

SECTION XI

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1795

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Woolwich le 3 Fevrier 1795

Ma tres chere Mere, Quoique j'ai ecrie une longue lettre à mon chere Pere, le commencement du Moi passé, lui marquant toutes les Nouvelles, je ne puis neanmoins me priver du plaisir, de m'entertener, avec ma bien aimé mere, et lui dire, que j'ai entendue parler d'elle, et la famille, par un Messieur, qui vous a tous vue bien derneirement. Nous fumes dinner chez Monsieur et Madame M<sup>c</sup>Tavish, environs une semaine passé, et la, nous avons rencontré Monsieur M<sup>c</sup>Gillevy, qui est la personne, qui m'a donné l'agreable information, quil vous avoit tous laissé en bonne santé au Detroit, dans le Mois de Septembre dernier, il m'a aussi dit, que Monsieur Hamilton devoit venir cette Hiver en Angleterre, je m'attend donc, à recevoir de vos cheres lettres bien vite, comme l'on attend Monsieur H. tous les jours, qui auroit sans doute la charge de vos lettres, je n'avoit pas pensé d'entendre, de si bonnes nouvelles, quand j'ai entré la maison de Monsieur M<sup>c</sup>Tavish, comme je ne scavoit pas que ce Monsieur etoit arrivé, mon heureusté fute bien extreme sur l'occasion, et la bonne humeur, et façon plaisante, de toutes la compagnie, nous a causé de passer une bien agreable journée. Monsieur Robertson, et Todd, etoit de la partie, ainsi que plusieurs autre Merchants de Canada, le Major Malcom, du soixante cinq et sa dame devoit avoir été de la partie, mais la visite d'un de leur amies, de la campagne, leurs à empeché de venir. Madame M<sup>c</sup>Tavish est embonpoint, et pense accoucher dans peu de tems, le lendemain nous avons été voir une affaire bien curieuse, ce sont des figures de cire, qui paroisse animé, comme sils etoit vivant, enfin s-ca ma parue bien extraordinaire et superbe, je n'auroit mit foie dans la description d'une personne, qui m'auroit dit de telles choses, si ne les avoit pas vue moi meme.

J'ai remarqué, que toutes les dames porte leurs jupes toutafait sur leurs bras, afin d'avoir les tailles courtes, les sash sont de la largeur d'un étroite colier, est attaché dans une boucle derniere, les mouchoirs sont bien ouvert, comme auparavant, et le tour de cou bien étroite, pour les cheveux, ils sont pendant derriere, est coiffé devant, en petits boucles, avec un morceau de ruban, alentour de la tete, ou un bandeau de musline, et meme un mouchoir de musline clair arrangé en coiffure, et une plume blanc dedans, est toutafait le ton, pour les premiers compagnies, par consequence, l'on n'as pas besoin de se mettre à une grande depense, pour se couvrir la tete, ayez la bonté ma chere mere de dire, à ma chere soeur Therese, que cette partie de la lettre est adressé à elle, et quelle peut s'habillier au ton pour le premier Balle du Detroit; je me propose de lui ecrire une longue lettre, par la premiere occasion qui se presente, cette à dire, par le Pacquet du Mois prochain, devant quelle tems, la Princesse de Brunswick, qui vient pour etre marie au Prince de Gal, l'on suppose sera arrivé, et comme c'est imaginé, quelle donnera la mode peutetre (comme je suis Femme de si grande consequence) que j'aurais dans mon pouvoir d'expliquer la ton, ne riez vous pas ma chere mere d'entendre parler comme cela, votre petite Madame Snipe.

Il est apresent tems, de vous dire quellque chose, de vos petits enfans, que j'ai l'heureusté de vous apprendre jouisse ainsi que moi de la plus parfaite santé, ma fille Anne est devenue une tres jolie petite demoiselle, elle dit bien son alphabet, et commence à epeller, elle scait aussi dire ses prieres, et quand je lui parle de sa grandmere, elle paroît avoir grand plaisir, et me prie de lui en dire encore, et fait le tour de la chambre, en se rengorgant avec beaucoup de fierté; mon Fils David continue de meme teint, il est bien blond et fait usage de ses jambes; les enfans s'aime beaucoup, et sont assez fiere de l'attention que leurs chere Pere prend d'eux.

J'ai recue une lettre quelle que tems passé, de ma petite Cousine Therese Mercer, ma tante, et le resté de la famille, se portoit bien, nous leurs avions promis de passer quelleque jours chez eux cette Hyver, mais comme mes enfans sont

trop jeune pour voyager, et la situation de mon man, point de tout fixée, ce sont des circonstances qui nous empecherons, de pratiquer le souhait, que nous avons d'aller les voir, je ne doute pas, que Monsier Mercer a ecrire à mon cher Pere, par cette occasion, pour moi, je trouve le tems bien long, depuis que j'ai recue des lettres de la famille, les derniers que j'ai recue, etoit datté, le seize d'Avril passé, qui est presque un An, mes prieres sont toujours pour le bien de la famille est dans l'heureuse esperance, que mes cheres parens, &c possede une bonne santé, et la grande affection, et attention, de mon cher Meredith, je me rend aussi heureuse, quil est possible, de l'etre, il faut àpresent penser à conclure, afin de laisser un part de ce papier à mon cher M. qui me prie de faire son amitié à ma chere Mere, et toute le famille, faite aussi (sil vous plait) mes tendres souvenirs à le Commodore, ma Tante Grante, Cousine Wright, mes autres petites Cousines, Oncle Barthe, les deux qui sont à Michilimackinac, à Jean et sa femme, mes compliments à tous mes connaissances, embrassez mon cher Pere et Therese pour moi, ainsi que les enfans, et croyez moi ma tres chere Mere votre affectionné fille

Archange Meredith

### *Translation*

Woolwich, February 3, 1795

My dearest Mother: Although I wrote a long letter to my dear father early last month, telling him all the news, I cannot, nevertheless, deprive myself of the pleasure of a chat with my beloved mother and of telling her that I have heard of her and of all the family from a gentleman who has seen you all very recently. We dined with Mr. and Mrs. McTavish<sup>1</sup> about a week ago, and there met a Mr. McGillivray,<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Probably Simon McTavish of Montreal, one of the founders of the North West Company in 1783-84. McTavish and the Frobisher brothers were the Montreal agents of the association, the other partners being "winterers" who dwelt at their interior northwestern stations. McTavish was one of the foremost factors in the affairs of the company until his death, July 6, 1804. In his will he left the sum of £1000 to Alexander Grant, the only son of Commodore Alexander Grant of Detroit.

<sup>2</sup> William McGillivray, a nephew of Simon McTavish, was one of the most notable

who gave me the pleasing information that he had left you all well in Detroit last September. He also told me that Mr. Hamilton is coming to England this winter. I expect, therefore, to receive letters from you very soon as Mr. Hamilton is expected any day now and will doubtless have charge of your letters. I had not expected such good news when I entered the house of Mr. McTavish as I did not know the gentleman had arrived. My happiness was extreme, and the good humor and pleasant manner of all the company made the day pass most agreeably. Mr. Robertson and Mr. Todd were of the party, and several other Canadian merchants. Major Malcolm,<sup>3</sup> of the Sixty-fifth and his wife, were to have been there but were detained by the visit of a friend from the country. Mrs. McTavish is enceinte and expects her confinement soon.

The next day we went to see the strangest thing, nothing less than wax figures that seemed animated as if alive. In fact they were so very extraordinary and magnificent that I would not have believed it if anyone had told me of them unless I had seen them myself.

I notice that all the ladies are wearing their skirts almost under the arms so as to raise the waist line. Sashes are about the width of a narrow collar and are fastened at the back with a buckle. Neckerchiefs are very open as formerly and the neckband very narrow. The hair is curled, hanging at the back and arranged in small curls in front, with a piece

figures among the Montreal fur traders. He was a member of the firm of McTavish, Frobisher & Co., and a leading partner in the North West Company, having bought out the interest of Peter Pond in 1790. In 1797 he became one of the Montreal agents of the company, it being his duty to make yearly visits to the upper country and there make settlements and assignments for the succeeding year. Upon the reorganization of the company in 1804 he became recognized as its chief spokesman. Fort William at the western end of Lake Superior, begun in 1801 and for twenty years thereafter the western headquarters of the company, was named for him. In 1818, having amassed a fortune and impaired his constitution by his labors in the fur trade, McGillivray returned to his native Scotland, where he purchased, for £20,000, an estate in Argyleshire. Here he died in 1825. See Davidson, *The North West Company, passim*, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 167-68.

<sup>3</sup> Alexander Malcolm, commissioned captain in the army, April 14, 1780, and in the Sixty-fifth Regiment, June 10, 1785. In 1787 he was serving as commandant of Fort Ontario. He was transferred to the Seventy-eighth (Highland) Regiment on March 8, 1793. Two years later (March 11, 1795) he was commissioned lieutenant colonel. See British army lists and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XI, 508.

of ribbon or a band of muslin around the head; even a thin lawn handkerchief arranged for a headdress, with a white feather in it, is very fashionable in the best society, so there is no need of going to great expense about dressing the hair.

Be so good, my dear Mother, as to tell my dear sister Therese, that this part of my letter is for her, and how she is to dress in style for the next Detroit ball. I intend to write her a long letter by the next opportunity, that is, by next month's vessel. By that time it is thought that the Princess of Brunswick, who is coming for her marriage with the Prince of Wales, will have arrived, and that she will, in all probability, set the fashion, and (as I am a lady of some consequence) I shall then be able to rehearse the styles. Do not laugh, dear Mother, to hear me talk so, your little Madam Snip.

It is now about time I told you something of your little grandchildren, who are, I am happy to say, like myself, in perfect health. My little Anne has grown into a very pretty child. She can say the alphabet and is learning to spell. She knows her prayers, too, and seems to take great pleasure in hearing about her grandmother, begging me to tell her more, and then struts around the room with her head up, so proudly. My son David still looks the same. He is very fair and is walking. The children are very fond of each other, and proud enough when their dear father shows them any attention.

I had a letter some time ago from my little cousin, Therese Mercer. Aunt and the rest of the family were all well. We promised to make them a visit of some days this winter, but the fact that the children are still too young to travel and my husband's situation, so unsettled, has prevented us from going to see them as we wished. Doubtless Mr. Mercer has written to my dear father by this same opportunity. As for me, I find the time very long since I have received any letters from the family. The last I got were dated April 16th last, almost a year ago. I pray always for the health of the family, and in the happy hope that my dear parents and the rest are in good health, with the sincere affection and attentions of

my dear Meredith, I make myself as contented as possible. Now I must think about stopping, so as to leave a part of this sheet for my dear M., who begs me to offer his regards to my dear Mother and to all the family. Also, (if you please) give my affectionate remembrance to the Commodore, Aunt Grant, Cousin Wright, my other little cousins, Uncle Barthe, the two who are at Mackinac, John and his wife, and my compliments to all my friends. Kiss my dear Father and Therese for me, also the children, and believe me, dearest Mother,

Your affectionate daughter  
Archange Meredith

*Appended* [page 3 of Mrs. Meredith's letter]:

Woolwich 3<sup>rd</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> 1795

My dear Sir \* \* \* \* \* It would be highly gratifying to me could I say that our affairs went well on upon the Continent—my report must be indeed very different—for the Enemy have bore down all before them, and at the present moment, and for these ten days past, are perfect Masters of all Holland. The French General Pichgrew has his Head Quarters at Amsterdam in the house (till lately) occupied by the great Banke[r] Hosse. The Prince of Orange and whole family very narrowly escaped being Nabb'd, the Stadtholder himself landed at Harwich in an open boat, rowed across by only three Men and a Boy, the whole of that illustrious unfortunate House of Orange are now lodged in Hampton Court Palace, with much comfort to themselves and well protected. Mark the consequence. Orders were instantly sent to every Port in this kingdom to stop Dutch Vessells of every Description—the event has been that several Men of War, that were preparing to sail from Plymouth, also Indiamen richly laden, have fall'n into the Trap, in short, the different Vessells with Property already seized in London river, &c &c, and for the Benefit of the Stadtholder, is computed to amount to Eight Millions. To the pointed Disloyalty of the Dutch, and Rivers being froze sufficient for the Mass of *sans culottes* to pass with their artillery &c., is to be attributed the fall

of Holland, which independant of immense treasure to the French has given them at least Twenty Sail of the Line, the conduct of the Dutch has been infamous for a long time to our Soldiers (who were fighting their Battles). They have for several Months given every possible insult. Old England is still determin'd, allies or no allies, to Battle out the business, and now we shall have a Dash at *Von Dutchman*, a squadron is already sent forth, which brings their rich ships in by dozens, so that the Stadtholderian Family will not be any burthen to this Country. The French Grand Fleet, consisting of Thirty-Six Sail of the line, and Twenty Frigates, have been at Sea for some time in hopes to fall in with some of our Convoys expected home. Our Grand Fleet (and such a one so equip'd as never sail'd out of the Channel) under the Gallant Earl Howe, consisting of Thirty-three Sail of the Line & a proportionate number of Frigates & Fireships, sail'd from Spithead with a fine Wind about Five days since, in quest of the Republican Fleet—every Loyal and honest heart in this Country hopes they may still be [torn] and that Lord Howe may fall in with them. He is gone to lay off [f] Brest and prevent their enterance—so great was his hurry having a fair wind that he did not bring too off [f] Plymouth as was intended. The numerous Men of War for all parts assembled there, on account to wait the event, are there [torn] to join him. The utmost exertions are now making in the Naval [torn] so than ever before, all the old Sixtys and Line of Battle Ships and many that never were intended to serve again are now ordered out and will have temporary repairs &c—and Government have even taken into the service a great many East Indiamen to be converted into 40 Gun Frigates, and to man this more than Extraordinary Navy, Meetings have been convened by the Mayor and Corporations of every Maritime Town in these Dominions, directed by [torn] Dundas's circular letter, and the Merchants are to find for the Navy one Man for 70 Tons and so on Twenty-Two Young Regiments are to be immediately turned aboard—in short it is intended to have a fleet of 150 Sail of the Line, besides Frigates &c &c and that too in a very

short space of time—'tis now that Ministers are become aroused, and are acting in a proper way, viz. directing the Fight upon that Element which this country has been renowned for—the Computed Land Force in this country at this time including our Corps &c &c is 150 Thousand Men—immense Camps will be formed early in the Spring on the coasts of Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk, comprizing the Eastern Division, and likewise all along the Southern Coast, for as the French have now obtained and seiz'd the greatest part of the Dutch Navy and being immediately opposed to our Eastern Shores, it is now firmly believed (in the Triumphant State in which they are) that they will attempt different Landings, indeed I sincerely wish they may put it in practice, for although it may cause a bustle and be attended with inconvenience at first, yet it would serve to unite John Bulls to each other, and there is little doubt but John would soon turn out to defend his Dirty *Acres*. The remnant of our Brave Troops who have been obliged to retreat to Embden are to be immediately brought home by way of the Elbe. A large reinforcement of Troops have sail'd to secure the safety of our West India Conquests and the largest Detachment of Artillery accompanied that every went from England at one time, namely 520 Men which in addition to those of our Corps already makes more than a thousand artillery Men. Speaking of our Regiment I am sorry to add that we have lost His Grace of Richmond as Master General. He received a letter of Dismission from the King on Monday last, and the Marquis Cornwallis is the one named with certainty as his successor, 'tis said the reason of his dismissal was because He would not attend the Cabinet, and was of very different Sentiments. We have reason to regret him for he has done much for the prosperity of the Regiment. We are going to invite him to a grand Mangé in testimony of our wishes towards him. The Marquis Cornwallis is a good man, and also a Friend to the Corps, having ever mentioned the Artillery most handsomely in his different Dispatches officially to Ministers. We yet expect much augmentation.

I ought to apologize for this incoherent scrawl which I could wish was fraught with more interesting information. I am sorry to hear that the different Posts are really to be given up and hope you will not be affected by any ways unpleasant to yourself. Mama Askin, Sister Therese, the Commodore & Family will be good enough to accept my Esteem. To all my other Friends, viz. Leith, &c &c &c and to the Artill<sup>y</sup> Officers, do not forget me.

I remain My Dear Sir Most Affectionately yours  
David Meredith<sup>4</sup>

*Addressed:* To John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> at Detroit Upper Canada To the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merch<sup>ts</sup> at Montreal Canada. *Postage paid:* "pd ld pd 1/ Inland Postage paid 2/1"

*Endorsed:* Woolwich 3<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1795 L<sup>t</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith to John Askin & M<sup>rs</sup> Askin.

