

1931

# John Askin Papers Volume 2: 1796-1820

Milo M. Quaife

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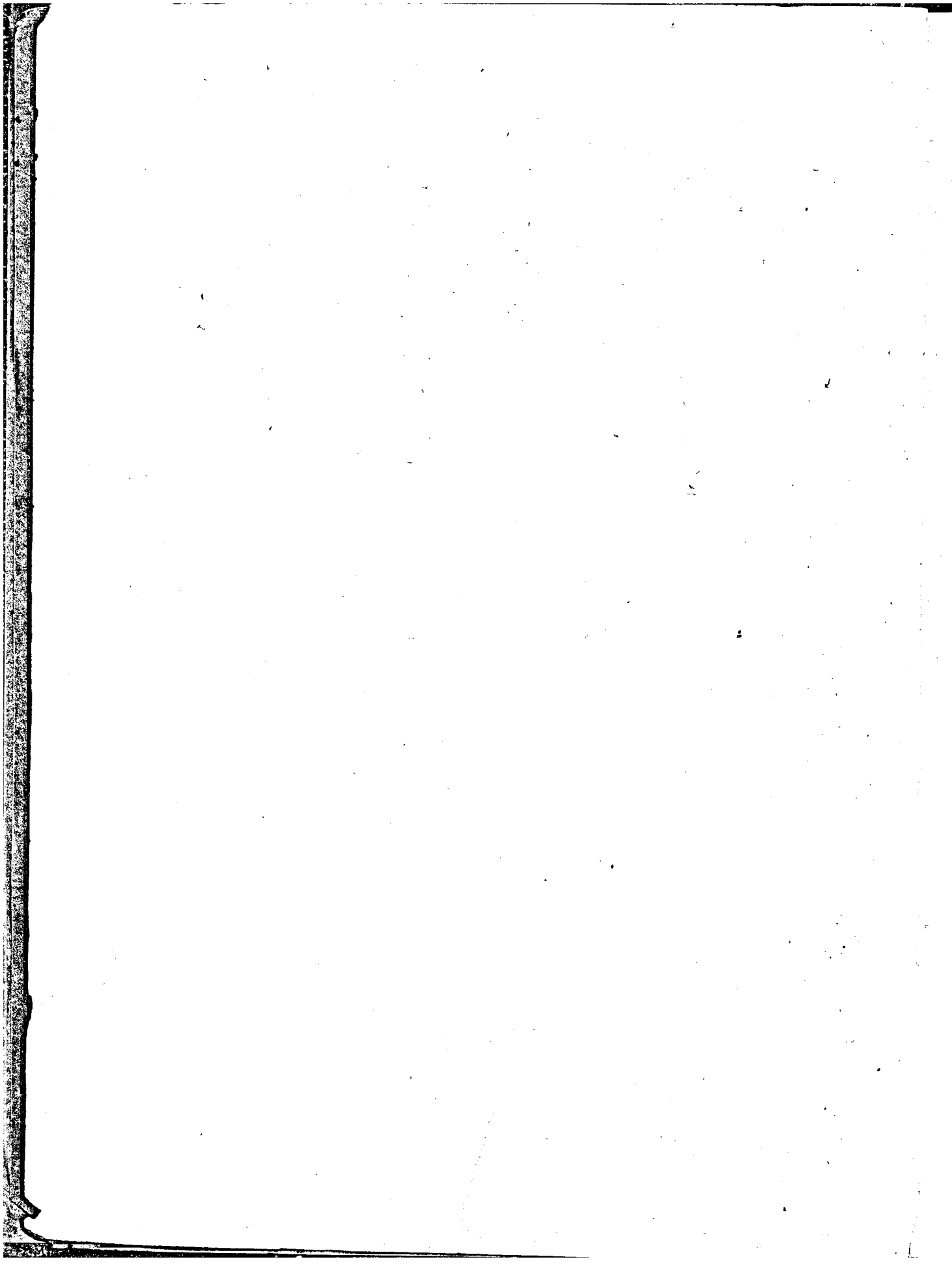
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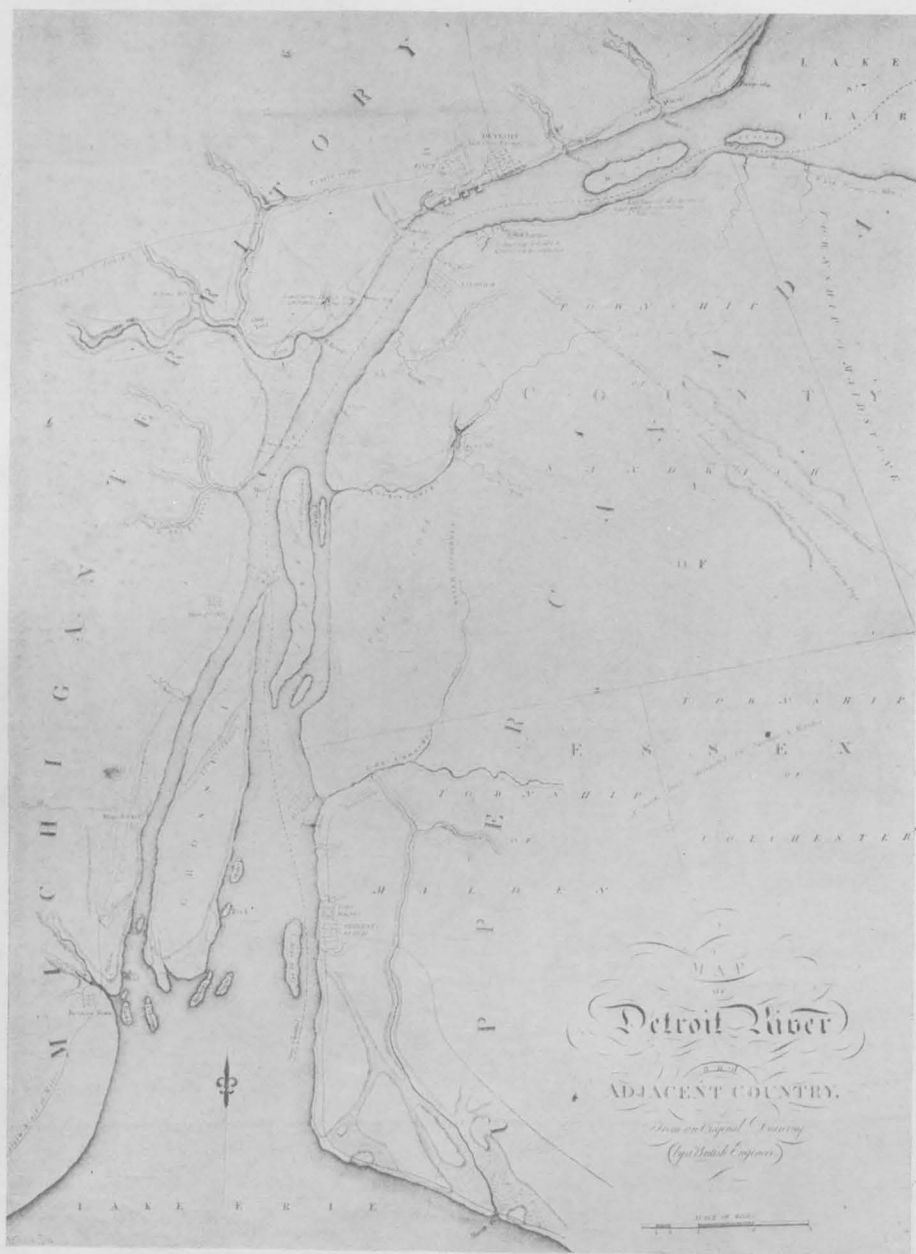
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BURTON  
HISTORICAL RECORDS  
VOLUME II



THE JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

VOLUME II: 1796-1820



THE DETROIT RIVER IN 1812

*From original drawing by a British officer reproduced in Melish's Military and Topographical Atlas of the United States*

*The*  
JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

VOLUME II: 1796-1820

*Edited by*  
MILO M. QUAIFFE  
SECRETARY-EDITOR  
THE BURTON HISTORICAL COLLECTION



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1931

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## CONTENTS

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
I. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1796 . . . . .	5
II. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1797-1798 . . . . .	83
III. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1799 . . . . .	171
IV. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1800-1801 . . . . .	273
V. LETTERS AND PAPERS 1802-1804 . . . . .	367
VI. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1805-1806 . . . . .	453
VII. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1807-1808 . . . . .	537
VIII. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1809-1811 . . . . .	619
IX. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1812 . . . . .	703
X. LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1813-1820 . . . . .	747
INDEX . . . . .	791

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

I	The Detroit River in 1812.....	Frontispiece
		<i>Facing Page</i>
II	Fort Malden in 1812, as Seen from Elliot's Point.....	224
III	Powder Horn of Dr. Harffy.....	258
IV	James McGill.....	514
V	Some Early Detroit Autographs.....	682

## INTRODUCTION

With the publication in the summer of 1928 of Volume I of *The John Askin Papers*, the Detroit Public Library initiated at once its series of *Burton Historical Records* and its publication of selections from the personal and family papers of John Askin. The present volume, presenting papers for the years 1796-1820 inclusive, completes the latter project. Save for one or two items whose inclusion seemed desirable, the papers printed end with the year of Mr. Askin's death, 1815. The Editor's Introduction to the entire group of papers will be found at the beginning of Volume I, and our present notice need be but brief.

The Editor's forecast (p. 18) that his annotations of the documents were not inerrant has already found positive confirmation through the detection of a considerable number of such errors in the notes to Volume I. That the passage of time and the scrutiny of interested readers will bring to light the existence of other errors in the notes to the present volume is a matter reasonably to be anticipated. All that the Editor would claim for the notes he has supplied is a scrupulous desire to make them as accurate as his resources in time and accessible information permit. It may promote the convenience of readers of *The John Askin Papers* to explain that throughout the two volumes on the first citation of any printed reference, full bibliographical details have been supplied. In later references to the work in question, commonly only an abbreviated citation is given.

Like the leader of an army, the Editor of such a work as *The John Askin Papers* depends for whatever measure of success he may achieve upon the coöperation of numerous fellow-workers, whose aid it is frequently impossible adequately to acknowledge. Our own indebtedness in this respect is evidenced in almost every footnote throughout the volume. The acknowledgment in Volume I of obligation to Clarence M. Burton, to Adam Strohm, Librarian, and to

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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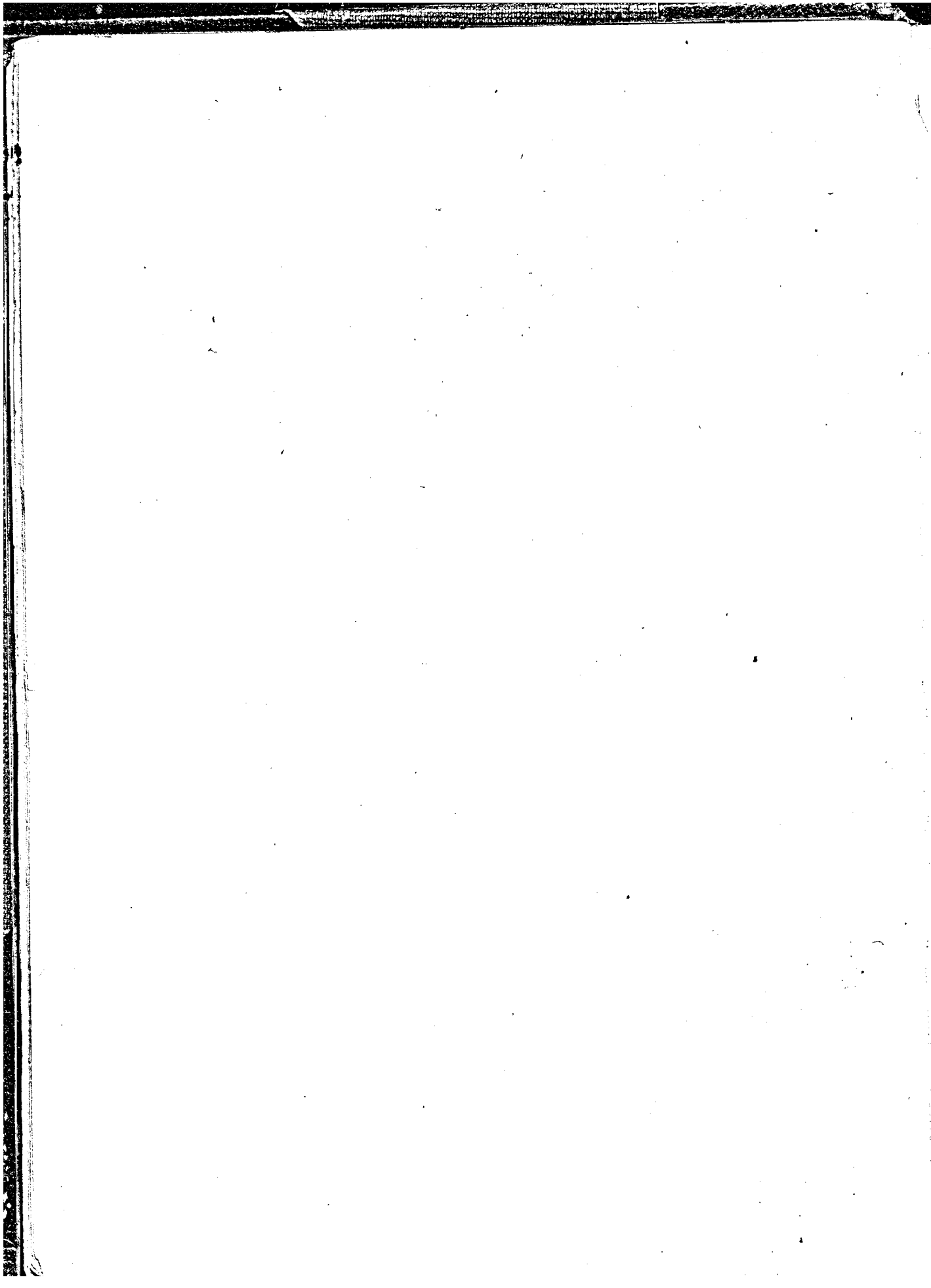
the Commissioners of the Detroit Public Library applies equally to the present volume; so, too, does the acknowledgement to Mrs. L. Oughtred Woltz for the translations, made with devoted care, of the French documents in the volume. The Editor's secretaries, Ethel Armstrong and Muriel Bernitt, have contributed much intelligent labor to the making of the volume. Separate and particular acknowledgement is owing to my associate in the editorial task, Louise Rau, the sum of whose contribution to the volume I am unable to express in any brief formal statement. In addition to supplying the detailed Index, she has had general charge of practically all the processes of preparing the manuscript for the printer and seeing it through the press. A final word of acknowledgement is due to John Bornman and Son, printers of the two volumes, for their uniformly patient and efficient coöperation in the task of producing books worthy of bearing the imprint of the Detroit Public Library.

M. M. QUAIFE

Detroit Public Library

SECTION I

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1796



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

Alexis Maisonville<sup>9</sup>

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

B<sup>t</sup> Sans Crainte<sup>10</sup> Interpréte

D S<sup>t</sup> Cosme<sup>12</sup> témoint

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

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

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

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



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

Humbly sheweth,

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### GRANT TO GABRIEL HUNOT

Detroit

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

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

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

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

Nigoucheway  
Wabechin  
Wabechique

Saquimaint  
Gosqoame  
Ouquesos

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Achoakigique	Anqueqoad
Assogoua	Nigquani comme
Agoa	Oubequegyate
Negaoniqué	Asogouw
Quouqixe	Chimondoque
Etgominus	Tache
Soutade	Pimaque
Naudoet	Niquique

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

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

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

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

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

*Translation*

Detroit

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

Received in my office, October 4, 1797 Peter Audrain.<sup>21</sup>  
 Registered in my office in the Book No. 1, pages 158 and  
 159. Peter Audrain, Recorder.

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

No. 1 to be delivered to Mr. Askin.

JOHN ASKWITH'S TAILOR BILL

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

1793

July	19 <sup>th</sup>	To Turning a Black Coat & trim- mings	£	1	16	
1794						
Jan <sup>y</sup>	11	" Making 2 p <sup>r</sup> Mittens	2/6		5	
June	28	" ditto 2 Vests & 2 p <sup>r</sup> Breeches @ 12/ ea		2	8	
		" 1 Yard Shalloon 6/ 13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> yd <sup>s</sup> Cotton Linning @ 6/			16	6
		" 3 " Linnen @ 4/6 Silk twist thread & tape 10/6		1	4	
		" 3 doz blk Buttons @ 2/ 2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> doz Small plated @ 4/			17	

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

		" 7 Large plated Buttons 8/		4	8
		" 1 p <sup>r</sup> Brittells		4	
October	3	" 1 Pen Knife 3/ 1 framed Looking glass 20/	1	3	
1795					
April	7	" ½ Bushell Wheat 12/		6	
May	8	" ½ ditto		6	
N. Y Currency £			9	10	2
Errors Excepted River Thames 9 <sup>th</sup> Decemb <sup>r</sup> 1795 Tmos M <sup>c</sup> Crae Attested before me at Detroit this 23 <sup>d</sup> Jany 1796 Geo. Sharp <sup>25</sup> J. P. W. D.					

SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF JOHN ASKWITH

Detroit 29<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1796

Dear Sirs Having been appointed by the creditors of the Late M<sup>r</sup> John Askwith of this place who died last Summer in the Indian Country intestate to settle his affairs & Collect his debts for the purpose of making a dividend as spedily as possible among his Creditors, of which, I am unluckily one [of] the principal here, I have to request you, as he may have others below, to publish an advertisement in the Quebec & Montreal *Gasette* upon Receipt of this requesting all those who may have demands on him to send their Claims hither properly authenticated for the Purpose. As you are better acquainted with those matters than we Can be here I lieve the form & wording to you, only let it contain a Requisition to those who may be indebted to him to pay the Amount to me. From the situation of his Affairs as far as the confused state in which they were left enables me to judge the creditors will get but little unless his Property below proves valuable, which I suspect will hardly prove to be the Case. I understand he possessed two town lots in William Henry, A Schooner on the beach there and an improved farm at Potauneburre situated near Sorrell, now or lately occupied by one Wilson, If you could give

<sup>25</sup> For the career of George Sharp, see *B. H. R.*, I, 273.



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

### LAND HOLDINGS OF JOHN ASKIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Henry Bird (L.S.)

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Signed, Sealed and delivered in presence of us.

Joseph Griffiths

Henry Bird Jun<sup>r</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

Henry Bird<sup>36</sup>

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

STATUS OF APPLICATIONS FOR LAND GRANTS

Niagara 17 April 1796

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

D W Smith<sup>40</sup>

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

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*From:* Survey Gen. Office U C

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

TRESPASSERS ON CROWN LANDS

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

them & from the great encouragement I give cannot fail  
of making a Speedy Settlement I am &<sup>c</sup>

J Askin

Capt D W Smith Niagara

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

GUARDIANSHIP OF CROWN LANDS

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

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

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

D W Smith

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

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

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

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

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

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



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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### CONTRACT FOR SUPPLYING CORN TO NORTH WEST COMPANY

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

#### WITNESSETH

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

BURIAL OF AMOS WESTON

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

for the Burel and Care of the Discecd

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

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

£ 12-0-6

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

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

PAYMENT FOR HURON RIVER LAND GRANT

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

J. Porlier Benac temoin  
Antoine Rivard

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

Echawet  
Okia

Mahingan  
Chewenisie

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Othesneesa	Chawinabai
Nanannie ou Kuvainim	Ochichalk
Cabainse	Kewaidenaham
Bandigaikawa	Mahimak

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

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

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

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

### *Translation*

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

The whole amounting to one hundred and ninety-three

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

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

Antoine Rivard.<sup>50</sup>

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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DEFECTS IN LAND TITLES

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

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

Most Obedient very humble Servant

Signed John Askin

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

CESSIONS OF INDIAN LANDS

30 May 1796

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

P M<sup>c</sup>Niff

J Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

NOTICE OF INVALIDITY OF INDIAN LAND GRANTS

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

Witness my hand & Seal

(Signed) James Wilkinson

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

(L.S.)

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

PAYMENT FOR INDIAN LANDS

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

P M<sup>e</sup>Niff

Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

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

DISPUTE OVER CHURCH PEW

Niagara le 7 juin 1796

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

Je suis Monsieur Votre tres obeissant Serviteur

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

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

(Signé) Edmund Burke

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

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

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

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



*Translation*

Niagara, June 7, 1796

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

INVENTORY OF CREDITS DUE JOHN ASKIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 For his career, see *ibid.*, 188.

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

CAPTAIN MAYNE SENT TO DETROIT

Niagara 13 June 1796

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

I am dear Sir Truly Yours

D W Smith

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR ADHÉMAR ST. MARTIN

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

M<sup>r</sup> Askin Ecuyer

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

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

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

Adhemar St Martin

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

*Translation*

Mackinac, June 23, 1796

Mr. Askin,

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

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

66 See post, 282-84.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

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

SALE OF INDIAN LAND GRANT BY GABRIEL HUNOT  
Detroit

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

hoirs et ayans cause a l'avenir, la moitier de toutes les Terres qu'il a eût des Sauvage au Sud du Lac Erier aux environ de Sansdosquit. Tel et ainsi que les dites Terres Sont Spécifier dans les Contrats, que les dit Sauvages lui ont donnés l'un en datte du dix huit Octobre Mil Sept Cens quatre vingt quinze et L'autre en datte du dix Neuf Janvier de Cette Courante année passé par le Notaire Soussigné, Tel et ainsi que le dit Terrein Se poursuit, et comporte de toutes parts, que le dit Sieur acquereur dit en être contant.

