes to save Expences to Government I should think he would Accept of the Offer. If it's refered in any manner to the Agent Purchaser you will please get my good Friend M^r M^eGill to

write him for I do not think him favourable to any Contract that does not Originate with himself (Tho I may be mistaken) If you Succeed you will do me an Essential Service & I dare say Mr McGill would join you in giving Security in which you may depend there is not the Smallest Risk imaginable, for there will not be any decrease in Cattle coming in to be Sold at the low rate they are, for in their Country they require no Hay nor Grain to winter them unless the Stall fed Cattle & their Indian Corn is so low that the Expence [is] very Trifling. Here the Cattle cost more for keeping two Years than the others do altogether. If you make a Contract the longer the better and the only Exception should be that if great Britain & America should have any Misunderstanding that would prevent a free intercourse with each other, in that case the contract to End. I fear Some others may think of making proposals for this same Business and even lower but I know of none.

I would undertake for still less if it would not be got otherwise, All here well and Asure [you] of their best Wishes as does My dear Sir

Your ever Obliged Friend and Humble Serv^t

Isaac Todd Esq^r Mercht Montreal

Endorsed: Detroit 17th October 1800 John Askin to Isaac Todd (Copy)

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT⁴⁹

Detroit October the 17th 1800

Dear Sir As I know your great wish is to render Service and in particular to the Country where you Reside. I hope you will not think it presumption in me to represent to you that many Artificers Seafaring Men and others who earn from 8/ to 20/ per day (of which Number are Le Blanc the Wheel Wright, say, Mill Wright, Letour the Carpenter & others known to you) never have had, nor ever will if they can help it a penny before hand such Characters I cannot suppose to be the People the Legislator had in view when they exacted that humain Law entitled "An Act for the relief of Poor persons imprisoned for debt. to a person of your pene-

⁴⁹ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

tration it will soon appear that such a Law without Amendment may serve the purpose of getting Rascals clear of Debts which they might easily do by their Labour or Service to their Creditors or others. Therefore if something to the following Effect could be Added as an Amendment to the aforesaid Law I think you will Agree with me that it would be Usefull to this part of the Territory at least. Provided in no case such Prisoner shall be Intitled to the benefit of this Act who shall refuse to come out of confinement. If thereunto required by his Creditor and work for reasonable wages in order to pay the person at who's Suit he may have been imprisoned.

I hope you have got safe through your Voyage and that I shall have the Pleasure of seeing you again in good Health
I am with Esteem Dear Sir

Your Most Obed^t Very Humble Serv^t

Solomon Sibly Esq^r

one of the Representatives for the County of Wayn

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Detroit October the 26th 1800

Sir I was favoured with your Letter per M^r Jones dated the 30th Aug^t last & as he is now on his way back I take the Oppertunity of answering it. All the information which M^r Jones required of me I have given him and Shewed him the deed of Sale from the Indians to me and others of the Tract of Land you wish to purchace from which he has taken some notes. I have authority from two Merchants in lower Canada to dispose of their Shares and as my Son and I hold two others there is only three remaining Shares, the proprietors of whom are on the Spott, I think your best method and what will be most likely to be Accepted of by all Concerned is to Offer a certain Sum for the whole & if it's not convenient to pay the whole in Money, Lands at your Place will be Accepted in part. As I have told M^r Jones my Oppinion respecting an Other Deed or the Confirmation of the Present it's not Necessary to repeat it here I am Sir

Your Most Obedient Very Humble Servant
Captain Brant at Grande River

Endorsed: Detroit October 26th 1800 John Askin to
Captain Brant (Coppy)

MARRIAGE CONTRACT OF SIMON DROUILLARD JR.

Detroit }
Comté de Wayne } SS

PARDEVANT le Notaire public pour le Comté de Wayne, résidant, au Détroit, furent, présans, le S^{rs} Simon Drouilliard fils, veuf de défunte Archange Laforest, d'une part, et Marquerite Couvillion veuve de Défunt Jean Anicratte d'autre part lesquels parties, du consentements de leur Parens et Amies Si après nommés, scavoir, de la part dudit Simon Drouilliard fils, dusieur Simon Drouilliard Son Père, dame Marguerite S^t Jean Drouilliard Sa Mère, dusieur Joseph Coté son oncle Joseph, Louis B^{te} Drouilliard Ses Frères, B^{te} Rousson Son Beau frère, J. B^{te} Laframboise Cousin, Simon Bertrand aussi Cousin Dame Josep^{te} Drouilliard Rousson Sa Seur, Isabelle Le beau, et Catiche Dufour Belle Seur on faits les conventions et accords, de Mariage, qui Suivent, C'est a Scavoir que lesdits, Simon Drouilliard fils, et ladite Marguerite Couvillion, ont promis, et promettent, reciproquement, Seprandre, L'un, et L'autre par Nom et loix de Mariage, et Icelui, faire sélébrerr et Solemniser en face de notre Mère S^{te} Eglise Catholique aussitot que faire Se pourra, et Lorsqu'une des partie enrequérera l'autre. Seront les dits futures Epoux, un, et Commun, en tout biens meubles et Conquets Immeubles, Suivant l'ancienne Coutume, usité en ce Pays, renonceants pour cet Effét, a toutes coutumes Contraires, aux quelles ils ont par ces présentes Expressément derogé, et renoncés

Ne seront, neenmoins, les dits futures Epoux tenu des dettes, l'un de l'autre, faites, et Créés avant leur Epousailles, et ci dettes il y a elles Serons Payés et Indemnisés, améme les biens de celui ou celle qui les aura fait Sans que les biens de l'autre en soyent tenûes.

Ledit future Epou, a Doué, et Dou, laditte future Epouse, de la Somme de; vingt pounds Cour de Nouvelle York de Douaire préfix pour l'avoir, et prandre aussitot qu'il aura lieux, Surtout, et Chacuns les biens dudit future Epoux, quis en sont désaprésen, hipotéqués.

Le Survivant des dits futures Epoux prendra pour préciput, avant, partage la Somme de dix pounds Cour de Nouvelle York, Sur les meubles de la dite Communauté, suivant la prisé de l'inventaire, ou la dite Somme en argent a Son Choi, et pour la bonne Amitiez que les dits futures Epoux se portent, l'un a l'autre ils se font par ces dites présentes, fait dons Mutuel, et reciproque, au survivant d'eux de tous les biens, muebles, et Immeubles, quis appartiendront au premier Mourant, pous par le Survivant, en Jouire, Savi durante Sans, être tenu, de faire Inventaire, ni de randre aucun Comptes aux Enfants, Ni autres Héritiers; et apres la mort des deux cequi se trouvera, de leurs bien sera partagés, entre leurs héritiers, de parts Egals, Suivant, ladite ancienne Coutume. Car ainsi sont convenûes, les parties, de bonnes foix Promettans &° Obligeans &° Renoncant &° fait et Passé au Détroit en la Maison dudit Sieur Simon Droulliard Père le vingt deuxième Jour de Novembre l'an Mil huit Cents, et ont les parties, faits leurs marques ordinaires, et Scellés, en presence de leurs dits Parens, et amies quis ont aussi signés apres lecture faite, Suivant L'ordonnance;

Sa
Simon × Droulliard fils (L.S.)
marque

Sa
Marguerite × Couvillion (L.S.)
marque

Sa
Jean B^{te} × Couvillion
marque

Sa
Joseph × Coté
marque

Sa
Joseph × Droulliard
marque

Sa
Louis × Droulliard
marque

Sa
Simon × Bertrand
marque

Simon Droulliart

Sa
J. B^{te} × Droulliard
marque

Sa
J. B^{te} × Lafranboize
marque

Sa
J. B^{te} × Rousson
marque

(L.S.) F. D^x Bellecour
Notaire public

Endorsed: Contrat de Mariage Entre Simon Drouillard
fils et Marguerite Couvillion du 22^e Novembre 1800

Enrégistré en mon office régistère N^o 1, pages 94 et 95,
pars moi F. D. Bellecour

Translation

Detroit }
Wayne Co. } SS

BEFORE the notary public of Wayne County, residing in Detroit, appeared in person Simon Drouillard junior,⁵⁰ relict of the late Archange La Forest, of the first part, and Marguerite Couvillon, relict of the late Jean Anigrothe, of the second part, who, with the advice and consent of relatives and friends hereinafter named—that is, on behalf of the said Simon Drouillard junior, were present Simon Drouillard,⁵¹ his father, Marguerite St. Jean Drouillard, his mother, Joseph Coté, his uncle, Joseph and Louis Baptiste Drouillard, his brothers, Baptiste Rousson, his brother-in-law, J. Baptiste Laframboise, his cousin, Simon Bertrand, also his cousin, Mrs. Josette Drouillard Rousson, his sister, Isabelle Le Beau and Catiche Dufour, sister-in-law—have agreed and contracted for their marriage as follows: The said Simon Drouillard junior and Marguerite Couvillon have promised and do mutually promise to take each other in the name and institution of marriage,

⁵⁰ For the Detroit line of Drouillards see *B. H. R.*, I, 183. Simon Drouillard Jr., the present bridegroom, was a grandson of Jean Drouillard, and a nephew of Pierre, there mentioned. He was born at the South Coast of Detroit (near Sandwich), Feb. 27, 1762, and married there (first), Aug. 19, 1782, Archange La Forest, daughter of Guillaume La Forest and Margaret Tremblay. Archange La Forest was buried in Detroit, Jan. 29, 1797, and on Nov. 24, 1800, Simon Drouillard married (second) Margaret Couvillon, widow of Jean Anigrothe (Anicratte). There were children born of each marriage. See Denissen, *op. cit.* The marriage record of Drouillard and Margaret Couvillon in Ste. Anne's Church Register describes her as the widow of Jean Mayritte. We are unable to resolve the contradiction with the present document which describes her as the widow of Anigrothe.