#### DEPARTURE OF HAMILTON CHILDREN FOR ENGLAND

Niagara 25 Fevrier Année 1795

Mon chère Père J'ai Recue votre letre par l'expres. je suis flaté d'apprendre que toute la famille ce porte bien; Je vous remercie des consolation et bon Avis que vous m'offré; vous matribué plus de merite que Je ne possede en laissent partire Mon cher epoux et mes chers enfans Je crois que si leur père ne les avoit pas amené je nauroit pas consentie a leur depart, Quoique Je naprouve pas de l'education de ce payi, mais mon chere père que cest de valeur de les envoyé si l'oin et Courire tant de risque. ils sont partie dicy le 18 Janvier un grand froid ils ont chouché sept nuit dans le boix, mais grace a Dieu ils non point eu de mauvais temps. M<sup>r</sup> H et nos homes ont marché ils avoit un grands parties Major Powell qui reste a fort erie C<sup>pt</sup> brant, et nos jeune gens ont été une Journé de Marche Avec eux; les Deux premier on continué la route avec eux. voila trois semaines quile son de retour M<sup>r</sup> H et nos chers

<sup>4</sup> A short letter from Mrs. Meredith to her father, not here reprinted, is appended at this point in the manuscript.

enfans ce portroit bien ils etoit bien resolué il y avoit de la neige jus-quau Jenoux les enfans etoit dans une traine un cheval pour les tiré avec les provisions et bagage, ils etoit bien enveloppé avec des peaux ils nont point atrapé de froid. ils fesoit quinze mile par jour et campé un heure avant soleil Chouché ils fesoit un grand feut et mangeoit leur Diné le matin du théa et ils en avoit un pot avec des biscuits pour toute la Journé. Je vous d'onne le recit de leur voyage pour le montré a Maman parceque je scait que sa vous interesera tous deux. Cest la premiere voiture qui a Jamais entrepris de passé le boix, pour moy Je ne peut assé remercié Dieu de les avoir se bien conduit, d'ans leur route si éloigné d'auqun secours. J'ai recue plusieurs lètre de M<sup>r</sup> H il na pas manqué augune occation de mecrire; par la derniere ils avoit passé tout les plus mauvais chemin ils son rendue bien vite a la Nouvelles Yorck. Nous penson quils son en mère Dieu veille leur accordé un bon et heureux pasage: car cest une autre sujet dinquietude pour moy. J'attend tous les Jours des lètres de la Nouvelle Yorck; Je profiteré du premier batiment qui ira ce printemps au Dètroit pour vous allé voir car Je trouve le temp bien long. M<sup>r</sup> Tom Dixon doit allé avec moy M<sup>r</sup> H lui a parlé pour cela car Je craint que vous ne soyai trop occupé ainsi que mon frère John; il poura penêtre me ramené a mon retours les deux petits ce porte bien et vous embrace Mes Meilleurs respects a Ma chère Maman, et Je suis Mon chere Père En attendant le plaisir de vous voir

Votre tres humble et Affectionné fille

Catherine Hamilton

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

### *Translation*

Niagara, February 25, 1795

My dear Father: I have received your letter by the express and am pleased to hear that all the family are well. Thank you for the comfort and good advice in your letter, but you give me credit for more fortitude than I possess

in letting my dear husband and my dear children go away. I believe if their father had not taken them I should not have consented to their going.<sup>4</sup> However, I do not approve of such a distance for schooling, and running so much risk. They left here January 18, a very cold day, and slept in the woods seven nights, but thank God they have not had any bad weather. Mr. Hamilton and our men walked. They were quite a party. Major Powell, who is to stop at Fort Erie, Capt. Brant,<sup>5</sup> and our young people went a day's march with them. The first two went on with them. It is now three weeks since they returned. Mr. Hamilton and our dear children were well. They were very brave. The snow was knee-deep. The children were on a sled drawn by a horse, with the provisions and baggage. They were well wrapped in furs and were not affected by the cold. They would go fifteen miles a day and then camp an hour before sundown. They made a big fire and ate their dinner. In the morning they had tea, and they had enough of it, with biscuits, for the whole journey. I am telling you all about the journey so that you can show it to Mama, for I know that you are both interested. It is the first conveyance that has ever gone through the woods. For my part, I cannot thank God enough for having taken such care of them on the way, so far from help of any kind. I have received several letters from Mr. Hamilton; he never missed a chance for writing. In the last, they were over all the worst part of the road. They reached New York in good time and we suppose they are now on the ocean. May God watch over them and grant them a

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Hamilton's two elder children, William and John Robertson, were already in England, where they had been sent several years earlier to be educated. The children whose departure is described in the present letter, were Robert, George, and Alexander Hamilton, who were born, respectively, in 1786, 1788, and 1790. Mrs. Hamilton died toward the close of 1796, while her children were still in England. Their subsequent careers in Canada are all a matter of local knowledge. Robert married Mary Biggar, and died at Queenston in 1856. George married Maria Jarvis, and became the founder of the city of Hamilton. Alexander married Hannah Jarvis and lived at Queenston, where the mansion built by him is still well preserved.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Brant, the famous Mohawk chief, who was born in 1742 and died in 1807. Several biographies of him have been published. The best known is William L. Stone's *Life of Joseph Brant* . . . (New York, 1838).

pleasant, happy voyage, for that is another source of anxiety for me. I look every day for letters from New York.

I shall take advantage of the first vessel in the spring to go to Detroit for I find the time very long. Mr. Thomas Dickson<sup>6</sup> is to go with me. Mr. Hamilton spoke to him, making that arrangement, for I feared you would be too busy, also my brother John. He may, perhaps, be able to bring me back. The two little ones are well and kiss you. My best respects to my dear Mama, and I remain, dear Father, until I have the pleasure of seeing you,

Your very humble and affectionate daughter

Catherine Hamilton.

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<sup>6</sup> Thomas Dickson, merchant, of Queenston, and brother of William and Robert Dickson. The inscription on Thomas Dickson's tombstone, in the Hamilton graveyard at Queenston, thus sums up his career: "Sacred to the memory of Thomas Dickson, who died in 1825, aged 50, also Eliza, his wife. He was a native of Dumfries, Scotland, came to this Province in the year 1789, and became a permanent resident of the District of Niagara, where he held various public situations, which he filled with credit to himself and advantage to the country, and as an active, intelligent, and upright magistrate, a member of the Legislature and colonel of Militia none could have discharged the various duties incidental to the changeable situations with greater fidelity . . ."

On Nov. 17, 1799, Dickson married, at the home of Robert Hamilton, Mrs. Eliza Taylor, a young widow whose father, Captain Wilkinson, was commandant of Fort Erie. See letter of Robert Nichol to John Askin, Nov. 16, 1799, ms. in Burton Hist. Coll., and Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VI, 80-81. Eliza Dickson died Sept. 6, 1802, leaving one son, John Alexander; on Sept. 20, 1803, Thomas Dickson married (second) Archange Grant of Detroit, a daughter of Commodore Grant. Two daughters were born of this union. See Niagara Hist. Soc. *Pubs.*, No. 19, p. 39, and *Major Alpine's Ancestors and Descendants*.



Lands should cost Less. The said Alexander Henry Promises to use his Influence in the States to have such Purchase confirmed without making any charge for his time in so doing, nor will the said John Askin jun<sup>r</sup> make any charge for his trouble his Expences only to be defrayed. John Askin Senior to pay the said Purchase and charge each Concerned with his Share and in Other Respects give what Assistance he can.

Alexander Henry

John Askin

John Askin jun<sup>r</sup>

The shares of M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry & John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> of the Purchase specified on the Other side have not yet been charged them, tho paid & more by John Askin Senior the reason of this is because these Accounts have not as yet been finally settled. March the 11 1799

MEMORIAL OF JOHN ASKIN FOR GRANT OF LAND<sup>7</sup>

To his Excellency &<sup>ca</sup>

The Memorial of John Askin Senior of Detroit Merch<sup>t</sup> Humbly Sheweth that your Excellency's Memorialist came into this Country from Ireland in 1758 from which time Untill this day he has constantly lived Under the English Government fourteen years of which in his Majesty's Service & mostly at the Posts of Michilimackinac & Detroit & for his Conduct as a Magistrate, Militia officer, Member of the Land Board & subject he begs leave to refer to the Principal Servants of the Crown who have resided in the Upper Country. Your Ex. Memorialist had Destroyed of his Property in Montreal & at Lachine by the Americans when they took that Place to the Amount of £1700 & Odd Pounds, Owing as it [is] supposed to his having been then in his Majestys Service. he Also had destroyed by Order of Colonel Caldwell of the 8<sup>h</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to the Am<sup>t</sup> of £200 & Odd Pounds, on the South side of Lake Erie where a Vessel waited least that Property should fall into the Hands of the Americans & lastly your Excellency has a knowledge of your

<sup>7</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

Memoralists Trading House being burnt last year Above Fort Miamis which tho of no great Value Added to the Many other Losses he has Sustained leaves him with a Numerous Family at an Advanced time of Life in an Embarrassed Situation. Therefore your Ex Memorialist has jointly with an old Friend of his M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Petioned for a Township on the North Side of Lake Erie, which if your Ex. thought proper to Grant might serve as a retreat in his old days to him His Family & Connections and which is the first Lands your Pet[it]ioner has Ever Applied for, all Others he holds & appears on the maps are Purchases. And your Memorialist as in Duty Bound will Ever Pray

Detroit May 28 1795

Signed John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>

#### SYNDICATE FOR PROMOTION OF CUYAHOGA PURCHASE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that Whereas Patrick M<sup>c</sup> Niff Surveyor, John Askwith Notary Public, Israel Ruland<sup>s</sup> Silversmith, John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>, and

§ Israel Ruland was born on Long Island, May 2, 1758. Probably Gerrit Graverat was responsible for his coming to Detroit; at any rate on July 27, 1773, Ruland, then a boy of fifteen, apprenticed himself to Graverat until he should reach the age of twenty-one. When this period arrived, he was operating as a trader in the Wabash region with headquarters at Vincennes. He supported actively the American cause on the advent of Clark in the Illinois country, and seems to have been particularly active in efforts to relieve American captives who had been carried to Detroit and vicinity. In 1781 he signed, as a resident of Vincennes, a petition of remonstrance to the Virginia government against the exactions of Clark's successors in the Illinois. The present document indicates that he had established himself at Detroit prior to 1795. Ten years later he was living at Raisin River settlement, where he served on the first grand jury of Monroe County in 1805. He died shortly prior to June 18, 1817, at which date his son, Isaac, was in Detroit, engaged in settling claims against the estate of his lately deceased father. Ruland married the widow of Hugh Smith, of Vincennes, a few months after the death of her husband. In 1805 he entered into an agreement with Solomon Sibley whereby the latter was to prosecute at Washington his claim for a grant of land to compensate him for property losses sustained by reason of his flight from Canada as a refugee during the Revolution. This document affords the only clue we have found to his history prior to his appearance in Indiana as a trader. In 1799 Col. David Strong, in a letter to Sibley requesting the latter to exert his influence with Governor St. Clair to procure for Ruland a licence to trade with Blue Jacket's tribe of Indians, recited that Ruland was an honest man "and one that has done great service to many poor prisoners who have been brought into this country [i. e. Detroit], and paid sums of money for the redemption of many, for which he never got any compensation, and which has reduced him very much." See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, IV, 319 and X, 355-56; *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, VIII, 433; and mss. in Burton Hist. Coll., *passim*.

John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> Merchants All of Detroit in the Western District and Province of upper Canada, And Alexander Henry of Montreal Merchant, some of whom have purchased sundry tracts of Land from the Chiefs and principal Leaders of the Ottawa and other nations of Indians, or people on that side of the Line in the Western District Ceded to the American States and as they think it may be attended with mutual advantage to make a joint concern or partnership in the Lands already purchased since the Twenty-first of may last, or that may hereafter be purchased by any of the parties concerned in the said Partnership. THEY HAVE therefore entered into the following Agreement, That is to say that whatever Lands have been already purchased as aforesaid, or may hereafter be purchased by them, or either or any of the said Parties concerned as above mentioned from the Indians, whether in either or any of the names of the said parties, during the whole of the present year one thousand seven hundred and ninety five (but not after that period unless by consent of the said parties) shall become the joint property of the aforesaid Persons, each to hold an equal share, and that each of the said parties concerned shall pay an equal share of every thing given or expended upon the Indians for the payment of said Lands so purchased. THAT Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff shall be paid by the concern for drawing the Sketches and Plans, and Surveying the said Lands, and John Askwith for drawing the Deeds and other writings concerning the said Tracts of Lands; IT IS ALSO further agreed by the said Parties that Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff, John Askwith, and Israel Ruland be deputed to go to the Grand Council<sup>9</sup> with the Indian Chiefs to transact the business of the concern with the Commissioners of the American states, AND as such voyage will be attended with much trouble and loss, by being absent from their several occupations and professions: In case the said Tracts of Land shall be ratified and confirmed by the Congress of the United States of America

<sup>9</sup> The "Grand Council" here alluded to was the one held at Greenville, Ohio, in 1795, which resulted in the noted Greenville Treaty of that year.

or other persons authorised to confirm the same to the said Parties their Heirs and assigns forever. Then and in that case the said M<sup>c</sup>Niff, Askwith and Ruland shall be paid for such Loss of time and trouble, One hundred Pounds New York Currency each by the whole of the parties concerned with All other expences attending the said Journey or Voyage. BUT if the said Lands should not be ratified and confirmed, then, and in that case, the said M<sup>c</sup>Niff, Askwith and Ruland shall only be paid the sum of Twenty-five Pounds each and their expences as aforesaid, by the whole of said parties. AND it is further agreed by the said parties that as the said Alexander Henry is admitted to hold an equal share in the concern, that he be also invested with full power and Authority to give or grant in their names any quantity of said Lands to whomsoever he may think proper, not exceeding a one-seventh part or share, provided by that means he get the said Indian Deeds, or grants ratified and confirmed to the said parties our Heirs and assigns forever but not otherwise, and such seventh person shall also pay an equal share with the rest of all disbursements and expences whatsoever.

BUT provided the said Deeds or grants shall not be confirmed as foresaid, The said John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> and Alexander Henry shall make no charge whatever for any trouble in endeavouring to obtain a confirmation, or, about the Purchase of said Lands, for Voyaging or Traveling expences but only for their proportion of money or goods advanced to the Indians on account of the purchases. It is likewise agreed by the said parties, that each and every of them shall and may be at liberty to appropriate a certain part of any Tract he hath or may hereafter purchase, for his own proper use or as a Domaine for himself and his Heirs forever, and which he or they shall not be obliged or compelled by the rest of the said parties, or their Heirs, to sell, grant or dispose off, unless he or his Heirs or Assigns may think proper, but to be solely at his or their disposal independent of the aforesaid partnership or concern: But it is to be understood, that such part or parcel of Land that each of the said parties may so appropriate for his own

proper use and his Heirs &c &c shall not be in two or more different places, but in one certain parcel, or Lot, and that not to exceed Two miles in front by three miles in Depth, and for the due performance of these presents in every respect according to the true intent and meaning thereof, each of the said parties bind themselves in the penal sum of One Thousand Pounds Sterling to be paid by the party failing to the parties abiding by and performing this agreement. IN WITNESS whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and affixed their Seals at Detroit aforesaid this Seventeenth day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and ninety five

IN PRESENCE OF

N.B. Before the signing and sealing of this agreement, the parties concerned further agree, that the whole expence of the purchases herein mentioned shall not exceed the Sum of Two hundred Pounds New York Curr <sup>y</sup> to each person prior to the ratification of the Deeds.	P M <sup>e</sup> Niff	(L.S.)
	John Askwith	(L.S.)
	Israel Ruland	(L.S.)
	John Askin Sen <sup>r</sup>	(L.S.)
	for Alexander Henry	
	John Askin	(L.S.)
	John Askin Jun <sup>r</sup>	(L.S.)

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol  
Alexis Maisonville Jun<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Articles of Agreement entered into between Patrick M<sup>e</sup>Niff, John Askwith, Israel Ruland, John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>, John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> & Alexander Henry in the purchase of Indian Lands 1795

MISSION OF JOHN ASKIN JR. TO GREENVILLE

Au Detroit Le 2 Jullette 1795

Mons<sup>r</sup> Chere Amis Mon Fils étant grande Amis Avec Les Sauvages ils l'ont pries telment de L'accompayné dans leur Voyage et de les Assister à faire La Paix qu'il ne peut pas refuser des Gins qui sont Selon Moi Naturelment Bon et qui ne font pas de Mal que par Mauvaise Conseille. Si on veux faire des Conventions Avec Eux comme il est

Ordinaire Entre Nation et Nation cette à dire Les quitter  
Maitre Entierement de leur Terre pour En disposer à qui  
bon ils leur Semblerant, Je suis tres persuadé qu'ils ne  
troublerents jamais La tranquillité des Americans, car vous  
savez bien que La Justice et Ligurté [liberté] sont les  
Meillieurs Ingredians dans La Politique.

Je vous prie d'Avoir La Complisance de fournir à Mon  
Fils ce qui vous demandera soit En Argent ou Autrement  
et Je Vous Entiendrez Compte ou Je payerai sa dette pour  
La Montant, et comme il se trouvera Etrangair J'Espere  
que vous lui introduerez aux Messieurs De vos Connois-  
sances et de lui Assister de toute faveur et Je vous Assure  
si Jamais Ce dependra de Moi Je renderai La Politesse  
que Vous lui Montera.

Madame Askin et La famille vous font bien leur Com-  
pliments,

J'ai L'honneur &<sup>ca</sup>

J. A.

Majore Vigoe Fort Greenville

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 2<sup>d</sup> 1795 John Askin to Major  
Vigoe (Copp)

*Translation*

Detroit, July 2, 1795

Dear Sir and Friend: My son is a great friend of the  
Indians and they have been so importunate that he should  
accompany them to the treaty and help them, that he  
could not refuse. They are naturally good, I think, and do  
wrong only when badly advised. If anyone wished to make  
an agreement with them, as between one people and another,  
as for instance their relinquishment of title to their lands in  
order to dispose of it to someone whom they favored, I  
am convinced that such action would never be the cause  
of any trouble between them and the Americans. You  
know yourself how much more effective are such dealings  
free from compulsion and honest, than any political inter-  
ference.

I beg you kindly to give my son any money or other things he may need, and I shall either credit your account or pay you the amount of his indebtedness. He will find himself among people with whom you are familiar, though strangers to him, and any assistance you may give him in this respect will, I assure you, be remembered if the occasion ever offers that I am able to return the kindness you show him.

Mrs. Askin and family present their compliments.

I have the honor &c.

J[ohn] A[skin]

Major Vigo, Fort Greenville.

MISSION OF JOHN ASKIN JR. TO GREENVILLE

Detroit July 5th 1795

Dear John As you were much hurried at leaving this and may have forgot part of what I said to you I think it adviseable to repeat the principal matters I spoke to you about.

First I recommend strongly to you to use your Utmost Influence, not only with the Indians but also with all others whose advice they take to Endeavour that the first article of the Treaty between them and the Americans Should be that they are sole Masters of their Lands, to dispose of them as they think fit without any restraint Whatsoever which if it can be obtained will be a future Source of wealth for these poor people and their offspring and Leave it in their powers, not only to confirm such sales of Land as they have already made (when they know them to be Just) but in future to reward such others as may be their Friends. This Appears to me so reasonable and fair, that I should think the Commissioners for the states could not object to it; and it would secure in my Opinion a Lasting Peace between both, which I apprehend never will be the case should the states lay a Claim to the Indian Lands or force them to a sale for when what they get is Expended, and their successors in want they will probably have recourse to Violent means tho' they Should not succeed.

But as it is necessary to provide against the worst, if the Indians thro the needy Interpreters Should be prevailed on in spite of all you can do to agree that the Americans have the Right of confirming the sales of their Lands, and that none can be Valid without No doubt you will in that case produce your Claims and get the Indians to acknowledge them in open Council and take necessary Steps to secure them, but never at the expense of betraying the Interests of the Indians since the object of Your voyage was to serve them. I am apprehensive that undue means may be taken to gain over the needy Interpreters who have Influence with the Indians to persuade them to Sell or give up the Right of selling their Lands to the states. I know You [are] above bribery let the offer be ever so great. Therefore have nothing to Say on that subject, however other Means may be tried to gain you over such as making you a proposal of so much a year to manage the Indian affairs of the Ottawas and Chippewas who have Urged you to go with them. If that Should happen no doubt you will reject it. Some of Our double Friends have said they would make known to General Wayne those Who acted against him Last year; Poor, Weak, Worthless People, to think that any man in power would dislike those who have faithfully done their duty to the Government they lived under. as you have no favour to ask, and are only with the Indians at their request to befriend them with your advice and to Explain what they Say, you need not care for the snubbs or frowns of any man, you have the means of procuring what you want while at Fort Greenville, Therefore except what good manners and politeness requires is all you have to do with the American Gentlemen who may be there. I before mentioned it to you and now repeat it again that if any articles of Agreement Should be proposed to the Indians by the Americans which they or you do not clearly understand such as Long conventions in writing, You Should advise the Indians to ask leave to send a Copy of it in here before they give an Answer.