Cette vente, Cession, transport, et délaissement ainsi faite pour et moyénant la Somme de Mil pounds Cours de Nouvelle York, que le dit Gabriel Hunault Reconnoit avoir reçu du dit Sieur Askin avant la possassion des présentes, dont il est Satisfait, en tient quitte et décharge le dit acquéreur et tout autres et au moyéns de ce, le dit Gabriél Hunault a de ce moment, transporté et transporte au dit Sieur Askin, Ses hoirs, et ayans Causes a l'avenir, tous et Tels droits de propriétés, noms, raisons actions et tout autres droits qu'il a et pouvoit avoir Sur Cette dite Moitiez de Terrein Susvendu, s'en démettant et dévétissant, au profit du dit acquéreur, pour qu'il en Soy mis en bonne possession et Seizine par quis et ainsi qu'il appartiendrat en virtue des dites présentes. Car ainsi &c promettant &c, obligeant &c.

Fait et passé au dit Detroit, en L'étude du dit Notaire le vingt Septième jour de Juin L'an mil Sept Cens quatre vingt Seize, et ont Signes Excepté le dit Vendeur qui ayant déclaré ni le savoir de ce enquis a fait Sa marque ordinaire et Scellés apres Lecture faite suivant L'ordonnance.

sa

Présence de Gabriél X Hunault (L. S.)  
marque

Alex<sup>e</sup> Maisonville  
 F. D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour N<sup>ry</sup> p John Askin (L. S.)

Personally appeared before me Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff Esquire, one of the Judges of the court of common pleas for the county of wayne, Desruisseaux Bellcour Esq. Notary who being Sworn on the holy evangelist Sayth that he was

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

present and saw the within deed duely executed by Gabriel Hunault

Patrick M<sup>e</sup>Niff

3<sup>rd</sup> June 1797

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

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

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

Peter Audrain recorder

*Translation*

Detroit

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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does convey, to the said Mr. Askin, his heirs and future assigns, all and such rights of ownership, title, demands, and all other rights that he has or may have upon the said one-half tract above sold, surrendering the same and divesting himself thereof, to the profit of the said purchaser, in order that he may be placed in good possession and seizen, by which and so that it may belong to him by virtue of these said presents. For thus etc., promising etc., obliging etc.

Duly executed at Detroit, in the office of the said notary on the twenty-seventh day of June, the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety-six, signed and sealed except by the said seller, who has replied to interrogation that he does not know how to sign, and has made his accustomed mark, after reading according to law.

In presence of  
his  
Gabriel X Hunot (L. S.)  
mark

Alexis Maisonville  
F. D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour, Notary Public John Askin (L. S.)

*Endorsed:* Sale by Gabriel Hunot to Mr. Askin, of a tract of land lying south of Lake Erie in the neighborhood of Sandusky, June 27, 1796. A true copy and recorded in the office of the said notary F. D<sup>x</sup> B.

SALE OF LAND AT ROUGE RIVER

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that I John Askin of Detroit Merchant for and in Consideration of the Sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds New York Currency to me in hand paid by Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merchants of Montreal the receipt whereby I do hereby acknowledge, have bargained, Granted, Sold Alienated and Confirmed, and by these presents do bargain, Grant, Sell Alienate and Confirm unto the Said Isaac Todd and James M<sup>c</sup>Gill their Heirs & Assigns forever. A Certain Lot of Land<sup>70</sup> situated on the North side of the River of Detroit Containing Twelve Acres in Front and Fifty Acres in depth French Measure on which there is a House, Barn & other Improvements,

<sup>70</sup> The land sold comprised Private Claims 67, 267, 270, and 268. It included a portion of the present site of Fort Wayne and the land between the fort and the mouth of the Rouge.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

Signed, Sealed & Delivered

in Presence of

John Askin (Seal)

William Robertson

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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FURS TO BE FORWARDED TO FORT ERIE

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

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

I am Yours Sincirely

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

OBEDIENCE TO ORDER IN CHURCH-PEW DISPUTE

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

(Signé) E<sup>d</sup> Burke

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

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

*Translation*

Assumption, July 3, 1796

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

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

(signed) Ed[ward] Burke

To the Trustees of Assumption Parish

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

ACCOUNT OF PETER CURRY WITH OWNERS OF THE *DETROIT*

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

1792

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

ARRIVAL OF CONNECTICUT SETTLERS IN OHIO

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Yours Sincerey

Isaac Todd

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

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

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

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

DEPARTURE OF COLONEL ENGLAND FROM DETROIT

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

(Signed) John Askin

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

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

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

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

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

R. G. England

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

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

*From:* R. G. England

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

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Dear Sir Your Most Obedient & devoted very Humble  
Servant

J A

P. S. Compliments to Cap<sup>t</sup> O'Brien<sup>82</sup>  
L<sup>t</sup> Colonel England of 24<sup>h</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> at Montreal

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

PARTNERSHIP IN CARPENTER TRADE

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

John Hembro  
John Armstrong

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

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

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

R. G England

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

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

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Yarmouth Septembre le 5 1796

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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



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

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

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

Archange Meredith

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

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

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

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

*Translation*

Yarmouth, Sept. 5, 1796

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

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

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

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

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

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

Your most affectionate daughter,

Archange Meredith

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

LEGAL OPINION CONCERNING INDIAN LAND GRANTS

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

I am Sir with respect;

Your very obedient Servant

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

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

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

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOHN ASKIN AND  
JOHN ANDERSON

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

In Witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

Yours Sincerely

Isaac Todd

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

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

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

GOODS ORDERED FOR INDIAN TRADE

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

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

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

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

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

I am Dear sir Yours

John Askin

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

RETURNS OF ESSEX COUNTY MILITIA

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Addressed:* Public Service Lieut Colonel Askin County Essex

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

RETURNS OF MILITIA TO BE MADE

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

John Askin

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

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

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

RETURNS OF ESSEX COUNTY MILITIA

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

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

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

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

John Askin

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

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

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

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

KNOW all men by these Presents that we John Askin

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

<sup>94</sup> Probably Captain Daniel (Donald) Field (Fields), for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 382.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

Schedule to the Power of Attorney

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

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

(Circular)

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

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

F. B.

a true Copy

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

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

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



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Your truly affectionate Daughter

Archange Meredith

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

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

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

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

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

SALE OF PROPERTY OF TODD AND MCGILL

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

James McGill

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

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

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

LEASE OF FARM OF WILLIAM MACOMB

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

AMITY BETWEEN BRITISH AND AMERICANS

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

Your friend & humble Servant  
D W Smith

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

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

MILITIA RETURNS DELINQUENT

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

I am &ca

J Askin

Fr Baby Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

MILITIA RETURNS REPORTED

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

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

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

John Askin

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

Francis Baby Esquire

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

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



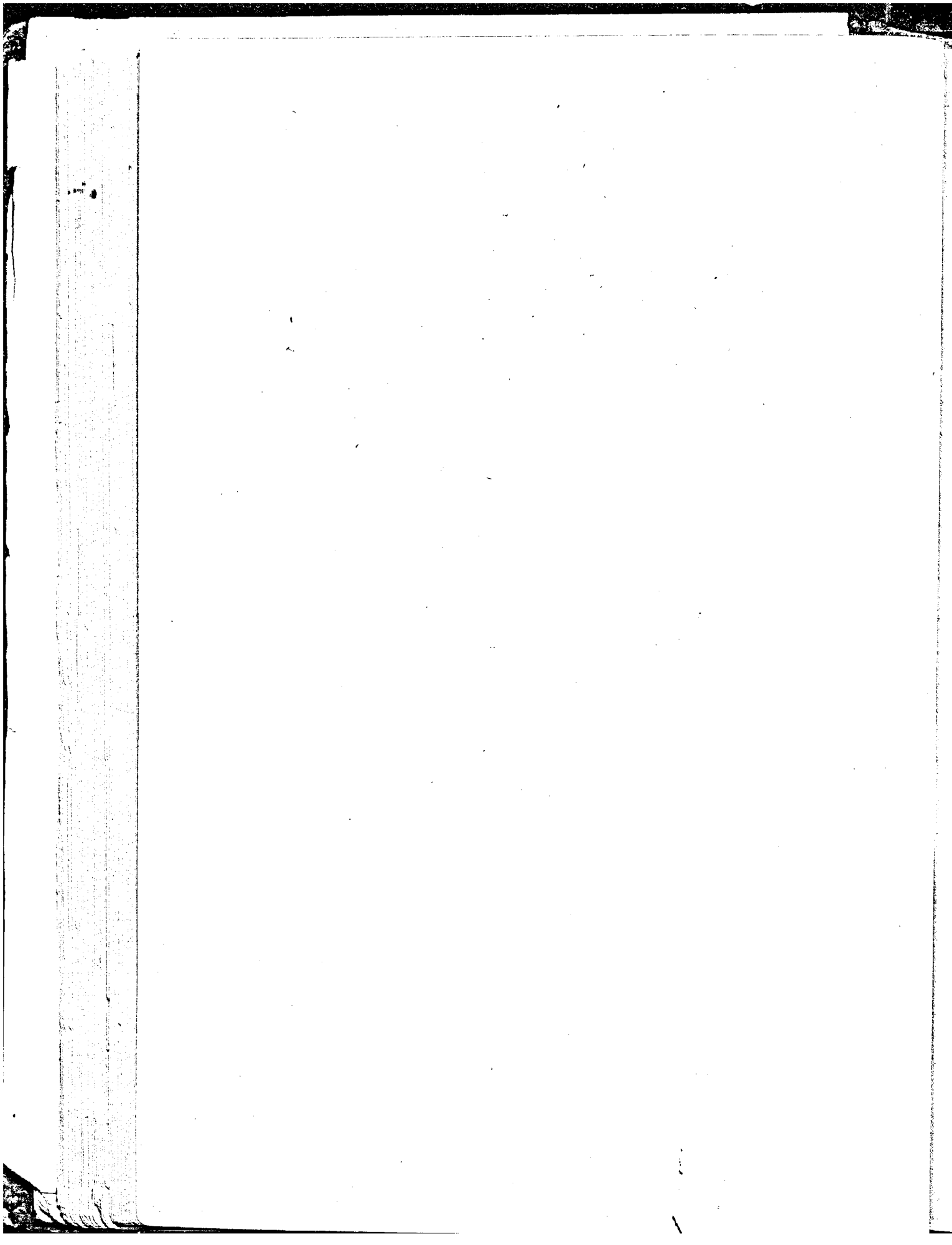
BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

SECTION II  
LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1797-1798

ADD'L LETTERS  
JOURNAL OF WASHINGTON



EQUIPMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FORT MALDEN

ADVERTISEMENT

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

By Order of Captain Mayne of Queens Rangers Commandant of the Post of Detroit River

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

Jan<sup>y</sup> 10 1797

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

*Endorsed:* Maldon Jan<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1797 Mr Reynolds his Advertisement respecting Teams wanted to work for Government Copy

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Archange Meredith

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Archange Meredith

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

your very affectionate Sister  
Archange Meredith

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

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

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

*Translation*

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Ever your loving and devoted daughter,

Archange Meredith

GRANTS OF LAND TO PETITIONERS

British Niagara 15. February 1797

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

D W Smith

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

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

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

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Woolwich, 21 Mars 1797

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

Archange Meredith.

Souvenirs au Domestiques, Je ne les oublie pas mes chers enfans vous fait leurs amitiéz.

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

*Translation*

Woolwich, March 21, 1797

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

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



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Your affectionate daughter,  
Archange Meredith

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

FROM FRANCIS VIGO TO JOHN ASKIN

Poste Vincennes Le 29 Mars 1797

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

Votre tres humble Serviteur

Vigo

M<sup>r</sup> Askin Detroit

*Addressed:* A Monsieur John Askin Equiller Au Detroit

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

*Translation*

Post Vincennes, March 29, 1797

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

Your very humble servant

Vigo<sup>4</sup>

GRANTS OF LAND IN SANDWICH

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Assumption Church, in Sandwich.

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

John Askin

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

GRANT OF LAND NEAR LAKE ST. CLAIR

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

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

Sworn before me at Detroit 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 1797

James May J. P. C. W.

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH WAR

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

Most affectionately Yours,  
D Meredith

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

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

John Askin Esqr.

&c &c &c

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

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

FROM THERESE MCKEE TO JOHN ASKIN AND WIFE

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

Affectionné Fille

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

T. McKee

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

*Addressed:* Madame Askin Au Detroit.

*Translation*

Petite Cote, April 28, 1797

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

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

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

Your loving,  
T. McKee

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Wayne County ss

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THREAT OF REVOLUTION IN DETROIT

Detroit July 16, 1797

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FROM THOMAS MCKEE TO JOHN ASKIN

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

My dear Sir believe me to be yours most affectionately  
T. M<sup>c</sup>Kee

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

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

REPLY OF BRITISH MAGISTRATES TO APPEAL OF  
GENERAL WILKINSON

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

ESTATE OF GEORGE KNAGGS

Territory of the  
United States  
north-west of  
the river Ohio.  
Wayne County ss.  
(L.S.)

Peter Audrain  
J. of P.

WHEREAS George Knaggs Senior,<sup>35</sup>  
Trader, lately died Intestate, and  
Whereas John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire, mer-  
chant of Detroit, has applied to Peter  
Audrain Esquire Judge of the Court  
of probate in and for our Said County  
of Wayne to administer upon the  
Goods and Chattels, rights & credits  
which were the Said George Knagg's  
deceased: KNOW YE that I have au-

<sup>35</sup> George Knaggs, founder of the family of this name which figures in the early history of Detroit and the Maumee region, was a native of Wales. He married Rachel Schley, of Dutch descent, who was born about the year 1738. According to the memoir of a descend-



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

### BRITISH ALLEGIANCE OF DETROIT RESIDENTS

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

J A

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

ADVICE FROM GOVERNOR RUSSELL CONCERNING  
CITIZENSHIP DISPUTE

West Niagara 5 September 1797

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

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

I am Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

Peter Russell

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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TITLES TO LAND ON LAKE ST. CLAIR

Detroit 6 Oct 97

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

J A

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

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

LAND TITLES ON LAKE ST. CLAIR

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

Dear Sir, The removing to this place prevented me from sooner acknowledging the Rec<sup>t</sup> of yours of the 17<sup>h</sup> & 20<sup>h</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>

I have heard nothing from M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

D W Smith

John Askin Es<sup>r</sup>

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

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

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. JOHN ASKIN  
Le Camp a Laughlinstown  
Novembre 28<sup>th</sup> 1797

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

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

l'arrivé de ma cousine Wright en Engleterre environs un

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

Mon epoux comprend mieux les affaires de l'etat que moi. tout que je scait est que les Francois ne veule pas conclure la paix avec nous, sca fait a present que les Braves Anglois nont pas d'autre partie a prendre qua se battre comme des Leons, car l'Empereur de Germanie nous a deserté, et nous somme les seules qui reste pour defendre nos droits. n'importe, tant que nous pourons en tuer tant per Mer comme notre Brave Amiral Duncan a fait l'11 d'octobre et que nous pourons instament souscrire la valeur de treize ou quatorze milles pontes, pour le bien des veuves, enfans ou autres parans des Mateolots qui ont perie sur cette Bataille, nous n'avons rien a craindre, je nest pas le talent de raconter une telle Bataille a merveille, les gazzetes vous les dirons mieux, la seule chose que j'ai a ajouter sur le sujet est que nous avons eu beaucoup de rejouissances en consequence, et je suis un peu fiere d'avoir pris le thé, et passai une soirée en compagnie du Brave Amiral a Yarmouth, il est un belle homme. Mes plus tendres amitez a vous, mon cher Pere, mes freres et soeurs, a Madame McKee, et mes souvenirs a son a son epoux. Monsier M me joint en tout cela, a Jean &c &c oncle Grante Barthes &c &c &c &c Compt<sup>s</sup> a mes connoissances M<sup>r</sup> R. L. T. mes enfans vous font temoignages de leurs tendres affection et je suis avec plus grand tendresse votre affectioné fille

Archange Meredith

Mes compt<sup>s</sup> a M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton &c &c je voudrois scavoir comme sca va depuis cette triste affaire. souvenirs a Madeline et les siens.

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

*Translation*

Camp in Laughlinstown  
November 28, 1797

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

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

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



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

Your affectionate daughter,

Archange Meredith

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

GRANT OF LICENSE TO OPERATE FERRY

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

Winthrop Sargent

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

FROM MADELAINE RICHARDSON TO JOHN ASKIN

fort Erie 18 fevrier 1798

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

Votre affectionnè fille

M Richardson

*Translation*

Fort Erie, February 18, 1798

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

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

FROM MADELAINE ASKIN TO JOHN ASKIN

Riviere Raizin marce 4 1798

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

Adieu Mon cher papa je suis votre obeisante fille  
Madelaine Askine

*Addressed:* Monsieur Askin, Merchant Detroit

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

*Translation*

Raisin River, March 4, 1798

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

Goodby, my dear Papa, I remain,

Your obedient daughter,  
Madelaine Askin

BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN AMHERSTBURG

Malden March the 9th 1798

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

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

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

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

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

W<sup>m</sup> Hutchings

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

TRADE CONDITIONS AT FORT MIAMIS

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

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

John Anderson

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

CAPTURE OF FUR CARGO

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

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

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Isaac Todd

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

FROM FRANCIS VIGO TO JOHN ASKIN

Poste Vincennes Le 6 Avril 1798

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

Votre Serviteur

Vigo

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

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

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

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

*Translation*

Post Vincennes, April 6, 1798

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

INDEBTEDNESS OF SIMON GONZALES

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

(Copy)

M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FRENCH DESIGNS AGAINST CANADA

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

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

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

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

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

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

W<sup>m</sup> Dummer Powell

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

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

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

### ABSCONDENCE OF ANDREW JOHNSON

river Raisin May 21, 1798

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

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

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

INDEBTEDNESS OF SIMON GONZALES

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

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

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

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

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

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

(Signé) Simon Gonzales (L. S.)

Signé, Scellé et delivré en presence de Peter Audrain Proth<sup>v</sup>

Wayne County ss.

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

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

Wayne County ss.

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

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

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Wayne County ss

SEAL

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

(Signed) Peter Audrain  
Recorder of Wayne County

*Translation*

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

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

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

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



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

(signed) Simon Gonzales (L. S.)

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

REFUSAL TO VALIDATE LAND TITLES

Detroit 12 July 1798

Dear Sir Tho I wish to be as little troublesome to my old acquaintances as possible, yet in the present case, my Interest as well as that of Mssrs Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill is so deeply concerned, that I am obliged to call on all my Friends not only to exercise their personal Influence in my behalf but also to call to their aid such as are capable from their situations, of giving any, provided you and them think me right after you have heard what I have to Say.

Some years ago, when the Governor's proclamation declared that Lands should be given to certain persons on the Certificate of a Majestrate, finding many of those who possessed these Certificates were disposed to sell them, and being desirous by every means in my power to render my property more valuable for the sole purpose of discharging as far as in my power lay the heavy Balance I owed the best of men, I accordingly purchased several at the rate of from £10 even to £50 for each 200 acres & never entertained any doubt as to their validity, having as every British Subject should a perfect reliance on the word or proclamation of the Servants of Government Those who obtained the Majestrates Certificate carried them Immediately to M<sup>r</sup> Iredell the Deputy Surveyor and mentioned at same time where they wished to take up those Lands, and as I purchased them I reported to M<sup>r</sup> Iredell likewise my having done so & that as soon as the Country was surveyed where these people made their choice I would wish to locate the Lands I purchased in Said place, not from the goodness of the Lands but their Situation as being nearer some others I had got I also frequently mentioned to the Acting Surveyor General my Friend what I had done and was doing and for a certain time did not understand that there Was any objections to such purchaces. I afterwards learnt some doubts arose; but when the Legislature in the last years Sessions passed that most equitable Law respecting the purchase of Lands, I then was perfectly satisfied that they were mine, and that If my purchases were proved to be fair & honest, before the Commissioners Deeds would be Issued in my name. I therefore begged the acting surveyor General would order that part of the Country to be laid out in Lotts where those I purchased of had made choice, and where I still wished to take up these Lands.

A Letter which [I] received the 7<sup>th</sup> Instant from the Honorable W. David Smith, (paragraph from which I here inclose), has alarmed me not a little and is the reason of my troubling you. The Gentleman I just now named, the Commodore & M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton to all of whom I have sent Copies of this my Letter to you which will give them like information. added to this my son who is the Bearer, &

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Walter Roe Esq<sup>r</sup> can give further information If requisite, and as I understood that it was once supposed that several Magistrates had given certificates to People undeserving for the purpose of purchasing them, I deny any such conduct in me. I have therefore transmitted by my Son in order to shew it to you & other Friends a list of the names of the people of whom I got the Lands, what Majestrates signed their Certificates and their present place of abode. by this you will See that few of them are on the American side of the River, and those that are have either served under Governor Hamilton (who promised them Lands) or at Fort Miamis when General Wayne came against it, and are recommended for Lotts by Capt Montigny who was then there.

I now, agreable to my Friend M<sup>r</sup> Smith's Letter Memorial-  
[ize] the president & Honorable Council to direct that the Lands I claim may be surveyed and allotted to me or to those of whom I got them and that when the Commissioners come here If my pretentions are found good that Deeds may be granted me for them.