⁵¹ Simon Amable Drouillard was born in Montreal, March 4, 1734, the son of Jean Drouillard and Elizabeth Rapin, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 183. He married in Soulanges, Aug. 29, 1757, Margaret Martin *dit* St. Jean. They came to Detroit prior to 1762 and resided at the South Coast of Detroit. Two children were born before the removal, and ten in Sandwich, the first of these being Simon Drouillard Jr., bridegroom of the present document. Margaret Martin was buried, Nov. 18, 1803, and on May 14, 1804, Simon Drouillard married (second) Mary Meny, widow of Jean Baptiste Brilliau *dit* Lesperance and of Michael Houde. He was buried in Detroit on July 26, 1805. Mary Meny was buried there on March 7, 1812. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

and to have this celebrated and solemnized before our Mother, the Holy Catholic Church, as soon as convenient and whenever either asks it of the other. They, the future husband and wife, shall hold all property in common, both movable and immovable as acquired, according to the ancient custom of this country, renouncing for that purpose all contrary customs, which, by these presents, they have expressly relinquished and renounced.

Nevertheless, the said future husband and wife, either of them, shall not be held responsible for debts made and contracted before their marriage, and any such debts shall be paid and liquidated from the property owned by the one who made and contracted them, the property of the other not being held therefor.

The said future husband has endowed and does endow the said future wife with the sum of twenty pounds, New York currency, as dower settlement, to have and to take the same as soon as in every respect reasonable, and this to be secured by any and all property of the said future husband now in his possession.

The survivor of the said future husband and wife shall take as his or her portion before any distribution the sum of ten pounds, New York currency, in movable property as priced in the inventory, or the said sum in money, according to choice; and for the good will which the said future husband and wife bear towards each other, they agree by these presents to make mutual and reciprocal gift to the survivor of all property, movable and immovable, which shall belong to the first deceased, for the survivor to enjoy during life without being required to make an inventory or to render any account to the children or to other heirs; and after the death of both, whatever property remains shall be divided equally among their heirs, according to ancient custom. For thus has it been agreed in good faith between the parties, promising, etc., obliging, etc., renouncing, etc.

Executed in Detroit, at the house of the said Simon Drouillard senior, the twenty-second day of November, one thousand eight hundred, and the parties have made their accustomed mark, with seals, in the presence of their

said relatives and friends, who also have signed, after hearing the reading hereof according to ordinance.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Grand River 12th January 1801

D^r Sir I have fully explained to Captain Brant the Circumstances of the Indian Grants, you have of the Lands, on the South shore of Lake Erie, and as he has wrote you his int[ent]ion to Come up next Spring I shall accompany him and I beg leave to say, that I think it best to keep the meeting of the Indians as private as possible, for fear of some people thro some private Views enterfiering, which might make difficulty with the Indians. I have borrowed the map I mention^d to you of Capt Brant, which I wish you to keep safe till his arrival to your place. the mony I owe you, I shall bring with me when I come. With my best thanks for your kindnesses to me I am D^r Sir

Your very Humble servant

A. Jones

John Askin Esquire Detroit

N. B. Capt Brant wishes the meeting of the Chiefs not to be earlyer than about the first of may or there abouts. A. J.

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit

Endorsed: Grand River Jan^y 12th 1801 M^r A. Jones to Jn^o Askin Answ^d March 20th

FROM DAVID W. SMITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Yorke 9 March 1801

My dear friend I hope your eyes will be sufficiently recovered, to read a line from your old acquaintance, & tho I have nothing new to communicate, it will be a satisfaction to you I hope to have it repeated to you, that no new ideas exist in my mind. it bears the same friendship & goodwill towards you it ever did—& I beg you will assure your Son Charles, that I am much obliged by his attention in writing to me. taking me by the hand at Yorke wont do, alone. your land matters cant be settled without taking much beef & pudding with me. the difficult parts much be settled

over some port wine, & you can have a little bed Chamber to yourself.

Some of the 24 & 26 [regiments] were taken in going home, but have been permitted to return to England on Parole, giving Hostages. Bunbury⁵² has Also been taken, but in a very different way, by a young Girl of 16, to whom he is married. She is the daughter of an Attorney.

My Mother unites with me in kind regards to yourself & M^{rs} Askin.

Believe me Much Yours
D. W. Smith

York 10th March, 1801

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Amherstsburg on the Detroit rec^d after Closing Paid 1N4 Paid

Endorsed: York March 9th 1801 D. W. Smith Esquire to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 17th April Answ^d same day and Again the 12th May

IMPRISONMENT OF ALEXIS LORANGER

DEtroit March 13, 1801

Sir I am in Confinement and am not able to call on you. wishe you to be so kind as to Call and See me today and see if I can make any arrangement that will answer you and liberate myself from here as the Cost is increasing and Some body must pay it I am not able to pay the Debt at present but if you will give me time to raise the money I will pay it as Soon as I Can but iff not I must stay where I am and take the benefit of the law that is made and prov[id]ed for insolvent Debtors. I am

Your most Obedient Humble Serven[t]
Elexis Lorange

Addressed: M^r John Askin Présent

Endorsed: Prison Detroit March 13th 1801 Alexis Lorange to Jn^o Askin Answ^d y^e 14th

⁵² Joseph Bunbury was commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-ninth Regiment, Jan. 14, 1775, and presumably came to America with his regiment the same year. He was made captain on April 13, 1782, and on Dec. 24, 1785, was commissioned captain in the Fifth Regiment. In this capacity he saw service in Detroit, where in August, 1791, he was ap-

IMPRISONMENT OF ALEXIS LORANGER

Detroit March 14th 1801

Sir I have been so unwell as not to have gone to Town for near two Months past, therefore cannot call on you, however by M^r Brush, I have let M^r Anderson know that we had better come to some arrangement with you. I think you had better say what you have to give. You told my Son & some Others of property you had & would deliver up. I should be glad to know what it was for I have no wish to keep you nor any Man in confinement, longer than is Necessary. yet I beg leave to remark that you are not of that Discription of Debtors that the Law of the Territory will set at Liberty without your creditors consent. I am Sir

Your Humble Serv^t

M^r Alexis Lorange

Endorsed: Detroit, March 14th 1801 John Askin Senior to M^r Alexis Lorange (Copy)

TITLE TO MORAVIAN LANDS

London 23^d March 1801

Dear Sir, I was favor'd with your letter of the 22^d Aug^t 1800, about three months ago, after it had travell'd, I believe, all over England, Ireland, and Scotland—and it at last reach'd me by mere accident here in London.

The copy of the letter it contains, dated 29th June 1796 which you did me the favor to write on that date, I never receiv'd; or I certainly should most punctually have answer'd it.

The subject on which you have written those letters (the purchase of our lands from the Moravian Missionaries and Indians settled on the Huron River) I am but ill prepar'd

pointed by Major John Smith president of a board of survey to report upon the condition of Fort Lernoult and adjoining government property. In 1793 he accompanied the U. S. peace commissioners from Niagara to Detroit; in August, 1794, he was ordered to occupy Turtle Island in Maumee Bay with about one hundred men. The same month he was ordered to proceed to Fort Erie with a detachment of the Fifth Regiment. In 1796 he was appointed Deputy Agent of Indian Affairs for Lower Canada. Data derived from British army lists, *passim*; documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, and in *Simcoe Papers*, *passim*; and Can. Archives, *Rep.*, 1891, p. 138.

at present to answer, to give all the satisfaction I cou'd wish, as all my papers are in Ireland. But as soon as we had made this Purchase from the Missionaries and Indians, I immediately acquainted Gen^l Hope of it and receiv'd a very favorable answer, assuring me that we shou'd not be interrupted in it; and, I think, I either show'd you this letter, or mention'd the contents to you. And when I went down to Quebec, I mention'd the matter very particularly to General Hope himself; And I remember very well his answer; which was, that tho' Government in general was not favorable to such Grants, but that as we had been at a very considerable expence in this purchase, and on the lands afterwards; (And also paying me some compliments on my conduct during my Command at Detroit, which I dont chuse to mention) that on this Occasion the Grant should be looked upon as valid. And, I think, I wrote to this purpose to you from Quebec before I sail'd for England, but of this I cannot now be certain, after so long a space of time.

I shall certainly hope that those Gentlemen, the Commissioners, when they come to settle those claims, can have no objection to this of ours, so fairly purchas'd; And which at the same time was a great Act of humanity and justice to those Missionaries And Indians; in re-imbursing them for the expences they had been at in their Buildings, And clearing the lands, and a reward for their labour, and which otherwise must have been a total loss to them, on leaving the spot.

You have all the papers respecting this purchase with the Missionaries & Indians; Specifying the Sums we paid, And Sign'd by all the Missionaries, and also the Chiefs of Indians, I believe. As also a Correct Survey of the lands taken by M^r Frey⁵³ which cost us likewise some money. I have also a Copy of that Survey.

From all those circumstances, I can make no doubt of our being perfectly Establish'd in our right—tho [I] regret not having it in my power to have recourse to my Papers and correspondence with General Hope, which I cannot have at present.

⁵³ Lieutenant Phillip R. Fry, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 226.

Pray, who is this M^r Connor who you mention to be in Possession of those lands at present? I never heard of this circumstance before.

As I cannot doubt of the justice of the Commissioners of the United States, and their clearly deciding in favor of Our claim; I expect this M^r Connor will be speedily dispossess'd.

I request my best Regards to all my remaining friends with you. I am very Sorry to hear of the death of some. With best Respects to your family, I am with much Regard & Esteem

Your Sincere friend & Hum. Serv^t

W^m C. Ancrum

P.S. As I cannot at present exactly say where I may be when you may next write to me Direct to, Park-house old Brompton near London, and it will be forwarded to me.