It will be necessary for the Indians with whom you go in the first council they hold to mention who you are, and

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for what purpose you are gone with them So as you may be distinguished from the numbers who are gone without being asked, to Serve their own private Ends only. I have only to add that in any matter of difficulty send an Indian to me with an Account of What has passed. The family are well and we all wish you success and a speedy return.

Adieu Dear John  
yours

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 5<sup>th</sup> 1795 John Askin Senior to  
John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> at Fort Grenville Coppy

The Original of this Letter is said to have been delivered by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Dougal to General Wayne.

ANTICIPATIONS CONCERNING CUYAHOGA GRANT

Detroit July 9 1795

Dear Henry I have wrote you frequently of late on business. Mr. James M<sup>c</sup>Gill will give you the copy of a letter I wrote my Son since his departure from this with the Indians by which you will see I have left nothing in my power undone. as you will be wrote to at Philadelphia by the concerned at Fort Grenville I hope you will not have lost any time to get there, if you should be so fortunate as to get the Lands confirmed we will be once more on our legs. I mean myself Indeed I have the greatest doubt in the world that the Americans & Indians even jointly can take these Lands from us & if necessary I would employ the first man of the Law in the States to give it a fair trial before I would consent to give them up. the family send their best wishes & I remain in haste

Dear Henry Yours  
(signed) John Askin

P. S. I find Forsyth has given order to sell his Lands as they are, if that is not done he will send you a Power of Attorney & the necessary papers

M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Henry Merch<sup>t</sup> Montreal

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 9<sup>th</sup> 1795 from John Askin to Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry (Copy)

REMEDY FOR AGUE

Detroit July 11<sup>th</sup> 1795

Dear Sir Your kind Letter dated the 11th of May last did not reach me untill a few days ago, we are all extremely Happy to learn that You and your good family are well and that your Improvements are so far advanced. We enjoy tolerable good health except Therese who has had the fever and ague for Some time Past. She is now however better.

This disorder is so common this season that very few escape it and what is worse tho the bark in large Quantities breaks the fit yet it always returns after a few weeks; what has been found More Effectual to many is a kind of straw-burru Leaf & root, with an Other Small Plant, a small handful of Each Boiled in about two Quarts of water & reduced a Third makes a decoction which may be drank at all times the Quantity of a Pint or half a Pint at a time, and has cured many Very soon and Lessed the fit in Others; M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton knows these herbs. She now returns and during her stay here has enjoyed very good Health.

There is a great Jumble of actions and opinions now here, the poor Indians are much at a Loss what to do many advising them to go to Fort Greenville to the Treaty and Others not, in general they have followed the former and the Chiefs of the Chippewas and Ottaways have been so Urgent with my Son to go with them as he understands their Language and Speaks English that he with my approbation is gone, my sole Motive for which was to Assist these poor people & if Possible to get them not to give up their right to their Lands, which in future will perhaps be the Only resource they may have against want when their alliances without [will not] be Sought Either by our neighbours or ourselves. I should hope the States may be prevailed on to Conclude a Peace with them without laying any Claim to

their soil or Interfering in their sales of it otherwise than to see that They are not defrauded for as my Ideas in general differ from many others it appears to me that the state has no more right to meddle in the sales of their Lands than in that of their furr. for I foresee there will be plenty of Employment for them soon, great purchases of late have been made from Indians & I'm told the same spot has been sold to Several. If I had nothing to do in the former purchases that is [not] now the case. a[s] I hear so often the man of Landed property is the man on that score I will have something to say provided my pretentions Should be good

I am very Thankful to you for your kind Intentions of not announcing to me any thing You think might give me pain, but I have long Since made up my mind not to be uneasy at what happens many things turning out for our good when we do not think so, so long Or [as it] is The will of the Almighty to keep Sickness from my Family I can support most other mistfortunes. Therese wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Powel last Vessell. She with M<sup>rs</sup> Askin Joins most sincerely in ever wish that may tend to the happiness of you & I remain most truly.

Dear Sir Your most Obedient Very Humble servant  
 The Honor<sup>e</sup> W. D. Powell (Signed) John Askin  
 Esquire at Mount Dorchester

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 11<sup>th</sup> 1795 From John Askin  
 To Hon<sup>r</sup> W. D. Powell (Copy)

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN GREGORY

Detroit July 27 1795

Dear Sir I was favoured with your letter from S<sup>t</sup> Mary's P M<sup>r</sup> Nelson,<sup>10</sup> who arrived two days ago and sails

<sup>10</sup> Another manuscript, dated July 13, 1795, shows that this was Jonathan Nelson, a resident of Detroit, who, upon the British evacuation, elected to remain a subject of Great Britain. In 1805 he was one of those who gave bail for Captain Muir and Ensign Lundy of the Amherstburg garrison, who were committed by the Detroit civil authorities for an attempted seizure of a British deserter. This would seem to indicate that Nelson at this time had property in Detroit. He served in the War of 1812 on the

with the first fair wind an account of his loading is inclosed. one of the Kegs of Beef had got so low down in the Saguahs load for Mich. that it could not be got out untill her return so that you have only 7 on board in lieu of 8. I'm very glad you are to come this way. I think its necessary for several reasons. Among others M<sup>r</sup> Nolan<sup>11</sup> had discovered something wrong in M<sup>r</sup> Williams<sup>12</sup> his conduct & I'm sorry to say that from late information here I fear its but too true. If that should be the case I recommend strongly your getting another Master for there is no such [thing] as providing against a mans embezling who has the Keys of the Hatches. In conversation with M<sup>r</sup> Drake I Discover that he would be as well satisfied to return as stay on shore and I really have ever found him a perfect honest man. I would say more on other subjects were I not to see yourself soon. The Athabaska is this moment arrived. We are without any Interesting news Whatsoever. M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin present their Compliments & I remain

Dear Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) John Askin

P. S. your Packs are arrived and will go by the first Vessel P. S. I learn that one of the men who taxes M<sup>r</sup> W. with having spiled some Casks, is left behind, in order that you

British side, being a sailing master in the marine service. In 1819 he joined with other residents of Sandwich and Amherstburg in a petition concerning the purchase of the Huron reserve near the latter place. Nelson married Elizabeth Donovan, one of whose sisters married Matthew Elliot, and another, Robert Innis. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim; Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit*, 166.

11 Jean Baptiste Nolin was engaged in trade at Sault Ste. Marie, acting in some capacity for the North West Company, as sundry documents preserved among the Askin Papers disclose. He was at Mackinac as early as 1787, when he signed as witness at a marriage. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 149. The name of Nolin (or Nolan) is one of the oldest in the Northwest trade. As early as 1726 the residents of Detroit formally protested to the intendant of New France against a grant by M. De Tonty to one Nolan and two associates of the exclusive privilege of trading at this place. One Augustin Nolin was engaged in the Lake Superior trade in the latter portion of the eighteenth century, and prior to the War of 1812 had retired and built a residence at the Sault. He was influential in restraining the Indians from massacre at the capture of Mackinac in 1812, and in 1815 he warned the Americans of an impending attack upon them at Sault Ste. Marie. At a later date he sold his property here and removed to the Red River country. See *Ibid.*, III, 169-72 and XX, 155.

12 Probably this was Nathan Williams, for whom see *ante*, 195. Another man named Williams, with whom Askin had dealings in this period, was Peter Williams, who in 1798 was living at New Settlement on Lake Erie.

come at the whole truth it will be necessary for them to be all here when you are

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 27 1795 From John Askin to M<sup>r</sup> Gregory at Grand Portage (Copy)

PROGRESS OF PETITION FOR LAND GRANT

Private

Niagara 4 August 1795

Dear Sir: Your Petition for a township has been before the Council, & has so far met with better success, than I expected, by not being altogether rejected.

I recommend it to you & M<sup>r</sup> Henry therefore, to write a Letter to the Clerk of the Council requesting him to bring forward your Petition again & I could have you state in that Letter an Exposition of the Circumstances & the Ideas which have led ye to suppose ye could settle a Township. If it were to accomodate people who would leave Detroit at the anticipated evacuation it would certainly have its weight.

I have only time at present to add the affection of the whole family & to assure you how very sincerely I am

Dear Sir Your hum Servant

D W Smith

John Askin Eq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Niagara Aug<sup>t</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> 1795 D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

POWER OF ATTORNEY TO ALEXANDER HENRY

Know all men by these presents that we Patrick M<sup>o</sup>Niff John Askwith and Israel Ruland of Detroit in the Western District and Province of upper Canada; for and on behalf of ourselves and also on behalf of John Askin Senior & John Askin Junior of said Detroit Merchants, have made, ordained, constituted and appointed and by these presents DO make, ordain, constitute and appoint Alexander

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Henry Sen<sup>r</sup> of Montreal Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant and \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_ our true and lawful attorneys for  
us and in our names to use and exert to the utmost, their  
Interest and abilities with the Congress of the united  
states of America to get confirmed and ratifyd certain  
Indian Deeds or Tracts of Lands granted by the Ottawa  
and other nations of Indians as follows marked and num-  
bered on the plan of the Country by Patrick M<sup>o</sup> Niff Surveyor  
and herewith transmitted viz<sup>t</sup>

- N<sup>o</sup> 1 a Tract granted to Patrick M<sup>o</sup> Niff of Detroit
- 2 a Tract granted to John Askwith of D<sup>o</sup>
- 3 a Tract granted to Israel Ruland
- 4 a Tract a a a granted also to Israel Ruland
- 5 a Tract o o o o o o o o o o granted to Patrick N<sup>o</sup> Niff  
and John Askwith
- 6 a Tract granted to John Askin Senior and others  
specified in the Deed
- 7 a Tract to John Askin Senior and others.

and also on condition the said Grants of Land shall be  
ratified and confirmed by the Congress of the united States  
of America we also invest the said Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry and \_\_\_\_\_  
with full power and authority to make Sale of said Lands  
in such manner and in such proportion as they shall by  
us or any Three of the above named persons be directed  
to do (but not otherwise) and also to grant Deeds con-  
formable to the copies herewith transmitted and in our  
names and on our behalf to sign and Seal the same and  
also to Act in every respect for us the subscribers and each  
person concerned the same as if we or they were personally  
present, Giving and by these presents granting unto our  
said Attorneys full and absolute Power in the premisses  
hereby ratifying and holding firm and valid in behalf of  
ourselves and also in behalf of John Askin Senior and  
John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> as aforesaid all and what ever our said  
attorneys or either of them shall lawfully do or cause to be  
done in and about the premisses by virtue of these presents  
and we the subscribers for ourselves and also for John  
Askin Senior and John Askin Junior Oblig ourselves to  
furnish the original deeds, now deposited and registered

in the Notary Public and Clerk of the Courts office at Detroit

In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our Seals at Fort Grenville this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 1795

*Endorsed:* Copy of a power of Attorney granted to A Henry &c by P. M<sup>o</sup> Niff J. Askwith I. Ruland August 8<sup>th</sup> 1795 Fort Grenville

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING SALE OF INDIAN LANDS<sup>13</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*

person whatever who might Copy it to our Injury as great part of our Success much depends on our keeping the Real Situation of the Country from the Public Knowledge, the propriety of which Caution You will readily see. The Name of such seventh person as You make choice of with his address we wish to have Communicated to us as soon as may be by a letter under Cover to John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit, And As some Expences have already been Incurred by procuring the Deeds from the Indians & our attendance here upon the Business In order to Enable us to defray such Charges and Support the Company in future purchases we think it proper that You in Conjunction with the seventh Partner make Sale of the Tract of Land a a a a on the Sketch, being four Leagues in Breadth viz<sup>t</sup> Three Leagues on the Northerly side of the River au Portage & one League on the Southerly side of the same being in Length nearly as mark'd on the Sketch Containing nearly Two hundred & forty five Thousand Acres more or less as it may Appear when actual Surveys are made of the sides of said Tract, or such part of said Tract as to You may appear proper, & whatever part thereof you may sele<sup>t</sup> let it be from one side of the Tract to the other Runing Exactly a Cross at Right Angles with the sides, and always in such sales whether the whole or a part be sold, Reserving the free and uninterrupted Navigation or passage up and down the River au Portage with a Road of one Chain Wide on each side of said River from its entrance

<sup>13</sup> The earlier portion of the manuscript is missing.

to be completed and contain. And by the said John Asher William Robertson  
 John Asher Junior Israel Bulant John Woodman Dr. Wm. W. Wiff and  
 Alexander Henry Yeilding and praying as the aforesaid Chief and principal leaders  
 of the Indian Nation Ottawa Chippewa and Ojibwaque agreed, the yearly  
 rent of five hundred dollars currency at the expiration of every year to be computed  
 from the date hereof of the same shall be lawfully demanded of them their heirs and  
 assigns. So the Intent and purpose that by virtue of these presents and of the Statute  
 for the said purposes and to specify the said John Asher William Robertson John Asher Junior  
 Israel Bulant and John Woodman Dr. Wm. W. Wiff and Alexander Henry Yeilding as a  
 portion of the premises and to thereby enable to receive and accept of a grant and release of  
 the patents, licenses and franchises of the same premises and of some part and parcel  
 thereof to them their heirs and assigns to be used and upon that end thereof to be received  
 by another Successor to be named to bear date the day after the date hereof or on some other  
 future day. WHEREOF the said John Asher William Robertson John Asher Junior  
 Israel Bulant John Woodman Dr. Wm. W. Wiff and Alexander Henry Yeilding have presented  
 their hand and seal here subscribed and set. and all the said Chief and principal  
 leaders of the said Nations have also each their presents set our seals and the mark  
 of our respective Tribes the day and Year first above.

In the presence of the undersigned, John and William  
 the Chief and principal leaders of the Ottawa Chippewa and  
 Ojibwaque Nations do hereby certify that the  
 their seals and the marks of their respective Tribes and  
 delivered the same as their act and deed to the party  
 concerned, the same being first read and fully explained  
 to them by a proper Interpreter that the said Chief  
 being then perfectly sober  
 in their understanding and sense on the objects  
 of the same which the said Chief acknowledged to be  
 read and understood they have released their deed  
 and marks of their respective Tribes as a full  
 confirmation of their perfect knowledge of the  
 Intent and meaning of the same in writing.

Witness my hand  
 at the said  
 (T. W. Wiff  
 Secretary)



CONCLUSION OF CUYAHOGA GRANT TO ASKIN AND ASSOCIATES  
 Reproduced from the original manuscript in the Burton Historical Collection

upwards, and in Case of any such Sales, give us the most Timely Notice that the Necessary Surveys thereof may be made, acquainting us at same time how and in what manner we are to draw for such supplys of Money as we may want for Defraying the Charges of Surveys &c. The half nearest to Lake Erie of said Tract is by far the most valuable herewith You have copies of the deeds for the several Tracts belonging to the Joint Concern viz.

- N<sup>o</sup> 1 for a Tract Granted to P M<sup>c</sup>Neff
- 2 for a Tract granted to J Askwith
- 3 for a Tract granted to Israel Ruland
- 4 for a Tract a a a granted to Israel Ruland
- 5 for a Tract o o o o o o o o o granted to M<sup>c</sup>Niff & Askwith
- 6 for a Tract granted to J Askin
- 7 for a Tract granted to ditto

9<sup>th</sup> AUGUST<sup>14</sup>

In addition to what we have already Wrote we beg leave to observe to you that the Prohibitory Acts of Congress Respecting Individuals obtaining Grants of Land from the Indians extends only to such as might make Actual purchases & the Indians Regular Sales but no proviso made against the Indians making free gifts of their own property to whom they please the Latter is the situation of all our Claims being on Deeds of gift & absolutely meant so by the Indians to shew you the value of Land property in the vicinity of our Claims we on this day have received the News from Detroit that Madam Baby has sold all her Lands on the American side of the River for 4/ N. York per acre the whole amounting to 41,400 pounds Col. Allen<sup>15</sup> of Grand

<sup>14</sup> The remaining portion of the document is written in pencil; that which precedes is in ink.

<sup>15</sup> Colonel Ebenezer Allen, who was born in Northampton, Mass., Oct. 17, 1743, and passed his mature life in Vermont. He grew up at New Marlboro, Mass., where, in 1762, he married a Miss Richards. In 1768 he removed to Bennington, Vt., and in 1771 to Poultney. He served with considerable distinction in the Revolution, in which he won his title of colonel. In 1779 he and a group of associates were granted a township of land in Rutland County, and soon after he began the settlement of what later became the town of Grand Isle. In 1792 Colonel Allen made an extended journey into the Northwest, returning enthusiastic over the idea of locating in that region. In the autumn of 1795 he was one of the associates with Askin and others who under-

Isle in the state of vermont is said to be the purchaser there are no Lands in this Country near equal to what we Claim, as a vessel of 50 or 60 Tons can come Loaded to the greater Part of it. In all your Sales give no warrentie but such as the Indian Deed affords, and in Case You are not Immediately on giving a Deed paid the whole of the Purchase Money (which we do not Expect can be the Case) We would not recommend Your taking a Mortgage on the Land Sold, as Security for the Remainder we rather Recommend your taking good personal Security or a Mortgage on some other Lands that may be Improved

*Endorsed:* Copy of a Letter to Alexander Henry of Montreal now at New York Grenville August 8<sup>th</sup> 1795

REPORT TO COLONEL ENGLAND ON MISSION TO GREENVILLE

Detroit August 19<sup>th</sup> 1795

Sir Being induced both from duty and inclination, I take the liberty of giving you an account of my voyage to Fort Greenville, with what came to my knowledge while I resided there; it will I fear be rather long, but lest the parts I might leave out would be those you wished to be acquainted with, I have thought it adviseable to enter in it every thing that appeared to me any way material.

It is as follows

Several Indian Chiefs of the Chippawa and Ottawa Nation with whom I was well acquainted urged me much to accompany them to the Council at Greenville, assigning for their reasons, that as the business They were going on was of great importance to them they stood in need of a faithfull Interpreter and friend.