I do not recollect having ever been more interested in any Event than this as my worthy Friends Mess<sup>r</sup> James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Gill have agreed in their settlement with me to take 40 of these Lotts In lieu of £4,000 & I was to give them free of charges. Should I not obtain Grants for these Lands I purchaced I will not be able to fulfill my Engagements with them & consequently ruined. and tho you & M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton are not of the executive Council yet you have influence with those that are and If you find my Claims right & Just I hope & firmly believe from your general Character exclusive of your Friendship that you will have my Memorial Supported so as to obtain what I ask for, and think my Just due. If the majestrates certificates belonging to me were not located it is none of my fault. my applications for a survey of the Quarter where I was given to understand I could get the Lands were frequent (as every other place seemed to be taken up as soon as laid out) and untill the receipt of the acting Surveyor Generals Letter, dated the 1<sup>st</sup> June last I neither had, nor had reason to have any doubt respecting them further than I must wait untill other

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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service would admit these Lands being surveyed, and then my Claims would be complied with. I would have went in person to transact this business was I not so subject to Sickness from catching the Slightest cold, but, Should my presence be absolutely necessary in order to obtain what I require I will even at the risk of my life undertake the Journey or any thing else in order to do Justice to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill.

I have laid out above £500 in improvements &c on Lotts I purchased from those who had Land-Board Certificates which is more than those I purchased of would have done in a long time.

I am Dear Sir with real regard your most obedient humble  
Servant

[John Askin]

The Honorable Rich<sup>d</sup> Cartwright at Yorke

ALARM IN AMHERSTBURG

My Dear Sir, The Bearer hereof you will be pleased to let have the Celery plants, as many as can be conveniently spared. We are all confusion, Cauldwell arm'd Cap à pie expecting a Visit of civility from your garris[on] rusty swords, unlocked Muskets and unpointed Bayonets, form a tremendous appearance at his Chateau, under the Command of a Colonel Captain & Surgeon who is to attend all consequences that may result from a Besieged Mansion, such as women in Hysteric fits, Cowards half roasted in the oven, and Children frightened at the tales of Ghosts Hopgoblins and long stories of former wars and a variety of matters that must arise, and must be delivered from a *Head* well heated with imaginary *Nothings* in that state is now our poor Chateau which the Lord in his great Mercy safely defend us, is D<sup>r</sup> Sir the present prayer of the Surgeon in distress, but yours in every Situation

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Monday night.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Malden July 30, 1798 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> Y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

### SALVAGING WRECK OF THE *ANNETTE*

Dear Sir I have now before me your favor of the 12<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and shall attend in order to the Various Contents. One of my last respects Mentioned my having Received the Freight Account from you by the Way of the River LaTrench 8 Months after date. That Matter is therefore Settled. I am very Sencible of your kindness in the bussiness of the *Weazells* freight, and have Accordingly placed the £55. to your Credit on that Account for Com. Besides the 21. 4. 0 made by her from M<sup>r</sup> Colt in Voyages to Presque Isle I have Charged M<sup>r</sup> O Harra<sup>53</sup> the Contractor, for the freight of 123 barrels Salt £49. 4. 0. at your Credit. I am still without my Teas from the States. I have however Received from Montreal some Hyson & Breakfast teas for my own use, which I will chearfully share with you, & a portion of each shall be sent up before the last Vessell shall Sail. Bohea Costs in Montreal 3/9 Cash, Which with Commission Charges &°, brings it near 8/ york here, at which price it could be no Object to send you any. I have forwarded to you to Fort Erie the Shott Sope & Candles as p<sup>r</sup> inclosed Bill of Parcels, Amounting with all Charges her[e] Shiped, to £62. 17. 3 York which I hope you Will find right. I hope in the Course of this Week to forward you some Barrels of Whiskey. The demand for this Article has of late been so Considerable, I can hardly get a sufficient Supply for the Shop. M<sup>r</sup> Nichol got back from the Grand River only on the day the *Saguinau* Sailed. I could not therefor benefit by her, to send you any Information respecting the Unfortunate business at Long Point. [I] now inclose M<sup>r</sup> N<sup>s</sup> Report & Voutc[hers for] his Expenditures, which were as you see defrayed by the Sale of

<sup>53</sup> James O'Hara, born in Ireland about the year 1751, was educated in France and was commissioned in the Coldstream Guards before coming to America in 1772. He soon found his way to Pittsburgh, where he became identified with the Indian trade prior to the outbreak of the Revolution. He took an active part in that struggle, rising to the rank of brigadier general. Aside from his military employment he held, at different times, various public offices, and engaged in numerous business enterprises—among others the one here noted of contractor for provisioning the western army posts. Pittsburgh remained his home until his death, Dec. 21, 1819. He has been characterized by one writer as "the first Napoleon of industry in Pittsburgh," with whose early development he was prominently identified for almost half a century. See *Americana* (*American Historical Magazine*), IV, 295-99. For O'Hara's Detroit connections, see Louise Rau, "James Henry," *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 65 ff.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

some of the Articles more exposed to dam[a]ge than the others. I have Received from him 15 dollars being the balance of Sales over his Charges, as you Will Observe by the Statement. In Which however nothing is Charged for his personal trouble and Excertion. What may be proper to Allow in this Case you must Judge. And also inform me how to dispose of a bal. of £4 in my hands as out of the £6 Received, I had advanced M<sup>r</sup> Nichol 40/ on setting out. I think you will do well to present the Conduct of the Magistrates in that Quarter, to the President. & if you thought proper, the purchasers of Goods so well known to be Stolen deserve prosecution. I only fear the distance Will Cause more trouble, than can Well be given. You Will Observe that all the Articles saved, have been [sent] to Presque Isle, except the few [torn] belonging to the Sloop. This, I hope you have Received in the *Saguinau*. M<sup>r</sup> Daly who has Visited you is I beleive very little better than Captain Grummett.<sup>54</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Nichol could find no Remains of the Wreck of the Vessell, but What have been sent you. Hoping to have the pleasure of again Writting you in a few days I offer from this best Wishes & most respectfull Compliments & Am D<sup>r</sup> Sir Your very hum. s<sup>t</sup>

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Oct. 28, 1798

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> 98 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MRS. PAUL GAMELIN

Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> Novem. 98

Madame Paul Gamelin

Madame Mon agent M<sup>r</sup> Maisonvill le Jeune etoit pret de partir pour le Poste demain matin avec des plein pouvoirs de regler finalement toutes mes affaires dans votre quartier. Mons. Ant. Laselle lui avoit promis passage, il dit pre-

<sup>54</sup> Timothy Grummett (Grummond) was captain of Askin's vessel, the *Annette*, which was wrecked, through his misconduct, as charged, near Point Abino in Lake Erie in the summer of 1798. See documents printed *post*, especially 174-76. Grummett fled to the United States to escape prosecution, after which nothing further has been found concerning him.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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sentement qu'il est si chargé qu'il est impossible de le prendre avec autre Baggage que lui même et ses Papiers et comme il ne pourra pas aller Sans hardes ni lit je suis obligé d'abandonner l'entreprise pour le present et pour cet hyver aussi.

Vous avez tres bien fait de ne pas livrer rien de ce que Mons. Adhemer a mis entre les mains de M votre defunt mari Sans mes ordres. M<sup>r</sup> Adhemar m'a fait un abandon de tout cela & J'ai Les plains pouvoirs, peut etre que Je vous rendre visite moi même le printems prochain en attendant J'ai l'honneur d'etre votre tres humble & obeissant Serv<sup>t</sup>

(Signé) John Askin

*Endorsed:* Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> Novem 98 John Askin to Madame Paul Gamelin

*Translation*

Detroit, November 2, 1798

Madam Paul Gamelin

Madam: My agent, Mr. Maisonville Jr., was ready to leave for the post tomorrow morning with full authority to close up my business in your quarter. Antoine Lacelle<sup>55</sup> had promised him passage, but now says he is so loaded that it is impossible to take Mr. Maisonville with his additional baggage and papers. As he could not go without clothing and bed I am obliged to abandon the enterprise for the present and even for this winter.

You did right not to give up anything Mr. Adhémar entrusted to the care of your late husband, without my orders. Mr. Adhémar has relinquished it all in my favor and I have his full authority. Perhaps I shall visit you myself next spring. In the meantime, I have the honor to remain

Your very humble and obedient servant,

(signed) John Askin

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<sup>55</sup> For the ancestry and career of Antoine Lacelle, see *B. H. R.*, I, 197, and 366-67.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FROM ROBERT HAMILTON TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir From the Circumstance now dreaded that the *Saguinau* will not Return this Season to Fort Erie I am Sorry to say that about 100 Barrel bulk of the Goods now at that place and Twice that Quantity at present between Kingston & this place must winter on the Communication. As this is the Case I am prevented from sending the Whisky ordered. Should Cowan<sup>56</sup> however whose Vessell is still under the Rapids get up in time to Sail I will make Interest with him to get a few barrels on board if possible. I send William tomoro to Fort Erie to see what Remains behind & he Will Write you should any of your things be in that predicament.

Since my last Respects I have had the Satisfaction of hearing from Scotland that my three boys there were in good health.<sup>57</sup> George poor fellow had been confined for some Weeks by a Worm fever, but was able at the date of the Letter again to go to School.

I this day inclose to the Comodore a paper Stating a very Glorious Victory Obtained by Adm<sup>l</sup> Neilson over Buona-partre in which the latter was taken, tho at the Expence of the Life of the first. I have requested the Comodore to forward it to you.

Our Ministry have at last Adopted a plan long thought of, to dispose of some of the French Emigrants in this Province as Settlers. For this purpose A Count Puijsay<sup>58</sup> with fourteen respectable Characters, have come out in the

<sup>56</sup> David Cowan was captain of a vessel in the naval establishment on the upper lakes at least as early as 1793. He subsequently located in Amherstburg, where he was living as late as 1804. From 1800 to 1804 he served as member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He died at Niagara or vicinity about the beginning of October, 1808. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll., and *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*. The death of Cowan is recorded in Charles Askin's diary for Oct. 16, 1808. Ms. in Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>57</sup> On the departure of these boys for England in 1795, see *B. H. R.*, I, 540-43.

<sup>58</sup> Joseph Geneviève, Comte de Puisaye, was born in Mortagne-en-Perche, France, in 1755. He entered the army and during the Revolution achieved prominence as one of the most active leaders of the royalist cause. He commanded the disastrous Quiberon Bay expedition of 1795, and three years later undertook to establish in Canada a colony of French royalist emigrés. The story of this enterprise is told by Janet Carnochan in *Niagara Hist. Soc.*, pubs., No. 15. It did not succeed, and Puisaye returned to England in 1802 and died there in 1827. The house he built facing the Niagara River on the road from Queenston to Niagara may still be seen.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Fall fleet, to make Arrangements for the Reception of a very Considerable number expected in the Spring. They are now at Kingston where they purpose remaining for the Winter. By a Letter from the house of our much Respected freind M<sup>r</sup> Buckwood I learn that they have Lodged for the Count a Credit in Quebec of £5000 NewY. I hope the others may be as well provided. I have now to Wait on you with M<sup>rs</sup> Hamiltons best Wishes Joined to mine that Health & Happiness may be the portion of you & yours for the following & for many ensuing Winters.

I am Dear Sir

Your very Affect. freind & very hum. Servt

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esquire  
Queenston Nov. 7. 1798.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Queenston Nov<sup>r</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> 98 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>h</sup>

CONTRACT TO BUILD SAILING VESSEL

(L. S.) Be it remembered that on this day, ninth of November, in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Ninety eight, it is agreed between John Askin Esquire, of Detroit, Merchant, and William Daly, of Detroit, Ship Carpenter, in manner and form following, To wit, the Said William Daly for the Consideration hereafter mentioned doth for himself, his Heirs, Executors, and administrators covenant with the Said John Askin, his Executors, administrators, and Assigns, that he the Said William Daly shall and will, against the fifteenth of may next ensuing the date hereof, in good and workmanlike manner, and according to the best of his Knowledge and Skill, well and Substantialy build and finish a vessel of Twelve Tons burthen: that he Shall furnish all the materials whatever at his proper cost and expence: that the Said vessell shall be builded of white oak; shall have her mast and bowspritts fixed: Shall have a Small Cabin with Two births and Two lights, and that her dimensions Shall be agreable to a memorandum Signed & delivered by the Said John Askin to the Said William Daly.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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IN consideration whereof the Said John Askin doth for himself his Executors, and Administrators covenant with the Said William Daly, his Executors, administrators and assigns well and truly to pay unto the Said William Daly, his executors, admintrators, and assigns the Sum of ONE HUNDRED & TEN POUNDS, new york Currency of lawfull money of the United States.

It is understood & agreed between the parties that Should the Vessell prove to be more or less that [than] Twelve Tons Tonnage the price Shall be Regulated accordingly; and that the work of the Said Vessell Shall be inspected by Two Ship Carpenters, and Two Sailors to determine whether the Said vesell is builded in a workmanship like manner; the Vessell to be delivered at Detroit.

AND for the performance of all and every the articles and agreements above mentioned, the Said John Askin and William Daly do hereby bind themselves, their Executors, Administrators and assigns, each to the other in the penal Sum of one hundred and ten pounds, new york Currency, firmly by these presents.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably Set their hands and affixed their Seals at Detroit the day and year above written.

Sealed & delivered  
in the presence of  
Peter Audrain

John Askin  
William Daly

*Endorsed:* Articles of agreement Between John Askin, Esquire, and William Daly, Ship carpenter. Detroit 9<sup>th</sup> November 1798.

Rec. in my office the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1798.

Peter Audrain recorder

Registered in my office in the book N<sup>o</sup> 3, page 314.

Peter Audrain recorder

TRADE CONDITIONS AT THAMES RIVER

River Thames 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1798

Sir Not finding an Opportunity of forwarding your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Senseman I rode up to the Moravian Town and delivered it to him in person. I asked him if it required

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

an Answer he told me no; that he had wrote to you Some time ago, and had fully Satisfied you about the Corn which will be Sent down in the Spring as soon as the Vessel Arrives. there has been no Traders there this Season therefore I apprehend there will be no difficulty in collecting all your Corn.

I must inform you that my wife was Cast away near the Belle River and Lost all she had except the Cyder. I cannot procure either a Boat or a Canoe to take your Corn down, and the Season is so far advanced that it is dangerous to take down a Load. I hope therefore you will condescend to wait till the Spring.

The Letter you Sent to W. Jackman I have Sent you enclosed. his Brother thinks you will find a better opportunity of Sending it from Detroit, than he could from the River Thames. You will be pleased to Address it to M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Jackman living on Cooks Run near the Mouth of Little Redstone; Fayette County, State of Pennsylvania.

There is considerable Trade to be made with the Indians, there being no Trader within 12 Miles of this place

I would like to have half a piece of Stroud and a proportionable quantity of other Articles Suitable, likewise a Barrel of Spirits. I Shall not trust a farthing and what remains unsold I will return. I have Sold some Cyder but the Indians will not buy it while they can get Whiskey, neither will they buy whiskey when they can get Rum.

If you can Supply me with the above articles (which I hope I will be able to pay you for without any difficulty) please to let me know by the Bearer John Kennedy who intends to put up at Carpenters

I remain your Humb<sup>le</sup> and Ob<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Hugh Holmes<sup>59</sup>

Mr Askin

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* River Thames Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1798 M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Holmes to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Hugh Holmes was living at the Thames River settlement in January, 1791, when his name was included in the list of disbanded loyalists claiming lands in the District of Hesse, in report of the Land Committee upon this subject. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIV, 178. In

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

OVERSIGHT OF CONTRACT FOR SAILING VESSEL

River Thames Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>, 1798

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir, I rec<sup>d</sup> your kind favor of the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I would Comply with it's Contents with the Greatest pleasure had it been in my power, But your Master Builder took Care for to go One hundred miles from you, for to perform his Contract. I am told that he is to Build your Vessel at the pinerry which is Sixty miles from my place. however I shall do all that lies in my power for to inform myself of his proceeding during the Course of the winter.

I remain Sir Your Most hum<sup>ble</sup> & Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

John Drake

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* river à Tranche Nov<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1798. Cap<sup>t</sup> Drake to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>

TUITION CHARGES OF MATTHEW DONOVAN

1798

M<sup>r</sup> John Askin

To Matthew Donovan D<sup>r</sup>60

	£	s
To the Tuition of His Son Charles from the Beginning of January to the first of September	8 <sup>n</sup>	0 <sup>n</sup> 0
To the Tuition of James, Alick, & Alick Grant from the first of January to the 15 <sup>th</sup> of Novemb <sup>r</sup>	31 <sup>n</sup>	10 <sup>n</sup> 0
	<hr/>	
N.Y. Cur <sup>ry</sup>	39 <sup>n</sup>	10 <sup>n</sup> 0
C <sup>r</sup> By Cash Received	8 <sup>n</sup>	0 <sup>n</sup> 0
	<hr/>	
Balance due	31 <sup>n</sup>	10 <sup>n</sup> 0

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1798

1799 he was in debt to John Askin, who procured the issuance of a warrant for his arrest and incarceration in Sandwich, but being "luckily" absent from home when the officers called, he escaped this humiliation. See documents in Askin papers, *passim*. Either he or another of the same name was a schoolmaster in Detroit in 1790 and for several years thereafter.

60. Matthew Donovan was an early schoolmaster of Kingston (from 1788 to 1792), where he is described in a letter of Rev. John Stuart as "an Irishman, an excellent Latin

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Addressed:* Colonel John Askin Detroit<sup>61</sup>

*Endorsed:* This a/c of M. Donovans for Schooling is all sett<sup>d</sup> & paid. see my Books

TUITION CHARGES OF MATTHEW DONOVAN

Detroit 26 Nov. 98

Sir I am sorry to find you made out your account for the Schooling of my Children & Commodore Grant's Boy, higher than our agreem<sup>t</sup>. It cannot serve you but may be hurtful which I do not Wish; for it may lead others to think that when they remove their Children to an other School you will charge them much higher, therefore may take pre-cautions to put it out of your Power which may be injurious to your Interest. Please therefore to make out a new Account and charge me as heretofore, and according to our Agreement and I will pay you, tho' Charles went only, or not even half the time as the other Children.

What is right I will always pay, and more I will not by Compulsion to any man I am &<sup>ca</sup>

J A

M<sup>r</sup> Donovan

*Endorsed:* Detroit 26 Novem. 98 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Mathew Donovan Copy

Scholar, and of long experience in his profession." See A. H. Young (ed.), *The Parish Register of Kingston, Upper Canada, 1785-1811* (Kingston, 1921), 56 *et passim*. He came to Detroit as early as 1794, where he continued his profession of schoolmaster, remaining here until some time after the fire of 1805. He then removed to Amherstburg, where he died, July 22, 1809. Considerable interesting information concerning his teaching career is given in Burton's *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 708-709. On June 4, 1804, a police complaint was lodged against him "for not sweeping the street before his schoolhouse." He owned certain lots in Detroit, and in August, 1807, was a petitioner before the Land Board for P. C. 49 (in Ecorse), a tract of 389.80 acres.

Donovan left a widow and several daughters. One of the latter married Captain Jonathan Nelson, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 554-55; another married Robert Innis of Sandwich; a third became the wife of Matthew Elliot. See sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 165-66; Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit, passim*; and St. John's Church Register.

61 On the same sheet with the address and the endorsement are some figures, not here reproduced, which may represent Askin's refiguring of the account.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

PROFFER FOR PURCHASE OF LAND

Dear Sir To informe you that Yesterday there was a gentleman whome I have had a long acquaintance with who is an agent to look out a good tract of land for about fifty Famelys many of them my former [n]labours and they having the opinion of my being a little aquainted in Chuesing Good Stands as well as Settling new cuntry depend on our exploreing and Chuesing And agreeing with some gentleman for a sutable Place for that purpose. Should you wish to give us a reasonable encorragement we will trade with you to liten your taxes and make the rest of your lands of more value. You may depend on oure fidelity of defending your rites if we can Onely agree on the price when we Come to see the lands which we Expect to be in detroit as soon as the winter closes up.

I Am Sir your Most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

E. Allan<sup>62</sup>

The River Thames November 29<sup>h</sup> 1798  
John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup> at Detroit

*Endorsed:* River Thames, Nov<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> 1798 M<sup>r</sup> Ebenezer  
Allan to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

62. Ebenezer Allan was the first white resident on the site of Rochester, N. Y., and all real estate titles in the "One Hundred Acre Tract" in the central part of the city derive from him. He was a Tory during the Revolution, and although a man of much energy and force of character, was a hardened villain, whose life story would supply material for more than one dime novel. As a Tory he joined the Indians in various operations against the colonists, in which he gained the reputation of being more bloodthirsty than were the savages themselves. Mary Jemison knew him, and in her life narrative relates horrible deeds which are attributed to him. About the close of the war Allan engaged in trade, being located for a time at Mount Morris, N. Y. In July, 1788, he contracted with Oliver Phelps, one of the proprietors of the Phelps-Gorham land purchase, to build saw and grist-mills at the Genesee Falls. He carried out this agreement, becoming thereby the first settler on the site of Rochester. A few years later he sold his interests here and located once more at Mount Morris. About this same time he procured from Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada a grant of 2200 acres of land in what is now Delaware Township, Middlesex County, Ont. Here he located toward the close of the century (year uncertain). He sold a portion of his grant prior to March, 1799, for 3000 pounds. A condition of the grant required him to build a mill, church, etc. While carrying out these enterprises in the early years of the nineteenth century, he became cramped for funds and resorted to counterfeiting to supply the deficiency. For this offense he was subjected to a long term of imprisonment at Long Point. Apparently he was released prior to 1812, for in July of that year he was seized by the military on a charge of treasonable behavior. He died in 1816, and was buried in Delaware Township.