Addressed: M^r Askin Detroit

Endorsed: London March the 23^d 1801

[Note on the last page] Recorded in the Land office at Detroit in Liber E. Folio G. &° By me

Geo. Hoffman Register

IMPRISONMENT OF ALEXIS LORANGER

Detroit April the 8th 1801

Dear Sir Your favour of the 2^d reached me last night. I will make Enquiry if S^t Louis is come. however it will not Answer any purpose Unless you are here when he comes, for to put him in prison is only throwing good money after bad. perhaps we may Even be Obliged to pay something when Lorange is set at Liberty. I have been Unwell for some days past is the reason of my not having settled that matter before now. Indeed I wish you were here at the time for no person can settle business so well as those who gave credit

I am Dear Sir your most Obedient Humb^e Serv^t

M^r John Askin [Anderson] Merchant Fort Miamis

P. S. since writing I have send to Lorange who has given us bad answers & shews so little disposition to do what is

fair [that] I think we should keep him in as long as we can he depends on the Law setting him free & I think it will not, but you must be at court to Oppose him.

Endorsed: John Askin to M^r John Anderson At Fort Miamis (Copy)

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Grand River 9th April 1801

Dear Sir I wrote you some time ago, but in Case of Mis-carriage, now write you on the same Subject, viz—The business M^r Jones went about last fall.

I shall leave the Grand River the 3^d of May, and shall be with you on the 10th or 12th at farthest. It will be necessary, to have the Indians Handy, that I might see them & do What is necessary in the affair, so that the Bussiness May be completed immedeately.

M^r Augustus Jones joins me in best respects. and I remain Dear Sir your most obedient and very humble Servant

Jos. Brant

John Arskine Esq^r

Addressed: John Eskine Esquire, Detroit

Endorsed: Grand River April the 9th 1801 Cap^t Brant to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 17th & answered same day.

NEWS FROM MONTREAL

Montreal 10 Aprile 1801

My dear old friend The day that I forget you will be my last. in the last Hour my wishes shall be for your happiness and that of your family. when the express left this I was absent in the Country which prevented my writing. that was one reason, but my dear Askin my mind is not at ease. I have this seven years been doing but little business, and what I did ended bad. lost by every thing that I toutched, and to mend the matter, a great part of the furs I shiped last fall was by the last ship saild so late that no insurance could be made and she is taken. I am continuing to eat up the little remaining, and unless I die soon there will be

nothing left. I think I have lived long enough. at a time of life when we should be enjoying the labours of our youth, we are vexed with disapointments and obliged to deprive ourselves of these comforts which we have been accustomed to is a misfortune. however a few years more and we will have no occation for anything and be on a footing with the rest of the World. [four lines cancelled] however providence knows what is best, a dependence on him is a relief against anything. we must all have our Share of misfortunes in this world. it may be necessary to prepare us for another. I will now quit this Melancholy subject and say that me and my family enjoys good health which is one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy in this life. I am sorry to find your eye is so bad that you cannot write. am in hopes it is only a slight disorder and that you will soon recover.

Our friend Jo Frobisher a few days ago heard of the Death of his favorite Daughter M^{rs} Obrian being burnt to Death by her cloaths taking fire, and my old friend Comodore Grant before you receive this will be informed of Doct^r Wrights Death in Jamaca, and his unfortunate Wife who on her returning to her parants, died at New York on her arrival, these are grievous Troubles, but we are all in the hand of the Almighty and he does what seemeth good unto himself, and for our good altho we cant see it. our friend Todd is well much better than for some years past. I now will give the politicks. M^r Pitt and all his friends are out of the ministry and a new sett are in. The Emperor of Russia Denmark Sweden are all at war with great Brittan. Peace between france & the Emperor of Germany. Bonaparta the greatest man in the World. England in Great distress for bread, which has rais'd it up to two dollars here. Jefferson and his Democratic sett Governs America, which will soon bring on a War with Great Britain. the Hudsons Bay sale of Beaver was 20 p^r C lower than last year and a bad appearance for all furs.

Now my dear Askin I have said all I have to say, and given you a true picture of things, which I have never done to any other, and it gives me pain to think that I have [ms. defaced] to communicate more pleasing to your feelings. dont [ms. defaced] something may Turn up when we least expect it.

I am still in Hopes that you and I will meet somewhere and let what will happen there is nothing in this world will ever deprive me of that friendship & affection which I allways had for you & family. M^{rs} Henry join me in our wishes for every good this world can bestow

[I] remain your affectionately
Alexander Henry

Addressed: To John Askin Esquire, Detroit

Endorsed: Montreal April 10th 1801 Alexd^r Henry Esq^r
to Jn^o Askin Rec. the 15 & Answ^d y^e 20th May

QUEST FOR HATTER'S MATERIALS

York 11th April 1801

Sir This is to introduce to you M^r Cozens, a respectable Hatter here in good Custom, who comes to Detroit in Want of Materials, particularly Wool, for carrying on that Business, and which cannot be procured here. if you can help him with your advice to facilitate his procuring what he wants, you will find him a good young Man, and worthy of a little assistance; but he is a Stranger, and does not understand the French Language.

I hope to have the pleasure of hearing you are better by Commodore Grant in next Month. I received Charles's very handsome Letter, and am happy he can so write for his Father when it is inconvenient to him.

M^{rs} Heward joins me in best Respects to all your Family. I am most truly

Your Obedient Hble Servant
Hugh Heward

John Askin Esquire

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit favoured by
Mr. Cozens

Endorsed: York April 11th 1801 M^r Hugh Heward to
Jn^o Askin Rec^d May 1st Answ^d y^e 12th

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Detroit April the 17th 1801

Dear Sir Your favour of the 9th ins^t reached me today but your former letter I never received. I therefore wrote M^r Jones on the 20th of March last my reasons why the Indians we purchased the Lands of could not be Assembled no doubt he has communicated to you the contents of that Letter as it was meant for that purpose it was undercover to you & sent by a Moravian Minister therefore I think could not have Misscarried. Tho there cannot be a Meeting of the Aforesaid Indians in may next for the purpose you mention, Yet if any Other Business calls you this way I will Always be happy to see you at my House & in the main time Remain

Dear Sir, your most Obedient

Captain Brant at Grand River

Endorsed: DEtroit April 17th 1801 John Askin Sen^r to Captain Brant (Copy)

PROPOSAL FOR OPERATION OF *SAGUINAH*

Detroit April the 20th 1801

Dear Sir With no Other Intent than to facilitate the *Saguinahs* Voyage this Summer I think it would better for you to take the whole of the freight & say what you would Allow me let her make Little or much If this agreement takes place I mean to furnish my share for all Repairs & If the Vessell should be lost support my proportion of that also. but I not to pay any part of Cap^t Fearsons wages or the crews or have any thing to do with their rations & The Vessell of coars will be Intirely Under your directions & you will send & Employ her as you think fit & the freight I have or can procure you shall get. but I can not keep back M^r Geassons goods to wait for her. After you have Examined this matter with M^r Park please call in any time & let me have your Answer

I am Dear Sir Your most Obed.

George Meldrum, Esq^r

Endorsed: John Askin Sen^r to George Meldrum Esq^r

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 21 April 1801

Dear Sir We wrote you on the 20th by Mess^{rs} Giassen & C^o Boats and we are now to attend to your favour of 4 last December being the only letter received from you by the Express in winter. we regret exceedingly & are sorry for your Situation. it could not nor did it enter into our head that in so short time as transactions have passed between us and their small amount that your fixed property must be sold in order to enable you to pay the debt owing to our late firm. we conceived that on settling with Todd M^cGill & C^o you remained with so much property in Goods, Debts & vessells as would put it in your power to be very punctual in future transactions. we have been unfortunately wrong in our opinion and we felt the disappointment more painful than any that had happened for many years which drew from us the remark which seems to have given you pain. we never entertained an Idea that were an accident to happen to you, the fixed property would not be forthcoming but have you reflected on the very unpleasant task that it would be for us to have even the appearance of severity to the widow of our Friend? we hope and trust that nothing of the kind will ever be necessary, that your health will continue to admitt of your attending to your own affaires & finishing yourself a business which has been productive of vexation to both Parties.

We now hand you continuation of your a/c with our late firm the balance on 10 Inst being £2155.18/9 also state of J. Anderson & C^o acc^t balance against them £35.1.9. & both Currency; of the latter some part will be paid when L^t Backwells Bill is discharged; but as yet we cannot say the time and as to your own, you know our expectations and we shall therefore not add at present on that head.

We have had Sales of deer Skins from England & unfortunately they are very low. we do not think that all the Detroit ones have exceeded 4/6 S^t & the charges are not less than 1/2. our Friends the Macgregors are better off by Six pence the skin.

As we shall have Goods to go up in Summer & packs to

come down, we mean everything that is to be landed, to be to your address in hope therefore that if you leave home there will be some person of confidence to act in your absence we have only to add that with great regard We are Dear Sir

Your very obed^t Serv^{ts}

James & And. M^cGill & C^o

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Montreal April the 21st 1801 James & And^w M^cGill & C^o to John Askin I dont know when rec^d

DEALINGS WITH MORAVIAN INDIANS⁵⁴

Fairfield May 6th 1801

Sir I received your favour of Apr. 27th by M^r Barthe & tried all in my power to settle fairly the Affair respecting what our Indians owe You. You will find how much is settled of the debts. I could not get more this year, which you can see by the remarks I wrote to the Account. Samuel was not home, but as much as I know he had nothing at present to pay with. It is a very hard thing to collect old Debts by the Indians, because they look upon old Debts, as if they were paid.

Therefore I will recomand to You, to give no Indian much upon Credit. Their intention is to pay, when they take the Goods, but they do not consider, if they ever will be able, to do it. If You wish to continue trading with them, the best would be, that You send early in the Spring a Boat with Goods here & give the Man, who sells the Goods strict Orders, to give nothing out upon trust & to fetch the corn directly down. Because it is very difficult to save up Corn here, during the summer on account of the vermin.

We know out of experience, that no Indian understands [how] to trade. In the Beginning they pay good, but at last both the Merchant & the Indian will loose thereby. It is the same now with Ludwig. He died 2 years ago & left many Debts, which are now demanded of his poor widow. The

⁵⁴ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

Missionaries can not mettle [meddle] with trading. Because in the first place it is hurtfull to their character as Missionaries. This was the case of one of our former Missionaries, who upon that Account had to leave the Mission. And then, we have no leisure at all to attend to it. I could show you it plainly, if we would have to see You once here on a Visit. Let me assure You, that I sometimes do not know, how to get time, to do all what belongs to my business & besides that I have to learn a very difficult language.