After obtaining my Fathers concurrence I left this on the

took to engineer a deal whereby they should obtain title to the entire lower peninsula of Michigan, together with large portions of northern Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. At a subsequent date he endeavored to purchase from Askin and his associates in the Cuyahoga speculation, their interest in that enterprise. A biography of Allen is in *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, Abby Hemenway, ed. (Burlington, 1871), II, 579-83. Allen's connection with western land speculation is disclosed by various manuscripts in the Burton Hist. Coll. On the attempted grab of the lower peninsula of Michigan and adjacent territory, see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, III, 58; C. M. Burton, "A Frustrated Land Grab," *The Inlander* (Ann Arbor), III, 209-14; and partnership agreement printed *post*, 568-72.

2<sup>d</sup> of July and when I reached Fort Defiance it was the 11<sup>th</sup> by this time the Indians with me were Twenty-Seven in number, also a M<sup>r</sup> Beaubien and a M<sup>r</sup> Bouffet who had joined the Indians on the route.

I had a cool reception from Major Hunt<sup>16</sup> who command[ed] there but of this I was aware before my departure M<sup>r</sup> McDougal having taken the lead who declared he would make known to the Americans my conduct during the Troubles<sup>17</sup> from this first Fort I was inclined to return, but Major Hunt finding if I did that the Indians would follow me, insisted on my proceeding.

Blue Jacket<sup>18</sup> an Indian Chief who had been sent to bring forward Indians to Council, joined us here and proceeded with us, this night being the 14<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> McDougal overtook

<sup>16</sup> Thomas Hunt was born at Watertown, Mass., Sept. 17, 1754, where his father was a retail merchant. He served throughout the Revolution from Lexington to the end; in 1791 he entered the U. S. army as a captain, rising in 1803 to the rank of colonel of the First Infantry. He came to Detroit with General Wayne in 1796, and was stationed here for several years. He served subsequently at Fort Wayne, Mackinac, and other posts, and died at Fort Belle Fontaine, Aug. 18, 1808. In 1788 he married Eunice Wellington of Watertown, and to them eleven children were born, several of whom became prominent in the annals of Detroit and the U. S. army. One son, Henry Jackson Hunt, was Detroit's second elective mayor, and married Ann, the daughter of Angus McIntosh. Another son, John Elliott Hunt, married a sister of Mrs. Lewis Cass; another, William Brown Hunt, married a daughter of Judge John L. Leib. One daughter, Ruth, married Abraham Edwards; another, Abigail, became the wife of Col. Josiah Snelling; a third, Eliza, married James G. Soulard of St. Louis. Information adapted from Burton, *City of Detroit, Mich., 1701-1922*, II, 1443-45; and Henry Bond, *Genealogies of . . . the Early Settlers of Watertown, Mass.* (Boston, 1860), 304.

<sup>17</sup> This allusion, taken in conjunction with a similar one in John Askin's letter of instructions to his son, printed *ante*, 550-52 seems to indicate that John Askin Jr. had fought against Wayne in the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

<sup>18</sup> Blue Jacket, an influential Shawnee chief, was born about the middle of the eighteenth century. After Little Turtle, he was probably the most prominent leader of the Indians in the destruction of St. Clair's army in November, 1791. Since Little Turtle counseled peace when Wayne appeared on the Maumee three years later, the chief command in the Battle of Fallen Timbers fell to Blue Jacket. Defeated, he yielded to the Americans and was one of the signers of the treaty of Greenville the following year. According to the *Handbook of American Indians* he disappears from sight after signing the treaty at Fort Industry in 1805. Other accounts represent him as again raising the hatchet against the Americans in 1812, and as present at the River Raisin massacre, January 22, 1813. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 692-93; Casgrain, *op. cit.*, 100-101. According to the latter authority, Blue Jacket's wife was a natural daughter of Jacques Duperon Baby of Detroit, by an Indian mother. Mary Blue Jacket, the chief's daughter, became the wife of Jacques Lacelle of Detroit and Raisin River settlement.

us it was the 19<sup>th</sup> before we reached Fort Adams the 20<sup>th</sup> we got to Fort recovery and the 21<sup>st</sup> to Fort Greenville, soon after our arrival a Major of Dragoons, said General Wayne wished to see us, we proceeded to the Council House which is situated in the Fort, here General Wayne received us and shook hands with all the Indians. Omissas a Chippawa Chief who had been chosen to speak for the Ottawas, Pattawatomies, & his nation, asked me for a few Strings of Wampum he had given me in charge & with them made the following Speech

Brothers

We the Chippawas looking over our bundles found your Strings of Wampum that had been given us at Muskingum<sup>19</sup> and thought it time to come and see you at the great Council Fire

General Wayne in Return said

I am extremely happy to see you and more so to hear that you brought the Strings of Wampum gave you at Muskingum, You, Omissas spoke like an honest, sensible, and good hearted man, and I take you again by the hand for your honesty

Omissas to General Wayne

Brothers

Should any one say that they advised us to come to this Council or say they brought us to this place, it's false, we came of our own free will and have brought this English man (meaning me) with us to repeat to us what you say in Council and that we may be instructed with every thing that will be said to us and not be so ignorant of this Council as we were of that of Muskingum

Blue Jackets Speech to General Wayne

Brothers

I am extremely sorry that I have not been able to accom-

<sup>19</sup> In 1788 Governor St. Clair had summoned the representatives of the various northwestern tribes to meet him in council on the Muskingum River, with a view to settling the difficulties between them and the government of the United States. The place of meeting was later changed to Fort Harmar, where a treaty was negotiated early in 1789. Only a small number of the tribesmen were participants in the affair, however, and the treaty was repudiated by the warriors in general.

plish what I wished to have done owing to the number of bad birds who were continually whispering in my Chawanees Chiefs Ears, and have prevented [torn] from coming sooner, however I have a bit of Tobacco from them and they sent me word they wo[uld] come immediately, but I cannot assure you they will.

General Waynes answer

Brothers

I am sensible of the great zeal and wish you have to serve the States and that you have done all in your power for them, I am well persuaded that you met great numbers of bad Birds who did all they could to prevent what you went about

July 22<sup>d</sup> No Council

23

As I was going to the Council I was told by Mons<sup>r</sup> Beau-bien not to go, that the Centinel would stop me the Generals aid de Camp told him so, when I stopt the Indians stop't allso & said they would not go but on my telling them it was all the same they could repeat to me at night what had passed they proceeded

July 24

The Indians gave in their answer this day with a white belt of Wampum as follows

Brothers

We know nothing of the Six Thousand Dollars said to have been given the Indians at Muskingum but as for the Windotts They perhaps know of these Dollars They were accustomed to hord up all they got on these occasions & never let others know of it. The Windotts were displeas'd & begged leave to give their answer next day.

25

This day General Wayne Explained that the Six Thousand Dollars, were given in Goods &<sup>ca</sup> Then the Chippawas were satisfied with the Windotts and said it was true they had received presents, but thought they were given them for having buried the Hatchet and not for Lands

26

The Miamis spoke and said their Grand Father had given them these Lands and they were told not to sell them nor give them away and of Course the Tribes who had given them at Muskingum had no right to them, and several other words to the same purpose

27

The Indians were allowed to Speak among themselves

28

I wrote to General Wayne for a pass to Return home and Received for Answer to call next day

July 29

Waited on General Wayne he delivered me a letter from Mr Askin which he had opened & Shewed me another asking if I knew the hand writing I said I did it was my Fathers, he then proceeded to read its contents to me and after he had done reading, he said he looked upon me as a Spy & that I deserved death. I told him that I knew of no Spies in time of Peace, he said it was true, but he still had the power of sending me to a Fort in the Woods, and immediately ordered a party of Light Horse to take me to Fort Jefferson, he likewise ordered my papers to be examined & an Officer took out of them two Indian Deeds of Land given me in charge by Gentlemen here which he said would be returned but as yet have not

The Commanding Officer at Fort Jefferson had orders not to let me speak to any one, but in his presence nor to write to any person Except the General, to do him justice he treated me with much civility

30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>

In confinement

August 1

The Indians delivered a white Belt of Wampum, requesting I might be set at Liberty, the General gave for answer that I should [be] in Two Days however the 2<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> elapsed but on the 7<sup>th</sup> the General wrote me a

note saying I was at Liberty & in it invited me to dine with him on the 8<sup>th</sup> I got a pass and set off and the 15<sup>th</sup> arrived here

As I was not at any of the Councils but the first I can only Speak from the reports of the Indians and others who informed me that untill I was some days in Confinement The Indians who went out with me would neither consent to ratify the Muskingum Treaty nor give up their Claims to the disposal of their Lands, nor I am sure ever would had I not been confined and deprived of giving them advice, but being intimidated by the threats of the General saying he would drive them back into the Sea if They did not acquiesce in his demands and seeing the other Nations (from fear and persuasion of some of our Canadian & English Friends) Agree They at last did the same prior to my being released

The Treaty<sup>20</sup> so far as I could learn was, that They confirmed the Muskingum Treaty and added to it all the Lands situated on the South side of the Miamis River. They sold six miles square near where Fort Miamis is situated Twelve miles Square at and about [Roche de Bout] were to be given up and such small Spots about them as the English had purchased, & that They should have that matter cleared up, which they accordingly did next day and it was then acknowledged to them that our Government had not given over their Lands

It was reported at my Departure that very soon after a party of Americans were to come by Land to the spott purchased up the River of Razin & take Post there likewise at Sandusky to Build a Fort

I am with due respect Sir

Your most Obedient very Humble Servant

*Addressed:* Colonel England—24<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Commandant of Detroit and its Dependencies

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> 1795 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Col. England a report of his Voyage to Fort Grenville

Coppy

<sup>20</sup> That is, the treaty of Greenville negotiated by Wayne in July and August, 1795.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 22<sup>d</sup> Augs<sup>t</sup> 1795

Dear Askin I got to this place on the 16<sup>th</sup> having been detained at Quebec 5 weeks, while there I received your Letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> June which I deferred answering untill my coming here, and now I have only time to Tell you I feel my self happy in being on this Side the Atlantick, and amongst<sup>t</sup> my friends. I was in hopes to have paid you and my other friends in upper Canada a visit this Summer, but must defer that pleasure untill next Spring, when if alive you may expect to see me. I am attached to your Province, and many people in it. I congratulate you on your friend Will<sup>m</sup> Robertson going to Detroit, he is a little violent in Politicks, but those who know him well must think him an honor to Mankind, and it is but Justice to tell you that he retains such regard for you & your family that I am convin<sup>ced</sup> while he had a Loaf of bread he would divide it with any of them, he is not ostentatious in his goodness. I fear he will see the necessity of staying at Detroit for some time Contrary to his intentions I have not had time to enquire concerning business for that I reffer you to the House for the present, and conclude with best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin who I am sorry to hear is unwell, the Little Memor<sup>d</sup> for Shoes shall be sent, and I have only to assure you that Neither distance of Time or place has nor ever will prevent my subscribing my Self With truth

Your Sincere friend

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

PS I Wrote M<sup>r</sup> Robertson a few Lines the 20<sup>th</sup> I hope for a particular Letter from him on Gen<sup>l</sup> & particular Matters I forwarded Letters from M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith

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

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By its terms the Indian title to the land lying south and east of a line drawn from the mouth of Kentucky River to Fort Recovery, and thence in a general easterly direction to the Muskingum, and northward along that river and the Cuyahoga to Lake Erie, was extinguished. In addition, the title to numerous small tracts surrounding such strategic sites as Fort Wayne, Chicago, and Mackinac, was yielded by the Indians.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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*Endorsed: Montreal Aug<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 95 M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> [Rec'd] y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5 Oct<sup>r</sup>*

INDENTURE OF ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

ARTICLES of Agreement, indented, and concluded on, this eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and ninety five. Between John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> of Detroit, merchant, of the one part, and Robert Nichol, of the same place, Gentleman, of the other part. The said Robert Nichol, for the consideration herein after mentioned, both hereby for himself, his executors and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree, to and with the said John Askin, his executors and administrators, that the said Robert Nichol shall and will during the space of three years, to Commence from the day of the date hereof and to finish on the eighteenth day of September, which will be in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred, and ninety eight, dwell, continue, and abide with the said John Askin, and him diligently and faithfully serve, during the said term, in keeping the Books of accompts of him, the said John Askin, and in such other business, and affairs, as he the said John Askin, shall think proper to employ him; and therein shall from time to time, and at all times, during the said term, do, observe, and fulfil the lawful and reasonable commands, and directions, of the said John Askin, without disclosing the same, or the secrets of his employment, business, or dealings, to any person or persons whatsoever, nor shall, nor will embezzle, purloin, or wilfully waste, any of the goods, wares, monies or merchandize, of the said John Askin that may be intrusted to the care of the said Robert Nichol, as his Cleark; in consideration of which true and faithful service, on the part and behalf of the said Robert Nichol, to be done and performed; the said John Askin, does for himself, his executors and administrators, covenant, promise, and agree to and with the said Robert Nichol, his executors and administrators, that he the said John Askin, shall and will pay, and allow unto him the said Robert Nichol, the sum of Fifty pounds,

New York Currency, for each year's service, and shall and will during the said term, find and provide, for the said Robert Nichol, good and sufficient diet, washing, and lodging. IN TESTIMONY whereof, the said parties have to these presents, interchangeably, set their hands and affixed their Seals, at Detroit aforesaid, in the Western District, and Province of Upper Canada, the day, month and year first above written.

Robt Nichol (L. S.)

John Askin (L. S.)

SIGNED sealed and delivered in the presence of.

Alexis Maisonville

W. Roe

*Endorsed:* Detroit 18<sup>th</sup> Sep. '95 Robert Nichols to John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Articles of Clerkship for 3 years.

#### PARTNERSHIP FOR PURCHASE OF MICHIGAN PENINSULA<sup>21</sup>

Articles of Agreement entered into & concluded at Detroit this Twenty-Sixth day of September in the year of Our Lord, one Thousand and Seven Hundred & Ninety five For the purpose of obtaining the Pre-emption right from the United States of America and extinguishing the right of the Native Indians to a certain Territory herein after defined between Ebenezer Allen and Charles Whitney of the State of Vermont, and Robert Randall of the City of Philadelphia on the one part, and John Askin, Jonathan Schieffelin, William Robertson, John Askin Junior, David Robertson, Robert Innis & Richard Pattinson all of Detroit on the other part.

The said Territory is Situated on the Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan, & Bounded by a Line commencing at the

<sup>21</sup> A comprehensive account of this enterprise, written by C. M. Burton, is contained in *The Inlander* (Ann Arbor), III, 209-14. The effort of the eastern promoters, Randall and Whitney, to purchase the support of members of Congress by awarding them shares in the syndicate in return for votes, roused a scandal of large dimensions, which occupied the attention of Congress almost exclusively from Dec. 28, 1795 to Jan. 13, 1796.

Miamis Village,<sup>22</sup> thence down the River of that name,<sup>23</sup> till it falls into Lake Erie, thence along the said Lake up the Channel of the River of Detroit through Lake S<sup>t</sup> Clair, up the Channel of the River S<sup>t</sup> Clair, thence along Lake Huron to Old Michilimackinac, and thence along Lake Michigan on a South-Westerly direction to Chicagou, thence across the Portage there, and down the Illinois River, 'till a Line drawn due East from the said River strikes the Miamis Village aforesaid, Comprehending all the Lands, Islands & Waters within the said Boundary line.

Article I<sup>st</sup>

The said Territory shall be divided into Forty-one equal Shares whereof the said Allen, Whitney & Randall shall hold Thirty six Shares for 'Themselves and their associates in consideration of Their obtaining thro' the Interest of Themselves and the Influence of Their connexions, the Right of Pre-emption to the said Territory on the most advantageous & moderate terms, from the United States, And the said John Askin, Jon<sup>n</sup> Schieffelin William Robertson, John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> shall each hold one share, and the remaining share shall be held by David Robertson, Robert Innis and Richard Pattinson in Equal proportions, In consideration on Their part of the Influence They have over the Indian Tribes, who are the Native proprietors of the said Territory and over those connected with them, which Influence They bind and oblige themselves to exert in that manner, that may most effectually extinguish the Indian Right on the most reasonable and least expensive terms, and, at the same time, tend to ensure to the Settler peaceable possession, and unmolested enjoyment: All this to be done at the general expence of the Forty-one Sharers.

Article II<sup>d</sup>

Each holder of a Share is bound to pay his quota of the sum that may be Covenanted for with the United-States

22. Miamitown, at the junction of the St. Mary's and the St. Joseph rivers, where now is the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

23. The Maumee River, formerly called the Miamis, from the Indian tribe of the same name.

according to the terms thereof as the price of the pre-emption right to the said Territory, and also the Fees of office (if any), but no other expences or charges whatever.

Article III<sup>d</sup>

Should any of the Parties to this Agreement residing at Detroit, be unable to pay, or think the price given or agreed to be given to the United States too high He may upon declaring the same in writing to the proper Parties, Resign, and be as effectually exonerated from every part of this Agreement, as If it had never been, and such share so relinquished, becomes the general property of the United Associates, or Parties, and must be accordingly at their disposal.

Article IV<sup>th</sup>

Each Party has free and entire right to dispose of his Share, of which however he is bound to give the refusal to the General Association, should They choose to purchase it, but should such Person be one of those whose influence and knowledge of the Indians and Their Connexions, is deemed essential to the promotion of the general views and Interest of the Association, He cannot divest himself of such share, 'till the Indian Rights are extinguished agreeable to the Intent and meaning of the first Article.

Article V<sup>th</sup>

It is fully understood that all expences and charges whatever that may be incurred in extinguishing the Indian Right or Title to the said Territory, shall be borne by the Forty-one Sharers respectively, but as it may be found particularly necessary for the general Association, that some of those Gentlemen residing at Detroit, whose long habits of intimacy with the Indian Chiefs and Tribes with their Families and Connexions, whose knowledge of Their language, as well as acquaintance with the situation of the said Territory, should devote their time to this business, for the purpose of making the purchase from the Natives, as well as to accompany those who may be appointed to see that the transaction is fair towards the Indians, and satisfactory to the Association as also to accompany and protect the

Surveyors, or others, whose business it may be to lay out or examine the lands, such Persons are bound and obliged to perform such Services upon being allowed a proper Compensation from the Company or Association, for so doing.  
Article VI<sup>th</sup>

As Certain Tracts within the said Limits have been already Conceded by the Indians to John Askin, Jonathan Schieffelin and Their Associates, and of course the Indian Titles to such Tracts Extinguished, no steps they may have or shall hereafter take to obtain for such Tracts the Right and Claim of the United States in their behalf shall be deemed an Infringement of any thing herein containd. It is in the mean time however agreed, and understood, That for such Tracts as the Indians shall acknowledge to have divested themselves of, in favor of the said John Askin and Jonathan Schieffelin and Their Associates, the said Association of Forty-one, shall make them a fair and equitable compensation in proportion to the limits and extent so extinguished

The Parties at Detroit declare and They wish to be fully understood by all the World That as far as they are, or may be concerned in this business, they will on no account whatever be Instrumental in taking any advantage or any step that could deprive Their neighbours and friends the Indians, who in the eye of Nature and Reason, must ever be considered as the sole proprietors of these Lands, of any comfort or means of enjoyment they have heretofore possessed. That on the contrary, it is their Intention, at once to conciliate their affection and promote their Comfort, connecting with these the gradual & peaceable Settlement of the Territory in question. The extension of Trade and Agriculture, without Outrage, Bloodshed, or depredation on the part of the natives.