The details of Allan's private life are sufficiently lurid. Apparently there was no crime in the calendar he was incapable of committing, and of many of the graver crimes he stands accused. He had a choice assortment of wives, white, red, and black; his affection for them

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

FROM GOTTLob SENSEMAN TO JOHN ASKIN

Fairfield Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> '98

D<sup>r</sup> Sir A few Days ago, I was favoured with Your obliging Letters, accompanied with some foreign Letters for me, in Your Case, for which I return you my sincere Thanks. as much as I known, all my Letters send to me, by your Care, have arrived safe; I should be very happy, if I could send now & than a Letter with the Post from Detroit to Philad. but I am at a Loss to whom I should send it, perhaps you may not stay long there, or els I don't doubt you would do me the Favor, to put on[e] in the Post. if there is any Postage to be paid in Detroit, I am willing to pay it.

Your Corn here, owing to you by our People, they are collecting already. I have appointed an trusty Ind<sup>n</sup> to collect & measure it, & keep a true Account; who has also a proper House to store it. Your Account, you send me, agrees with that, M<sup>r</sup> Nichol your late Clark, left here at my House. About the Tea, which he left with J. Henry,<sup>63</sup> which was 23<sup>rd</sup> he has sold but a Little of it, which Account he brought to me, before he went from here to Muskingum, which I have added to every ones Account, as they had not payed him. the Rest of the Tea he sent to you according to your Desire. I think you will recollect that you wrote a Letter to me late last Spring, and desired me, that J. Henry should send the Rest of the Tea down to you, as you were than in Great Want for Tea, accordingly he did, and I myself have helped him packing up the Tea; if you have

is indicated, to some extent, by the story that on removing to Canada he abandoned his squaw wife and hired two men to drown his white wife. They placed her in a canoe which they purposely ran over the upper Genesee Falls, but by some chance she escaped, followed her lord to Canada, and in the end lived to see him buried. The careers of several of Allan's descendants were almost as lurid as his own. A convenient summary of his New York career is in William F. Peck, *Semi-Centennial History of the City of Rochester* (Syracuse, 1884), 76 ff.; for his Canadian career, see *History of the County of Middlesex, Canada* (Toronto, 1889), 476-78.

<sup>63</sup> James Henry was captured in boyhood by Indians, and brought to Detroit. In Jacob Lindley's journal of the Quaker peace delegation which visited Detroit in 1793, Henry is described as "a smart young man, a prisoner with the Blind Chief, near the mouth of the river Roosh [Rouge], twelve miles from Detroit. He is adopted, which renders his case difficult. They have put jewels in his nose and ears, and figured him like an Indian. He is desirous of returning to his relatives near Georgetown, Eastern Shore of Maryland." It seems apparent that this youth of 1793 is the man mentioned in the present document. Nothing has been learned of his further career. Another James Henry came to Detroit about the time of the American occupation and soon achieved local prominence. See *post*, 305.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

received the Tea I cannot tell. One M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Daily has been here; he tells me, that he is a going to build a small Vessel for you this Winter, above us at the Pinery. he further told me, that he will be down with the Vessel early in the Spring by the first Flood, and then your Corn can be put in the Vessel. he will carry it to Detroit to you for 18 Pence p<sup>r</sup> Bushel. If the man is to be dependit on, it would be the safest Way for you, getting your Corn in Time; but if not, I see no other Way, but that you send a small Vessel or large Boat early in the Spring. our People will bring it down near the Mouth of the River to the Vessel for one Shilling p<sup>r</sup> Buhl, which they always received from our Town to M<sup>r</sup> Dolsens Place; with there small Canows they do not like to venture over the Lake with so much Corn, as it is dangerous by Stormy Weather; the Amount what you have to get; comes to about 460 Buhl. at 6/ p<sup>r</sup> Bushl. I have taken the Pain of making an exact Calculation of every ones Debt, what Quantity of Corn he has to pay at six Shil<sup>s</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Buhl. and I shall be circumspect about it, that all shall be payed.

I have only to add that I am with much Esteem Dear Sir  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> & very hum<sup>be</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
G Senseman

p Excuse Errors I wrote in hast.

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit P<sup>r</sup> Favor of  
M<sup>r</sup> M. Dolsen at Dover

*Endorsed:* Fairfield Dec<sup>r</sup> 1 1798 The Reverand M<sup>r</sup>  
Senseman to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> same day.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN ANDERSON

Detroit 3<sup>d</sup> decemb<sup>r</sup> 98

Dear Sir Your favor of the 20 reached me a few days ago & that of the 28 Instant now. I think I have been fortunate enough to get a promise of 4 Barrells high wines for you at 20/ the Gallon as this will admit of one Gallon of water to 2 of liquor & be very strong Rum<sup>64</sup> it will reduce

<sup>64</sup> It was practically universal in the Indian trade to dilute with water the liquor sold the red men. The proportion of water added varied with the circumstances of the given case; commonly it was much greater than Askin here proposes.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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the price to 13/4. as for whisky, none is to be got at Niagara nor here, the demand has been so great that I have not got any great quantity of liquor. the price will very soon rise. Indeed some now sell spirits at 28/. I will try & get your licence & send it by this opp<sup>y</sup>

Letters for you in C<sup>o</sup>, with accounts are come from the House of Mess<sup>rs</sup> McGills, I have kept them untill you come in. they have taken yours & my Peltries to their accounts at the rates you will See by the inclosed note from them & say that is the price they paid M<sup>r</sup> Dufresne, and above what M<sup>r</sup> Laselle sold for at public Vendue. I am satisfied for my small parcell You will say If you are or not. however as you do not like risk, perhaps it's as well. you would have Sold them for less here, besides it pays for the old a/c & some small matter over. your Earbobs, Crosses & broaches are come and amount to £50. 16. 8 Hx. as they may be carried on a man's back, perhaps you would do better to send for them, than I [to] give them in charge to a Stranger. the candle wick I will send and the liquor also If I like the weather when the Boat returns I will pay your Order, tho' it runs me so hard for money that I cannot buy any Pork myself tho' offered here at 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub><sup>d</sup> which is as low nearly as yours for 9<sup>d</sup> where you are. I must look to you for about 3 Bbls of yours. Please do not forget to send the Bale of Blanketts for Johnny, he wants them much, & If you can Spare me 6 pairs 3 P<sup>t</sup> Send them in. I will do as you desire about your Boat whether it remains here or goes back.

It is now December the 5<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon & the winter Seems to have Set in I have recived your Boat as the man Says he will set off tomorrow morning & gave receipt for all I got. I can get a Bble Jamaica Spirits for one of your high wines givin[g] the difference of Price this Will answer you better for tavern Keeping & the other 3 for your Indian trade. I have given your Candle wick to M<sup>r</sup> Simpson. your Licence is also ready. Compliments &ca

Signed J Askin

P. S. I suppose you will send a Slay or two for your Rum. If So, it can bring in the Blanketts & two Barrels Pork. If you have more Silver works than you want I believe you could sell some here at 20 or 25 p<sup>r</sup> Cent. you have here 500

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Pairs earbobs cost 8 sols 500 cost 9 sols 500 cost 10 sols.  
5,000 Broaches cost 9 [sols] the 100 & 50 Small crosses cost  
10 sols.

dec<sup>r</sup> 11. the Pork Merchant Still here, as I have bought  
of him for 9<sup>d</sup> to day I will not want any of yours.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 3<sup>d</sup> december 1798 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>  
to John Anderson & Co Copy

ATTITUDE OF JUDGE POWELL CONCERNING LAND TITLES

Detroit 4 decm. 98

My good Sir I wrote you a few days ago on a melancholy  
occasion, the present is in answer to your very obliging  
letter of the 19 October which reached me only a few days  
ago

from what you Say respecting Judge Powell I fear I have  
not in mine, to you, of the 4 October last explained myself  
so fully as I should have done and that you have been led  
to think Some misunderstanding exist[s] between us. as  
there is not the Smallest imaginable I Should be Sorry that  
our material [mutual] friends thought there were. So far  
from any thing of the Kind If M<sup>r</sup> Powell was capable of  
partiality (from which I Know him to be free) was I to  
require it I have every reasen in the world to think he  
would exercise it towards me as soon as any man in this  
Quarter. our families and Selves have always lived on the  
most friendly footing which I do not beleive is now lessened.  
we last met & parted as good friends as ever my differing  
in opinion with him respecting the latitude which the act  
gave the Comissioners, and Idias that he was Stricter re-  
specting testimony or proof, than the act required, could  
never cause any misunderstg. between men of Sense &  
liberal Sentiments. was I on the Bench to Say as he did  
whilst I thought otherwise I am sure he or you would  
despise me for so doing or that I Should be offended that  
he as President of the Board, and a professional man would  
change his mode of proceedings on my account or in con-  
formity to my Ideas would be truly ridiculous. In this  
particular point we differ I Say the Bill has authorised the  
comissioners in Some causes to take the word of one man

and not of another respecting the Claims to Lands when no other or better proof can be obtained. I think Judge Powell either Says it does not or that If it does, he will not put it in practice. his opinion for many reasons must be the best of the two, yet I cannot divist myself of mine. as to his being thought a fit person to decide the different [differences] respecting lands in this Quarter was [blank] & I dare Say no other would have answered better nor perhaps so well, tho he requires proofs, the collection of which at this late period is attended with expense. however when he returns next we will be better prepared. for my part I Shall have all mine except one or two at most who are dead and their Certificates not transfere'd on their part & mine not thinking it necessary. If for want of this piece of formality I should loose them it's no great matter they can be replaced by a purchase from Government of others that will not cost half as much. the whole of mine on an average cost above £20 each & I have had & am likely to have trouble equal to as much more before they are all admitted & Deeds got for them. apropos on the Subject of Deeds, pray could I not get one Deed for Several farms or lots So as to save expense, it would be a great object for me who have no Spare money nor likely I ever will, as *madame bad luck* took a passage in all my small vessells this fall.

I have several lots that Join, these at all events I suppose may be included in one Deed. I do not for the present wish that Deeds should be immediately granted for all my Claims passed at the Board. by the Winter express I will write you those I am desirous Should have a preference. however perhaps there are regulations contrary to what I wish. If so, they will no doubt be complied with. I beg If possible that M<sup>r</sup> Iredell may be directed to lay out the Lands about the Small Rivers where I wrote he had always promised me mine. I want to take up the family Lands there and some other orders of Council. I know not when it may please God to call me off, therefore wish to have as much Settled before as I can. You were so obliging in a Letter dated 12 November 1795 to say that it was likely there might be a Lot got in the 2<sup>d</sup> Concession near Chatham, this I at that time mentioned to M<sup>r</sup> Iredell & he located me

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

N<sup>o</sup> 23 or 24 I do not recollect which, from which time untill lately, I, and I believe he, thought it to be mine but now otherwise. please Settle that matter as you think fit. I perhaps may have been premature in getting it located, these long winded storms must be dischargeable therefore shall conclude with assurances of being my Dear Sir Yours  
&<sup>ca</sup>

Sd J A

The Hon<sup>ble</sup> D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit 4<sup>h</sup> december 1798 John Askin to  
D. W<sup>m</sup> Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy

PROFFER TO FURNISH GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES

Detroit december 9<sup>th</sup> [?], 1798

Dear Sir As the slaying is now begun, many People have applied to me to know If I would take firewood Some of whom owe me & others would take goods in payment. If you could without any interference with your Arrangements, take five hundred Cords of me, or even less, at the rates you pay others, it would be obliging me very much. Prior to your last arrival, I mentioned to M<sup>r</sup> Warren that I had it in my power to furnish Hay for your department of a better Quality than what you generally got, & on as reasonable terms, he said when you came home he would mention the Matter to you, I do not Know whether he has or not. I have always considered the furnishing of any Government with Such articles as were wanted a very great advantage to those who did it, not so much from the highness of the price as the certainty of the payment, whilst our Commanding Officers & he who purchased was on a good footing. I often had preferences at the rates others sold at, but that, owing to their misunderstandings is now over and a mode adopted by which the worst as well as the best of characters may get the Contracts I do not mean by this to infer that I should have a preference under your Government being a British Subject, but only that when you have purchases to make of any indifferent Persons, If in that case you would be pleased to give directions to apply to me it would be rendering me a great Service & I would always

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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consider it as Such. this next Summer I will have Boards, Plank, Shingles & other timber to dispose of, also the best of Bricks, and at all times lime, I am &<sup>ca</sup>

Signed J Askin

Mathew Ernest Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 December, 98 John Askin to Mathew Ernest Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO REV. GOTTLob SENSEMAN

Detroit 10 decem. 98

Reverend Sir I am this day favoured with your very obliging Letter dated the 1<sup>t</sup> Instant & return you many thanks for the pains you are taking to have whats' due me by your people collected, and I will pay the person you have employed to receive & Store my Corn whatever you think right respecting the transport here, If the man who is to build my Vessell has her ready in time it will be best both for him and me as I can allow him One Shilling P<sup>r</sup> Bushel for so doing which will be clear gain to him, M<sup>r</sup> James Henry did return me the Tea that remained. I had not forgot it I am glad the Letters for you, thro' my care have always got so Safe, any you may have to Send I will take charge of, and tho there is no regular Post yet there is frequent opportunities, and I'm Sure the Colonel, or Quarter Master of this place will forward any letter I may give them, with pleasure; besides I Know they have a great liking to your people in general, and many of them are acquainted with M<sup>r</sup> Hackenwelder

The 6/ per Bushel allowed your people on the Spot I believe is a very fair price Corn is by no means Scarce here & I think it will hardly fetch 8/ any time between this & the new Crop. I remain &<sup>ca</sup>

Signed J Askin

the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> G. Senseman Riv. thames

P. S. I Inclose John Henry say Cristiain Henry's Orders on you for 7½ Dollars which I have Char<sup>d</sup> to your Account

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 decem. 98 John Askin to Rev<sup>d</sup> Gotlob Senseman River Thames Copy

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO WILLIAM DALY

Detroit 11 December 1798

Sir The young man with your letters, Power of Attorney &a, did not get here before yesterday, and as the court was then almost over, nothing whatever could be done in your demands against M<sup>r</sup> May for this term I will befriend you in this matter If you are right (and Which I am told you are) with all my heart, thats' to say I am in hopes M<sup>r</sup> May will pay you without a Suit, or leave it to arbitration. If not, M<sup>r</sup> Sibley<sup>65</sup> Who you have employed I am Sure will act fairly by his clients therefore will have Justice done to you

Respecting your Commands on Colonel Strong<sup>66</sup> for the Services you rendered the united States, he has told the young man you Sent in that there is money in the Quarter masters hands for you, If I find when he receives it, that there is not enough to make the £14-9 you owe, rather than See you distressed I will give money to make up the difference I will likewise send you your watch and the tools you Wrote for If I can find them, in short as you appear an honest man in your dealings I will Serve you all

<sup>65</sup> Solomon Sibley was born in Sutton, Mass., Oct. 7, 1769, and came to Detroit in the early summer of 1798. A lawyer by profession, he soon assumed a prominent place in the community. In 1799 he was elected to represent Wayne County in the legislature of Northwest Territory. In this capacity he was influential in securing the incorporation of the town of Detroit in 1802, and in 1806 he became the first mayor of the city under the government established by the governor and judges. He served as territorial auditor from 1814 to 1817; U. S. district attorney from 1815 to 1823; was elected delegate to Congress in 1821; and from 1824 to 1837 was a justice of the territorial Supreme Court.

Sibley married Sarah Whipple Sproat, Oct. 31, 1802, and to them nine children were born. One son, Henry H. Sibley, achieved fame as a foremost citizen of Minnesota in the pioneer and territorial period. Solomon Sibley died in Detroit, April 4, 1846. His extensive private papers are preserved in the B. H. Coll. Information adapted from sketch in *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 157-58, and references in B. H. Coll.

<sup>66</sup> David Strong was a native of Connecticut who served throughout the Revolution in the Connecticut state troops, rising from sergeant to the rank of captain. On July 15, 1785, he was commissioned captain in the U. S. Infantry Regiment, and four years later became captain in the First U. S. Infantry. He served during the northwestern Indian wars of the nineties and on Feb. 19, 1793, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in Wayne's Legion. On Nov. 1, 1796, he was transferred to the Second Infantry, and some time prior to the close of 1798 he became commandant at Detroit, where he remained until the summer of 1800. In 1799 he was sued by John Dodemead for \$5000 damages for having posted a sentry in the rear of Dodemead's tavern to prevent soldiers' resorting there to purchase intoxicating liquor. The suit was but one expression of an acute conflict of opinion between the military and a certain element among the citizens over the respective limits of military and civil authority in Detroit. He died, Aug. 19, 1801. Information adapted from Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*, and mss. in B. H. Coll.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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I can, and as to any necessary services you rendered me When the *Annette* was cast away when you and I meet and are Settling our other matters you may depend on my Allowing you whats' fair & honest for my part. As to the trouble you Say you give me, I do not think it any to help an honest man.

I Sent you in a letter the dimmentions of the vessell you have engaged to build for me, but for fear that Letter may be lost, I will now mention them again. viz<sup>t</sup> 28 feet Keel, 10 feet Beam & 4½ feet hold which I suppose is deep enough to Stow two Rows of Barrells over each other, the dead rising as Captain Fearson told you is 4 inches & the Quarter Deck is to be a foot higher than the main Deck If you finish the vessell in the manner I expect you Will, besides our agreement I will make you a present and as I have about 500 Bushels of corn at the Mauravian town, If you have her ready early in the Spring I will give you one Shilling the Bushel for bringing it down which will make about £25 more for you, & you may have Cable, Anchor Sails to bring her down.

It's now the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month & your man has been with the Quarter master, who, he tells me, Says he will not give a penny for the present. I therefore think it cannot be Settled untill you are here yourself in the Spring. as that is the case & you are pressed, I have given an order on M<sup>r</sup> Shibly to pay you in Cash £9 - 10 - 0 which with 4 - 19 - 0 I now give your man will make the £14 - 9 - you wanted, I have also bought what of the tools you wanted which I could get and paid M<sup>r</sup> Strong for your man £1 - 13 - 6 an account of the whole is inclosed & Amounts to £16 - 13 - 6 I have also Sent your watch.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 11 Decem. 98 John Askin to William Dealy Copy

### PROSPECTS FOR INDIAN LAND SPECULATION

Detroit 15 decem 98

Dear Henry I had the satisfaction of receiving yours dated the 8<sup>th</sup> October on the 26 of last M<sup>o</sup> and by it I am sorry to find my Letters as some of yours must have mis-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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carried, had your Rum got up here, most certainly it would have met with a good market. no Spirits have been under 24/ and I believe it will get to 32/ being Scarce I myself for customers have been obliged to engage 16 Barrells had yours been here they would have had a preference it's true I pay but 23/ but that's cash down however I do not think you will catch that advantage in the Spring for the people from Albany will be up before you and I am told the Same Quality of Spirits is got 3 or 4/ less in York than in Montreal, and as to dry Goods the place is quite over Stocked with them.