Respecting the Goods Mr Barthe left with Jacob last Year, I send You a Statement. Mr Barthe takes the next down You will receive by This Opportunity the Corn & some skins, which are paid for it. Only 8 quart of Salt were not paid to Jacob. How much Corn you will get I do not know as yet, but I will mention it, before I close the letter. Jacob told our people that you wished they should add some Corn more for the Goods had of him, because You could not take the Corn for more than 4/ per Bush. Some came to me & asked me if the[y] should pay for the Goods twice. I told them Your meaning, but They said, if they had known it, that You would take the Corn only for 4/ they would never have bought any of the Goods, because they could sell that time their Corn for 6/ here on the River. Wheat is very scarce in the town & only few raise some. So are skins, because our people dont hunt much. I am very sorry that I could not accomplish the business to Your Satisfaction, but I am not able to do more, as I did. I have to add, that Jacob was obliged to throw away 15 Bush of Corn, which were quite spoiled by the Vermin. You will be so kind as to settle with Jacob in such a Manner, that he will have no damage by it, as it gave him much trouble.

Jacob had some Coffee & suggar from Charles Askin to trade with. He sends some skins for the payment & the next as you will find in the other Paper. Anne Mary (Molly) askes me to write you, that she had given 2 Bush of Wheat to Mr Barthe as a payment for Goods which she took last Year in Detroit.

We took from the Goods an Ax for £1, & an Adze £1 and a Scythe 8/ And as we have no corn to spare & sold our wheat, Mr Denke will settle it, when he goes down to Detroit

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

this year. Some little Things I took & paid in Wheat. We send by this Opportunity some Suggar as a little present to Mr^s Askin & I will put to it some seeds of Spanish Beans & of a very good kind of Pumpkins. If our Indians had returned from Muskingum I would had the pleasure, to send Mr^s Askin more Garden seeds but they did not arrive as yet

I am much obliged to Mrs Askin for the 2 twigs of Rose-trees, which she had the kindness to send me by Mr. Denke. I inoculated them in wild Rosebushes & they seem to thrive well. Mr^s Oppelt sends her Compliments to Mr & Mr^s Askin wherein I join her

I remain with much Esteem Sir

Your most Obed^t Humble Servant

Gottfr. Seb. Oppelt

P. S. Because M^r Barthe could not load all the Corn left with Jacob at once, but means to send up a canoe or two from M^r Trexelers to load the remainder, therefore I could not now mention the correct Number of Bushels & must postpone it till all is loaded.

Addressed: Mr. John Askin Sen. Esqu^r Detroit

Endorsed: Fairfield May 6th 1801 the Reverand M^r Oppell to Jn^o Askin Recv^d y^e 12th Answ^d y^e 13th Contents Ent^d

AFFAIRS OF COMMODORE GRANT

Amherstburgh May 14th 1801

My dear Sir I have been this two days anxiously looking out for you & M^r Robertson, hearing that both of you was coming down. about an hour ago, old Maisonvill come in and delivered me two letters from Gross Point which made me happy having not heard from there since I come down. M^r Maisonvill told me that M^r Baby had more letters from you to me; I imagine by that that you are not coming down nor Robertson. The *Ottawa* Sails for certain to morrow And if the wind is fair that in the morning.

My dear Sir I shall beg the favor of you to consult M^{rs} Grant and answer Doctor M^cCostric letter as soon as possible. From the length of time it has been wrote, he

will naturally think it is our neglect. mention the time we received it.

I shall write to M^r Francis Baby to direct the two Battalions to assemble when I mention'd to you before Please send him the regulation and the Copie of the return to be made the 4th of June. M^r Duff Just arrived from Sandwich. Endeavour to get M^{rs} Grant for a few days to your house, and then send her to stay [a] few days at M^r Duffs.⁵⁵ It will do her a deal of good. The *ottawa* are loaded with flour. make my love to M^{rs} Askin and Compliments to M^r Robertson. Jhon [John] your Son told me he comes Soon by land to York I shall hear from you by him. I had a letter to day from Captain M^oKee mentioning his putting off going down till the *Francis* or next Vessel Sail'd Its a doubt with me if he do's not put it off for good & all. 5 oClock Friday 15th It looks a rainy dirty morning. I have the Commissions for Barthe & John. Youl please to make out Barths Company

Sencereley yours

A Grant

Endorsed: Amherstburgh May 14^h 1801 Commodore Grant to Jn^o Askin.

RESPONSE TO ISABELLA GRANT'S SUITOR

Detroit May the 14th 1801

Sir Your letter dated the 8th Feb^y last directed to Alex^r Grant Esq^r was received by him not long since and as he goes to morrow with some other of the Council for York is hurried therefore, has requested of me to answer it which I do conformable to their M^r & M^{rs} Grants sentiments and what they say the Young Ladys are. Theirs are never to force the inclination of their Children unless when the choice is very improper and as they do not think that the case in the present instance & they find their Daughters

⁵⁵ Phillis (Felicity) Grant, born, Aug. 29, 1782, married Alexander Duff, Jan. 20, 1801. He was the son of Rev. William Duff of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and had lived in Detroit for some years prior to the American occupation. He was subsequently barrack master in Amherstburg, where he died in June, 1809, and was buried in Christ Church yard. He and Mrs. Duff had three children, and their descendants are still found in Amherstburg. Information adapted from biography of Alexander Grant in Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXII, 177, and mss. in B. H. Coll.

attachment still the same I'm authorized by them to say you may come here when you think fit and on their part you will not find any Opposition to the union you so much wish for.

I am Sir Your Most Obed^t Humble Servant
 Doctor M^cCoskrey⁵⁶ in Camp on the borders of the Ohio
 16 miles below Masac

Endorsed: Detroit May 14th 1801 Jn^o Askin to Doctor
 M^c Coskrey (Copy)

PROPERTY OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Detroit 26th May, 1801

Dear Sir, You have often heard of the delay & great amount of my outstanding debts in this quarter, & of the obstacles to their recovery. I am persuaded you know me too well to suppose any of my remarks, in the course of our different conversations, could have had any allusion to the balance you owe me. You have unfortunately experienced those delays & those obstacles yourself, & probably, in a greater extent than I. From a knowledge of you, for now near twenty years, I am convinced of your honour & integrity; & that as soon as you recover, even a part of those debts, or realise a part of the value of those lands you hold, you will be in a situation to do ample justice to your affairs; & I have not the least doubt of the rectitude of your own intentions, as will appear by the enclosed paper. I

⁵⁶ William McCoskry was born in Carlisle, Pa., about the year 1763. From 1778 to 1782 he served as surgeon's mate in the corps of Artillery Artificers, created by order of General Washington in 1777. He was surgeon's mate in the levies of 1791 and was present at St. Clair's defeat on November 4 of that year. He served subsequently in Wayne's campaign and came to Detroit with the American troops in 1796. A prior visit had been made in 1793 when he accompanied the Quaker peace delegation from Niagara to this place (journal of Joseph Moore, in *Friend's Miscellany*, VI, 298, 311). He evidently remained here long enough for the romance with which the present document deals to bud. It did not bear fruit, however, for in January, 1803, Isabella Grant became the wife of William Gilkison of Sandwich and in due course bore him eleven sons. McCoskry resigned his army commission in February, 1802. He subsequently took up private practice in Detroit, living for many years in a house on the corner of Woodbridge and Randolph streets. Here he died, May 16, 1831. On Sept. 21, 1814, he married Felicité Levasseur, who was born in Sandwich, Jan. 29, 1782, the daughter of Pierre Levasseur and Marie Ann Leseur. They had two children, a daughter, Felicité, and a son, Alfred. A nephew of Dr. McCoskry was Bishop Samuel A. McCoskry. Data derived from sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 209-10; Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*; Assumption Church Register; obituary note in *Detroit Democratic Free Press and Michigan Intelligencer*, May 19, 1831; and papers of William McCoskry preserved in B. H. Coll.

think I may pay the same tribute to those who may succeed you; & with accompanying that tribute, with a confidence they will justify my expectation, & that of those who may succeed me. As long as I am on the spot, or in this country, I can act in my own affairs myself, as I think best; those that might succeed me, might, possibly not know you or your family so well as I have had occasion to do. It is therefore I enclose you this paper (alluded to above) for your own satisfaction; because I have some thoughts of going to Europe for my health, but am by no means finally determined to go further than the city of Quebec to see my little daughter. I will thank you to pay attention to those matters pointed out in my note of 23^d instant, as well as to any others that m[a]y occur in my absence relating to my own personal affairs & lands in this country, or under our government of Upper Canada; where I hope soon my claims for lands will be completed, as they are now in a train of adjustment by the commissioners report & the activity of the Legislative (Executive I should have said) Council. If my time permit[s] me to go to York I shall endeavour to stimulate their exertions, on this point; either by speaking to His Excellency, to whom I have for some years had the honour of being personally known; or, by memorial to his Executive Council; at all events, do me the favour to reiterate my claims to the commissioners who may come up this summer. Knowing how well you are acquainted with the affairs of this quarter in general, and of my own, I think it unnecessary to detain you by being more particular. I therefore conclude, with assurances of esteem & regard, & remain, Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

William Robertson

N.B. Some papers from the U. States that have lately come in, & which I have been looking over, have taken away somewhat from the keenness of my appetite for a voyage to my native country. France, Holland, Swisserland, Italy, Egypt, Spain; Denmark, Sweden, & above all, Russia, combined against us! tis too much! Some of those Chaps may take me & Lucy, and carry us the Lord

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

knows wither. I believe I had better stay on this side the water, for the present; & keep out of their way.

To John, Askin, Esq^r

Endorsed: Letter & inclosure to John Askin, Esq^r from W. R.