Article VII<sup>th</sup>

If the said Allen, Whitney & Randall and Their Associates, shall not have obtained the pre-emption Right from the United States in three Months after the expiration of the second Session of Congress, counting from the day of the date hereof, then this Agreement to be Null and void.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

The above Agreement is Reciprocally binding on all and every One of the contracting parties, according to the true Intent and meaning thereof, which Intent and Meaning is to be explained without Equivocation or strained Interpretation, according to the usual sense and acceptation of the words; And in failure of any part [torn] the Party so failing, shall forfeit his Share of [torn] Advances, [torn] or disbursements as effectually as if he had ne[ver entered] into the [torn].

In Witness Whereof, We the said [torn] set Our hands, and affixed Our Seals to four [copies of the] Same Tenor and date, at Detroit the day & [torn].

Signed & Sealed	Eb <sup>r</sup> allen & associ[ates] (L.S.)
in presence of	Charles Whitney & associates (L.S.)
	Ro Randall for Self & Associates (L.S.)
Hugh Pattinson	John Askin (L.S.)
Rob <sup>t</sup> Nichol	J. Schieffelin (L.S.)
	for John Askin Jun <sup>r</sup> John Askin (L.S.)
	William Robertson (L.S.)
	David Robertson (L.S.)
	Robert Innis (L.S.)
	For Richard Pattinson (L.S.)
	J. Schieffelin

*Endorsed:* Agreement between Whitney, Randall &c.

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Gorlestone le 5 d'octobre 1795

Ma tres chere Mere Je me suis fait le plaisir de vous ecrire quelleque tems passai est depuis cette lettre vous pouvez vous appercevoir que nous avons changé d'e demeure mais nous pensons qu'e s'a ne sera que pour peu de tems comme m'a santé est entierment retablie pour l'aquelle raison mon cher Meredith etoit venue chercher les cheres enfans est moi. Mais dieu soit benie je mis presentment en parfaite santé ainsi que mon petit David qui cours partout

seul par consequent c'est quelque chose de gagné depuis notre arrivé à cette Endroit. Anne aussi s'e porte bien. Il faut presentment vous remercier pour les lettres dont le Capt<sup>n</sup> Shalch s'est chargé pour nous, ils sont arrivé sauf et contienne une information qui me plait toujours beaucoup cette à dire que vous etiez tous en parfaite santé quand vous les avez ecrie. Madame Hamiltone à eu l'a bonté de m'ecrire par l'a meme occasion si javois le tems je lui adresserai quelques lignes mais cette endroit n'est pas si commode pour envoyer les lettres que quand nous etions à Woolwich si proche de Londres. l'a Guerre est une tres mauvaise affaire pour reduire la bourse car toute sorte d'article sont beaucoup plus cher presentment q'icelles ne l'etoit une année passé particulierment le pain etoit d'un prix enorme mais le prix n'en est pas absolument si grand à present.

Pour le sujet de la geurre je n'est rien de plaisant a vous dire mais cette à esperer que nous aurons l'a paix avant l'ong-tems plusieurs personnes en parle comme une chose qui n'est pas loin de nous. Cependant nous avons une grande force qui se prepare à embarquer pour les Isles vers le milieu de ce mois je leurs souhaits bon succes mais je n'aimerai pas à etre de leurs partie car cette un Climat bien mauvais pour ceux qui ne sont pas né d'ans les Isles. j'ai grand plaisir à observer q'ui m'a petite soeur Adelaide ecrie si bien ayez la bonté de lui dire que je la remercie pour l'a j'olie lettre Francoise q'u elle m'a envoyé cette un bon commencement ett montre quelle prend plaisir à s'instruire.

Ma cher petite Anne grandie beaucoup elle est bien delicate mais l'air que nous respirons etant si proche de l'a mer lui donne une bonne appetit ainsi q'une parfaite santé est beaucoup de viracité. Je fut bien surprise de voir le Camp à mon arrivé ici car je ne m'etois pas imaginé de voir de si jolies maisons de Canvas, mais l'a difference entre la place ou residoit la millice et le terrain que l'artillerie occupe est assez visible par le nombre de petits jardin remplie de fleurs que l'a millice ont toujours devant leurs portes ainsi que leurs portes peinturé de different couleurs et des vitres fixé dedans pour laisser entrer l'a clairté mais ceux des officiers qui Commande les canons ont pour ornement des

centinelles pour garder la poudre et pour soigner tous en Cas d'allarme S'i vous pouvez ma chere Maman voir comme tous est arrangé sur le Camp vous seriez bien etonné car je vous assure que s'a vaut la peine d'observer une affaire de cette sorte le Major M'agregoir auroit une jolie apparence avec son habit rouge et le petit Aide Major apres lui avec son Sabre si long quil seroit en danger de s'e casser le cou sil se promenoit sur en terrien si remplie de ravines comme celui ici. Dite à mon cher pere que je ne ridicule pas s'a Compagnie ce sont les plus brave et beau de toutes la millice du Detroit, le peruquier Foucher feroit un bon tambour sil vouloit s'en donner l'a peine. Vous pourez voir ma tres chere Mere que quoique je suis éloigné de vous je puis cependant badiner et me souvenir de plusieurs petites affaires qui me faisoit beaucoup rire quand jetois proche de vous.

Mon cher Meredith est aussi gaie que jamais la bonne humeur est peint sur son cher visage et comme accoutumé il chante tous la journée. Lavidondé n'est pas oublié et comme j'ai une *voix charmante* la belle Françoise aide bien à mon *gosier*. dans une de mes lettres j'ai demandé à ma chere Therese de m'envoyer les mots de l'a Belle Hortense mais elle en à rien dit peutetre q'ulle n'a pas recue la lettre qui mentione cette chanson. Comme la depense d'ecrire une feuille de papier à chacune de ma chere famille seroit trop enorme je vous prie ma chere Maman de m'excuser si je prend une partie de la votre pour dire quelleque mots à ma chere soeur. Mon cher Meredith se joint à moi en vous faisant à tous ses plus tendres souvenirs et soyez assurez ma tres chere Mere que je suis avec l'a plus grande tendresse votre affectionné fille.

Archange Meredith.

*Appended:*

My dear Sister. I begged my dear mother to excuse my taking part of her letter to explain to *Lady Easy* the fashions of the times and likewise to thank you for the long sister like letter which you was good enough to write me by Capt.

Schalck,<sup>24</sup> they all arrived safe a fortnight ago and I was rejoiced to find by them that you possessed good health.

M<sup>r</sup> Robertson I dare say is by this time arrived safe in Detroit and very likely whispering soft things in Therese's Ear altho he has seen many a fair one in this land still he admires the Canadian Ladies, which I conclude the reason he returned unmarried to Detroit, he is a Worthy generous man and both M<sup>r</sup> Meredith and myself esteem him much I therefore beg you will remember me kindly to him. As to news there is nothing very material to mention on that subject. Capt<sup>n</sup> Dowdswell<sup>25</sup> of the Artillery whom you may remember, made his exit from this World about three weeks ago, the poor unfortunate man could not help taking his Glass too freely which in the end carried him off [f]. Our old Worthy Servant William Brett died of a bad fever some time back, we are however happy in the thought of doing every thing in our power for his Widow and children for M<sup>rs</sup> Brett is a good willing Creature as she always was and would do anything to serve us.

To begin by the *nob* no vast alteration has taken place in the way of dressing the hair it is cut short at the sides and likewise on the forehead and not so much worn in curls as it used to be except two large ones at the sides in general ladies of your age wear it down the back and curled at the ends but old women like me turn it up behind. the waists are still very short and not likely to get longer as it has been proclaimed at Court that the Princess of Wales is in a Thriving way therefore *les tailles courtes* must be the fashion a little while longer. Muslin petticoats very long, no flounces but a broad hem all round. the most fashionable dresses now worn are called *Carters frocks* the sleeves are short and full very much resembling a shift sleve with a wristband but no ruffles the handkerchiefs are worn inside and the gown

<sup>24</sup> John Augustus Schalck of the Royal Artillery Regiment, commissioned captain, March 13, 1789. He was stationed at Detroit during Colonel England's régime, June, 1792 to 1795.

<sup>25</sup> Charles S. Dowdeswell, commissioned captain in the Royal Artillery Regiment, March 1, 1781, and quartermaster, April 1, 1791. No record of his service in America has been found.

draws full around the neck with a trimming of lace, very long in the train but no flounce it is a round gown indeed they are all worn now the sashes are narrow with a full rose at the side of the same colour. It is almost time to conclude this scrawl but which I am sure my dear sister will excuse my next shall be more intelligible. remember me kindly to the Commodore my aunt and Cousin they in conjunction with my own dear Family will never want my affection M<sup>r</sup> Meredith desires his love to you and I am my dear Sister most truly and affectionatly yours ever

Archange Meredith

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> at Detroit Upper Canada To the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill, Merchants at Montreal, Canada.

*Postage:* Inland Postage paid. Express 1/8. pd 1/5

*Endorsed:* Gorlestone 5<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1795. M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & Therese Askin

### *Translation*

Gorlestone, October 5, 1795

My dearest Mother: I gave myself the pleasure of writing to you some time ago and since that letter you will see that we have changed our place of residence though we think it will be for a short time only as my health is now entirely restored. Because of that my dear Meredith has come to look us up—the dear children and me. But thank God I am now in perfect health. So is my little David, who is running around alone now. There is that much gained since we came here. Anne is also very well.

I must now thank you for the letters which you sent us by Cap. Schalch. They came safely and contained one piece of news that gave me much pleasure, namely that you were in perfect health at the time of writing. Mrs. Hamilton kindly wrote me by the same opportunity. If I had time I would address a few lines to her, but this place is not as convenient for sending letters as when we were at Woolwich,

so near London. The war has a very bad effect on the purse for everything is much dearer now than a year ago, especially bread, which has been enormously high, but it is not really quite so dear now.

On the subject of the war I have nothing pleasant to tell you, unless it is the hope we have of peace before long. Several speak of this as possible in the near future. However, we have a strong force ready to sail for the Islands about the middle of the month. I wish them success but should not like to be in their place. The climate is very bad for anyone not born on the Islands.

I am glad to see that my little sister Adelaide<sup>26</sup> writes so well. Please tell her that I thank her for the nice French letter she sent me. It is a good beginning and shows that she takes pleasure in her studies. My dear little Anne is growing finely. She is very delicate, but the air here, near the sea, has given her a good appetite, and I can truly say that she is in perfect health. I was much surprised when I arrived here to see the camp for I had never expected such pretty canvas houses. One notices at once the difference between the soldiers' camping ground and that of the artillery. The soldiers have little gardens filled with flowers in front of their tents, and the doors are painted different colors, with glass set in to admit the light. The officers in charge of the cannon have for ornament some sentinels who keep watch over the powder and who take care of everybody in case of an alarm. If, dear Mama, you could only see the order of everything at the camp you would be astonished, for I assure you it is well worth the effort to see a thing of this kind. Major McGregor would look fine with his red uniform and the little aid-major behind him with such a long sword that he would be in danger of breaking his neck if he marched over ground as full of hollows as it is here. Say to my dear Father that I am not making fun of his company. They are the best and finest looking of all the Detroit

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<sup>26</sup> The "little sister" was Adelaide (or Alice) Askin, who was born at Detroit in 1783. On Feb. 17, 1802, she married Elijah Brush, for whom see *ante*, 207. She died July 20, 1859.

militia. Barber Foucher<sup>27</sup> would be a good drummer if he would only give himself the trouble. You will see, dearest Mother, that although I am so far away I can joke just the same and that I remember many little things that used to make me laugh heartily when I was with you.

My dear Meredith is as jolly as ever. His face shines with good nature and as of old he sings all day long. We have not forgotten "Lavidondé" and as I have a *charming voice*, the sweet French helps me to *let it out*. In one of my letters I asked dear Therese to send me the words of "La Belle Hortense," but she has never referred to it. Perhaps she did not get the letter in which I mentioned the song. As the expense of writing a separate sheet to each one of the dear family would be too great, I beg you, dear Mama, to excuse me if I take a part of yours to say a few words to my dear sister. My dear Meredith joins me—all tender remembrances to you and be assured, dearest Mother, that I am most sincerely

Your affectionate daughter,

Archange Meredith.

COLLAPSE OF CUYAHOGA SPECULATION

Montreal 7<sup>th</sup> October 1795

Gent<sup>n</sup> According to my promise & your directions I proceeded to New York where I remained near a fortnight before I received your letters from Granville, inclosing the Copies of Deeds of Lands purchased from the Indians, the Postage of which cost Eleven dollars, and by your letters, I find you could do nothing with the Indians in making them keep their promise by introducing it as an article in the Treaty; on this sole point depended our fortunes, for by the best intelligence I could procure it was expected the Indians would have made reservations and which if made, General Wayne would not in the least hesitate in granting. however

<sup>27</sup> Pierre Foucher was a native of the parish of St. Sulpice, Paris, who came to Canada and married at Sandwich, Oct. 9, 1786, Mary Frances Blau. They had three children, Pierre, Mary Angelica, and Charles, all born at Detroit in the years 1787-90. Denissen, *op. cit.*

after consulting my friends, and making proposals according to your instructions, none of which would be accepted I applied to Mr Hamilton the late treasurer for his opin[ion] on my claim on the United States for these lands, upon examining the Deeds, his answer was, that the Deeds were of themselves not valid being improperly drawn first they mentioned the lands so purchased were in the Province of Upper Canada, they therefore could not be in the United States. Secondly it was a Deed of Gift mentioned in the Deeds the Indians could not alienate by Gift real Estate unless to near relations. A valuable consideration should have been mentioned and the Articles given specified, thirdly that [it was] a positive law of the States that they only had the right of Preëmption and no lands could be purchased of the Indians without a particular leave of the Executive of the United States, this law could be not dispenced with by any other means than by treaty between General Wayne and the Indians he also informed me that had the Indians acknowledged to General Wayne in the Treaty they [that] they had disposed of their right of Soil in these lands already and would not resell them, this would have obliged those who purchased from the States, to have obtained the right of Soil from you before they could possess, this was his opinion and was the best that could be procured in the States, but as all is lost by not obtaining any of these things there is nothing more can be done, the only thing remaining is for you to find out what part (if any) of the Lands which were not resold to the States and to have the original Deeds altered as before mentioned and made out for that part only, and then to forward a plan of where they lay, with a Power of Attorney to me to do whatever I may think best for the good of the whole, for it would have been better to give one half away than to lose the whole and this must be done as soon as possible, but without expence, as I have already been at a very considerable charge, without any hope of reimbursement. It is possible you may forward this before the winter setts in, as I will in that case return to New York in the winter. Robert Morrice [Morris] would not do any thing in the business unless the Indians came forward in the Treaty,

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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We have lost a fortune of at least one Million of Dollars  
I remain Gent<sup>n</sup> Your Most Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>

Alexander Henry

To

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>  
John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup>  
P. M<sup>o</sup> Neiff  
John Askwith  
Israel Rulland

*Endorsed:* Montreal October the 7<sup>h</sup> 1796 [1795] M<sup>r</sup>  
Alexander Henry To Mess<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Niff, Askwith Rouland, John  
Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> & Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> by Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin the 26<sup>h</sup>  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 1796

FROM JAMES C. FREEMAN TO JOHN ASKWITH

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1795

Dear Sir, It is with pleasure that I inform you that I am well and Hearty and wish this Letter may find you enjoying the same I received Two Letters from my Brother Ezra Freeman about one Month ago Dated at Fort Washington Banks of Ohio June 14<sup>th</sup> & I also received one Letter from him yesterday Dated Philadelphia 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1795, on his way to New Jersey Wherein he says I received a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith who was at the Indian Treaty at Greenville 16<sup>th</sup> of August, 1795. I wished to have had the pleasure of seeing him But have not I believe him to be much of a Gentleman & does not tell me how he became acquain[t]ed with you or what induced you to write unto him. he says M<sup>r</sup> Askwith speaks very friendly to me of you & I have answered his Letter he further observes that M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup> Niff was at Greenville at s<sup>d</sup> Treaty and writes to him very fully of me respecting my Petition &c. &c. My Brother informs me that he has spoken to George Turner one of the chief Judges of the North West Territory & to Governor S<sup>t</sup> Clair who has the whole ruling North West of the Ohio as a Governor concerning my present situation. It is the opinion of Governor S<sup>t</sup> Clair & George Turner that if I draw up a

Petition similar to that which was presented to Governor Scimco [Simcoe] Praying that I might become a Citizen of the North west Territory as a Canadian Setler it would be granted & the afores<sup>d</sup> Governor S<sup>t</sup> Clair & Judge Turner say they will use their influence with the President of the united States in my behalf for granting the same.