As your opinion is so unfavourable about Indian Lands, and perhaps well founded, M<sup>r</sup> Robertson, Mess Isaac Todd & James McGill & yourself Should empower one or more of the proprietors to do the best they can with them here. I think I could block some part off at a low rate and the purchaser run all the risks If you give a Power of attorney it Should be without limitation only that nothing shall be Warranted Your determination of not paying a penny more to the Indians my good friend is very embarassing to the others concerned whose Sentiments are different and think that it's better Still to give Some Small matter than loose all that's given. will you renounce your right to any one who will reimburse you all you have paid. I believe If you consent I will find such a person tho I do not assure it. If I do, and you agree I am sure he will pay his share of future expenses I prefer you to any other If you would pay your share but otherwise you may hurt us much. M<sup>r</sup> Todd & you may both go towards York but I don't think either of your necessities so great as to oblige you to run the risk of your lives & I think you are too old to do such Boyish tricks

We have accounts here of M<sup>r</sup> Buonaparte having taken a very different Rout from what he intended or you hear'd. England is a better Climate than Egypt or the holy land. in Spite of him or any other man on earth, most people will enjoy their own Sentiments respecting religion. I think before a man's two hours dead he Knows more about the Matter than all those who remain behind. at Same time surely there can be no risk, in being what all the world



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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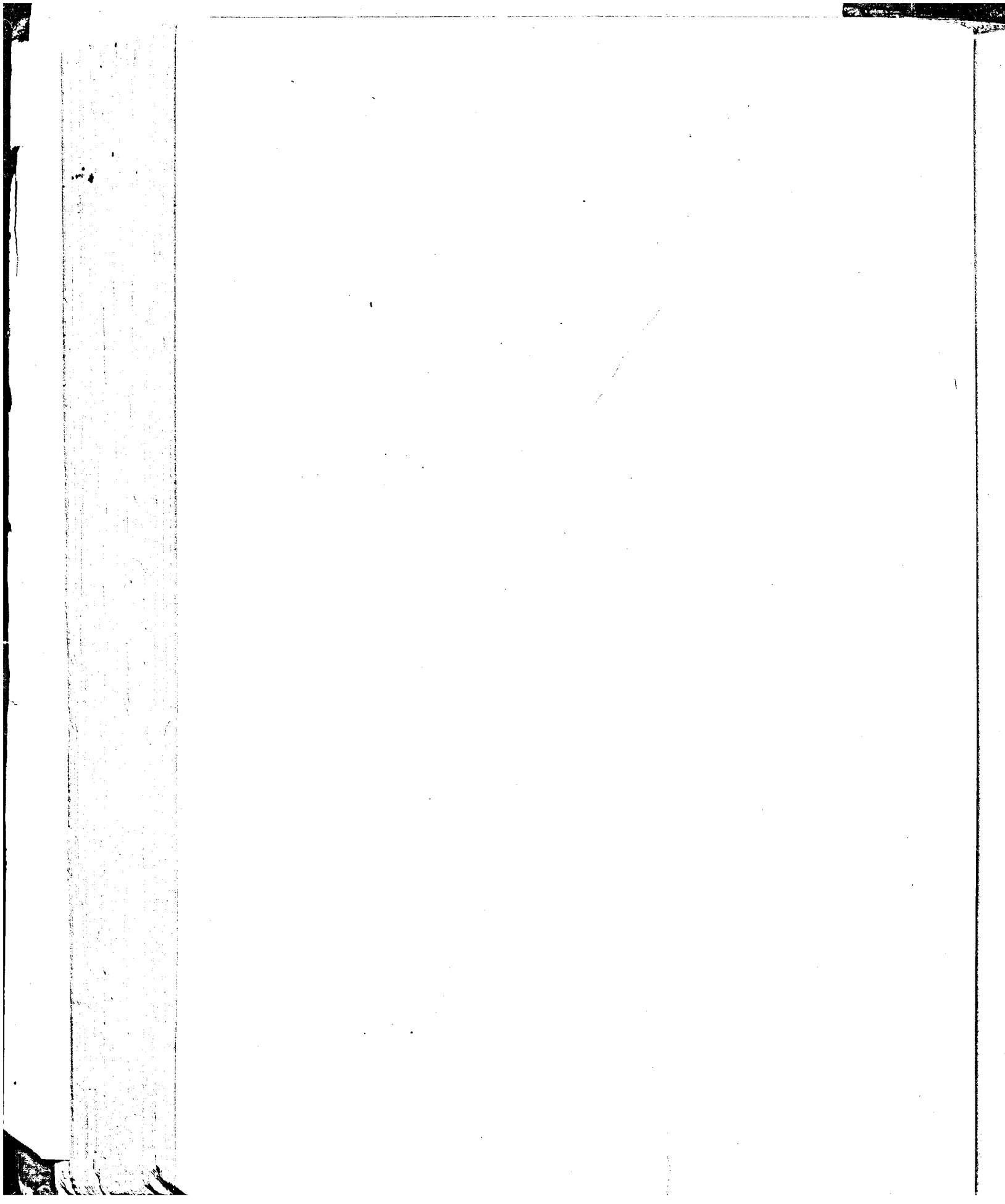
agrees is good; and this is in the power of all who are disposed to be so. I am happy to hear all yours are well thank God mine enjoy the like Blessing. may there be a long continuance of it to both is the most Sincere wish of your old & Constant friend

(Signed) J. A.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 15 december 1798 John Askin to Alexander Henry Copy

SECTION III  
LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1799

EDWIN SMITH  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ABRAHAM IREDELL

Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> January 99

Dear Sir I was favoured with a Letter from you Some time ago accompanied with a Map for which I am very thankful, as you desire me to Keep it untill you came this way yourself & I expected that would be Soon was the reason of my not writing before, but as I was fav<sup>d</sup> with another Letter of yours yesterday I take the earliest opportunity to answer it. you may depend on it that my Son got N<sup>o</sup> 6 in the second Township, second Concession, Northe Side River Thames, & that both the register & Land Board Certificate will prove what I say. I was not Sure it was not N<sup>o</sup> 7 once, but as the Land Board Certificates must be followed (it seems) even If given thro Wrong information or mistake, I do not mean to take or accept of any other in lieu thereof. M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>o</sup>Donell<sup>1</sup> I believe so far as I can recollect got a lot very near it. No person has or Shall See the map you sent me but myself, but untill you are present I cannot well make a choice, not Knowing how near what you have or is laid out is to the River Ruscum or Pointe aux Roches where you Know I always intended to take up my Lands. Please present my best Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup> Iredell & believe me to be &<sup>a</sup>

(Signed) J A

M<sup>r</sup> Iredell

*Endorsed:* Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> January 1799 John Askin to Abraham Iredell Copy

LAND CLAIMS OF ARENT S. DE PEYSTER

Detroit 5 Jan<sup>y</sup> 99

Sir Your letter of the 29 May did not reach me untill the 26 November last. It will give me pleasure at all times to have it in my power to render service to any relation to my worthy friend Col. Depeyster, at Same time in the

<sup>1</sup> For the career of James McDonell, see *B. H. R.*, I, 374.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

present case I can only advise whats to be done & how I would wish to do with Some of my own in a Similar Situation. the tract of land you elude to is at a Small distance from this. I Know it well, it is not claimed by any person here nor elsewhere to my Knowledge unless congress will not admit of Such purchases, and you are better Situated than I am to take legal advice how to act in order not to have your claim disputed: Could you get it confirmed by the American Government it would not be a hard matter to have it Settled probably, but even that might be better done with you than here, as from your Quarter or I mean the States many are looking out to purchase land but few here. it also happens that adventurers from your Quarter purchase Deeds and run all risks. this in my opinion is the best way to dispose of those sort of Lands I have offered very good tracts for  $\frac{1}{4}$  York the acre and give such titles as I hold from the Indians but have not been able to part with any yet however Indian deeds before 83 as yours is, Some Gentlemen of the law Suppose to be good. as you have at York many eminent characters of that profession, your opportunity of having their Sentiments is very easy and I would be thankfull to you to Know what they are. Please observe when I say I would give my right of tracts of Land for  $\frac{1}{4}$  the acre I mean large tracts, and give no other than the Indian Deeds, but If Congress admitted those Deeds as good I Would not sell such as small tract as yours under 8/ or 10/. I was last Summer favoured with a letter from your uncle Col. DePeyster dated 18 Jan<sup>y</sup> last. I take the liberty of sending you under cover herewith my answer, as being the Safest way of conveyance in my opinion I am &<sup>a</sup>

Signed J A

M<sup>r</sup> Arent Schuyler DePeyster<sup>2</sup> New York

*Endorsed:* Detroit 5 Jan<sup>y</sup> 99 John Askin to Arent Schuyler DePeyster Copy

<sup>2</sup> Arent Schuyler De Peyster, born April 4, 1779, was a nephew of Colonel Arent S. De Peyster, who was commandant at Mackinac and Detroit during the Revolutionary period. His father, being a loyalist, migrated from New York (the ancestral home) to England, where the son was educated at the expense of Colonel De Peyster, who planned to procure a comission for him in his own regiment (the Eighth Foot). Instead, the boy ran away to sea at the age of fifteen, and thus began his life-calling as a sailor. In 1819 he discovered the group of islands in the South Pacific which still bear his name. He married

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO COLONEL DE PEYSTER

Detroit 5 Jan<sup>y</sup> 99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I had the pleasure Jointly with my Family to learn by your kind letter of the 18 January last that M<sup>rs</sup> Depeyster & you enjoyed good health, indeed we frequently had that happiness before from the information of several acquaintances in this Quarter, M<sup>r</sup> Leith I believe the last

Your letter reached me last Summer & I immediately wrote a particular friend of mine at Michilimackinac to endeavour & obtain of Doctor Mitchel<sup>3</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Gautier the vouchers you required. the former readily gave one, but the latter from intoxication & perhaps Some other cause never could be prevailed on. the Doctor's after I got it was on Such a Scrap of paper that I had to Send back for another, and now he has not put any date to it & declares (which Surprises me) that he does not know the time. there is no others of those mentioned in your account could be met with at Michilimackinac, but M<sup>r</sup> Ainse<sup>4</sup> and many others are at Montreal & as your old acquaintance M<sup>r</sup> Todd (Isaac) lives there & they are all known to him, I am sure he will render you Service If in his power, and as he has the art of persuasion he is a very proper person I would have wrote him & sent the list, but I think its better you do it yourself.

All your old acquaintances in this Quarter—William M<sup>c</sup>Comb excepted, are all alive and well the Commodore lives at gros Pointe (except when his duty requires him at the Rivers' mouth) Colonel M<sup>c</sup>Kee at River tranche, his Son<sup>5</sup> (married to my Daughter Therese) at petite cote, M<sup>c</sup>Gregor & Park lower down in the Same quarter also Pollard our high Sherriff Elliott<sup>6</sup> & Caldwell<sup>7</sup> at the Rivers

Sarah Macomb, daughter of William Macomb of Detroit and (later) New York, and sister of General Alexander Macomb of the U. S. army. Information adapted from sketch in A. S. De Peyster, *Miscellanies by an Officer* (New York, 1888), and Henry A. Macomb (comp.), *The Macomb Family Record* (Camden, N. J., 1917).

3 Dr. David Mitchell, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 85.

4 Probably Joseph Louis Ainse, for whose career see *ibid.*, 69.

5 Captain Thomas McKee, for whose career see *ibid.*, 376.

6 Matthew Elliot, for whose career see *ibid.*, 257-58.

7 William Caldwell, for sketch of whose career see *ibid.*, 243.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

mouth, now Amherstburg as likewise Doctor Harffy Reynolds & Sparksman I dont recollect any other that you are acquainted with, I live on my farm near town & Keep a Shop in Col. M<sup>e</sup>Kee's old house opposite LaMothes, that was. my Son John carries on the mercantile business in town, M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton is dead & M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton married again. my Daughter Madelaine who was brought up in Canada has been married Some years past to a Doctor of Simcoe's Rangers. Archange, M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith is in Ireland with her husband, so that there remains with us, Alice & Nelly, likewise three Boys, the eldest of whom begins to assist me in the Shop, I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this long account of the family knowing that M<sup>rs</sup> Depeysters & your friendship is so great that you will be pleased to hear of all those who are related to me I'm on a very good footing with the American Garrison, tho a declared british subject Compliments &<sup>a</sup> &<sup>a</sup> &<sup>a</sup>

Signed J A

Colonel Arent Schuyler DePeyster<sup>8</sup>  
at Dumfries in Scotland

*Endorsed:* Detroit 5 Jan<sup>y</sup> 99. John Askin to Col. DePeyster Scotland

WRECK OF THE *ANNETTE* AT LONG POINT

Declaration of Augustin Francoeur<sup>9</sup>

On the tenth august last he, as sailor with one Timothy Grumment *then* commanding the now Wrecked Sloop *Annette*, Sailed from Detroit for Presquise, and came to shore at Malden about 2½ days wind bound, then sailed out and went as far as the Islands in 1½ days when they anchored ½ wind bound, from whence they Sailed out and arrived at Presquise on the Second day in the morning from which Place after loading the Vessel (which took 2 days) they sailed out the 3<sup>d</sup> day with a fair wind on same day, wind turning a head, they were drove to the grand River where they remained 3 or 4 hours, after which they Sailed out into the lake where after being toss'd about all

<sup>8</sup> For the career of Colonel Arent S. De Peyster, see *ibid.*, 72.

<sup>9</sup> The manuscript is evidently a rough draft, with many corrections and interlineations.

day, they were drove to *Pointe à Bineau* [Abino] the next day, where having a head wind for Detroit they, on their 4<sup>th</sup> days anchorage, being in want Provisions went to Fort Erie in order to obtain some there, and arived Same day. next day Set off for Detroit a few hours after the *Francis & Charlotte* and Steering by Said vessells after Standing out a hard gale for two days (which had Drove both *Francis & Charlotte* back to Erie) they come to anchor under *Pointe à Bineau*. the next day, finding the wind Still against their course for D. they Steered for Fort Erie in Same day to get some Candles Next day at about 12 Sailed with fair wind in Co with the *Nancy* (which they lost sight of at night) came as far as *long Pointe* the Same day at night, where they got aground, pushed off, then Sailed again for D. with a light breeze, they got aground again on Said Pointe So that it was impossible to get her off a 2<sup>d</sup> time. the next morning finding that the vessell had taken Some water, they unloaded all they could on shore, remained there all day,—then Francoeur attempting to discover the habitations, which were about 15 miles from the vessell lost the Road and came back 2 days after, Stay 1 day more at the vessell, next day Grummet after declaring that he would not leave the vessell untill the vessell Was broke to pieces Went off with S<sup>d</sup> Francoeur in a canoe to the habitations where after getting a Barge S<sup>d</sup> Grummet returned to the Vessell and came back to the Houses loaded with part of the vessell's cargo, then S<sup>d</sup> Grum[met] declared he would not let the cargo into any body's hands lodged it into a House and remained in posesion of it, at which time S<sup>d</sup> Francoeur departed for Detroit, with daily

N B It must be remembered, that after being Cast with the vessell S<sup>d</sup> Grummet enticed S<sup>d</sup> Francoeur to pillage & Steal the Goods &<sup>oa</sup> as his Share giving him to understand that whenever a vessell was wrecked, the Seamen had a right to take any thing that remained. which he refused S<sup>d</sup> Grummut had himself taken some things to himself, had drank some of the Rum wine &<sup>a</sup> and had offered to Sell Brandy & Cloathes &<sup>a</sup>

Said Francoeur declares that to his Knowledge & according to a particular Survey he had made to the vessell he



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Saw no other harm done to her Except a Small opening about 3 Inches wide on the side of her, but not being able to be present when Daily cut the vessell to pieces, being Sick at the habitations, Daily told him he had cut the vessell to pices Moreover, Grummet was always intoxicated always on the lake.

*Endorsed:* Augustin Francoeur his Declaration relative to the loss of the *Annette* in 1798

### SALE OF INDIAN LANDS

Detroit January the 22<sup>d</sup> 1799

Sir I Meant to have called on you prior to your departure relative to our Conversation on the subject of Lands purchased of Indians. I think you said the best Method to Strengthen such Titles would be to sell a part of them to men of Interest. I Agree with you. Therefore if you know of any such Characters please write or Mention the Matter to them. they may Almost make their own price for some hundred Thousand Acres and I think the offer should come from them in which case the affair could be closed soon. They can have no better Deeds than Us who purchased, and it must be an Undivided Share, for by their Securing their own they will Secure that of the other Proprietors which is the reason that I in behalf of myself & them would sell so low. No fraud has been mad[e] use of towards Indians, & the purchases are prior to the Treaty held by the late General Wayne the Lands are well situated & of a good quality.

I am Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

John Askin

Solomon Sibley Esquire at Cincinnatie

*Addressed:* Solomon Sibley Esquire, Cincinatti

### DISPUTES OVER TRADER'S OBLIGATION

Montreal 24<sup>th</sup> January 1799

Dear Sir I was duly favoured with yours of the 12<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October to which I attend. The different articles of yours on the communication would I hope get up by the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Nancy* or *Charlotte* which I learn had arrived before M<sup>r</sup> R. M<sup>c</sup>kenzie left Detroit.

M<sup>r</sup> Todd was gone for New York before either of your letters reached me, and is not yet returned, but is expected in ten days or a fortnight; of course I have not had an opportunity of speaking to him on the chief subject of your last, M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill however read me what you say to M<sup>r</sup> T. on the subject of my having assumed the 2500 Livres recovered from Vallé<sup>10</sup> by Loisel.<sup>11</sup> I do not know how M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum can swear to my having done so. when you & I had the last & final conversation on that subject I cannot remember that he was present, and from which conversation you conceive that I *did* assume the Debt as acting for M<sup>r</sup> T. but was it not still subject to his approbation? The memorandum which you suppose I left about that matter must be what M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum got at Mackinac from M<sup>r</sup> Swan,<sup>12</sup> with whom the matter had much better have been settled seeing he knew the people in the Illinois, it is also odd that M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum did not say any thing to M<sup>r</sup> Todd on the subject in 1797 when he was at Mackinac & Detroit, nor did he say any thing of it this year till the very day that I was leaving Mackinac when there was no time to have it cleared up. In writing you last Septem<sup>r</sup> I mentioned the reasons for M<sup>r</sup> T's refusing to pay the whole demand, which letter I wrote by his desire and he saw it before it was closed. if M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum has any information regarding that business or proofs to bring forward of which M<sup>r</sup> T. is ignorant I think he would do well to produce them, and if they are convincing M<sup>r</sup> T. as you observe is surely the last man that would wish to have

<sup>10</sup> On the Vallé family of Ste. Genevieve, see *B. H. R.*, I, 290. The member here alluded to was probably Jean Baptiste Vallé, who was actively engaged in the fur trade and in other commercial activities. He married Jane Barbeau and lived to an advanced age. See Houck, *History of Missouri*, I, 349-50.

<sup>11</sup> Regis (or Registré) Loisel was a native of Canada, who came to St. Louis in 1793, where he married Helene Chauvin. He engaged actively in the fur trade of the Upper Missouri region, and about the year 1800 built a "4 bastion" fort in central South Dakota which is described with considerable care by Sergeant John Ordway of the Lewis and Clark expedition. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XXII, 135. When Louisiana was transferred from Spain via France to the United States, Loisel seems to have chosen to remain a subject of the first-named country. He died in New Orleans in October, 1804. See Houck, *History of Missouri*, II, 252.

<sup>12</sup> James Swan, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 375. For his report on the matter here discussed, see *post*, 216-17.

what does not belong to him, but the matter appears to be that he never got the money otherwise than by a Credit in an Acc<sup>t</sup> Current on which there is still a large balance due, and it will fall hard on M<sup>r</sup> Todd to pay the money, which I told M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum at Detroit. Swan who is gone back to the Illinois this winter will endeavour to get some information on the subject as I wrote him from your place, and I hope all parties will at last be of one opinion; I heartily wish I had never had any thing to say in the business for disputing claims is an unpleasant task. I shall drop the subject by observing that I am now writing from my own head and not as M<sup>r</sup> Todd's Attorney.

You will hear the news from this place through other channels, and I have only to add my thanks for your obliging expressions and for the good wishes of your family, and begging you will present my best Compliments to them all, I remain Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> & very hu<sup>l</sup><sup>e</sup> Servant

Tho. Blackwood<sup>13</sup>

I have not forgot the Quebec Pocket Almanack, but it cannot be sent till the spring.

If you have any Mem<sup>m</sup> from me about the 2500<sup>th</sup> I will thank you to say what it is, as I don't recollect of having left any with you regarding that matter. I left a mem. about the *Saguinah's* loading only, if I remember right.

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Jan<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Blackwood to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> of March Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6 June 1799

<sup>13</sup> Thomas Blackwood was a prominent Montreal merchant in this period. He was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, Feb. 10, 1773. In 1791 he came to Canada, and after several years' employment in the mercantile business in Quebec, entered the service of the firm of Todd and McGill in Montreal, where he continued to reside until his death, Nov. 22, 1842. About the beginning of 1800, he was admitted to partnership in the firm of James and Andrew McGill, and at a later date he became a partner of François DesRivières, son of Mrs. James McGill. Blackwood was for several decades an active supporter of the St. Gabriel Street Church, whose historian says of him: ". . . few men in Canada wielded a more trenchant pen, or exhibited a more statesmanlike grasp of Church questions, as these were affected by Canada." He was a charter director of the Montreal General Hospital, an executor of the will of James McGill, and a director of the Montreal Savings Bank. A sketch of his career is in Robert Campbell, *A History of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, St. Gabriel Street, Montreal* (Montreal, 1887), 244-49.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

DEFECTS IN LAWS GOVERNING MILITIA

Detroit 24 Jan<sup>y</sup> 99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I wrote you the 26<sup>h</sup> since which I have endeavoured to throw M<sup>r</sup> Nortons account into such a State as may induce him to pay you the Ballance. I have taken the liberty to inclose you herewith the copy of my letter to him as also of his Note & account, So that Should he make any further difficulties you will be acquainted how badly they are founded I wish this tedious business was at an end.

pray have you not Some young man of the law in your Quarter who you wish well. If you have I think you should recommend it to him to settle at the River thames or Sandwich, for, tho he may not get much at first, his profession will make his profits daily increase as the Settlement does, in particular If he understands conveyancing, besides only one lawyer in Court gives a poor Chance to him who has not engaged him first. M<sup>r</sup> Roe has declared it would be more agreeable to him If there was an other than he alone.

Pray let me ask you If you have not found Some defect in your Militia laws. I command a Batallion but on no occasion whatever unless in conformity to an order from the L<sup>t</sup> Governor &<sup>a</sup> or L<sup>t</sup> of the County, can I order out one man for review, exercise, or any other purpose? but the Captain who is my inferior officer can call his company out 4 times a year. On the 4 June the whole militia is to be out, but it's not me who can give them Orders to appear on that day. the law directs we should be all there, Officers & men, and a fine is to be paid by the absent, I should have been [glad] to have paid a Compliment by ordering some out to fire over Colonel M<sup>c</sup>Kee, but I make a rule never to do what the law will not support me in doing for fear of being refused without having the means of punishing, others its true order without authority and are sometimes obeyed. Some militia were called out by them to fire over col. M<sup>c</sup>Kee's Corps & they did so. Another defect I find in the militia law is, that no person can be compelled to serve as a Sergeant, and I assure you so few among the Canadians are disposed to do it voluntarily tho excepted for the time from Serving as Constable, that I have one Comp<sup>y</sup> without officer or Sergeant. it's true the law has

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

provided for the former, and when officers are wanting the L<sup>t</sup> of the county is to blame When I mention these matters to Some of the council in this Quarter the answer I get is, that it's understood I should be obeyed when I give orders to the militia. my ideas are very different except in cases where the laws directs, for was I [acting] as Judge in any case where a militia man refused what the law had not exacted he should do, I would acquit him If in your opinion the defects I suppose exist & [you] think it right to move at next Sessions for an amendm<sup>t</sup> it is well. If not I have nothing further to urge. It is however painful to me as a militia officer not to be able to put the [into] execution such orders as I may receive from the president or any other in his Stead, thro the L<sup>t</sup> of the county. I am &<sup>a</sup>

(Signed) J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 24 Jan<sup>y</sup> 99 John Askin to Hamilton  
Copy

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 25 January 1799

Dear Askin I received your several letters and observe what you say respecting Trade at your post it is nothing new when money is gaind one or two years in a post they must loose five business is much the same here all Trades overdone from your information, I have alter'd my plan and sold off all my importations at cost & charges, so am again free living on stock which goes very fast, and [what] the next will be [I] cannot say. the new North West Company is going on it will be a considerate [considerable] struggle but I know who will gain. the one party is a new rais'd corps without discipline, the other old veterans. I cant find one man of experience that has the least knowledg in the North consern'd. Forsyth does the business here and Sharp at the portage. I thank you for the [me]morandum &<sup>a</sup> you sent me, I did not mean that my Nephew<sup>14</sup> should have settled at Sagana or the Indian Country but

<sup>14</sup> This was Alexander Henry who is commonly known as "the younger" by way of distinguishing him from his uncle. He seems to have entered upon the fur trade this same year. He was drowned in the lower Columbia in April, 1814, along with Donald McKenzie. Most of the intervening years were spent by Henry in the far Northwest. His extensive journals, edited by Elliott Coues, were published in New York in 1893.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

at Detroit. he is going to the NorthWest with the old Company. I am inform'd Sheifland was at Philidelphia with the Indians from Detroit but cannot know what has been done, but can guess. Isaac Todd was there at the Time but has not return'd I supose you will have the News—such as never was known. Admiral Nelson with 13 ships of the Line attackd the Toulon fleet, which Took Boanaparta to Egypt, and took Eleven of the french the Beys or Generals in Egypt has kill'd the greatest part of his army, Nelsons fleet also destroyed 300 Transports Admiral Warran, has Taken & Destroyd the Brest fleet going to Ireland with Troops, the french Landed a number of Troops there some time before these, but they were all taken or Kill'd. the Turks has declar'd war against france and it is supos'd Germany, Russia & all the World will do the same. America talks big. they feel Bold all this good news has rais'd our sperrets. furs in England will sell by the best Information I can get for less than last year Beaver very great fall, Deer about the same as last year bears much less raccoons a fall. Muskratts will sell here 20 coppers good, no small ones, to 22<sup>d</sup> that is if those shipt for England last fall, sells for that in London, but if for less, they will all return to America and *overstock* the market, then a fall.