RELATIVES OF JOHN ASKIN⁵⁷

Detroit May the 26^h 1801

Dear sir Your very kind Letter dated the 16 June last at Drimcar reached me so late, that I could not have answered it before the winter Express left this in February & then my Eyes were so sore that I could not. I'm sorry you are disappointed in not finding the Brother you so tenderly seek for I'm the son of a James Askin of [Strabane] in the north of Ireland neither him or any of his Family I Ever heard of has come to this Country & I'm sorry to say I fear they are all dead Except a Sister which I hear is in England I was brought up with my Grandfather John Rae within a mile & an half of Dungannon & on his Death came to this Country. It gives me great pleasure to hear that M^r M^oClintock⁵⁸ was well. I Esteemed him very much. he was a Good Clerk and a worthy young man. I [am] sorry he did not stay with me & take a part of my Business If you see him after you receive this, please Asure him of my best wishes.

I remain with much Esteem Dear Sir

Your most Obedient very humble Servant

M^r James Erskin at Drimcar near Dunleer County of Leith Ireland

AFFAIRS AT GRANT CASTLE

Detroit June the 2^d 1801

My Dear sir Several Letters which I wrote you are still here Owing to M^r Robertson's having lost his Passage both

⁵⁷ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

⁵⁸ Probably James McClintock, a former clerk of Askin, who subsequently returned to Ireland.

in the *Thames & Nancy* By the *Charlotte* who I Expect Every hour he certainly will go & take this & the Other Letters with him. Johny Askin⁵⁹ was at Gross Point Yesterday & by him M^{rs} Grant desires I may write you to get the Child⁶⁰ from New York by all means & [send her] up here. in this I think she is very [sensible]. she also wishes that no part of the late M^{rs} Wrights Cloths may be sold but that Mr M^cComb may be directed to forward them to the [this] Place. Johny Grant⁶¹ is just come down all well. M^{rs} Duff at Gross Point. all here well I wrote Doctor M^cCroskey long since. In haste

Your most truly

Commodore Grant at York

Endorsed: Detroit June the 2^d 1801 John Askin Senior to Commodore Grant at York Copy

NEWS FROM QUEENSTON

Queenstown June 15th 1801

My Dear Sir * * * *⁶² I am on a great many Accounts happy that you have decided to remain at Detroit as upon mature reflection I think it more to your advantage, and in coming here you would be quite at a loss from the unfortunate state of Contention and Strife in which our little Society is at present involved, and from which I see no Prospect of being Soon Extricated.

As I have been a principal though unwillingly in bringing matters to this Crisis I would from a desire to Explain to You my motives and reasons give you a detail of particulars, but as the matter has been by me laid before a Court of Justice I defer biassing any of my friends and trust to a

⁵⁹ Jean B. Askin, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 69.

⁶⁰ Therese Wright, the Commodore's granddaughter, for whom see *ibid.*, 461.

⁶¹ John (Jean) Grant was an adopted son of Alexander Grant. He was brought to Detroit about the year 1781 by a Chippewa war party, returning from a raid upon the American frontier. He was then a child of about three years of age, and ignorant alike of his name and his birthplace. The Grants purchased the waif, gave him a home and name, and reared him to manhood. In 1803 he married Judith Campau of Detroit. He lived at Grosse Pointe until an advanced age and reared a large family. See *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VI, 78; and sketch in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, III, 299 ff.

⁶² The portion of the letter here omitted deals with various matters of but slight present-day interest.

Verdict of my Country for a Vindication of my Conduct. I have however requested Captain Gilkison, who is acquainted with the merits of the business, to give you an account of it.

I had a Jaunt to Pittsburgh this Spring and there met a Number of Your very old acquaintances, all of whom ask'd very cordially about You, & It gave me real pleasure to give them Satisfactory Answers to their enquiries.

By some of our Niagara Papers now forwarded you will see the debates of the wise men at York. they are not very elegantly reported and are only interesting from their immediate relation to Ourselves.

M^r Clark left this for Kingston & Montreal on the 26th Ultimo. he is building a Kentucky Boat at the former place, in which he intends going to Quebec with 350 Barrels of Our flour. it will (I imagine) be the first Boat of the kind that ever descended the Saint Lawrence and interests all the Mercantile people of this part of the Country very much. it has I imagine left Kingston by this time, and I think we shall have accounts of its destiny in about a fortnight.⁶³

The Quantity of Flour going down this year from the District of Niagara is immense, say upon a moderate calculation Five thousand Barrels, which for the first Year is really very great. we have taken great pains to have *ours* of a good quality and I think it will command a good price. The prospects of good Crops next Harvest are really flattering but I sincerely hope (though against my own interest) that the Same calamity may never again happen in any Part of the world.

* * * * 64

⁶³ For the outcome of this experiment see *post*, 353. The Kentucky boat, or "broad-horn," was the chief vehicle of freight transportation on the western rivers of the United States until displaced by the advent of the steamboat. "They were," says Hulbert, "great, pointed, covered hulks carrying forty or fifty tons of freight and manned by almost as many men. They were the great freighters of the larger rivers, descending with the current and ascending by means of oars, poles, sails, and cordelles—ropes by which the craft was often towed from the shore." See Archer B. Hulbert, *Waterways of Westward Expansion: The Ohio River and Its Tributaries* (Cleveland, 1903), 113 ff.

⁶⁴ The section omitted is devoted to comments by the writer upon the course of the European war.

16th I this moment learn that Doctor Richardson and his Family arrived last night at Fort George on their way to S^t Josephs where they are to be Stationed. You will therefore have a Visit from them in a Short time which will I am Sure give you all great pleasure, though that will receive some alloy from the dreary prospect they have before them however as Lieut Cowell⁶⁵ the intended Commandant & Doctor Lee⁶⁶ the Garrison Surgeon are both married men, the Society will be rather better than it has hitherto been.

I hope My Dear Sir that you will let me hear from you by every convenient opportunity, and be assured that I shall ommit none, on my part to testify my Esteem & respect

In requesting an Affectionate remembrance to my young Friends, and my very respectful Compliments to M^{rs} and the Miss Askins, I fulfill a very pleasing duty, and in assuring you of my sincere regard I always am My Dear Sir,

Your Obliged Humble Servant

Rob^t Nichol

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Queenston June 15^h 1801 M^r Rob^t Nichol
to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 27th Answ^d July 8^h

STATUS OF VINCENNES DEBTORS

John Askin Esquire, Detroit.

Sir Your Letter of the 6 May last has been received; a double of its inclosure had been already transmitted.

The real Estate of the late Paul Gamelin has been sold by the Sheriff, and I became purchaser of the greater part of it, because it did not rise to near the value in my opinion.

⁶⁵ Robert Cowell was commissioned lieutenant in the Queen's Rangers, June 19, 1793. In 1796 he was stationed at Fort Chippewa. His command of St. Joseph had terminated prior to January, 1804, when Capt. Alexander Clerk had charge of that post. On Sept. 10, 1803, he was commissioned captain in the Fourth Battalion of Reserves. See British army lists, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*; and *Simcoe Papers*, IV, 344.

⁶⁶ William Lee, hospital mate, was appointed to St. Joseph Island in the spring of 1801 to succeed Dr. David Brown, whose health had failed. On Nov. 29, 1803, Mrs. Lee died at St. Joseph, leaving three small children, and Dr. Lee asked to be relieved in order to convey his children to Quebec. He was still at St. Joseph in July, 1804, and in November, 1805, he testified before a court of inquiry in Amherstburg. Presumably he is identical with William Lee Sr. who served as surgeon of Canadian militia in the War of 1812, and died in York, July 1, 1833, aged seventy years. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*, and Irving, *op. cit.*, 34.

The Governor purchased a part, and I am in expectation of disposing of my purchase, which was made for your use, to him at an advance, payable at a period not very distant. A few acres near the Town were well sold, which will put me in Cash for Costs. After I shall have entered satisfaction for so much, at our August Court, I shall transmit the Judgment to you, that you may obtain Execution in your Court of Common Pleas to sell the Tract of Four Arpents by Forty, situate at Monguagon, granted by Bellêtre to Paul Gamelin, of which the W^o [widow] has delivered me the Grant agreeably to her proposition. Of the great Sum, proposed by the W^o to be ceded to you whereof the Vouchers have been received by me as your Agent, but a Small part I am sorry to inform you will ever be received. I have in the Instance of Laderoute who owed 4000ⁿ, taken his Note with Interest payable to you, and to enable him to pay I have aided him in establishing his claims to land, which will soon be acted on by the Governor

The amount realised, and there is not more to be expected, on the Mortgage [of] Bergand to Adhemar which was for about 9000ⁿ does not authorise the conclusion you have suggested in your Postscript. The mortgaged Property of Pelletier in the list you enclosed, was, soon after the execution of that act, abandoned by him, and there is nothing remaining but the bare Lot, which will not sell for 25 Dollars. He is out of this Country and has not any other property in it. I have determined for your Interest, not to commence suits except in cases which apparently will Justify it. Before I instituted that against the Adm^r of Bosseron I proposed to settle on terms which I believed equitable, and which certainly would have been approved by you, but he tho't otherwise. The points on which we differed were, the value of livres, owing to an ambiguous wording of one of the Obligations, and the In^t on all. I insisted that three of them equalled a Dollar, he contended for four. Upon condition he admitted my construction & agreed to relinquish half the In^t provided he would empower DuBois to pay you in May last at Detroit or me here in Cash, which I had reason to think and believe he would have acceded to, in consequence of Stipulations with his

Correspondants for Peltry. I made those proposals last year to the Adm^r who I believe would have closed with me, had not his Partner in trade and brotherinlaw, who has taken admⁿ on the Estate of the W^o Bosseron with a view of absorbing the Estate in satisfaction of her marriage Contract, to the injury of the Creditors, prevailed on him to suffer himself to be sued, which I immediately bro't and expect to have Judgment at August Term, before any other. DeBois then was very incorrect indeed when he informed you he was one of the Jury and that the Judgment was about 800 Dollars. It is yet uncertain what it may be: I shall use every exertion to encrease it; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you that there is property to satisfy it, of which you shall be duly informed. Meeting with Sutherland was a fortunate circumstance, which put it in my power to remit you in Cash. I shall be extremely happy to comply with your wishes in transmitting you Bills or Cash in my future remittances. It will be necessary that you and the others concerned in Gamelins Debt should inform me of your respective shares. I shall keep seperate Accounts for your and Adhemars Matters, which are in my knowledge, but I am unacquainted with the shares in that Debt. It is not with M. Vigo as you have been told. he will not have property to pay his Debts; and what is worse he is not very solicitous to pay them I called on him this morning, having long before communicated your answer as it regarded him, and asked him when you should expect money; he replied that I knew he had none, that his situation did not admit of transacting business so as to collect any, and that he expected a little more indulgence. I intimated that I would accept of some Town Lots he owns, and altho' I was not authorised by you, that I would accept of some land and Obligations I knew he had for your Debt, but he waived the subject and plainly hinted that you must wait a while. Should the Miamis Company distress him, he will not have any property to pay you. I have determined if they direct suit to be bro't against him; which they will probably do 'ere long, to engage him to admit your Debt in Judgment before that due to the Company; and in the mean time I shall endeavour to secure it for you.