My Brother further observes that the Canadians South of Detroit have Petitioned the President of the united States to come under their Jurisdiction and that he is of opinion that M<sup>r</sup> Askwith went into Gen<sup>l</sup> Wayne with their Petition for that Purpose if this be true that the Canadians have Petitioned the President & s<sup>d</sup> Petition [is] granted & whereas Governor S<sup>t</sup> Clair & Judge Turner have said they will use their influence in my behalf with the President & it being their opinion I think there is a Probability of its carying. In that case the plan most eligible I think is this for me very early in the spring as soon as the Communication is open to come to Detroit & send a Petition to the President of the united States signed by myself seting forth what induced me to Leave the United States & become a setler at Detroit. another Petition sign<sup>d</sup> by the Inhabitants South side of Detroit adressed to the President of the united States & praying I might be permitted to reside among them as a Citizen or something similar to that at the same time praying Governor S<sup>t</sup> Clair to use his influence & Judge Turner &<sup>c</sup> & send s<sup>d</sup> Petitions to Governor S<sup>t</sup> Clair under Cover to be forwarded to the President. I would thank you kindly to call upon M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup> Niff and you & him take this matter into Consideration you know how times are at Present at Detroit & give me your Candid opinions & advice what is best to be done. I think I can get inhabitants enough to sign a Petition of that Nature some at Detroit & some at the river oraison [Raisin] & other Places I shall wait your answer & if you think it adviseable I shall come early in the spring. I have wrote to my Brother Ezra Freeman if it ever lies in his Power to be of any Service either to you or M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup> Niff not to fail in doing every thing that lies in his Power, which rest assured he will not. I have wrote to my

uncle Frederick Frelinghuysen<sup>28</sup> (who is one of the Senetors in Congress) who were my Particular Friends at Detroit &° &° so the way is paved in a small Degree it may happen you may want some friends on that side before you die you know my meaning. If I could get this granted is all I ask for all my Landed property is at Fort Washington. I hope you will keep this as an arcanum (or Secret) for If it should be adviseable for me to persue this Plan if known before I come some evill Dispossed Persons might endeavour to persuade People not to sign such a Petition if it was required. I also [torn] to write me what method they have [torn] whether they have attempted to take [torn] Lotts No 19 & N° 20, on River La tranch [torn] to some other Person or Persons, you [torn] to inform M<sup>r</sup> Askin I shall pay him if it ever lies in my Power to come at my property & every other Person I owe in Detroit I have Property Plenty in the united States as soon as I can come at it. I wish to know how M<sup>r</sup> Dolson & Family are & Daniel Fields<sup>29</sup> family & if his mill is going as yet. My compliments to all inquiring Friends you will please to have recourse to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup> Niffs Letter for some Incidants after my Departure from Detroit not having room in this paper inform me if M<sup>r</sup> Ruling [Ruland] got M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Lewis,s sister from the Indians my Compliments to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Niff & his Family

<sup>28</sup> Frederick Frelinghuysen was born in Somerset County, N. J., April 13, 1753. He graduated at Princeton in 1770, studied law, and at the age of twenty-three became a member of the provincial congress of New Jersey. In 1778 he was elected to the Continental Congress, and in addition to service here he achieved a creditable military record during the Revolution. In 1794 President Washington appointed him major general of New Jersey troops for service in the Whisky Rebellion. He served in the U. S. Senate from 1793 to 1796, when he resigned because of family bereavements. He died, April 13, 1804. See Appleton's *Cyclopaedia of American Biog.*

<sup>29</sup> Daniel Field (Fields) served as a sergeant in Captain Caldwell's company of Butler's Rangers during the Revolution, and at its close came to Detroit. A petition to the Land Board, June 18, 1790, discloses that he was then in the employ of Alexander McKee, and that he had served as spokesman for his fellow-rangers in efforts to secure from the government some compensation for their military service. Two years later, Field was in possession of a tract of land on the Thames River, and about this time was captain of Essex County militia. Apparently, he ran a mill, for an affidavit of John Drake, in June, 1795, recounts transactions with "Captain Donald Fields," miller, who would seem to have been identical with Captain Daniel Field. See Askin Papers, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XI, 451; and Ontario Bureau of Archives, *Third Report*, *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

in a very Particular manner. Haste & Errors Please to  
excuse I remain with respect

Dear Sir your most obed<sup>t</sup> & very Humble Servt:

James C. Freeman<sup>30</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Askwith

P. S. the Little woman<sup>31</sup> is well & hearty desires [torn] to  
you she lives at M<sup>r</sup> Cruckshanks y<sup>e</sup> Silversmith. Direct  
your Letters Ja<sup>b</sup> C [torn] Montreal to the Care of M<sup>r</sup>  
Sam<sup>l</sup> Park same place M<sup>r</sup> Sam<sup>l</sup> Park wishes to know if M<sup>r</sup>  
Choate [torn] thing for Brandamore y<sup>e</sup> Carpenter Choate  
will inform you. my compliments to M<sup>r</sup> [torn]

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith Detroit To the particular  
Care of John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Same Place.

*Endorsed:* Rec<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN WARREN

Detroit Nov 2<sup>d</sup> 1795

Sir I was favoured with your two Letters of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
& 26<sup>th</sup> of Last month yesterday, I'm thankfull to you for  
your Endeavours to get the Saguinah Load Completed with

<sup>30</sup> James C. Freeman was evidently identical with the Dr. Freeman whom Colonel England apprehended at Detroit in June, 1794, in pursuance of orders from Governor Simcoe, and sent down to that official. We have been unable to construct an outline of his career, but from the present letter and from other sources it seems evident that he was of New Jersey origin and one of the early settlers of Cincinnati; that he subsequently removed to Detroit, where he incurred official suspicion serious enough to call for his removal from Upper Canada. We surmise that he was related to Samuel Freeman of Cincinnati, who, with his son Edmund, purchased the *Centinel of the Northwest* in 1796 and thereupon changed its name to *Freeman's Journal*, but we have not succeeded in establishing the connection. A letter from Ezra Freeman, brother of James, written from Great Miami to Solomon Sibley of Detroit, Sept. 29, 1799, discloses that he was a lawyer and was desirous of establishing himself at Detroit, but supposed a third lawyer here (in addition to Sibley and Elijah Brush) would be unnecessary. He further stated that he had been contemplating establishing himself in practice in the Mad River region. Edmund Freeman, the editor, died Oct. 25, 1800, at the home of his father on Beaver Creek, "Mad River Settlement." This fact, taken in connection with the statements of Ezra Freeman, tends to strengthen the surmise that Ezra and James C. Freeman were relatives of Edmund and his father, the early Cincinnati journalists. See *Simcoe Papers*, I, 314 and II, 279, 334; American Antiquarian Society, *Proceedings, New Series*, XXIX, 133, 141; and ms. letter of Ezra Freeman in Sibley Papers, Burton Hist. Coll.

<sup>31</sup> Apparently Margaret Jarvis, for whom see *post*, 592-93.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Provisions. young M<sup>r</sup> Pratt<sup>32</sup> (tho not I dare say Intentionally) has contracted Colonel England's Intention of getting the Provisions forwarded as soon as possible, & Indeed Wee want them much, I mean the garrison of which no doubt you are Acquainted. It's a matter of no Signification your shipping what you did of mine on Board the Nancy, Indeed It's very proper at all Events as it was Our promise. I believe I will send back the Saguinah if She arrives soon in Order to help up Provisions If I find you have more than the King's Vessels can carry however much depends on the time of her arrival here

I am Sir Your most ob<sup>t</sup> Humbl<sup>e</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) John Askin

see over

P. S. the goods from the Nancy & Chippewa are not yet unloaded

[On reverse side of sheet] M<sup>r</sup> Mills says you only shipt 8 Boxes of Shott for me, the other articles are right

*Addressed:* John Warren<sup>33</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Fort Erie

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 3, 95 John Askin To John Warren Esq<sup>r</sup> Fort Erie (Copy)

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO THOMAS CLARKE

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1795

Dear Sir Your favour of the 13<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> Reached me two Days ago covering M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton's a/c with me, Ballance my favour £15-2-2 NYC. I have regulated my Books accord<sup>ly</sup> therefore we will in future set off from that Balance. I propose Sending back the *Saguinet* if She arrives here soon. Should not Government get up all the Flour they may have at F<sup>t</sup> Erie I should think you Could Borrow 50

32. Apparently a son of Capt. Robert Pratt of the Fifth Regiment, who was at this time commandant of Fort Erie. A pleasing glimpse of Pratt's domestic establishment is afforded by General Benjamin Lincoln. See *Simcoe Papers*, II, 27, *et passim*.

33. John Warren was engaged in trade at Fort Erie as early as 1780. His name occurs frequently in the Askin Papers. In the War of 1812 he served as lieutenant colonel of militia in the Niagara District, and was one of the commanders of the force that burned Buffalo in the summer of 1813.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Casks & replace them this winter, Charging [me] with what the Flour may Cost that you give in their stead this would oblige me much. I dare not write M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton untill I hear of M<sup>r</sup> H being returned, which I hope in God is now the Case or she must be truly unhappy. I have only to add that I am

Dear Sir Your m<sup>t</sup> obed<sup>t</sup> Hl Servant

(Signed) John Askin

M<sup>r</sup> T Clarke<sup>34</sup> M<sup>t</sup> Queenstown

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1795 John Askin To Tho<sup>s</sup> Clarke Queenston Copy

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN ANDERSON

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 4 1795

Dear Sir This is to let you know that I hear Latour<sup>35</sup> is going out again to Work at the Mamis, I never got a penny from him nor ever will if you do not find the means of stopping it, he owes me here besides, Grant<sup>36</sup> of the Artillery is gone & did not Indorse Shoutes & Stanfords [Choate and Sanford] note so that they will not pay it, they say they paid him all notes to Order must be Indorsed or the Holder of them will Loose his Money, I must Insist on it that not one penny of trust is given to any man unless the money is as sure as if You had it in Your Pockett I will do the Same here. Goods are scarce & Dear therefore I'm sure I can sell all mine for ready Money before other comes If you cannot do the Same or for Peltries I beg you will keep them, and I

<sup>34</sup> Thomas Alexander Clarke (Clark) was an interpreter in the Indian Department some years before the date of this letter, and again during the War of 1812. During Wayne's campaign he was actively engaged in the British service in Ohio. Letters among the Askin Papers indicate that for many years he was located at Queenston, engaged in trade. See Askin Papers, *passim*; Simcoe Papers, *passim*; Niagara Hist. Soc., Papers, No. 22, pp. 57-58; and *Officers of the British Forces in Canada during the War of 1812-15*, 212. It seems probable that Clarke is identical with one Thomas Alexander Clarke, described in Major Robert Mathews' report of 1787 as "a Millwright," two years from England. See Essex Hist. Soc., *Papers and Addresses*, III, 72.

<sup>35</sup> Amable Latour was living at Detroit as early as 1782. In 1795 he signified his intention of remaining a British subject, and in 1806 Askin reported him as working at Malden and instructed Walter Roe to bring suit against him on a note which Askin held. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VIII, 411 and X, 607, and Askin Papers, *passim*.

<sup>36</sup> Apparently William Grant, who was commissioned second lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, Jan. 1, 1771, and captain, Aug. 4, 1779.

can dispose of them here. I dont know yet if I will Stay in this Country or not therefore must get in my Old Debts and make no more [new] ones. You must try & get payment from M<sup>r</sup> Clark at Swan Creek<sup>37</sup> in money or some thing. Charge him Interest as every one does Who dont get Paid Yearly it is in Vain to say he will Pay me here I'm sure he never Will. Please let me know what You Propose doing when your time is out, its proper for me to know before, I'm well pleased with your Conduct & will Either furnish you for your own a/c or take a share with you.

I'm Dear Sir Yours

(Signed) John Askin

M<sup>r</sup> John Anderson F<sup>t</sup> Miamis

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> 95 John Askin To John Anderson Copy

#### SCARCITY OF RUM FOR NORTHWEST TRADE

Montreal 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1795

Dear Askin I wrote you some time past but as I dont keep copys of Letters to my friends I cant say the date, the House wrote you the other day on business and as there is some Rum got to Quebec tho not sufficient for the Consumption of this place for the Winter the price at Quebec 10/6 Curr<sup>y</sup> yet we will keep some to forward to Michilam<sup>e</sup> in the Spring by Canoes or boats and as the quantity [sent] you to Detroit is small the price there may be 5 Dollars pr Gall. or indeed any price you please in which case the House has wrote you that you may take or sell 12 barrels of the Rum sent to your Care for And<sup>w</sup> Todd at 20 Livers pr Gall. the other 8 barrels to be forwarded to Michilam<sup>e</sup> by first Vessel in the Spring and if an opportunity this Winter please write A. Todds agent there I believe a M<sup>r</sup> Schendler,<sup>38</sup> the quantity you intend sending I hope you

<sup>37</sup> Swan Creek empties into the Maumee just above Toledo, in Lucas County, Ohio.

<sup>38</sup> George Schindler was engaged in the Indian trade, with headquarters at Mackinac, during the later years of the eighteenth century and the early years of the nineteenth. We have not learned when he came to Mackinac or what his earlier history may have been. He married Therese Marcot, daughter of Jean Baptiste Marcot and

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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may succeed in your Land scheme. I still Continue my intentions of visiting you early in the Spring, accompanyd by Henry and as this opportunity is Just Going have only time to assure you & family of my Sincere wishes for your health & Happiness & my being Your Sincere friend

Isaac Todd

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

*Endorsed:* Montreal Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 95 Mr Isaac Todd to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14 Dec<sup>r</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 96

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN WARREN

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> the 9<sup>th</sup> 1795

Sir I understand there is so great a Quantity of Flour on the way up for Govern<sup>t</sup> that if it has reached your place, the Kings Vessels won't be able to transport it here with the Other Stores this fall, in which case if you possibly could send me 25 Barrels in the Detroit or Nancy, they shall be replaced or settled for in any Way you like, in so doing you [will] Very much oblige

Sir your most obed<sup>t</sup> Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signed) John Askin

P. S. there has been so much opposition to Load<sup>g</sup> the Saguiet with Provisions, that I have not sent her back return Freight was all I ever Rcd, Except when the Governor employed her last year & Choose to pay in Money

*Endorsed:* Detroit Novemb<sup>r</sup> the 9<sup>th</sup> 1795 John Askin to Jn<sup>o</sup> Warren Esquire

Thimotee, an Ottawa woman. In later life Schindler lost both his property and his health. His wife seems to have been a woman of much force of character, and after her husband's loss of health she continued to conduct the Indian trade. A granddaughter of Mrs. Schindler, by an earlier alliance with a white man, became the wife of Henry S. Baird, in his day a prominent lawyer of Green Bay. A daughter of Mrs. Schindler's sister married Capt. Benjamin K. Pierce, commandant of Mackinac, whose brother, Franklin, later became President of the United States. Information adapted from *Wis. Hist. Colls., passim*, especially Vol. XIV.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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LAND CLAIMS OF JOHN ASKIN

Private: to John Askin Esq

Niagara 12 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1795

Dear Sir You must attribute my not writing to you to my great trouble of mind, & not want of Affection My father mends very slowly indeed & my eldest girl is very ill.

I advised the Commodore at all Events to take the 1200 Acres for you, which is all the Council can give except on Military claims. the Door however is never shut against application & Representations. The Deputy Lawyer shall be instruct<sup>d</sup> in your behalf I think it likely there may be yet a lot in the 2<sup>d</sup> Concession near Chatham I know your Services & your value. I wish I could reward both. The Terms of Townships are by no means understood. I hope to have more time & better spirits to write to you soon & in the Mean [time] I remain affectionately yours

D W Smith

I have not had time yet to send Copy of your account, hope it is right. the balance was larger than you thought The Keg of Peas you were kind enough to send my Mother, never came to hand.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq Detroit

*Endorsed:* Niagara Nov<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1795 W. D. Smith to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 96

TRADE CONDITIONS AT FORT MIAMIS

Fort Miamis Novb<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1795

Dear Sir I receiv<sup>d</sup> Your Letters by The Shineu fly Da<sup>t</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> & 10 In<sup>t</sup> I am very Sorrey Latour Heas Not paid you his Note of hand if he coms out heir you May be a Shoured I will triy My beast to geat payment From him. I thought Grant of the Artillery Was in Detroit A long time before he was Sent away but you did Not present His Note to the Drawears before he was gone as for trusting Any More then you Desier it is a thing I will Not Do but I Heave your order for to trust the work Man at this Fort or I wouled not a heave Don it. I thought you Hav got

pay from M<sup>r</sup> Clark long ago as you did not Send Back his Acc<sup>t</sup> he is Now gon out to the woods and will Not be in till the Spring When he Coms in I will try & Gat payment as Much as possable I can. But he Sais Like the Reast I will Sattle with M<sup>r</sup> Askin at Detroit As I heave No Money Heir. Sir as you Requeast of Me what I mean to Do in the Spring whin My Time is out it is heard for Me to tell as yeat the time Is So unsuarent, and you do Not Know whither you will Stay in this Country or Not your Self but as for Making long bargen with any other purson before Enforming you It is What I will Not Do I think I would be very Much in the Wrong if I did after your good beheaveor to Me and the good Carractor you heave given Me which I Retourn a grate Dale of thanks for M<sup>r</sup> Frasser is Gon to Sandouskey last Spring which I hear he has Got a grate dale of peltries at preassant he would never Look at his Acc<sup>t</sup> you Sent out but Said he would Make it out him Self and Send it in as to M<sup>r</sup> Parkers Bills I know The amou<sup>t</sup> But was in Such a hurey as the Gun Bout was Just going to Saill I loaded them & Sealled them up. Please lat Me Know whither I will trust him any More or Not he is alwas a bodring Me for it please Sand out the goods as Soon as possible as I Expect Indians in Every Day I am a fraid the Season will be So far advanced that I Can Not go to Detroit and a Nother thing the In<sup>ds</sup> Heas got a grate Dale of pladges hear which will be Coming In when I am Not heir which the other will know Nothing About if I Cant go in I will do as well as I Can for Cloths Till the Spring I will Do with the old Man as well as I Can. M<sup>r</sup> Roulland [Ruland] wrote me long ago he Delivered My Watch To one of your Clarks which I Nevir heard of Since that is About two Months ago I Enclose two orders one on Lu<sup>t</sup> Col Blake<sup>39</sup> & one on M<sup>r</sup> Sharpe for £22-8-<sup>11</sup>/<sub>2</sub> N Y C<sup>r</sup> which you Will Recive I will heave a few Skins to Send in The Weazell when She Coms out I Bag you will not Forgate to tell the Man that Coms out with the Goods for to Stope at the River au Raison For the flour I wrote to you about

<sup>39</sup> Apparently John Blake, who became captain in the Twenty-fourth Regiment on July 7, 1775, and lieutenant colonel, March 1, 1794.

Nothing More to add

I Remain Dear Sir your Most Dutiful & Most obed<sup>t</sup>  
and Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

John Anderson

P. S. things forgot in the Memorandum Silk thread Mo-  
heare, Black Heare Rib<sup>n</sup> one acc<sup>t</sup> Book a few white fish, a  
few Pounds of Chease a little Narrow Binding

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

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

*Endorsed:* Fort Miamis Nov<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1795 Mr Jn<sup>o</sup> Ander-  
son to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN ASKIN JR.