I expect Todd up soon with all the News. he is like myself growing old always complaining. one of your old friends General Christie<sup>15</sup> took his departure for the other World a few days ago. old standards deminishes very fast. there is not more than six rema[in]ing in Montreal which are Dobé, John Neagles Major Hughs, James Morrison, & my self. Todd came some time after the conquest. we have lost that number in about two years, so we may keep a sharp look out. Tell my old friend Com'odore Grant that I received a letter from Doct<sup>r</sup> Wright Barbados 24 August. M<sup>rs</sup> Wright and the Children is well<sup>16</sup> they have had an

<sup>15</sup> General Gabriel Christie spent practically a lifetime in the army, rising to the rank of general in 1798. For a number of years prior to the Revolutionary War he was lieutenant colonel of the Sixtieth (Royal American) Regiment. We have been unable to discover where Askin encountered him, although it seems quite probable it was during the sojourn of the latter at Mackinac from 1764 to 1780.

<sup>16</sup> Therese, daughter of Commodore Grant, married Dr. Thomas Wright in January, 1793. For the tragic fate of the Wright family, see *B. H. R.*, I, 461.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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adition of one to their family since they left this. as the time is so very short for us, we should endeavour to meet once more here on Earth so it is your Turn to come down, which [I hope] you may do this summer and bring M<sup>rs</sup> Askin with you. I have tired your patience with so much stuf, so when you are half through lay this by for another time, and believe me ever, with my wishes & that of my famely for the Happiness of you & your famely

Your affectinate friend

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Jan<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1799 Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> March Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> April

### OBLIGATIONS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Cincinnati Jan<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1799

Dear Sir, I shall with pleasure hold myself retained on your behalf in all Cases in which I may be applied to either by your self, or by any other person against you, upon the principles you have stated in your last letter. I do not wish any money to be advanced, but will leave it to be received as the Cases individually occur.

Your letter addressed to M<sup>r</sup> St. Clair<sup>17</sup> and myself at post Vincents did not come to our hands. We found M<sup>r</sup> Vigo perfectly willing, but unable to discharge the Debt. he offered to give lands in payment, which we were not empowered to receive. our only object therefore was to secure the debt, if possible. to effect this we proposed to take a Mortgage on his lands. at first he was unwilling to give it, observing that it would prevent the sale of his lands which was the only source from which he could raise money to discharge the bond; however he waived the objection and executed a Mortgage on seventeen four hundred acre tracts of land, lying in the neighbourhood of the post. the patents for these lands have not yet been taken out, but the Governor is ready to grant them whenever an application shall be made for that purpose.

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<sup>17</sup> Arthur St. Clair, son of Governor Arthur St. Clair, and a pioneer attorney of Ohio.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Mr Vigo values the land at one Dollar and fifty Cents P<sup>r</sup> Acre and offers to give the seventeen Tracts if the Company will accept them and give him a discharge. We endeavoured to learn the value of the lands with as much accuracy as possible, but could not obtain sufficient information to make it prudent or safe for us to recommend or advise one way or the other. it appeared to be the opinion of some persons whom we consulted that the lands were valued at more than they would sell for in Cash at present, but that they were rising in value.

please to present my respects to your Family and believe me

Your Friend & Very Hum<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Jac Burnet<sup>18</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit fav<sup>d</sup> by Mr Sibley

*Endorsed:* Cincinnati Jan<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1799 Jacob Burnett Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> March Answ<sup>d</sup> April the 3<sup>d</sup>

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

Athlone 30<sup>th</sup> January 1799

My dear Father, I did myself the happiness to address my Mother and Sister M<sup>o</sup>Kee by the last month's Packet I have no letters of my dear Familys to acknowledge since that period tho I live in hopes of receiving some ere long. You will be pleased to hear that my dear Husband enjoys

<sup>18</sup> Jacob Burnet was the son of Dr. William Burnet of Newark, New Jersey, who was a member of the Continental Congress and subsequently physician and surgeon-general of the Eastern District throughout the Revolution. The son, Jacob, was born, Feb. 22, 1770, and was graduated from Princeton in 1791. He was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1796 and immediately thereafter located in Cincinnati. Here he early achieved an influential station, being chosen in 1799 one of five members of the first Legislative Council of Northwest Territory and continuing a member until the formation of the Ohio state government. He became a judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1821 and was elected to the U. S. Senate in 1828. In 1839 he was chiefly instrumental in procuring the nomination of William Henry Harrison to the presidency. Aside from political and legal activities, he was active in the development of educational institutions, and in 1847 published *Notes on the Early Settlement of the Northwestern Territory* (Cincinnati, 1847). He died in Cincinnati, May 10, 1853. See E. O. Randall and Daniel J. Ryan, *History of Ohio* . . . . (New York, 1912), *passim*.

A letter substantially identical with the one to Burnet was addressed the same day to Arthur St. Clair of Cincinnati, son of Governor St. Clair.



a good state of health he is not so fat as when in Canada but he looks remarkably well. My dear children have both had bad colds but are now recovering. This Place does not afford any matter entertaining to write about I described my habitation and situation of the Town &° to my mother in my last letter. We have been in a kind of Bustle lately on the subject of an union between England and Ireland most of the first peöple in this Kingdom objected to it and the lower class of Irish without knowing the meaning of the business objected to it because their superiors did I am not politician enough to comprehend the nature of the Union with regard to the advantages that might accrue to this Country by its taking place but am happy to find that in consequence of the extreme dislike to it by the Irish the matter is dropped and we are likely to remain quiet. We have had Some cold weather this Winter this day reminds me of dear Canada for it is very severe and we have a drift of Snow. I went to a Ball two evenings ago the Ball Room was in shocking condition in regard to the appearance of the Building but we had some pleasant women of the Party and we danced merrily untill two oclock in the morning at which time we were ushered in the Supper Room where we found a very good *repas* prepared after Supper I danced one dance and returned home. I must compliment you my dear Father on the good dancing of your fair Country women they posses great life and spirits and are in general very pleasant in their conversations and manners.

It is now some time since we heard from my Aunt Mercer they were lately at Liverpool. my Cousin Charlotte is a very pretty Girl and is of a most amiable disposition I should suppose she must have some admirers by this time in Canada she would not wait long for a Spouse but in England men always look to the *main chance* a round sum of money and indeed it is highly necessary where Taxes are so plenty. I suppose you [are] by this time comfortably settled on the opposite side of the River I trust you have met with good purchasers for what you had to dispose of the Newspapers gave a pleasing account of great success the Canada Fur merchants met with this last year I did not get a letter from any of the Family by the Fleet of merchant

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Ships from Quebec so that I am ignorant of your situation this last Autumn. Should my dear Mother be near to my Sister she will no doubt find great amus[e]ment in her attention to her grandson I trust he continues well as also my Sister and Family to whom I beg to be remembered in the most affectionate manner.

For the information of Adelaide I insert a few Fashions— head dress of Brown velvet the cap in the shape of a Turban trimmed with narrow gold Twist, and white feathers. the Hair dressed in small curls all over the head, B[a]ngle Bandeaux and Feathers are also much worn. Gowns and Petticoats of the same are also much in Fashion, but to save a quantity which a suit of the same must cause, it is customary to tack a kind of apron in the Gown, leaving [part] of the Gown loose the length of a finger, which [makes] it appear a compleat dress. handkerchiefs are also in vogue but very little of them seen as the gowns come high up to the neck. small earrings and Necklaces, narrow girdles, narrow Bracelets are now in Fashion. silk gloves of any colour and very long to come high up the arm. sleeves of Gowns are worn in various shapes, but I have mine quite plain with a small cuff to turn up. so much *pour les modes*. my dear Meredith having desired me to leave him a small space to address you in I shall now think of concluding. my little children beg to assure you of their kind love pray kiss my dear dear Mother for me and assure her of my fervent affection. my best love to my dear Sisters & Brothers Love to Uncle Grant & & Compliments to all acquaintances I remain my dear Father you very affectionate daughter

A Meredith<sup>19</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merc<sup>t</sup> at Detroit Upper Canada To the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & MGill Merchants at Montreal Lower Canada

*Endorsed:* Athlone 30<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1799 L<sup>t</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith to John Askin

<sup>19</sup> A letter from David Meredith to John Askin follows the letter of Mrs. Meredith to her father.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLYING LOGGERS

Grose Point Thursday

D<sup>r</sup> Sir For fear of any misunderstanding about the price of the Hay which I had cut & stacked near where your People are cutting Pine, I inform you that if you have occasion to take any of it the Price is Twelve Pounds York.

I take this opportunity also to repeat that I will haul out all your Timber at Two Shillings York a pice provided the saw Logs do not exceed ten feet long, otherwise in that proportion, and the largest of the other Timber thirty feet of a foot square except the [illegible] & Traverses which of cours[e] I'll admit in any proportion you find convenient to order, provided also that your people do open the roads to the Timber.

I shall require half of the payment in money and half in goods from your Store. Should this not meet with your approbation, and that your People may want any supplies, these can be had at my House, Corn for 8/ a Minot Pork at 1/ Beef at 10<sup>d</sup> and if possible to get to the mill Flour at 40/ a h<sup>d</sup>. When I consider that I may have two Horses to support and two Men to victuall and pay for at least three Months I cannot undertake the hauling under the terms proposed Mean time I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your Very Obed Sv<sup>t</sup>

Alex. Harrow<sup>20</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Gros Point Feb<sup>ry</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1799 Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrow to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> same day & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

FROM GOTTLÖB SENSEMAN TO JOHN ASKIN

Fairfield Feb<sup>ry</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 99

Dear Sir Your Corn due to you by our Ind<sup>a</sup>, is chiefly all collected and stored; the Ind<sup>a</sup> whom I appointed to measure & store it, tells me, that he received nigh 500 Bhl., and to my own Calculation the Total due to you, comes to above that Sum or Quantity, I shall use my best Endeavors, that

<sup>20</sup> For the career of Alexander Harrow, see *B. H. R.*, I, 305-306.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

all shall be paid; some Indians, as you know yourself are little concerned about making Payment; without the Creditor himself is present, and peremptorily demands it. There are but very few left, of whom I know, that they are bad Paymasters. two of them promised me, to bring their Corn themselves down in the Spring, and I shall remind them of it at the Time.

M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Dealy promised to bring the Corn down in the Spring, in the new Vessel, he is a building for you, but I am a little afraid, it will be laid [late], as I have been told, his Work goes on but slowly; I shall write to him, and hurry him on; and I wish very much you would do the same, that you might receive your Corn at the proper Time, and as early as possible; I have received, not long ago a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Nichol your late Clerk; wherein he mentions to me, that he has entrusted a few Goods to Lodwick, one of our Ind<sup>s</sup> when he was here last; the Payment for which he shall deliver to you; (they were his own Property) I acquainted the Indian of it, and he is willing to do it. it makes 25 Dollars.

I would likewise desire you, to send me my Account, as I had a few Articles from M<sup>r</sup> Nichol when he was here with Goods; the Account I had for it, I have lost among my Papers; you will be so good, as excuse the Forbearance of the Payment, as I [do] not come to Town so frequently, as I formerly did, or els I should have pay'd it before now.

I am with due Respect Dear Sir  
Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> & humbl. Ser<sup>t</sup>  
G Senseman

M<sup>r</sup> J. Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Fairfield Feb<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Senseman to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

SUPPLIES FOR LOGGERS

Detroit 10 feb<sup>y</sup> 99

Dear Sir In answer to your obliging letter from Gros Pointe on Thursday last, I have to Say that the Hay is at

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

your Credit With me—12— as to the hawling out of the Timber I have made an agreement for that business much under your offer Respecting the provisions, whatever Quantity under the Value of £20 Basile Lafleur may want, please furnish him and I will pay the Rates you require and for St Bernard<sup>21</sup> the bearer I will answer up to £30 for Provisions If he takes So Much. I need not observe that it will be necessary to take the Person's receipt for the Quantity delv<sup>d</sup> I am &<sup>a</sup>

Signed J A

Capt Harrow 1<sup>st</sup> Claim

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 feb<sup>y</sup> 99 John Askin to Captain Harrow Copy

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BASIL LAFLEUR

Au Detroit Le 10 de Fevrier 1799

Mons<sup>r</sup> Bazil Lafleur

Monsieur Le Porteur de ceci Mons<sup>r</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Bernard est Arrangé Avec moi pour tirer tous mon Bois que Je aurai à La Pineire Ainssi vous lui ferra[i] commencer per Le Bois qui est pour Le Roi et Le faire mettre apart comme cette Bois doit être dans une Cajoux separé d'Autre Bois. Vous n'êtes

<sup>21</sup> Alexander Bernard married Catherine Girard and lived in the parish of Ambasa, diocese of Limoges, in France. Their son, William, born in the ancestral home in 1717, found his way to Detroit, where on Jan. 10, 1754, he married Mary Joseph Campau, daughter of Antoine Campau and Angelica Peltier *dit* Antaya, who was born in Detroit on March 15, 1740. To them were born seventeen children in the ensuing thirty years. William Bernard was engaged in trade. In 1762 he purchased the farm on the Northeast Coast (between modern Field and Baldwin avenues) which had been granted to Charles Chêne in 1734, and which since the American régime has been designated as Private Claim 16.

Joseph St. Bernard (the prefix "St." seems to have been added to the family name by certain members of the second generation in Detroit), the third child of William Bernard and Mary Joseph Campau, and the individual mentioned in the present document, was born in Detroit, June 21, 1759; on April 26, 1785, he married Geneveva Saucier, daughter of Joseph Saucier and Geneveva Tremblay. The bride's parents resided at Fox Creek in Grosse Pointe, and apparently she and her husband located in this vicinity, for ten of their children were born in Detroit in the years 1786-99; and in 1802 a suit at law resulted in dispossessing Bernard of a house at Grosse Pointe, which he apparently had built on land to which he was now unable to establish legal title. Prior to this, however, the couple seems to have removed to Raisin River settlement, where their eleventh child was born, in January, 1801. Their farm was on Otter Creek, a few miles south of Monroe; Bernard continued to reside here until his death, shortly prior to May 29, 1822. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*, and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

pas obligé d'Assister à chargé des Pieces, mais il faut faire Le Chemain ou cela est neccessaire. Je dois fournir du foin pour Les Cheaveaux de Mons<sup>r</sup> St Bernard, et Je lui est dit de rendre Le restant pour mon Compte comme elle m'a couté douze Ponts. On quittera contre La Cabane de Micheal Baron Autant de Piyeaux de Ceder qu'il pourra faire En Bardeau et Le reste sera Amminé ou vous ferrez Les Cajeux. Je Suis mortifié que Baron n'est pas content Je Souhaiterai contenter tout Le Monde, vous ferrez bien lui Liveré tant de Lard, tant de farine et tant de pois, et des Pois[s]on comme Les Autre, s'il Employe plus que ce qui est raisonable, ce sera A lui de Le payer. Je Vous prie bien de manager la Viande, Je ne vois pas jour de vous Envoyer de Avantage mais s'il vous manque de La farine au Pois Vous En Aurez de Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrow par mon Compte, Mons<sup>r</sup> Barthe vous Aurez dit que Le Bois du Roi doit Etre faites Le premiere. Michel Baron a tres mal faites de Vouloir Vendre de Ceder à Mons<sup>r</sup> Boyez Vous ne lui quittera pas prendre une Seul morceau. tout cela est à moi. Comme Je paye tant por Piece grand comme petit pour faire Charier du Bois, J Espere que Les traverses seront belles.

*Translation*

Detroit, February 10, 1799

Mr. Basil Lafleur,

Sir: The bearer of this, St. Bernard, has arranged with me to draw all my wood that I shall have at the Pinery, so you will have him commence with that for the King, and have it put aside as that wood should be on a separate raft from the other. You need not help with the loading but be sure to have the necessary roads made. I have to furnish hay for St. Bernard's horses and I have told him to give me credit for what is not used as it costs me twelve pounds. Leave near Michael Baron's<sup>22</sup> cabin what cedar he will

<sup>22</sup> Michael Baron was descended from Andrew Achin, who was born in 1646 and married at Three Rivers, on October 24, 1667, Frances Pietou. Their son, Francis Achin dit Catin, born in Montreal on June 1, 1684, married on Jan. 7, 1704, Mary Seguin dit Laderoute of Longueuil. They had a son Francis, who was born in Longueuil in 1712, and who married there on Feb. 9, 1739, Mary Ann Jeannes. Their second son, Michael Catin dit Baron, was born in Longueuil, April 6, 1749. He came west to Detroit and on Nov. 21, 1774, married in Sandwich Mary Louisa Gouyou, who was born in Detroit, Aug. 8, 1759. They had nine children born in Detroit and Sandwich, the last in 1792; four more

need to make into shingles and take the rest where you will make the raft. I am sorry Baron is not satisfied. I should like to please everybody. You might give him as much lard, flour, peas, and fish as the others, then if he uses more than is reasonable, he must pay for it. But pray be careful with the meat, for I do not see when I can send you more, but if you need flour or peas, get some from Captain Harrow on my account. Mr. Barthe will have told you that the wood for the King must be made up first. Michael Baron did very wrong to want to sell cedar to Mr. Boyer. You must not let him take a single piece; that is all mine. As I pay so much a piece, big or little, to have the wood carted out, I hope the roads will be good.

#### INDIAN TITLE TO CONNECTICUT RESERVE

Mr Huntingtons<sup>23</sup> Compliments to J Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> and in reply to his note of this date, has to inform him, that the principal object of his inquiries of Mr M<sup>c</sup>Niff was to Obtain information relative to the situation of the Indian title to that part of New Connecticut or lands the property of the Connecticut Company which lies west of the east line described in the treaty made with the Indians by General Wayne.

The Connecticut Comp<sup>y</sup> have made application to Congress for liberty to treat with the Indians for their title, to the land described, and as Mr H has a number of friends interested in the title granted by Connecticut he thought it his

were born in Raisin River settlement, the first in 1796. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>23</sup> Benjamin Huntington was born in Norwich, Conn., March 19, 1777. His family was long prominent in Connecticut, and his father, also named Benjamin, held numerous important public offices. Huntington came to Detroit in early manhood (the present document affords the earliest indication of his presence here that has been found), where he remained about three years. During this time he was engaged in business activities and to some extent in local politics. In October, 1800, he unsuccessfully sought election to the territorial legislature, and engaged in physical combat at the polls with George McDougall. In the spring of 1802, Huntington established himself in business in New York City, where the remainder of his life was spent, and where he died on Aug. 3, 1850. He was long a leading broker of the city. One of his sons, Jedidiah V. Huntington, was an author and editor, and among other activities, was the translator and editor of Gabriel Franchère's Northwest Coast narrative. Another son, Daniel, was a prominent artist of New York. Data compiled from mss. in B. H. Coll., and E. B. Huntington, *A Genealogical Memoir of the Huntington Family* . . . (Stamford, Conn., 1863), *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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duty to inquire into the situation of the buisness, that he may have it in his power to point out to his friends the best method to obtain the Indian title, M<sup>r</sup> H would readily attend to the interview mentioned by M<sup>r</sup> A if the time previous to his departure was not so short. The letter accompanying M<sup>r</sup> Askins note shall be particularly attend to.

Monday evening Feb<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1799

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire

*Endorsed:* Feb<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Huntington to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin  
recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>

SUPPLIES FOR LOGGERS

Newburgh 19<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>r 99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir S<sup>t</sup>Bernard and the other man passed here on Friday, they took a few Bushells of Corn and some Pork, but he was obliged to leave the Slays with all the baggage at a House six miles below Fort Sinclair & proceeded with the Horses only in hopes of crossing at the Rapids. I have not heard how he succeeded. Whatever the Party may require shall be furnished agreeable to your Letter I am with best respects D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your Very obd. Serv<sup>t</sup>

Alex. Harrow

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Newburgh Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> 1799 Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrow to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> [Askin] recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Queenston February 21<sup>st</sup> 1799

Dear Sir About six weeks ago I had the pleasure of receiving your obliging favor of the 1<sup>st</sup> January, with the different inclosures therein noted. I have seen both the people. Prince positively denies the Debt & says that it must be his brother James who is now at Quebec.