I have obtained Judgment against the Sister of Renaud⁶⁷ your Debtor, she inherited of her brother. On his death his sister's Husband who is now dead obtained admⁿ from an unauthorised Court formerly at this Place, and took possession of his Effects. He had two valuable Slaves besides a considerable parcel of Pelleteries which he was conducting to Detroit I presume for you. I believe Vigo acted then for you. The Slaves were vendued and Vigo and Col. Hamtramck purchased them much below their value. The Sister who is ignorant has assured me of this and that she and her Husband were much deceived at the disappointment of not receiving *any Thing*, from so considerable an Estate. Three years before I was entrusted with by you to manage your business in this Country this Woman sold me four hundred acres of land which The United States had granted to her brother as a head of a Family in the Illinois; and I had paid her for it. Now it is possible that our Courts would determine that the lands of Renaud should be liable for his debts altho' the Heir had sold them bona fide before suit bro't. These considerations have not deterred me from suing the Sister, who may not be able to pay your demand, nor repay me the price of her brothers land. I shall issue an Execution in due time; but I shall expect your Instructions in so peculiar a Circumstance, before I proceed on the Execution against the land.

With great regard, I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most Obed^t and much obliged h^l Serv^t

Will. M^oIntosh

Postvincents 15. June 1801.

Endorsed: Post Vincent June 15^h 1801 M^r W^m
M^oIntosh to Jn^o Askin recv^d July 9th Answ^d y^o 27th.

GIFT OF SITE OF STRABANE ACKNOWLEDGED

Detroit June the 24th 1801

My Dear sir Your very kind Letter dated the 15th May last reached me Yesterday. That of the 12th April I answered fully by our good friend M^r Robertson In a short

⁶⁷ Antoine Renaud, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 320.

time I will send you ready for Execution the deed of Gift which your unbounded Friendship dictates you to make.⁶⁸ I hope your reward will be in a better world In this I know you neither Expect nor wish to have any. however should the wheel of fortune bring me or mine up in a future day we will talk over this matter on an other footing.

You have my most Sincere Thanks as well as those of John for your Application in his behalf to his Excellency General Hunter whether the Appointment takes place or not I hope his Conduct in Office should it take place will never give you cause to repent having been his Security.⁶⁹ In general we are tolerable well, but I'm Often ailing tho hot weather [agrees] with me best. We jointly wish that happiness may be your Lot here & hereafter Adieu my Dear Friend

Your most truly

Isaac Todd Esquire at Montreall

Endorsed: Detroit June the 24th 1801. John Askin Sen^r to Isaac Todd Esquire Merchant Montreall Copy

INDEBTEDNESS OF WILLIAM SMITH

29th June 1801

Sir after my Respects to you I must inform you that I'am Now in Jail for a Writ of five hundred Dollars Damages in your favour I have [torn] thing to Observe to you that Is you Will please to inform me What these Damages is if you Do not inform me that immediately I Shall observe to you that my Resolution is this that I mean Either to Lis't as a Soldier or take the Benefit of the Act for I am not Able to Support myself here in prison I have Suffered a Long time over the River in the prison and have Expended all my property your answer to this or your person present at this prison Will oblige your humbl[e] Svt

William Smith

John Askins Esq^{re}

⁶⁸ The land given was the tract opposite Belle Isle on which Askin, on removing from Detroit, built his home, Strabane.

⁶⁹ The allusion is to the position of collector of customs at Amherstburg, which John Askin Jr. held from 1801 to 1807.

Addressed: John Askins Esq^r present

Endorsed: Detroit June the 29th 1801 W^m Smith to John Askin rec^d the 29th & answ^d same date.

INDEBTEDNESS OF WILLIAM SMITH

Sir I have sued you for a debt, good[s] furnished & never paid for, and not Damages, and if you do not make me some payment out of your wages, I will not set you at liberty & perhaps you may find yourself mistaken both as to being a Soldier or geting the benefit of [the] act

Y^r Humble Serv^t

June 29th 1801.

Endorsed: Detroit June 29th 1801. John Askin Senior to W^m Smith. (Copy)

INDEBTEDNESS OF WILLIAM SMITH

29 June 1801

Sir I Rec^d your answer to my first this morning informing me that it was Dept that I am sude for Sir please to Bring forward your ac[c]t and Settle With me and if Right I Will pay you one half of my Wages on Sight & the other half I must pay to M^r Gowy⁷⁰ I Will Do any thing that is Right With my Creditors I hope you Will understand me and Come and See me or inform me of the ac[c]t in Righting Dont Delay the Business Look on my family and you as a man of feeling of thare Distress you Will Certainly Rather Deliberat[e] me from prison than keep me in Confinement Whare I Can Earn nothing Reflect Call and See me I Remain your Obt Humble Sert

William Smith

John Askins Esq^r

Endorsed: Detroit June 29 1801 William Smith to John Askin Senior rec^d the 29th no answer made

⁷⁰ Probably Robert Gouie of Sandwich, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 308.

ACTIVITIES IN YORK

York July 4th 1801

My dear M^r Askin Your several letters both by Robertson & maisonvill are received by me, which has made me very happy being the first intellengence received from [your] place Since my departure; Only a short letter from M^{rs} Grant the 20th of may. Robertson & Maisonvill arrived here the day before yesterday. poor Robertson. as he tells me and indeed his looks and appearance show it; that he had been near deaths door for four days at M^r Hamilton at Q—town And that it was a mericle his escape

I suspect he & maisonvill has been keeping up the ball freely

All the oppertunity I have had yet of speaking to His Excellency Since I received your letters, was only to make him your most profound respects. And that you was happy that the Complaint made to your disadvantage, was made to a gentleman of generosity and Candore. His Answer was he never gave it the least credit, And he was glad you keep your health

Clauss,⁷¹ M^eKee and Selby are all here now. Selby stays with us, as I may say. the old lady⁷² and David are as civil and kind to me as possible. I am much indeed pressed for the Returns of the militia of our County by the General. Why in the name of god did not M^r F. Baby send them down by maisonvill; Your militia business I had no oppertunity yet to speake to the Gener^l or Major Green about We are very much hurryed, or Confined to business in our Legislative Capacity owing at the begining of the Session every thing were kept the most of the time in a Confusion, from

⁷¹ Colonel William Claus, son of Daniel Claus and grandson of Sir William Johnson. William was born in Williamsburg, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1765. His mother was Ann (Nancy) Johnson, and one of his uncles was Sir John Johnson, one of the most noted loyalists of the Revolution, and after 1783, Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs in North America. By reason of his family connections, Claus enjoyed the confidence of the Iroquois, and on June 13, 1796, he was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Niagara. On the death of Colonel Alexander McKee, in 1799, Claus succeeded him as Deputy Superintendent-General and Deputy Inspector-General of Indian Affairs. He died at Niagara, in 1826. See *Simcoe Papers*, IV, *passim*; Carnochan, *Hist. of Niagara*, *passim*; and Irving, *op. cit.*

⁷² Apparently Mrs. Smith, widow of Major John Smith, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 407, 441.

the members of the lower house (of which many new ones) were continually bringing forward their receiving their wages out of the treasury, which would not be admitted of by the Upper house. We imagine once from this dispos[ition] of the lower house no business would be gone through at all

But the good Sense, prudence, And mangement of our friend David Smith *Speaker* brought within this few days matters about with good feeding [feeling] of them &c. &c. that every thing will in few days be finished to the Satisfaction of the Country & Governor &c. &c. Yesterday there was an election for a member in place of Judge Alcock, who tryed every means and did not leave a Stone unturned to keep his Seat but could not—tho the House and principle Gent^m wished much his remaining—Smal Plater,⁷³ M^cAully⁷⁴ & Angus M^cDonald⁷⁵ were Candidets. the latter, by a majority of about 200, are elected

Our friend Hamilton finding Robertson upon his arrival here in such debilitated state applyed immediately to the General for the schooner *Toronto* to bring them over to niagara You cannot imagine the Change in R. looks since I saw him at your house.

I have not heard from Macomb since I wrote him the 23^d

⁷³ Apparently George Playter, a native of England who lived many years in Philadelphia. Here he became a Quaker and married a woman of this sect, but on the outbreak of the Revolution he abandoned his Quaker creed and enlisted as a loyalist for military service. The date of his removal to Upper Canada we have not learned, but presumably the removal was a consequence of the service noted. He was living in Toronto as late as 1821. He had a family of several sons and one daughter. Data adapted from Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 287-88, *et passim*.

⁷⁴ Probably Dr. James Macaulay, army surgeon. He was born in Scotland in 1759, and became surgeon in the Thirty-third Regiment about the year 1785. He came to Upper Canada with the Queen's Rangers and was stationed at Kingston and Niagara. He was subsequently appointed deputy inspector general of hospitals. In 1790 he married Elizabeth Hayter, by whom he had several sons and daughters. One son became colonel of the Royal Engineers; another a clergyman; another an attorney; and another Chief Justice of Common Pleas of Upper Canada. In 1817 Dr. Macaulay married (second) Rachel Crookshank. He removed from Niagara to Toronto when the capital was established there, and seems to have resided there until his death, the date of which has not been learned. James Street and Teraulay Street are named in his honor. Data adapted from *ibid.*, 307, *et passim* and Robertson, *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe*, 118-19.