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> the 17<sup>th</sup> 1795

Dear John I send you by the Weazell 10 Planks [and]  
a side of Leather; 2 pieces of sacking to make Bagge  $\frac{1}{4}$   
Cut Quills & a covered Tin Kettle in place of a Pott, the  
Leather is to your debt but the Other Articles Ch<sup>d</sup> to the  
Mill, by the lad who brought in the Cattle I mean to send  
you the bolting Cloth he goes off to day & I have  
Sent for Charles Réaume this morning to come over &  
choose more on a/c of his Knowing the Length of bolt than  
any thing else, as I lost the String which shewed the Length  
Anderson wrote me there was some Flour at Laplante's<sup>40</sup> for  
him I have sent some to him in its Stead, therefore therefore  
please Send that to me in the Weazell, with as much flour  
Bran & shorts as you can Spare but no Wheat. keep that  
to grind yourself but if you have Flour not bolted you may  
send it in I will have it bolted here, & for fear you may  
not have Baggs to put it in I send you 42 more in the

<sup>40</sup> Probably Jean Louis Leriger *dit* Laplante, who was born at Laprairie, Lower  
Canada, Nov. 26, 1741, and was buried at St. Antoine, River Raisin, Feb. 10, 1814.  
He married Mary Barrault, and they had one son, Francis, who married at St. Louis,  
May 28, 1797, Mary Louisa Malet, daughter of Louis Malet.

Jean Louis Leriger *dit* Laplante was a grandson of Clement Leriger, Sieur de la  
Plante, an officer in the French navy, who was born in 1662 and married at Laprairie,  
Sept. 8, 1700, Mary Margaret Roy, daughter of Pierre Roy and Catherine Ducharme.  
Denissen, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Weazell all new russia sheeting. send these bags with the Flour. please Keep an Exact account of All Expenses for the Mill, & so will I likewise of all she earns & makes. Indian Corn is plenty. I do not think it will be worth more than 8/ next Spring very dry When the vessells come back I will let you Know what flour they fetch if the[y] bring 100 Barrels the Commissary says there will be enough & if so it will not be so high as I Expected but at all events you may depend on it that Wheat for 10/ Cash of [or] 12/ in goods the French bushell is cheap. Charley Hopes you will not forget his Horse Collar

I am yours &c

Signed John Askin

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov The 17 1795 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>  
To John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> (Copy)

INDIANS UNWILLING TO SELL LAND

Saguina Nov<sup>r</sup> 22 1795

Dear Sir Recollecting what Pased betwene You & Me at Detroit I think it my Duty To acquaint You what I have Dun towards it I have inquired in to the Mater; but had Verry Litle Cucces; as the Indien in this Country Seams to wish to Keep thaire Lands in thaire Posation; as long as thay Can; but for all this I think People Might Prevaile on them; if Required; I have Know more to add but Remaine

Dear Sir Your Most Obedient & Verry Humble Sarv<sup>t</sup>  
Ja<sup>s</sup> V. S. Ryley

M<sup>r</sup> John Askin

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> March<sup>t</sup> Detroit

P<sup>r</sup> an Indeen & to the Care of Mess<sup>r</sup> George Leith & C<sup>o</sup>

*Endorsed:* Saganah Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1795 M<sup>r</sup> Jam<sup>s</sup> V. S. Ryley  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>s</sup> 12 & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>s</sup> 14<sup>h</sup>

ESTATE OF JOHN ASKWITH

Montreal, Nov<sup>r</sup> 1795

D<sup>r</sup> Sir Having heard that you are appointed Executor to M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith deceased, I think it my duty to inform you, that his Daughter Fanny Askwith who he has always acknowledged; by letters in my possession and publicly (in the most affectionate manner) to be his Daughter, And for whom he promises (in his last letter Dated Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1793 of which letter I send you a Copy) to do every thing in his Power is now with me at Robert Cruckshank Esq<sup>re</sup> And being informed that he has died in affluent circumstance I trust you will act in every respect agreeable to the desires of the deceased M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith and render his Daughter Fanny the strictest Justice

I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir with the greatest respect your humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Marg<sup>t</sup> Jervis

Copy [of] letter of the deceased M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith

To M<sup>rs</sup> Marg<sup>t</sup> Jervis

Detroit, Nov<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1793

I received your kind letter, and am happy to hear that you and little Fanny are in good health, be assured, I shall do every thing in my power to assist you and her, and perhaps wou'd do more than you imagine wou'd circumstances admit; but I cannot do impossibilities. I am in a state of servitude at present and cannot be at liberty untill Next July. I wish my time was out tomorrow I wou'd immediately go on board the last Vessel that sails, as this is at present perhaps the most miserable place in all Canada: you will not find a Family for fifty miles but three parts of them are languishing under the Fever and Ague, or otherwise a violent Bilious Fever which has carried off numbers and if they recover it is five or six months before they are able to walk I have hapily hitherto escaped both these, but cannot say I have been one day well for these six months, the constant wrack of business, and close application to the desk has injured my Constitution more

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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since I came here than in Ten years before I do not mean to stay one day longer in the Place than the expiration of my Agreement, for I never detested any place so much I am at present in such a poor state of health that I dread this Winter. I have desired M<sup>r</sup> Busby to give you such a supply as I cou'd spare, to equip little Fanny and be assured I remain

your sincere Friend  
John Askwith

We the under signed do believe the above to be a just and true Copy

Tho<sup>s</sup> Busby  
Isaac Todd  
R Cruickshank

P S if there is any property of M<sup>r</sup> Askwith in your hands I think something should be given to this Woman Margaret Jarvis as she wants it

Is<sup>o</sup> Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

*Endorsed:* Montreal November 1795 M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Jervis to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> March & answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6 April.

DISPOSAL OF ESTATE OF JOHN ASKWITH

TO ALL to whom these Presents shall come. WE John Askin, Rob<sup>t</sup> Gouie, Geo. M<sup>c</sup>Dougall, Tho<sup>s</sup> Cox, James Donaldson, Eborts,<sup>41</sup> Meldrum & Parke, Ja<sup>s</sup> Fraser, Row &

<sup>41</sup> Herman Eberts was born in Augsburg in 1753 and came to America during the Revolution as surgeon in one of the Hessian regiments. About the year 1780 he married Marie Françoise Huc and in 1791 located at Detroit. After the American occupation he held a number of local offices, including those of sheriff and coroner. After the fire of 1805 he removed to the south side of the river (modern Windsor), where he died, March 4, 1819. Mrs. Eberts separated from her husband in 1804 and went to Montreal, where she had relatives, never returning to Detroit. The couple had seven children living at the time of the separation. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 230.

Burrill,<sup>42</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith, D<sup>d</sup> Robertson, A & R Pattinson.<sup>43</sup> send Greeting. Whereas John Askwith, of Detroit, Gentleman, lately departed this life, in the Indian Country, intestate, leaving certain goods, chattels, and personal Estate, AND whereas by reason of the absence of The Honourable James Baby Surrogate for this Western District, Letters of Administration, of the goods, chattels and effects, of the said John Askwith, cannot be obtained, so that such part of the said effects, as are of a perishable nature, are liable to depreciation. NOW KNOW YE that we the aforesaid, John Askin, Rob<sup>t</sup> Gouie, Geo. M<sup>c</sup>Dougall, Tho<sup>s</sup> Cox, Ja<sup>s</sup> Donaldson, Eberts, Meldrum & Parke, Ja<sup>s</sup> Fraser, Row & Burrill, Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith, D<sup>d</sup> Robertson, A & R. Pattinson, Creditors of the said John Askwith, for the sums affixed ag<sup>t</sup> our respective Names, in the Schedule hereunto annexed, being desirous to dispose, of the property, belonging to the said Estate, without any advantage being taken of each other. DO hereby authorise, William Robertson, of said Detroit, Esquire, to make an Inventory of the said Estate, and to proceed to the Sale thereof, for the most money that can be had for the same. And after such sale, to divide the proceeds, arising therefrom, among the Creditors of the said Estate, in proportion to their respective Claims. And we do hereby bind and oblige ourselves, to indemnify, and save

42. Joseph Rowe and Joseph (possibly John) Burrill. Joseph Rowe was later awarded Private Claim 167 in Macomb County. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XVIII, 491. We have found little other information concerning either of the partners.

43. Richard Pattinson came to Detroit, apparently from Montreal, in 1793 (see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XII, 84-87), and engaged in what competitors regarded as a ruinous course of competition for the Indian trade. Following the American occupation of Detroit he elected to remain a British subject and removed to the south side of the river, where he continued in trade for many years. Notwithstanding, after the fire of 1805 he drew a donation lot in Detroit, having been a landholder in the old town. He married (first) Judith de Joncaire de Chabert, who was born in Detroit, Nov. 21, 1783, daughter of Philip Daniel de Joncaire de Chabert and Judith Gouin. She was buried at Sandwich, May 21, 1804, and Pattinson married (second) Phyllis, the youngest daughter of John Askin. Pattinson was intensely pro-British in sentiment, and served as a captain of Essex County militia in the War of 1812. On Procter's evacuation of Detroit in the autumn of 1813, Pattinson followed the fleeing British army with his wife, and the latter died en route, somewhere in the vicinity of Moraviantown. Pattinson subsequently came back to Sandwich, but soon removed to Montreal. His will, made Dec. 1, 1817, describes him as "of the city of Montreal" and then sick in body. He died prior to Feb. 28, 1818. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; mss. among Askin Papers in Archives Division in Ottawa; and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 216.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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harmless, the said William Robertson, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators of, from and against all, and all manner of suits, cause and causes of Action, Judgments and executions, which may be brought against him, his heirs, Executors, or Administrators; for, by reason, or on account, of his acting in the Premises, as aforesaid AND we do hereby further promise, and oblige ourselves, in case any other Creditor, should hereafter appear, then those Mentioned in the aforesaid Schedule to refund to the said William Robertson such ratable proportion of the monies we may have received, as may be necessary to satisfy the demand of the Creditor Claiming.

IN WITNESS, whereof, we have to these presents, set our hands and affixed our Seals, at Detroit aforesaid, in the Western District, and Province of Upper Canada, this twenty-fifth day of November in the year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred, and ninety-five.

SIGNED sealed and delivered	John Askin	(L. S.)
in the presence of	Robert Gouie	(L. S.)
William Robertson	For Geo. MacDougall	
Robert Innis	Wm Christie by Letter of	
James M <sup>c</sup> Gregor	Attorney	(L. S.)
	Tho <sup>s</sup> Cox	(L. S.)
	James Donaldson	(L. S.)
	Doc <sup>r</sup> Eberts	(L. S.)
	Meldrum & Park	(L. S.)
	Ja <sup>s</sup> Fraser	(L. S.)
	Row & Burrill	(L. S.)
	Thomas Smith	(L. S.)
	David Robertson	(L. S.)
	A. & R. Pattinson	(L. S.)
	Sam <sup>l</sup> Law	(L. S.)
	John Dodemead	(L. S.)
	Tho <sup>s</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Crae	(L. S.)
	Ann Welch	(L. S.)

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<sup>44</sup> In the manuscript, several of the sums of money contained in the schedule printed on the following page are entered on this page as pencil notations which we infer to be of approximately contemporary date with the remainder of the document. Since the figures are entered in no regular order, and since they merely repeat those given on page 596, it has seemed needless to reproduce them here.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

SCHEDULE referred to in the Foregoing Deed

CREDITORS NAMES	NATURE OF DEBT	SUM
John Askin, Esq <sup>r</sup>	Mortgage & Book	£ 77.16. 6¼
Robert Gouie, Taylor	pr. Account	3. 6. 11
Geo. MacDougall	D <sup>o</sup>	1.12
Tho <sup>s</sup> Cox	D <sup>o</sup>	1.18. 6
James Donaldson	D <sup>o</sup>	13. 8. 8½
Eberts	D <sup>o</sup>	6.
Meldrum & Park	D <sup>o</sup>	11.15
James Fraz[s]er	D <sup>o</sup>	1. 8
Rowe & Burrill	D <sup>o</sup>	5.18
Tho <sup>s</sup> Smith	D <sup>o</sup>	11. 6. 4½
David Robertson, Taylor	D <sup>o</sup>	2. 4
A. & R. Pattinson	D <sup>o</sup>	" 17
Sam <sup>l</sup> Law	D <sup>o</sup>	" 17
Copartnership of Wm & D. Robertson	D <sup>o</sup>	79.10. 6½
John Dodemead	D <sup>o</sup>	6. 9. 6
Tho <sup>s</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Crea	D <sup>o</sup>	9.10. 2
Welch M <sup>rs</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>	2.19.
J. Nelson	D <sup>o</sup>	3.
Choat & Sanford	D <sup>o</sup>	6.10
Benaiah Gibb, Montreal	D <sup>o</sup> Hal <sup>x</sup>	8. 8.10
John M <sup>c</sup> Kindlay D <sup>o</sup>	Record 42.	2.11½
		13.10. 1½
		67. 8. 9 <sup>45</sup>
		317. 6. 1¼
C. Murray		4. 1. 1
		321. 7. 1¼

<sup>45</sup> Beginning at this point, the schedule is written in pencil.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

C [Illegible]	179.17. 5	
Badgley & Cartwright	570	
	<hr/>	
	749.17.5 say	1199.16
	<hr/>	
	£156—to [Illegible]	
	2/for 2%	1521. 3. 1

*Endorsed:* Detroit Agreement among the Creditors of the late Jno Askwith

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKWITH TO MELDRUM AND PARK  
 M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith  
 To Meldrum & Park D<sup>r</sup>

1794			
Aug. 16	To 12 Plates, Queens Ware	a 1/6	£ 18
"	To 2 Bowls	8/	16
"	To 2 Ditto	6/	12
"	To 2 Ditto	3/	6
"	To 1 Water Jugg		8
"	To 1 Quart Mug		6
"	To 1 Ditto Pint		4
Sept. 25	To 3 blue Bowls	5/	15
Oct. 9	To 30 Boards of 15 feet, ea.	3/	4 10
14	To 20 Ditto	"	3

New York Currency £11 15

Attested before me at Detroit 25<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>br</sup> 1795 Geo.  
 Sharp J. P.

*Endorsed:* 11.15 M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith to Meldrum & Park  
 1795

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

TAVERN BILL OF JOHN ASKWITH

The Late John Askwith		To James Donaldson		
1794		£	s	d
2d Aug <sup>t</sup>	To 1 Gill of Wine		1	
5 <sup>th</sup> D <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch & 1 Glass of Brandy		2	
6 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch		1	6
7 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		3	6
8 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch, & 2 Glasses of Brandy		4	
9 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		3	6
10 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		2	
11 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 3 Boles of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		5	
12 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		3	6
13 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch & 1 Glass of Brandy		3	6
14 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch		3	
15 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch, & 2 Glasses of Brandy		4	
16 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch		3	
17 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		2	
18 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy & 1 G <sup>l</sup> B <sup>ts</sup>		3	10
18 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Pint of Rum for 2 Soldiers		2	
19 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 2 Glasses of Brandy		2	6
21 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Glass of Brandy			6
22 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Sangree		4	6
24 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Glass of Brandy			6
25 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch		1	6
28 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Brandy		2	

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

30 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
31 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept <sup>r</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct <sup>r</sup>	To 3 Boles of Punch	4	6
7 <sup>th</sup> Oct <sup>r</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Bitters	2	
10 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
11 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your part of Reckoning	2	
12 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
13 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	3
14 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
15 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
16 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Quart of Rum, & 2 Boles of Punch	4	
18 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
19 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
20 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Bitters	1	10
21 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Gill of Rum		6
22 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Bitters	1	10
23 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
24 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
26 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1½ Bole of Punch	2	3
27 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
28 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
29 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
31 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov <sup>r</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
4 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1½ Boles of Punch	2	3
7 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
8 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
9 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
11 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
12 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
13 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
19 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 3 Boles of Punch	4	6
20 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
21 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

22 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
25 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	3	9
28 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec <sup>r</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
20 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
22 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
31 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan <sup>y</sup> 95	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
3 <sup>rd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 3 Boles of Punch	3	
4 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
9 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
10 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	
19 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
21 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
1795			
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan <sup>y</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Pint of Cyder	2	
24 <sup>th</sup> ditto	To 2 Boles of Punch & 1 Pint of Cyder	3	6
27 <sup>th</sup> ditto	To 1 Bole of Punch & 1 Pint of Cyder	2	
28 <sup>th</sup> ditto	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
29 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
30 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
31 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	9
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
3 <sup>rd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
5 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
6 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
11 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Pint of Cyder & 1 Glass of Bitters		10
12 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
14 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	
16 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	4½
17 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	1	10½
18 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
19 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
21 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	1	

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

22 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
23 <sup>rd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
25 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
26 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
27 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
28 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	1	4
1 <sup>st</sup> March	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
4 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
5 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
6 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
8 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
9 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	
11 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1½ Bole of Punch	2	3
12 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
14 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	1	8½
15 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
16 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch, & 1 Glass of Bitters	1	10
17 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1½ Bole of Punch	2	3
18 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
21 <sup>st</sup> March	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
22 <sup>nd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1½ Bole of Punch	2	3
23 <sup>rd</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	
24 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
25 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bale of Punch	1	6
27 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
28 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
31 <sup>st</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
1 <sup>st</sup> April	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	To 1 Bole of Punch	1	6
11 <sup>th</sup> ditto	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	
12 <sup>th</sup> ditto	To Your Part of Reckoning	2	
13 <sup>th</sup> d <sup>o</sup>	To 2 Boles of Punch	3	
N. Y. Cy		£13	8 8½

Errors Excepted

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Attested at Detroit this 26<sup>th</sup> day of  
Nov<sup>r</sup> 1795 before Me

William Park J. P.