M<sup>c</sup>Clachlan keeps a school a short distance from this & has given me his Note for £4 16 1 Yk payable on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, that being the time he receives his quarterly Salary,



& I have reason to believe he will be punctual. the 10/8 for M<sup>r</sup> Roe he disputed & as I thought it would be more for your interest to give up that point than to have the account disputed and to lay out of your money. I hope you will not be displeas'd at my taking upon me to deduct it from the acc<sup>t</sup>

It is with the utmost satisfaction I observe you are pleas'd with my Conduct at Long Point. it was an unfortunate Business & attended with much expence yet I believe none but what was necessary originated with me. the People in general in that quarter are a mere Banditti, & took advantage of the necessity I was in by making me pay exorbitant wages. every thing considered I really wonder that so much was Saved. Dolsen (the vagabond) has absconded to avoid prosecution.

I am no stranger to the good Character given of me by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Michael. I have reason to believe he wrote that letter in consequence of some Words that took place between us on board of Captain Lee's<sup>24</sup> vessell. however as *his Character* for traduction is well known, I shall not dwell longer on the subject being convinced *you* paid no attention to his insinuations. I shall have the pleasure of paying my respects to you in the Spring, when on my way to Mackinack & shall then give you an ample detail of every thing relative to the Business

Feeling myself deeply interested in the happiness of Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee's family from whom I have received many obligations, I have heard with the utmost distress the melancholy account of the Colonels death & knowing from Experience what it is to loose the best of Fathers—I can easily conceive the distress which both Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee's family & yours must suffer on this occasion, & I sympathize & Condole with you on the melancholy event.

I shall say nothing to you on Politicks as a large parcel of News Papers go forward to Your Address. in them you will see the detail of many important actions, which cannot fail to give the utmost satisfaction to every Briton.

<sup>24</sup> William Lee was sailing the upper lakes as early as 1795 and as late as 1812. Among the different vessels he commanded were the *Erie Packet*, the *Good Intent*, the *Contractor*,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Will you have the goodness to say to M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville that I expected to have received some reply to the many letters I have wrote him from hence.

I have some little business in Detroit to transact with M<sup>r</sup> Robert Grant<sup>25</sup> & have given him a draught upon you for 15 dollars. Which you will oblige me by honoring & the amount shall be placed to your Credit with M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton.

Be pleased to offer my respectfull Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin & in wishing that You may all long enjoy together many happy returns of the season I subscribe myself with sentiments of esteem and respect, My Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient & very Humble Servant  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston Feb<sup>y</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>h</sup> March Answ<sup>d</sup> June 10<sup>th</sup>

DIFFICULTIES OF JEAN DUSAULT

River Raisin 25<sup>th</sup> feby 1799

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire

Dear Sir Phénon Dusau<sup>26</sup> having called on me & stated the disagreeable predicament he now stands in, from

and the *Friend's Good Will*. In 1799 his home was at Presqu' Isle. Considerable incidental information concerning him can be found in manuscripts in the B. H. Coll., and in Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VIII, 284 ff.

<sup>25</sup> Robert Grant was a resident of Detroit who, in 1795, signified his intention of remaining a British subject. He subsequently engaged in trade in Sandwich in partnership with Robert Innis, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 464-65, *et passim*. Grant married Mary Scott, and a daughter, Christina, born April 22, 1810, was baptized in Sandwich on Feb. 1, 1818. See St. John's Church Register.

<sup>26</sup> Other documents in the Askin papers indicate that this was Jean Dusault. The Dusault (Dusaut) line in America was founded by Toussaint Toupin, Sieur Dusault, born in 1616, who married Margaret Boucher, born in 1634. He was buried in Chateau Richer, Aug. 10, 1676, leaving sons, Francis (born in 1646) and Jean Toupin, Sieur Dusault, born in Quebec, Dec. 15, 1648. Both brothers married, reared families, and lived and died in Quebec, and descendants of both subsequently came west to Detroit. Our present concern is with the descendants of Jean. His grandson, Louis Joseph Toupin, born in Quebec, Feb. 16, 1735, came to Detroit in 1759 and on Jan. 11, 1762, married at the Church of the Huron (Sandwich), Louisa Margaret Desbuttes *dit* St. Martin, daughter of Jean Baudry *dit* Desbuttes *dit* St. Martin and Louisa Doyon. Louisa Desbuttes was buried in Detroit, July 19, 1766. Louis Joseph Toupin *dit* Dusault was buried at Raisin River, July 7, 1810.

Jean Francis Toupin *dit* Dusault, our subject, was the eldest son of Louis Joseph Dusault and Louisa Desbuttes. He was born in Sandwich, Aug. 11, 1762, and married there on Nov. 4, 1783, Mary Jane Raoul, daughter of Jean Baptiste Raoul and Mary Jane Prud-

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

having purchased with the Mill only twelve Acres, in lieu of Gailliards<sup>27</sup> whole Farm—he appears quite démonté'd; seeing that neither Navarre nor I will allow him to cut even Firewood off our Farms; how is he then to renew the said premises? the Fences Bridges & ditches required for Mill road & the immediate absolute repairs to the Mill & dam thus circumstanced being beyond his feeble Abilities; he has solicited me to Sell him Gailliards Farm & enter into Shares with him; otherwise he sees his inevitable Ruin.

I have told him that I will consent to no other arrangement than the present offer, which you may accept of or not as you please: that if you will throw in Gailliards Farm to me as a Douceur, I will sign the necessary securities jointly with Dusau agreeable to his Arrangement with you dated 18 Nov last & become a joint purchaser on the Terms your said Agreement expresses: this it strikes me was your determination at Detroit, to allow me when you mention'd the day prior to our signing that I might consider Gailliards Farm as mine. indeed your Letter by Col<sup>o</sup> Shabert hints as much.

I do not think necessary to repeat to you what Dusau always told me from the beginning that he understood he not only had Gailliards Farm but also 120 Acres in depth therewith. this he says he desired M<sup>r</sup> Audrain to write down, when he was drafting out your s<sup>d</sup> agreement

I beg an immediate answer, as the work I am contemplating with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Meldrum & Park in building Two Mills at Stoney Creek<sup>28</sup> may interfere with my present offer.

I am very truly D<sup>r</sup> Sir Your ob<sup>t</sup> Servant

George MacDougall

homme. She was buried at Raisin River, July 2, 1804, and Jean Francis married (second) Mary Frances Davignon *dit* Beauregard. Jean Francis Dusault was the father of eight children by his first wife. He died while on a visit to Detroit and was buried here, Dec. 2, 1811. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>27</sup> Jacques Gaillard (Galliard) married Mary Bodier and lived in the parish of Notre Dame in the city of La Rochelle, France. Their son, Louis, born there in 1737, became a baker and migrated to Canada. He married in Montreal, Oct. 10, 1763, Margaret Chanazart and about the year 1777 they located in Detroit. Louis Gaillard was buried in Sandwich, Oct. 24, 1804; Margaret Chanazart was buried in Detroit, Jan. 14, 1814. They had twelve children, most of whom were born in Detroit or Sandwich, and several of whom settled at Raisin River. Louis Jean Gaillard, born in Sandwich, Dec. 3, 1778, is the person alluded to in the present document. The farm mentioned was sold by him to John Askin on Feb. 17, 1796. He was buried at Raisin River on March 9, 1822. Information adapted from *ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> Stony Creek empties into Lake Erie in Monroe County, about midway between the Huron and Raisin rivers.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit  
P<sup>r</sup> Joseph Robert

*Endorsed:* River au Raisin Feb<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Geo  
M<sup>c</sup>Dougall to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> same day

ADVICE CONCERNING DIFFICULTIES OF JEAN DUSAULT

Detroit 26 feb<sup>y</sup> 99

Dear Sir About an hour ago, I was favoured with a Letter from you, dated yesterday. as M<sup>r</sup> Park was present and Said he was going to the River Raisin to morrow I have Set Down to answer it. Mons Duseau's embarrassment must in a great measure arise from not examining matters properly. Surely in the whole extent of the River au Raisin wood may be found, and Some I'm sure not far from him. however that you and him Should Join about the mill, is an advice I would give to both were you my brothers. at Same time it's only advice, and proceeds from good wishes, for it is no concern of mine. I am sure the Sales to both were fair, and no duplicity made use of nor do I think either dear, and was I not So distant I would not hesitate to Join you both If you chose it; writing on this Subject do[es] not answer any great purpose, but If M<sup>r</sup> Duseau comes in with you at any time and [you] think my advice worth following I will give it freely. I recollect when here last he asked me If I would take you for the mill, on the Same conditions he purchased it. I told him I would do all I could to accomodate both parties when I saw you, & heard what you proposed but as he is a Miller & you not, I think he would make a very good partner and I was almost tempted to say I would take a Share with him, in particular as he said he would Keep the mill in repair without any charge against the concerned.

Signed J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 25 feb<sup>y</sup> 99 John Askin to Geo.  
M<sup>c</sup>Dougall Copy

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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### PROJECTED ADVENTURE OF EBENEZER ALLAN

Detroit 6. mar. 99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir The Bearer hereof M<sup>r</sup> Ebenezer Allen has applied to me to Know If there is any merchant who I think would advance a Small Indian Cargo on getting Security for the payment. as, I think, you wrote me last year of having ordered out goods of that Kind, and perhaps have not disposed of them, I mentioned you to him he Says his plan is to go to the Ouisconsin on, or Near the fox River, and he will acquaint you with the rest of his Scheme of this, or the place of trade I am no Judge you are a much better yourself. I therefore have no advice to give respecting the intended trade, nor must you consider me as answerable in any respect, Should matters not turn out well. my intentions are to Serve both. M<sup>r</sup> Allen is not my debtor, nor to my Knowledge does he owe any merchant here. I have Seen his deeds from Government for between two & three thousand acres of Land. a part of these he has sold for £3,000 and I believe little or no payment is made yet, nor has he given Deeds, as I understand for what he Sold, but intends to do so, and take mortgages, which mortgages I Suppose is to be the Security for the paym<sup>t</sup> of the goods he may get of you or any other. I have heard that there is a grist & a Saw Mill on his Lands & an excellent pinery therefore must be valuable. I have only to add that Mr Allen is as active & enterprizing a man as any in the province & perfectly Sober. I have now stated the business fair on both Sides. So far as is come to my Knowledge therefore do as you think fit.

Signed J A

*Endorsed:* Copsy Detroit March 6<sup>h</sup> 1799 John Askin  
to M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry of Montreal

### PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLYING BRICKS IN DETROIT

#### Proposals

I will furnish Lewis Bond<sup>29</sup> & John Dodemied Esquires, or whoever may be authorised to receive the Same, Sixty

<sup>29</sup> Lewis Bond was a native of New Jersey who in 1777, still a mere youth, became a

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

or Seventy Thousands of Excellent Bricks and well burnt, in the course of next Summer, for Eight dollars Per thousand If received at my Brick Kilns at the River Rouge; or for ten dollars Per thousand delivered on the Public wharf or water Side at Detroit, and for my due performance thereof I will give good Security If my proposals are accepted of

Detroit, 15<sup>h</sup> March 1799

*Endorsed:* Proposals for Bricks detroit, 15 March 1799  
Copy

FROM GEORGE MCDUGALL TO JOHN ASKIN

River Raisin 23<sup>d</sup> March 1799

John Askin Esquire,

Dear Sir, Having received twenty of your Bags from M<sup>r</sup> Ruland agreeable to your Order, I have got them filled with 2000<sup>n</sup> french lv<sup>s</sup> of good Merchantable Flour, which Isidore Robert,<sup>30</sup> his Brother & Charles Lafond now take in to your address. You'll please signify the receipt thereof as complete payment of the Farm I purchas'd of you at Detroit 25 Jan'y last

soldier in the state forces, serving until the close of the war. In 1791 he was commissioned an ensign in the levies raised for St. Clair's campaign and served in that campaign and also under General Wayne, being commissioned as lieutenant in Wayne's Legion, March 19, 1793. According to Heitman he resigned his commission, Jan. 3, 1794. He came to Detroit subsequent to the British evacuation and in 1798 became the second sheriff, under American rule, of Wayne County. He resided here until the War of 1812, in which he served as major of Michigan militia. In February, 1813, he, along with others, was ordered by General Procter to leave the country, and he was a signer of the formal protest made against the order. In 1820 his home was in Monroe, where he was still living in November, 1841. Some time prior to 1820 he married a daughter of Hugh Smith of Vincennes, who died while serving under George Rogers Clark, and whose widow subsequently married Israel Ruland. In 1820 Bond described himself, in a letter to Solomon Sibley, as of advanced years and with a large and increasing family; he asked to be appointed U. S. judge to reside at Mackinac, Green Bay, or St. Peters, anticipating in this the actual appointment of James D. Doty as first judge for the district west of Lake Michigan, four years later. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll. Many of Bond's personal papers are printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXXVII, 421 ff.

<sup>30</sup> The Roberts of Detroit and vicinity were descended from Philip Robert of the diocese of Amiens in Picardy, France, who married Jane Deplus of the same place. They had two sons, Louis Robert *dît* La Pomerai (Lapomeraye, La Pomerai), born in 1649, and Michael Robert, born in 1656. Both came to Canada and married there, giving rise to two lines of descendants. Louis married Mary Bourgery in 1670 and lived in Boucherville. They had several sons, two of whom were Pierre Robert *dît* Lapierre or Lapomerai, born Sept. 21, 1671, and Prudent Robert *dît* Lafontaine, born June 12, 1686. Pierre married in Lachine, Jan. 27, 1698, Angelica Ptolomé. He was in Detroit in the spring of 1706 and

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I conceive it necessary at the same time to apprise you, that as I have rented out said Farm, & measures are taken by me to Fence in the whole of the Same up to the Mill Creek; As these Buildings now appear to be yours, I now again repeat to you what I have required before of Dusau, that you make the necessary arrangements to complete the Fences &c on each Side of the Road (so soon as the Weather permits) as far as your Mill, agreeable to my renoncement, as otherwise it will be impossible for us to make the use we intend of the Farm, should We be constantly exposed to the carelessness & caprice of every Fellow going to & coming from the Mill.

I am with much Regard

Your most obedient humble Servant

George Mac Dougall

P.S. I shall write M<sup>r</sup> Sibly soon, to draft out the necessary Deed from you as attorney for Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill for s<sup>d</sup> Farm agreeable to your written Sale & declaration & promise.

G M<sup>c</sup>D<sup>31</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit  
C Lafond

*Endorsed:* river au rasin March y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Geo  
M<sup>c</sup>Dougall to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> [torn] & Answ<sup>d</sup> same [day]

### TROUBLES OF GEORGE McDUGALL

River Raisin 2<sup>d</sup> April 1799

John Askin Esquire,

Dear sir, A late conversation with Dusau, occasions me to address you again, however reluctant, on the subject

removed his family here in May, 1708. He died about 1714. His brother, Prudent, came here in 1710 and a year later married Mary Magdelaine Fafard *dit* Delorme. Pierre Robert's grandson, Pierre Nicholas Robert, born in Longueuil, Nov. 28, 1729, married in Detroit, July 22, 1761, Magdelaine Casse *dit* St. Aubin. In 1773 he was operating a grist-mill at the Southwest Coast of Detroit; about the year 1790 he settled at Raisin River. They had a large family, one of whom was Isidore Robert, here noted. He was born in Detroit, June 12, 1773, and on Jan. 24, 1795, married at Raisin River, Agatha Réaume, daughter of Jean Baptiste Réaume and Agatha Lootman *dit* Barrois. Isidore Robert was buried at Raisin River, Feb. 7, 1816. Agatha Réaume was buried, July 22, 1833. They had thirteen children born in the period 1796-1816. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

31 At this point occurs the schedule of weights of the consignment of flour.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

of the Farm purchased from you at Detroit on the 25 January last:

Give me leave Sir to call to your remembrance the mode upon which a settlement took place twixt us on this subject, & the adjusting our differences regarding the Mill Seat, &c. *Altho' I do not wish to insist upon any other thing than what stands on paper regarding that Transaction*, I am startled at the proposals you make of *giving* the rear or any part of the Farm from Gailliard to any one. If there is Faith in Man, it can belong to none but myself Sir, & I now call upon you to declare upon your Word, if in answer to your Question "In what manner I wished to settle the matter finally with you", if I did not immediately propose £40 York to you for Gailliards Farm being the Sum I understood it cost you at first; to which you assented on the Spot, upon condition of my signing an entire relinquishment to the Mill Seat aforesaid, remarking at same time, "you would pay the difference of £60 to Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill yourself for the sake of ending all Trouble."

The next Morning you had wrote out the Acknowledgm<sup>t</sup> & declaration of having sold me "a Tract of Land purchased by You of Lewis Gailliard of Three Acres in Front by Forty in depth." I had every reason to believe *that was the whole quantity* you had got yourself originally, from your professions at the very moment at Signing that you had made no reservations therefrom from a remark you then made, that you relied every thing was done & said with Sincerity. I now leave it Sir to your Conscience to assign me the whole Farm as you have it from Gailliard or not as you please, being still of opinion that its only necessary to recal to an Honest Mans recollection Circumstances which may have slipt his Memory; to induce him to do the right thing at last.

I am with deference Sir

Your most obedient & most humble Servant

George MacDougall

P S I wish for Gods Sake you would at least set about doing some thing towards making up the Fences of the road to the Mill even for Ten Acres only this Season as you promis'd on 25 Jany last & your Letter of the 24 Ult<sup>o</sup> con-



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

firms. I think "the reasonable Time" you mention was to be allowed, is now almost past

Y<sup>rs</sup> As before

George MacDougall

*Endorsed:* River Rasin April y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Geo M<sup>c</sup>Dougall  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>h</sup>

INDEBTEDNESS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Poste Vincennes Le 11—avril 1799

M<sup>r</sup> Askin au Détroit

Monsieur J'ai eu L'honneur de recevoir Lettres et n'il point a attribuer a négligence si Je ny ai Pas faite de reponse. mais bien La faute des occasions qui sont ici extrêmement râtre Dans ces mêmes il est inclus un Compte de 1343 P<sup>s</sup>—13—2—Cour D'Yorck pour peltrie vendû a moi appartenant.

Autant que je puisse me Rappeller et ce Dont Je puisse presque sur, J'étoir a vous redevoir un somme de 1700P<sup>s</sup> ou environs y Compris La Dette de Henaud De la somme de Six Cente P<sup>te</sup>. Independament Du bon Que J'ai Donné a M<sup>r</sup> Tood Je Lui ai fourni 450 piastre Pour une Berge toute ar[torn] et M<sup>r</sup> Bleklee etoit Presant au Marché fait avec Le Dit s<sup>r</sup> J'ai De plus donné a Greenville suivant votre avis a M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Neail une somme de 77½ Piastre dont J'ai Reçu et Du quelle Je vous ai Imformé dans mes precedante aussi bien que 15 P<sup>tre</sup> Donné a M<sup>r</sup> votre fils

Maintenant M<sup>r</sup> voila Les avoires du quel vous pouvez me crediter, La Confiance que J'avois en vous La 1<sup>ere</sup> fois que j'ai eu Le plaisir de faire des affaires avec vous est encore aujourd'huy La même elle ne Pourra Jamais Dechoir. suivant ce qu'on m'avoit Dit J'aurois Pensé que La vente de peltrie auroit monté plus haut. Mais n'impo[torn] vous voudrez Donc bien être assez Complaisant pour m'envoyer Le C<sup>te</sup> de Ballance et assitot que j'aurai de L'arg<sup>t</sup>. Je vous en ferai Passer le montant

Ne vous Donnez aucun trouble au sujete des ventes de Londre et Du tems ou elles ont été faite Je suis Persuadés que Le montant que vous m'annoncée est suivant ma Confiance Le montant de mes peltrie

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

J'ai faite Depuis Deux ans une vente assez considerable de terre mais La rareté du necessaire est Cause que J'ai été manqué Presque dans tout Les paiements que Lon Devoit me faire Je ne Dois Rien exactement a personne Qu'au Détroit. mon ambition a toujours été de satisfaire aussi vite Qu'il seroit en mon pouvoir et ma santé quoique Debille encore me Permettra J'espere de partir sous Peu Pour faire un Voyage dans Le mississipi pour Ramasser de Larg<sup>t</sup> et me mettre dans Le Cas par la de vous Prouver ma Course Volonté. Pour de Largeant Comptant qui m'etois Dû J'ai été obligé de prendre du Wisky en payement et maintenant Je suis obligé de travailler pour Le Converter en arg<sup>t</sup> au surplus Personne ne pourra mieux Que M<sup>r</sup> Dubois vous Informer de toute ces affaires

J'ai appris Par voix Indirecte que vous aviez intention de venir ici Ce printems Je Pense Que vous scavez que votre Chambre est toujours Prête chez moi et Que Dans Le cas que Je n'i serois Pas M<sup>me</sup> Vigo se fera un sensible plaisir de vous recevoir aussy bien que Je Desire Le faire moi même en attant ce plaisir Je Suis avec estime Monsieur

Votre très humble serviteur

Vigo

*Addressed:* Monsieur John Askin Equillé au Détroit  
Par C<sup>pte</sup> Dubois

*Endorsed:* Port Vincent April 11<sup>th</sup> 1799 Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigo  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recu Le 4 Mai Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>

*Translation*

Post Vincennes, April 11, 1799

Mr. Askin, Detroit,

Sir, I have had the honor of receiving your letters and it is not at all attributable to negligence that I have not answered. The fault is entirely due to the extreme rarity of opportunities here these months. There is inclosed an account of £1343—13—2, New York Currency, for peltries delivered, belonging to me.