⁷⁵ Allan MacDonell was a native of Scotland who, in 1773, settled in the Mohawk Valley. He was a loyalist in the Revolution, and at its close migrated to Canada, locating in Glengarry County on the St. Lawrence. He died in 1792. Angus MacDonell, his eldest son, became an attorney, and in 1792 was appointed the first clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. An account of this election to the legislature is given by Scadding in his *Toronto of Old*, 249, and of his death on 293. He was drowned in Lake Ontario, Oct. 7, 1804, when the *Speedy* was lost. See Scadding, *op. cit.*, and Wallace, *op. cit.*

of may from Queenstown I expect to hear from him every day. I wish sincerely the Child could arrive before I left Niagara for the upper Country The Chief gos up for certain and in all probability, he & I will keep Company his mother is come from England and at his house I had a letter yesterday from Major Green regarding the Return of the militia for June last. I shall inclose it to Francis Baby for god sake speak to him to send the Return. This letter go's by Captain Elliot—I had not a line from my family which surprizes me.

My love as usual to M^{rs} Askin, Alice Charles James &c. &c.

Friday I think monday we will be dismissed.

The Captain had been here seven or eight days before Therese come over she being prevail^d on to stay at Captain Clauss's. She is here now but says she never will [torn] behind him Again. her absence from him Changed her [torn] for the worse, he gos on as usual taken every [torn] Ga—us & others of that stamp are his attendance

Yours with every kind [torn] for all of you. god almighty may bless you Say

Alex^r Grant

Comp^{ts} to Johnny & his ladie.

John Askin

P. S. The Glorious news of Copenheagon and Gener^l Abercrombie⁷⁶ ho-ra ho-ra for old England A Grant

Remember me to our American friends at Detroit A G.

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit favored by Captain Elliot

Endorsed: York July 4^h 1801 Commodore Grant to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 10th

⁷⁶ Sir Ralph Abercromby (1734-1801), the foremost British general of his time, was given the task in October, 1800, of driving the French out of Egypt. On March 21, 1801, he decisively defeated the French army, but was himself fatally wounded, dying on March 28. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Queenstown July 25th 1801

Dear Sir * * * * You may perfectly rely on every Exertion in my power to Procure freight for any Vessell in which you may be interested, but at present there is not a Single package of Chance freight on the Communication, nor is there any expected that I know of. all that I can do shall be done and [I] hope that something may turn up.

Two days ago I had a letter from M^r Clark. he arrived at Montreal with his Ark containing 340 Barrels Flour in 10 Days from Kingston, and has proceeded with it to Quebec where I hope he will sell it to advantage.

He is much pleased with the Mode of conveyance, and I presume from the very great Saving, it will be generally adopted. You will See by the Niagara paper that Parliament have taken the Hemp Business into consideration and have determined to give the Culture of that article every Support in their power. for this we are much indebted to M^r Selby's Exertions at York, for without the Steps which he took the Business would have fallen to the ground; Your Estate on the Lake S^tClair appears to me well calculated for the growth of that article and I think you & M^r Barthe should make an Experiment with four or five Acres of it the Expence will not be great & the profit is certain

I have forwarded to M^{rs} Askin the News papers: and the 1st Volume of the History of England to Charles. the others shall follow in a few days & I hope he will make a good use of them

There is no prospect of getting any price in Cash for Sugar. therefore [I] don't think it advisable for you to Send any down, as the risk of its lying a long time on hand is almost certain

We would take a quantity of Cyder from you provided we could make payment in any other manner than *Cash* for that is not to be had. if it would suit you to Barter it for Salt or Whiskey We would take Twenty or Thirty Barrels at all events Send us two of your own making for *Home Consumption* and let it, if you please, be put into Sweet Barrels.

To Your Family I request you will present my Sincere regards. they always have my best wishes and in Assuring you of my respectful Attachment I remain—Dear Sir

Your Obliged Friend & very Humble Serv^t

Rob Nichol

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Queenston July 25th 1801 Mr Rob^t Nichols to Jn^o Askin recv^d the 8^h Aug^t Answ^d in part same day Answ^d Aug^t the 12th

INFORMATION ON CULTURE OF HEMP

Detroit August 8th 1801

Dear sir I^m this Instant favoured with Your kind Letter of the 25th last month & as the *Saguinah* is just going to Sail & that I^m Anxious to adopt any mode of Lime [living] by which I can honestly make a profit, Please let me know what is the proper soil for Hemp how & when plowed & prepared; when to be sown & Ever[y] Other Information to the culture thereof & also provide & point out to me how I can get seed. In haste Dear Robert

Yours truly

Mr Robert Nichol at Queenston

Endorsed: Aug^t 8th 1801. John Askin Sr to Robert Nichol Merchant Coppy

INFORMATION ON CULTURE OF HEMP

Queenstown Aug^t 20th 1801

My Dear Sir I hasten to reply to your favor of the 8^h instant respecting the Culture of Hemp as I consider it at present an Object of vast Magnitude to your part of the Country. Yet as my present Engagements will (for at least some time to come) prevent me from Entering So much into detail on the business as I could wish—I forward a Volume—the property of *our Agriculture Society* (which I know you will take good care of) containing a great deal of very correct information on that very interesting subject, in addition to which I shall as often as opportunities will allow transmit you such further information as I may be able to obtain relative to it.

There is no prospect of procuring seed from this quarter. I therefore advise you to take immediate Steps for procuring it from Kentucky where I understand it is very abundant. I at the same time take the liberty of Suggesting the utility of instituting a Society for promoting the Culture of Hemp and obtaining a Supply of Seed, which would give the business a Stimulus superior to any to be expected from the Exertions of an Individual Your plain or Prairie Lands at the Mouths of the Thames Ruscum & Peches Rivers appear to me well calculated for raising Hemp, and I think they might be easily brought to a proper tilth, to Effect which the Grass Should immediately be set fire to & the Quantity wanted for use plowed up very deep this fall that it may be mellowed by the frost. it will require three more ploughings in the Spring (for it must be very mellow), and three Bushels of Seed to the Acre is I understand the common allowance

I inclose the Resolutions of the Society of Arts and Commerce of which I hope you may be able to avail Yourself.

The Bounty for raising and Exporting will more than Pay the Charges of Cultivating & the produce of an Acre which you may within bounds estimate at half a Ton will be a very handsome allowance for Curing transporting rent of Land & risk.

* * * * *

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Merch^t Detroit with a Book

Endorsed: Queenston Aug^t 21st 1801 M^r Rob^t Nichol to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 12^h & Answ^d y^e 16th

REMOVAL OF DR. RICHARDSON TO ST. JOSEPH

S^t Josephs 6^h Aug^t 1801

Dear Sir We arrived here safe on the 31^t after a verry pleasant passage. We have now had time to look round us and I assure [you] I by no means think S^t Josephs so bad as we had every reason to believe from all accounts given us. We have got a comfortable lodging belonging to the Girl that lives with M^r Frero A[t] the rent of thirty dollars

p^r annum. There appear to be plenty of vegetables and we are told the Indians in the Spring and fall bring plenty of fish Ducks &.

If you can manage to Send us an ox one or Two Barrels of flour Two or Three Barrels of Corn and a few fowls I have no doubt we will make out very well I have wrote to Montreal some time ago for some Things, among others for a Barrel of salt however as They may not arrive in time to come from [?] you will please Send me a Keg of best Salt. If Flournoy returns here he will willingly bring up any thing for me and will call on his way Up, but with respect to the ox it will be better not to depend on his vessel. I will write to Col. Smith to request he will allow the Kings vessel to call opposite to your place for any Thing you may have for me.

I hope John is a good boy and attentive to his Grand Papa. Madlaine frets a little some times about him, but I am perfectly easy myself as I am certain he is with his best frinds, next to ourselves. We are all Thank God in perfect health, which blessing we Sincerely hope will be long continued to you and yours. Will you please Send us a pepper or Coffe mill, by the first oportunity. If You can make it any way convenient I shall be glad if you can Sittle with M^r Mac Intosh an account of M^r Cowell for £24. the one half to be charged to me the other to M^r Hamilton Any time this fall will answer M^r Cowell Madlaine joins me in best wishes to you and The whole family and I am Dear Sir

Most Sincerely and Affectionaty your

R. Richardson

P.S. I took The liberry [liberty] of drawing on you for £2. in favor of M^r G. Cottrel⁷⁷ on the River St. Clair

will you also send if you please a tin Cullender if there is any such thing to be found.

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit.

Endorsed: S^t Joseph Aug^t 6th 1801 Doc^r Richardson to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 14th Answ^d Sep^r 12th

⁷⁷ For the career of George Cottrell, see *B. H. R.*, I, 195.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

TUITION BILL OF REV. DAVID BACON

John Askin Esq^r

To David Bacon D^r

For instructing his son Alex ^r from the first of June to the 25 th of Aug ^t one third of the time in writing at 12/ per month, the other in arithmetic at 14/ per month.....	£1 " 16 " 6
For instructing Alex ^r Grant ⁷⁸ the above mentioned time in writing.....	1 " 13 " 0
For instructing his son Charles & James, a half a month each, in english grammer & geography, at 16/ per month.....	0 " 16 " 0
For instructing John Richardson in reading from the 17 th of July to the 25 th Aug ^t at 10/ per month	0 " 12 " 6
For instructing his daughter Elenor in reading, writing & sewing, from the first of June to the 25 th of August at 12/ per month.....	1 " 13 " 0
For finding ink & quills for three of the above, at 6/10 each.....	1 " 0 " 6
	£7 11 " 6

Rec^d payment in full for the above August 29th 1801
David Bacon

Contents en^d the 30th Aug^t 1801

Endorsed: M^r Bacon's bill for schooling August 1801
(paid as per receipt affixed)

MISCONDUCT OF INDIAN SLAVE

Sandwich 14 Sept^r 1801

Dear Sir M^r Barths Pawney Man has been brought before M^r Francois Baby for having Assaulted and Beat J. B.