*Endorsed:* £13.8.8½ James Donaldson's Acc<sup>t</sup> with  
J Askwith

TAVERN BILL OF JOHN ASKWITH

The Estate of John Askwith Esq<sup>r</sup>

Detroit

To Thomas Smith D<sup>r</sup>

1794					
April	20	To ½ Pint Rum	£	1	6
June	10	" a Sling		2	6
	16	" 1 Egg Nog		3	
	20	" ½ Pint Rum		1	6
July	1	" 1 Egg Nog		3	
	"	" 1 Bowle Toddey		2	6
	11	" 1 Pint Rum		3	
	14	" 3 Bowles Toddey Say Punch 5/		15	
	"	" 1 ditto Toddey		2	6
	28	" 1 Pint Rum		3	
	29	" Bitters		1	
	31	" 1 P <sup>t</sup> Rum 3/ Bitters 6 <sup>d</sup>		3	6
Aug <sup>th</sup>	1	" ½ Pint Rum		1	6
	11	" ½ ditto 1/6 Egg Nog 3/		4	6
	16	" Riding Slabs 10/6 Rum 1/6		12	
	19	" a Load Boards 1/6 Rum 1/6		3	
	23	" Rum 1/6 Bur 2/ & Rum 1/6		5	
	"	" ½ Pint Rum		1	6
	26	" ½ ...Ditto .. 1/6 Bitters 6 <sup>d</sup>		2	
	"	" ½ ...Ditto		1	6
Sept <sup>r</sup>	15	" 1 Egg Nog		3	
Oct <sup>r</sup>	4	" 2 Slings 5/ & 2 Half Pints 3/		8	
	28	" ½ Pint Rum 1/6 & Rum 2/3		3	9
Nov <sup>r</sup>	2	" ½ Pint Rum		1	6
1795					
March	28	" a Sling		2	6
	30	" 2 Bowles Toddey	2/6	5	
	31	" 1 Ditto		2	6

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

April	1	To a Sling	2	6	
	2	" a Bowle Egg Nog	4		
	3	" 1 Glass Bitters		6	
	4	" 1 Bowle Toddey	1	3	
	5	" Egg Nog	3		
	7	1 Bole Toddey 2/6 Egg Knog 1/3 1/2 P Rum 1/6	5	3	
	8	" 1 Ditto	2	6	
	10	" Egg Nog	3		
	11	" 1 <sup>th</sup> Candles 3/ & 1 Egg Knog 3/	6		
	12	" 1 Bowle Toddey	2	6	
	14	" 1 Pint Wine	4		
	15	" 1 Bowle Toddey	2	6	
	16	" 1/2 Pint Rum	1	6	
	"	" a Sling	1	6	
	May	27	" Toddey	2	
		30	" Ditto 2/ & 1 Pint Rum 3/	5	
31		" ENog 3/ 1P <sup>t</sup> Rum 3/ Toddey 2/	8		
June	1	" E Nog 3/ & Pint Rum 1/6	4	6	
	3	" 1 Bowle Toddey 2/6 & Pint Shrub 3/	5	6	
	"	" Toddey	2		
	4	" Egg Nog	4		
	5	" Rum	4		
	"	" Sundries from 6 <sup>th</sup> June to the 21 <sup>st</sup>	2	12 1/2	
		Earers Excepted N. Y. C <sup>y</sup> £	11	6 4 1/2	
		Detroit 4 <sup>th</sup> December 1795			
		Sworn before me at Detroit			
		5 <sup>th</sup> December 1795			
		Geo. Sharp, J. P.			

*Endorsed:* 11.6.4 1/2 The Estate of John Askwith Esq<sup>r</sup>  
with Thomas Smith

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKWITH TO WILLIAM AND  
DAVID ROBERTSON

Mr John Askwith

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1794

D<sup>r</sup> To William & David Robertson

			[£][s][d]			
[1794]		To 1 Pair Hinges Self	3			
		2 lb Nails " 2/	4			
Oct <sup>r</sup>	17	3 lb D <sup>o</sup> " 2/	6			
	18	2 lb D <sup>o</sup> " 2/	4			
	25	1 Quire fine folio post paper Self	6			
		1 Piece Office Tape Self	2			
Nov <sup>r</sup>	3 <sup>d</sup>	1 Barrel Spirits N <sup>o</sup> 25-37 } 73G <sup>s</sup> 14/6	52 18 6			
		1 D <sup>o</sup> 74-36 } 2 Barrels with D <sup>o</sup> 10/	1	55	3	6
	4	1 Indian Mat	0 8			
		1 Loaf Sugar 7 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> lb 3/6	1 7 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			
	15	1 Dutch Oven 29 lb 2/	2 18			
		1 Blank Book 4 Quires	1 10			
	29	Sundries per Order to Fra <sup>s</sup> Gobile <sup>46</sup>	4 4 6	10	7	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

<sup>46</sup> Jean Gobeil was born in the diocese of Poitiers, France, in 1624 and married there, about the year 1653, Jane Guiet, who was born in 1634. They came to Canada about the year 1658 and located at Chateau Richer. They had several children, one of whom, Barthélemi born at Chateau Richer, married at Ste. Famille, Isle of Orleans, on Aug. 19, 1697, Ann Dionne, a native of that place, daughter of Anthony Dionne and Catherine Yvory. Barthélemi Gobeil was buried at St. Jean, Isle of Orleans, Feb. 8, 1724, and his wife was buried May 6, 1737.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Dec <sup>r</sup>	8	1 Loaf Sugar 8 lb 3/6	1 8			
		2 Fine Blankets 3 points 24/	2 8			
		1 Rose D <sup>o</sup>	1 12			
		1 Tinkettle & Cover	16			
		1 Small D <sup>o</sup>	7			
		2 Quart Decanters 8/	16			
		2 Pint D <sup>o</sup> 6/	12			
		2 Halfpint D <sup>o</sup> 4/	8			
		1 Set Cups & Saucers	8			
		1 Oval Dish	6			
		1 Smaller D <sup>o</sup>	5			
		1 Red Teapot	12			
		1 Pair Mill'd Hose	8			
				10	6	
Dec <sup>r</sup>	24	1 lb Raisins Self	4			
	29	1 Marble Cov'd Book "	8			
1795	31	1 Blank Book "	6			
Jan <sup>r</sup>	5	2 Quires paper 4/	8			
	8	1 lb Green Tea "	12			
		7 1/2 lb Loaf Sugar " 3/6	1 6 3			
	28	1 Pair Spectacles "	4			
				3	8	3
Feb <sup>r</sup>	12	8 lb Loaf Sugar " 3/6	1 8			
		1/2 lb pepper " 6/	3			
		2 Nutmegs " 1/	2			
		1 Nutmeg Grater "	1			
	28	1/2 lb Camomile Flowers "	8			

Their son, Jean Francis Gobeil, born at Isle of Orleans, Sept. 23, 1707, married there, Nov. 14, 1735, Frances Gosselin, a native of the place. They had two sons, Jean Francis and Joseph, both of whom came to Detroit about the year 1772. Jean Francis, the elder, was born at Montreal in 1736, and married, prior to October 25, 1773, Mary Rose Fortier, who was born at Montreal in 1740, the daughter of Anthony Fortier and Mary Frances Dupas. They had eight children, born at Detroit in the years 1775-86. The husband was buried at Detroit, March 17, 1818; the wife, on May 7, 1819. Denissen, *op. cit.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

March	4	2 lb Candles. . Self 3/	6			
	7	1 lb Green Tea "	12			
	11	1 Tin Teakettle; "	14			
		2 Skains Silk "	2			
		7 Skains Thread " 2 <sup>d</sup>	1	2		
April	1	6 Quires paper " 3/	18			
				5	5	2
		New York Currency C <sup>r</sup>		£84	10	6½
Dec <sup>r</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	By rent of a Stable in Com <sup>y</sup> with M <sup>r</sup> Askin, last Season, £10 one half			5	
		Balance due to W Robertson		£79	10	6½

*Endorsed:* Account 79.10.6½ M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>n</sup> Askwith  
With William & David Robertson April 1<sup>st</sup> 1795

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKWITH TO JOHN ASKIN  
The Estate of the late John Askwith  
To John Askin Dr

1793						
Sep <sup>r</sup>	30	To Balance due me at this time as per his own settlement in my books		104	19	9¼
1794						
Novem	29	To Balance of an a/c rendered him by M <sup>r</sup>				

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

		M <sup>c</sup> Clintock <sup>47</sup> for articles between the 30 <sup>th</sup> Septem <sup>r</sup> 93 & this date	244	10	2
Decem 1795	17	To Cash lent him	13	10	
Jan <sup>y</sup>	3	To 1½ Bushels Corn p Butcher		12	
	15	To 1 Lb Candles		3	
Feb <sup>y</sup>	18	To ½ Lb Candlewick		5	
March	18	To paid postage for you		1	4
	31	To paid M <sup>r</sup> Roe for drawing a Mortgage	1	4	
June	5	To 1 Pair Shoe Packs		8	
	12	To ¼ hundred Quills		2	6
	19	To 15 Sheets large paper		3	9
	22	To Cash		1	12
	"	To your order to Israel Ruland in hard mony	6	8	
Aug <sup>t</sup>	15	To Cash paid M <sup>r</sup> Fraser on a/c of the house & lot	50		
	"	To this Sum which I am to pay D <sup>o</sup> Fraser on a/c of D <sup>o</sup>	50		
	19	To ½ Bushel Corn for his Fowls		5	
Septem	3	To ½ Bushel Ditto for Ditto		5	
	10	To paid M <sup>r</sup> Christie your & M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Niffs order for £20 your ½ is	10		
October	14	To Cash paid for a Door Lock		6	

<sup>47</sup> Probably James McClintock, Askin's clerk, who subsequently returned to Ireland. In a letter to James Erskine (of Ireland) Askin expressed his pleasure at news of McClintock's prosperity, and characterized him as a good clerk and worthy young man. Ms. in Dominion Archives, Ottawa.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

To Interest for 2 years on £100 it not having been paid at the 2 last general Terms of payment	12		
To Interest on £50 which was not paid last October @ 6 p Cent	3		
	499	15	6¼
Cr			
By this Sum which is secured by a Mortgage & to be paid before any dividend is mad, with the Interest is	215		
By 2 years Salary tho' there was some time lost	200		
By 8 Fowls & 10 Chickens	1	19	
By my ½ hire of a Stable with M <sup>r</sup> Robertson	5		
Balance due J Askin	77	16	6¼
New York Currency	£499	15	6¼

NB There is more due J Askin by the Estate of the Late John Askwith but as it was advanced on account of Indian Lands purchased it is not Included in this account.

Personally appeared Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> who made oath that the above balance of Seventy seven pounds 15/ 6¼ NYC<sup>r</sup> is Justly due and owing to him from the Estate of the late John Askwith at Detroit 10<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1795

Geo. Sharp J. P.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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*Endorsed:* A/C 77.16.6¼ John Askwith estate to  
John Askin 1795

SALE OF JOHN ASKWITH'S PERSONAL PROPERTY

Sold at public auction on account of the Estate of John Askwith Deceased & at the Request of M<sup>r</sup> William Robertson for the Creditors.  
Detroit 7 December 1795.

a pr buckets		12	
6 water plates		13	
1 Large Lock		17	
2 Cases Razors and a hone		9	
3 Tumbler Glasses		9	
a Teapot 2 Cups & a Knife		5	
a pint a funnel shoebuckles & case		6	
a Case Math <sup>m</sup> Instruments	3	4	
a hammer 2 plates a bowl & sugar dish		8	4
3 tin mugs & 2 spoons		4	7
3 old Lanthorns		18	1
1 Tin Teakettle		17	
2 bassons 3 baskets nails &c		10	7
a Green Canister & som G Tea		12	6
2 Grid Irons		12	2
a frying pan & a basson		15	6
a Tin Coverd Kettle		10	
a pr boots 4/ pigs cheeks 2/		6	
2 forms		4	
3 Tables & som prints	1	9	6
2 Candlesticks snuffers & 2 Botles		5	7
a Round hat		17	6
a blank book Leidger		14	3
Mathew Matical Register		8	
Johnsons E Dictionary 2 v	1	6	
Ains ts Dictionary [Ainsworth's?] 1 [v]	2	11	
Shameaus f & E Do [Chambaud?] 1	3	7	
8 books title unknown	3	1	
Gordons accompts	2	14	6
Atkins navigation	1	3	

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Military Dictionary	1	11	
Mathew Matical works	2	8	
S oration	1	12	6
Baylies Justice	1	12	
6 Books Diff <sup>t</sup> Language		1	7
9 Do Do		1	6
2 Do french		15	4
Simsons uclide	1	3	6
Geographical Gazeteer		16	
Rollins History	13 v	2	
History of holland	4	1	
hell Gates & a french Gram <sup>r</sup>		5	
12 books		2	3
12 Do all sorts		2	11
15 Do Do		2	4
14 Do Do		1	16
4 v Rollins Antiant history		9	7
10 books		15	
3 Do blank		1	4
12 books Diff <sup>t</sup> Sorts		1	6
1 Do Copper plate		18	6
a few sheets large paper		6	6
a Letter Case hoils Gams [Hoyle's Games] & Quils		4	
3 Rullers		2	
1 Gun & bayonet		1	
1 Looking Glass		16	6
6 Balls Cotton & a pr mittons & a how [hoe]		7	3
a book case		3	6
a Desk with Drawers &c		10	8
old Stockins & 4 Cravats		19	4
a Shirt & trousers		17	2
a Towel a Cape & tobaco box		3	2
a Microscop		7	
Speticles mustard botles waffers		8	6
Shirt & breches		1	2
2 pair Blankets 3 pt		2	14
1 Roze Do		1	3
a Matrass & a pillow		8	

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

a vest breches &c		7	
Som Curtains &c	1	10	
a buffalow skin		10	6
a Slaw bak	1	7	6
2 boxes with Sundries		4	6
a pair shoe buckles		2	2
a pencil Magazin &c		6	
a bed Stead & Curtains	3	5	
a Large Canister		9	
a Case with Green handled Knives	3	5	
2 Globes Cases & Compasses	8		
a powder bag a mug & spoons		3	
2 mugs & cups & sausers		11	
a Decanter & 6 Glasses		14	6
a fidle. . . N	14		
a Do . . .	7		
a parcel fidle strings	1	1	
a fidle Case	1	11	
a small trunk & music book		18	
a basket with putty &c		2	7
a pr Sheets	1	7	6
2 black Coats 31/ & 35/	3	6	
a Great Coat	3	9	
a black vest princes Stuff		14	6
a pr Leather breches		14	6
a Remnant Callico		16	
a white Cloth vest		8	
a Do Coat	1	4	
a pr Trousers		10	6
a Satin vest		16	
a pr Do breches	2	4	
a Camblet Cloak	1	17	
a Casamir vest		11	6
8 pr Trousers Drawers & vests	1	15	1
3 flanel Jackets		16	
a black Coat	2	1	
6 pr breches & vests		18	6
a parcel Twist		8	
bed Curtains	2	11	

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

a large Trunk	1	2	
2 Coats & 1 Shirt	1	10	
3 pair Trousers & Jacket's	1	4	
3 pair breches & a handkerchef		19	6
a Camblet Cloak	1	10	
5 blank books	2	3	1
a Coat & vest	1	8	6
2 blank books		12	6
1 pr Leather breches		17	
1 blank book		7	
a pr cloth shoes		11	6
5 vests		17	
a parcel maps		9	
linen for two shirt	2		
2 pr hose & vest & trousers		11	9
6 new Muslin Cravats 4/6	1	7	
2 pillow cases & a towel		6	6
a bag with Rags and an old vest	1	2	
4 Music books & 5 pr Ruffles	1		
a parcel old hose & black tosel		19	
Do Ruffles & 2 black stocks		9	
Do scocks [stocks] night cape & Indian belts		12	
Do books in two lots		9	6
a box Pipes [Pipes?] and a bag of Trash		19	
1 pair Silk Gloves		6	
1 Large Trunk	1	4	
1 Tin Canister & and <sup>r</sup> book		5	
1 Indian Matt		2	
1 Table		8	9
5 bowls 12/9 & 4 Decanters 11/6	1	4	3
3 Glasses 5 Cups 1 bowl & 1 milk pot		9	7
a coffee pot a funnel & brass cocks		11	6
4 plats 2 Dishes and a mug		14	3
Som tallow 5 botles & som powder		9	2
2 bottles Ketchup		7	
Scales & Weights		14	6
14 axes 20/ a basket with iron 16/	1	16	
a pr Rop Candlemoulds & Jug		8	2
a Saw & som Iron		3	2

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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a Dutch oven	1	11	
a Tub & a box Iron & bags &c		8	
12 botles Mustard		16	3
Som hinges & a Tub		8	
a pewter Tereen		14	6
a Do Water Dish		8	6
a form & som Copper plate		10	
2 Duble pad Locks		12	6
buff ball som paints small case &c		17	
black Ball 4/3 barreles 11/6		15	6
5 Differant books		11	6
a Corner Cupboard		10	
a pine Table		12	
9 Shirts	1	10	2
9 pr breches & 3 vests		15	7
a bag & a basket with trash		19	11
a Cott Compleat		9	
a bag nuts—flints & a brush		12	6
a bench a saw & som sand		4	9
a brass Lock		12	6
a pr End Irons [andirons] & a pr Tongs		8	
1 Chair		3	
3 forms		3	
a parcel Timber		2	
a parcel Do		4	1
		199	8 7

Dr.						
1 advertisement	4					
publishing at church	4					
Drum <sup>r</sup> twice	8					
Commission	9	19	4	10	15	4

New York Currency 188 13 3

Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor

*Endorsed:* Sales at auction Estate of John Askwith, Detroit,  
7th & 14th Dec<sup>r</sup> 1795.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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SALE OF JOHN ASKWITH'S REALTY

Sold at public auction on account of The Estate of Mr John Askwith Deceased and at the Request of Mr William Robertson acting for the Creditors—having advertised and published at the Church Door of S<sup>t</sup> Anne at Different times a Lot of Ground Situate in the fort or town Containing about Seventy-five feet in front & Rear and fifty-three feet in Depth all french Measur bounded in the front By S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Street on the west South west by M<sup>rs</sup> Welshes Lot in the Rear & east north East Side by a foot Road Commonly Called Le Chemain De Ronde together with the Dwelling House and Stable & other out Houses thereon Erected.

Detroit 14<sup>th</sup> December 1795

The Above Mentioned premisses wer adjudged to the Last and Highest bidder—Mr William Robertson	£200
D <sup>r</sup> publishing at Church time	8
to Drummer time on the Day of sale	8
Commission per agreement 2½ p <sup>r</sup> C <sup>t</sup>	5 16
	<hr/>
New York Currency	194 16
Gregor M <sup>c</sup> Gregor	

*Endorsed:* Sale at auction of a House & Lot the Estate of Mr J Askwith Detroit 14<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1795  
W<sup>m</sup> Robertson

EVACUATION OF DETROIT IMPENDING

Gross Point 17<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1795

My dear Sir I understand by a hint from Colonel England that the long expected removal to the other Side are to take place next spring, has of course put poor anxious M<sup>rs</sup> Grant and me upon the figets and are forming maney plans wants your assistance much from your expertance at that business

M<sup>rs</sup> Grant Solicits you to speak to Mr Robertson about

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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the Judges<sup>48</sup> place she finding it contiguous to the hight at the Spring where she can hail the old Lady and handy to the Church which is a great matter in our familys. We are very Sorry to learn you have Sore eyes. God bless you all

Alex Grant

John Askin Esq

<sup>48</sup> The allusion is to Judge Powell, who had removed from Detroit to Niagara in 1794. Notwithstanding the anxiety here manifested, Commodore Grant continued to reside on his Grosse Pointe farm until his death in 1813.