⁷⁸ Alexander Grant, only son of the Commodore, was born in Detroit, March 19, 1791. In the summer of 1802 Simon McTavish of Montreal offered to "take care of his education and future prospects in life," if the Commodore would send him down to Montreal for this purpose. See *post*, 389 for the date of his departure from Detroit. McTavish died in July, 1804, but a legacy of £1000 to the boy made provision for the fulfillment of his promise. On completing his education, Grant entered the army, and at the age of nineteen was commissioned lieutenant in the Canadian Fencibles, then stationed at Quebec. He later at-

Nadau.⁷⁹ M^r Baby from Indisposition not being able to act has desired me to acquaint you with the Circumstance and Judging that M^r Barths property must be much exposed in the absence of his Man wishes to know whether you & M^r Barth will be security for his appearance at the next General Quarter Sessions.

I remain Dear Sir with respect

Your hbl Serv^t

Will^m Hand

Addressed: John Askin Senior Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Sandwich Sep^r 14^h 1801 W^m Hands Esq^r to Jn^o Askin Ans^d Same day.

WRECK OF THE *HARLEQUIN*

Detroit September, 21st 1801

John Askin Esq^r

Dear Sir, The arrival of the Sloop (*Good Intent*) on saturday last from Presque Isle, and no accounts of the schooner *Harlequin*, having been seen or heard of confirms me in opinion that her and the Crew are totaly lost.⁸⁰ the stroke is a very severe one for me, the effects of which I shall feel for a long time; perhaps the rest of my days. the loss of my Negro man, will probably be the cause of my loseing the negro woman, who ever since the misfortune happend, has been delirious and is now very Ill, in bed; being now deprived of two of the best servants, in this country, my sittuation is very distressing, unless you will condecend to let your Boy George, remain with me until I can have time to look about for a servant, his Mother is very anxious to have him stay

tained the rank of major. Upon retiring from the army he settled in Brockville, where he died, unmarried, some time in the sixties. See George F. MacDonald's biography of Commodore Grant in Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXII, 176, and letters in the Askin papers, *passim*.

⁷⁹ For the Nadeau family line see *B. H. R.*, I, 318. The individual mentioned in the present document has not been identified.

⁸⁰ The clearance of the *Harlequin* (preserved among the Askin papers) shows her to have been a vessel of 28¼ tons burden. She cleared for Presqu' Isle (modern Erie), July 29, 1801; besides a crew of three men, the vessel had three passengers (Dr. Wilkinson, his wife, and a servant man) and a small cargo of government goods consigned to the army quartermaster in Detroit. Of the crew of three men, one was Joseph May, master, and another James May's negro slave here alluded to.

with her, & says it will be the only comfort she has in this world now she has lost her Husband, to have her son with her. should you be inclined to part with him, I would purchase [him], but cannot undertake to give a great price nor to promise you the Money down, but will endeavour to give you the worth of him some way or other.

It would not be amiss to appoint a time & place, in order to settle the small affairs relative to the unfortunate schooner; I remain Dear Sir

your very humble & obedt Servt.

James May

Endorsed: Detroit Sep^r 21st 1801 Mr James May to Jn^o Askin Answ^d

SUPPLIES FOR ST. JOSEPH

Amherstburg 2^d Oct^r 1801

Dear sir Colonel Smith has just given me directions to acquaint you that the *Francis* will leave this for S^t Josephs on Monday next, will stop at Sandwich to receive any articles you may have to send M^r Richardson.

There has no stores that we know of arrived here for him from Montreal, but least he may want this Winter, the Colonel requests you would consider the matter, and use your discretion in forwarding to him such Articles as you think he will stand most in need of, as in all probability there will be no other conveyance this Year. The Colonel mentions M^r R expected goods from Montreal, but they cannot be forwar[d]ed by a kings vessel as the *Francis* will be the last this year. Perhaps M^r R has left some orders at Sandwich. will you have the goodness to enquire to have them in readiness. The *Ottaway* will sail for Fort Erie about the 10th instant.

I remain Sir Your Humble Servant

John M^oGill Adj Q R

M^r John Askin

Addressed: M^r John Askin Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Amherstburgh October the 2^d 1801 John M^oGill Esq^r to John Askin Senior rec^d the 4th & ans^d the 6th

WRECK OF THE *HARLEQUIN*Fort Erie 20th October 1801

Dear Sir, Having heard of part of the Wreck of the *Harlequin* being drove on Shore, about four Miles above Point Ebino, I gave directions to the Man that found it to bring it to me. he has accordingly done so. I therefore find that the foresail and Jib with all the cordage attached to the fore Mast is now here. In order to save expence, in addition to the loss already sustained, Captain Cowan being present, we thought it best to compensate the Mans trouble by giving him the Jib. The Mast also came on shore broke short off above the Deck, and had buoy'd the above articles on shore. I had intended to have sent those things up to you and M^r May on Board the *Ottawa*, but here is now a M^r Hay of Presque Isle present, who says he is a part owner, and says that he has no objection to their going, if appraised here and that you agree to take them at the appraisement, or else that they remain here, until directions are received from the owners what is to be done with them This has deterred me from sending them until I receive directions from the concerned. The Cordage is merely fit for nothing but to make rope yarn, or Oakum, the Sail is rubbed pretty much, but with repair might serve again,

The boat was found by an Indian, and is now at Buffaloe Creek in possession of Joseph Palmer Junior. he says he gave five Dollars for her. he has repaired her, and has her now in use.

None of the people on board has yet been found. the report said that Cap^t May⁸¹ was taken up and buried by some Indians.

I am D^r Sir you humble Servant

John Warren Sen^r

John Askin Sen^r Esquire

Addressed: John Askin Sen^r Esquire Detroit

Endorsed: Fort Erie Oct^r 20th 1801 Jn^o Warren Esq^r
to Jn^o Askin Recv^d the 20th Nov^r Answ^d y^e 30th Dec^r

⁸¹ Joseph May was a native of Birmingham, England. He served as a lake captain for some time prior to his death by drowning, here noted. He married Rebecca Knaggs, daughter of George Knaggs and Rachel Schley, who was born at the Maumee and bap-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

PROJECT FOR DISTILLERY

River thames Nov^r 12th, 1801

Sir I am Informed that you Intend for to Set up a distillery on this River, and as I am out of Employ at present I would willingly join any business for an honest living if you would think proper, I would Superintend the business or take a Share I have as Convenient a place for the business as any that I know of. I have as good a distiller living on One of my farms as any in this Country he has followed the business for twenty years.

I remain Sir your Most hum^{ble} & most obed^t ser^t

John Drake

Jn^o Askin Esq^r

Endorsed: River Thames Nov^r 12th 1801 Cap^t Drake
to Jn^o Askin Rec^d y^e 17th & Answ^d 18th

PROJECT FOR DISTILLERY

Detroit November 18th 1801

Sir Yours dated the 12th instant rached me yesterday. I have hired out my Stills untill June next after which time I had formed a plan respecting them which I think will be advantegious. If you will call in the first time you come to town I will let you know it and if you like it, its probable we [can] make a joint matter for from our long acquaintance I think we must agree together I am Sir

Your most Obed^t Very humble Servant

Captain Drake River Thames

Endorsed: Detroit 18th November 1801 John Askin
Senior to Captain Drake Copy

EDUCATION OF ASKIN CHILDREN

Detroit Nov^r 28th 1801

Dear Sir, I am afraid if your sons do not pay further attention to English Grammar, they will lose what they have got. In the course of their winter evenings they might

tized in Sandwich on March 1, 1778. See Denissen, *op cit.*; mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

obtain a perfect knowledge of it, besides doing something more in Geography. Beaumont would be able to assist them in grammar. And they shall be welcome to my schoolroom 4 evenings in a week and to what assistance he can afford them; & I would try to help them occasionally myself, if you will please to send them & let them find their own fire-wood & candles. Perhaps several others would join them & be [do] their part in the fire-wood

Yours with great respect

David Bacon

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Present

Endorsed: Detroit Nov^r 28th The Reverend David Bacon to Jn^o Askin Answ^d

FROM JOHN ANDERSON TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Miamis 6th Decb^r 1801

Dear Sir I wrote you Som time ago on different Subjects to which I heave Received No answer. one of which was Relative to what Cap^t Whistler^{s2} owed us & wanted to give flour, but as I did Not hear from you I did Not like to do it—but he Made Such a poor Mouth & Saide W^m Hunt was going to sue him I heave took his flour, but will pay you in Cash if you do Not like the flour. his Family is very large & he put a good dale of Money in our way when he Comd^t hear.

I hope you heave got the £22 odd from M^r Pattinson in

⁸² John Whistler, of English descent, was born in Ireland in 1758. At an early age he enlisted in the army, and being sent to America, was one of the soldiers surrendered by General Burgoyne at Saratoga in 1777. Whistler subsequently returned to England, where he soon eloped with a daughter of Sir Edward Bishop. The young couple found their way to America, locating in Hagerstown, Md., where their eldest son, William, was born in 1780. A decade later Whistler joined the army which was being raised for service in the Northwest, served through the campaigns of St. Clair and Wayne, and in subsequent years at Detroit, Fort Wayne, Chicago, and other western posts. He built the first Fort Dearborn in 1803, and for several years commanded there. Both before and after this sojourn he was stationed at Detroit, and this place, more than any other can be regarded as his home. He died at Fort Belle Fontaine near St. Louis, Sept. 3, 1829. He reared a large family, several of whom were born or married in Detroit. Many of his descendants have served in the U. S. army and certain of them have achieved widespread fame. See biographical sketch in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, V, 1-16, and Quaife, *Chicago and the Old Northwest*, *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

goods as I Settled with him for that. with Respts to Mrs^s
Askin, I am with Esteemes Your obed^t & Hum^b Ser^t

John Anderson

John Askin Es^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Fort Miamis Dec^{br} 6th 1801 Mr Jn^o Anderson
to Jn^o Askin Answ^d y^e 15th