As nearly as I can recall and of which I can be almost sure, I must owe you still the sum of £1700, or thereabouts,

and this includes Hunot's debt of 600 piastres. Independently of the draft that I gave Mr. Todd, I furnished him with 450 piastres for a boat [torn] and Mr. Blakeley<sup>32</sup> was present at the bargain made with that gentleman. I also gave Mr. McNeal 77½ piastres at Greenville, according to your advice, and have a receipt, and of which I gave you information in my former letter, as well as 15 piastres given to your son.

These, Sir, are the amounts for which you may give me credit. The confidence I had in you the first time I ever had the pleasure of doing business with you is the same today. It can never diminish. From what I have heard, I should have thought that the price of peltries would have gone higher. But never mind. You will be so good as to send me an account of the balance and as soon as I have the money I will hand you the amount.

Give yourself no concern about the London sales nor of the time they occurred. I am quite confident that the sum you mention to me is the amount my peltries have brought.

During the past two years I have sold considerable land but the scarcity of the needful is the reason why I have failed to collect in almost all the payments I should have received. I owe nothing to anyone except in Detroit. My ambition has ever been to discharge my debts as soon as it was in my power, and my health, although weak yet, permits me to hope that I shall soon set out on a journey to the Mississippi to collect money, and by that means place myself in a position to give you proof of my willingness to pay. For cash accounts due me I have been obliged to take whiskey in payment, and now I must work more to change it into money. No one could tell you of all this better than Mr. Dubois.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>32</sup> Apparently Josiah Bleakley of Mackinac, for whom see *post*, 569.

<sup>33</sup> Toussaint Dubois belonged to one of the oldest families of Vincennes, and during the Indiana territorial period was one of the city's prominent residents. He was engaged in trade, and references among the Askin papers indicate that he had frequent dealings in Detroit. He enjoyed the confidence of Governor Harrison, who utilized his knowledge of Indian life by giving him charge of his force of scouts and spies in the Tippecanoe campaign. In 1814 he was offered the appointment of Indian agent, which he declined on the ground of his illiteracy. He was drowned while attempting to ford the Little Wabash River near Vincennes, March 11, 1816. Dubois was twice married, first to Jeanette Bonneau, and

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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I have learned indirectly that you intend to come here this spring. I think you know that your room is always ready at my house, and that in case I should not be there Madam Vigo will be truly pleased to receive you just the same as I would wish to do myself. Awaiting this pleasure, I remain with respect, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

Vigo

*Addressed:* John Askin, Esq. Detroit By Captain Dubois.

HIRE OF BLACKSMITH'S TOOLS

Mr Thomas Welch<sup>34</sup>

Sir The Smith's tools which I hired you on the 6<sup>th</sup> of february last I will have occasion for, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of next month, as I have made an agreement, or is going to make one with a man for all the work I may have to do, and he has no tools. him with whom I had a former agreement has hired another House and is going away. I give you this timely Notice So as you may not be distressed at the time for want of tools, my Son has a compleat Set perhaps you could get them I am &c

(Signed) John Askin

Detroit 16 april '99

*Endorsed:* Detroit 16 april '99 John Askin to Thomas Welch Copy

second to Jane Baird. By the second union he had three sons, Thomas, James, and Jesse K. Dubois. The last named removed to Illinois, where he became state auditor and a warm friend of Abraham Lincoln. His son, Fred T. Dubois, was one of the first U. S. senators from Idaho, and, more recently, a member of the International Joint Commission in Washington. Dubois County, Indiana, was named in honor of Toussaint Dubois. Data derived from mss. in B. H. Coll.; entries in Ind. Hist. Soc., *Publ.*, *passim*; Logan Esarey (ed.), *Messages and Letters of William Henry Harrison* (Indianapolis, 1922), *passim*; and George R. Wilson, *History of Dubois County from its Primitive Days to 1910* (Jasper, Ind., 1910), 397-98, 404-12.

<sup>34</sup> Thomas Welch, a blacksmith, was still living in Detroit at the time of the fire of 1805. He had a wife, Elizabeth Welch, and a daughter, Margaret, or Peggy; the latter married Benjamin Packard. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 179, 232-33.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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NEWS FROM DETROIT

Detroit 22 April '99

My dear Sir As the vessels now begin to prepare for voyaging and I wish to be always ready, I take up the pen to answer your Kind letter dated the 1<sup>st</sup> January last. I am thankfull to you for your Concern at the loss of my 2 Small vessels, at same time, from their being old, freight decreasing & men's wages rising, I think I have Suffered very little.

Lafontaine's business about the house is all Settled, and tho I had to take back the mill after I Sold her Yet what I got for So doing, and the State She is now in without expence, and prospects I have of disposing of her again makes it twice as well for the proprietors as If M<sup>c</sup>Dougall had got her. I sold him a farm near the Mill and have had more trouble about it than all the Sales of Land I ever made in this Country. his head at times is in a Shocking Situation, and there was but you Could regulate it.

I am glad your opinion of this country is as favourable as that of the lower province as it may induce [you] one day to Settle here. really without flattery, you wanted much. I often hear of matters which pass at the Sessions on the other Side which does not please me, and to go over alone, I might not be able to make any alteration. one man takes the lead and all the others agree to what he does therefore in that case there is but one man on the Bench.

I am glad you mean to pay us a visit We will be happy to See you. poor Harffy has been dangerously ill, but [is] getting better. with all his faults I would be Sorry to Loose him I can readily look over the errors of my old acquaintances as I hope they do over mine.

John & his family are well, I have informed him of your attention for which he is thankful he is gone to Cayahoga to pick up some skins There is a constant war between most of the town Citizens or rather magistracy and the Military. M<sup>r</sup> Dodemead I learn has Sued Col. Strong for interrupting his trade<sup>35</sup> The British are clear of all disputes

<sup>35</sup> See *ante* 165.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

now Please present my best wishes with those of M<sup>rs</sup> Askin to my good friend M<sup>r</sup> Leith I'm always happy to hear he is well

I have only to add that M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & all my family Join in every wish that may tend to your happiness & welfare & believe me with &<sup>a</sup>

Signed J Askin

Geo Sharp Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal

*Endorsed:* Detroit 22<sup>d</sup> april '99 John Askin to George Sharp Copy

FIREWOOD FOR GARRISON AT DETROIT

Detroit 25 April '99

Sir This minute Captain Nelson has been here to let me Know, that If you will furnish 200 Cords of fire wood for the use of this Garrison and deliver it on the new Wharf which he has made, he will pay you the Same price he gets himself which he says is 18/ N Y Currency and he wants Your answer immediately. If you have 400 Cords now ready or can get it Soon I would advise you to accept of his offer which Seems Very fair, but recollect If you do So, you must turn your thoughts to that business and no other for there must not be any disappointment as the Money is Sure and good. I think you Should prefer this to getting rails or any other matter I expect your answer by the 1<sup>st</sup> opportunity, or If you can come yourself So much the better.

(Signed) John Askin

M<sup>r</sup> William Smith<sup>36</sup> River Ruscom

*Endorsed:* Detroit, 25 April '99 John Askin to William Smith River Roscom Copy

<sup>36</sup> Documents among the Askin papers (mss.) show that William Smith was a tenant of Askin living on land at Ruscom River (which empties into Lake St. Clair) in this period. Smith was active in supplying firewood for the Detroit market and on Jan. 11, 1799, he bought "a Very large Bateau" from Askin agreeing to pay therefor the equivalent of £100 New York Currency in wood delivered at the current market price. In the summer of 1801, Askin had Smith imprisoned for failure to pay his debts, and rejected the debtor's pleas for his enlargement. Data derived from Askin papers (mss.) in B. H. Coll.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

WINTERERS ENGAGED IN MONTREAL

Montreal 4<sup>th</sup> May 1799

Dear Sir, We are not altogether certain whether two of your Winterers who have been in Town for some days by mistake & of course at our expence, may not now go forward tho' your Boat is not now sent for want of Rum & Salt, we have orderd & look for from Quebec by the first Vessel, but should we send them forward, it is proper to enclose you their engagements & the advances made to them for your Government—& by your own Boat you will receive the Acco<sup>t</sup> of the whole compleat. we have met with a Smith & Baker for you that will go when the Battoe can be sent. Mean time We are Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

James & And<sup>w</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill

Pierre Dubord to winter at Detroit & its environs...460<sup>lv</sup>

Advanced him 54<sup>lv</sup>.12/

Equipment deliverd & valued 80 .16

—————135<sup>lv</sup>8 sols

J & A M

Charles Lorrain.....450

Advanced him 66 .12

Equipment del<sup>d</sup> value 66 . 6

—————132<sup>lv</sup>.18

J & A M

LaChine 4 May 1799

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

We have not sent your Winterers above noted J & A M

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal May 4<sup>h</sup> 1799 Mess<sup>rs</sup> Jm<sup>s</sup> & An<sup>dr</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

AGGRESSIONS ON INDIAN LANDS

Detroit 7 May '99

M<sup>r</sup> Connor The Chief Wittanessa of your place is come here with an interest to complain to the com<sup>s</sup> Officer that you want to drive him away & prevent him from planting

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Corn where he formerly did. luckily my Son John met him & brought him to me & prevented the Complaint being made, which If it had might be very hurtful to, not only you, and me but to all who claim a right to Lands purchas<sup>d</sup> of Indians. the Governor of this territory is Soon expected here If he found Complaints he might represent to Congress that we were Cheating the Indians out of their Lands (Which I fear they already think to be the case) tho it is not So with us I therefore, for your Sake, mine & all others Concerned in Indian Lands, advise you Strongly not to have any Misunderstanding at this time with the Chief or his People and for the present to let them plant where they please. I understand next year they mean to go away & then we will not have any more trouble with them

S<sup>d</sup> J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 7 June '99 John Askin to M<sup>r</sup> Connor  
Copy

POSTAL SERVICE BETWEEN TORONTO AND DETROIT

River Thames 14<sup>th</sup> May 1799

Dear Sir, I am Sorry to inform you that it is impossible for me to make you any remittance this Spring, as I expected. the Winter has been so long, & Severe, that I have been obliged to feed all my grain away to my Cattle, (having no hay) I hope you will be so indulgent as to prolong the payment 'till after Harvest, when you shall be paid without fail. I have enclosed a Letter for M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville from the Sur Gen<sup>l</sup> which I found Accidentely in a House up the River. the Woman of the House brought me the Letter to Read. She told me She found it out of Doors. when I told her it was from the S G to M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville, she said she thought that the Letter & a number of others had been brought from York last winter by an Old Dutchman, who lived Some time at their house, & that probably the rest of the Letters have been lost.

I remain Sir with the greatest esteem

your Most Ob<sup>t</sup> & Hum<sup>le</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Hugh Holmes

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit  
*Endorsed:* River Trenche May 14<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Hugh  
Holmes to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> same day.

CONDUCT OF LOGGING OPERATIONS

Detroit le 15 May '99

Monsieur Bazile Lafleur Je vous envoyé par Baron & Francoeur qui s'en retournent a la pineire, 180 livres de Lard, 122 Biscuits pesant 78 livres, 4 minots de pois, et 200 livres de farine, pour vous et les autres Hommes. Soyer bien menagé du Lard, car il est extremement rare et cher, Jai aussi livré a M<sup>r</sup> Baron, ses provisions pour Jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> Jour de Juillet prochain. Les Boeufs doivent être occupés constanment à tirer le Bois en preference à tout autre ouvrage; c'est à quoi Je vous prie de porter toute votre attention, et Je vous envoie pour les Boeufs, 4 minots de Bledinde. Quand le *Saguinan* passera pour Makinac en quelque Jours, J'envoyera un Cheval et deux autres Boeufs de tiré pour former un autre Harnois, ainsi que d'autres Provisions.

Aussitot que les Cages soient pretes pour le Bois du Roy qui est equarri, vous equarirai les 36 autres morceaux, des quels Je ferai un cageux, Separement des autres. Mr. Barthe sera avec vous environ le premier de Juin. Si il y a quelqu'autre directions à vous communiquer Je vous en ferai part alors. Je desire que sous aucun pretexte vous ne donniez plus d'une livre de Lard a chaque Homme per Jour. Je suis Mon<sup>r</sup>

Votre tres H<sup>ble</sup> &ca  
(Signé) John Askin

*Endorsed:* Detroit 15 May '99 John Askin à Bazile  
Lafleur Copie

*Translation*

Detroit, May 15, 1799

Mr. Basil Lafleur, I send you by Baron and Francoeur, who are returning to the Pinery, 180 pounds of pork, 122 biscuits weighing 78 pounds, 4 minots of peas, and 200

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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pounds of flour, for yourself and the other men. Be careful with the pork as it is extremely scarce and dear. I have also given Mr. Baron his provisions till July 1, next. The oxen should be kept constantly busy hauling wood in preference to any other work. Please notice that particularly; and I am sending you 4 minots of corn for them. When the *Saguinah* goes up in a few days on her way to Mackinac, I shall send a horse and two other draft oxen for another yoke, also more provisions.

As soon as the rafts are ready for the King's wood which is squared, square off the 36 other pieces (of which I shall make a raft), separately from the rest. Mr. Barthe will be with you about the first of June. If there are any other directions to communicate to you, I shall send them by him. Under no pretext ought you to give out more than one pound of pork to each man per day. I remain, Sir,

Your most humble etc.,

(signed) John Askin

FROM ROBERT RICHARDSON TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Erie 17<sup>th</sup> May 1799

Dear Sir I was favored with your letter by the Express and have heard Since of the family being all in good health, which, you may rest assured always gives us the Sincerest pleasure

We felt very much for the loss Sustained by Captain & M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee,<sup>37</sup> however from common report, they are left very handsomely provided for. They Certainly deserve that it should be so.

We are in dayly expectation of moving being under orders for york. the Season is so very backward, there has no Vessel arrived as yet from Kingston We go to York in the first I understand M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton has been over there about ten days ago laying his land Matters before the Council and I am told has got most of them fixed—that is taking off all Quibbling about Transfers &<sup>c</sup> and getting them in his own name. I mention this business of M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>37</sup> The allusion is to the death by lockjaw, on Jan. 13, 1799, of Colonel Alexander McKee, the father of Captain Thomas McKee, whose wife was Askin's daughter, Therese. Doctor Richardson, the writer, was the husband of Therese's half-sister, Madelaine Askin.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Hamilton to you with a *very interested* Motive as I Know you had a good lote [?] of land Matters to arrange, and if you have not got it done We are in hopes you may be induced to pay us a visit. I do not Know any thing that would give Madlaine and Myself greater pleasure if you could do so without hardship or inconvenience to yourself however Sir we would much rather forego even that gratification than that you should endanger your health in the Smallest degree What I mention about M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton is only from report I have [not] seen him or heard directly from him Since he was over. He I have no doubt will write you particularly.

I need Scarcely say you have only to command me in any thing you may suppose I can be of the least Service at york.

It gives me much pleasure to Say Madlaine and the Children have enjoyed perfect health all this winter, for which blessing we are sincerely thankfull. Without he[all]th there is little Comfort. Madlaine joins me in best wishes for the health and happiness of all friends at Detroit and Neighbourhood and I am Dear Sir

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. Richardson

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Fort Erie May 17<sup>h</sup> 1799 Doc<sup>r</sup> Richardson to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> June

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Queenston May 28. 1799

Dear Sir When I wrote you last I fully Expected I should have ere this had the pleasure of paying my respects to you at Detroit, but several late occurrencies favorable to me, have occasioned me to give up my intention of going to Mich. I make no doubt but you will think me *very very* fickle, but as I do this by the advice of all my friends, I trust it is more to my advantage. what my plans and intentions are you shall know in due time, being convinced that you would be well pleased to here of my *fixing* myself advantageously.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I now inclose by this opportunity an Account of a Barrel of Pork of *my* own curing which I can recommend as good. it cost me £10. Yk at this place & 10/ for carriage up,—a dr'ft on M<sup>r</sup> T Forsy[th?] Malden for £6.1.4 Yk C<sup>y</sup> and send by the Bearer M<sup>r</sup> Willmot<sup>38</sup> in Cash. the inclosed account will shew you for what purpose. should you wish the Pork for yourself it will be at cost & charges or if you don't want it be good enough to sell it for my Account I also beg M<sup>rs</sup> Askin's acceptance of a few seed Potatoes of a particular kind. they go up herewith and the directions for planting are on the annexed page. The Ice is not yet entirely out of the River here, and it was only yesterday the *Nancy* got in, having laid upwards of a fortnight at Point Ebona [Abino]. However although the Spring has been So Long in coming, Vegetation has been remarkably quick, and I can safely say, I never saw more flattering appearances of good Crops than there is in every part of this settlement.

M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton will of course forward your News Papers. I shall therefore (although a politician) say nothing on politics—

I request my Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin & Family particularly to my Favourite Charley<sup>39</sup> from whom I should be happy to hear. and I remain Dear Sir

<sup>38</sup> Alan (Allen) Wilmot, a nephew of Samuel Street of Niagara, came west from Queenston with an introduction from Robert Nichol to Askin, as this letter shows, in the spring of 1799. On June 10, Askin wrote to Nichol characterizing Wilmot as "a very fine young man," and saying he had given him a letter of introduction to an old acquaintance at Mackinac. From this time until 1812, Wilmot seems to have been engaged in trade in the Northwest, particularly on the upper Mississippi. Zebulon Pike encountered him at Prairie du Chien in April, 1806, and describes him as "one of the best informed and gentlemanly men in the place." He was at this time associated with Robert Dickson in the company of which Dickson was the head. In July, 1812, he participated in the British attack on Mackinac and was one of the commissioners who negotiated the terms of surrender with Lieutenant Hanks. After September, 1812 (when he was still at Mackinac, apparently engaged in the fur trade), no further mention has been found of him. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll.; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VIII, 302; and data supplied by Theodore C. Blegen in letter of June 22, 1926.

<sup>39</sup> Charles Askin, a younger son of John Askin and Marie Archange Barthe, was born in Detroit in 1785. For a number of years in his early manhood, he was absent from this vicinity, being engaged in business pursuits at Niagara and other points in Upper Canada, which were terminated by the War of 1812. He was present at the surrender of Detroit as a captain of Canadian militia, and thereafter served actively throughout the war in the West. Soon after its conclusion, he returned to Strabane, the ancestral home opposite Belle Isle, where he resided until his death, June 1, 1869. He was a man of much local prominence, holding various offices of public trust. He married Monique Jacob, daughter of George Jacob. See obituary notice in Detroit *Free Press*, June 4, 1869; *B. H. R.*, I, 16; and data in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Very truly Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> & very Humble Servant  
Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

P. S. have the goodness to take up my Note to Anderson cancel it, and send it down Prince Robertsons acc<sup>t</sup> is in-closed

*Appended:* direction for planting the potatoes They must be planted in the old of the moon as soon after you receive them as possible. put straw dung over but none at all under them, & the soil should be Sandy. they will not be fit to dig untill October but when dug they will keep good 12 Months.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit Fav<sup>d</sup>  
p M<sup>r</sup> A Willmot

*Endorsed:* Queenston May 28<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichols to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6 June Answ<sup>d</sup> June 10<sup>h</sup>

INDEBTEDNESS OF LOUIS DERINEAU

Detroit 30 May '99

Captain Gilkison<sup>40</sup>

Sir I inclose for your perusal, a Letter for Louis Derineau on board your Vessel. If he thinks proper to comply with its contents, it is very well, If not he will have himself alone to blame for all future trouble that will attend his refusal. As I understand he is your pilot I do not wish to deprive you of his Services nor injure the proprietors of the Vessell, he probably thinks I could not have taken him. he is much

<sup>40</sup> William Gilkison was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, March 9, 1777, being the eldest of six brothers, all of whom followed the sea. William early took service on a merchantman which was captured by the French, with the result that he underwent a year's captivity in France. Being at length released, he made his way to New York in 1796 and soon thereafter to the upper lakes, where for years he served as master of vessels in the employ of the North West Company. He served for a time in the War of 1812, as a captain of Upper Canada militia. He married Isabella Grant of Detroit, sixth daughter of Commodore Alexander Grant, who was born, Dec. 20, 1783, and to them eleven sons were born, seven of whom grew up. In 1815, Captain Gilkison returned with his family to Scotland in order to procure for his children better educational facilities than Canada then afforded. In 1832, he again returned to Canada, whither several of his sons had preceded him, and located in Brantford. About this time he purchased a large tract of land at the falls of Grand River where stands the town of Elora, which he founded and named. He died, April 25, 1833, and was buried beside the old Mohawk church in Brantford. Isabella Grant died in Glasgow, Scotland, Feb. 10, 1828. Some of their descendants are still living in Brantford. See F. Douglas Reville, *History of the County of Brant* (Brantford, 1920), 80-83; Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VIII, 147-48; and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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mistaken for I have never tried, but left the Shirrif & his deputies to do their duty. my Brother in law M<sup>r</sup> Barthe will be the bearer of this. Should you promise Derineau's return to this place in the Vessel by this trip or he and the Crew Sign the proposed Note, In either cases I promise you I will desist from all pursuit against him for the present, or untill the time given is elapsed.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 30 May 1799 John Askin to Captain Gilkison Copy

INDEBTEDNESS OF LOUIS DERINEAU

Detroit 30 May '99

M<sup>r</sup> Louis Derineau It is in vain for you to endeavour to escape me whether at Michilimackinack, S<sup>t</sup> Marys, or the grand portage, I will have you taken, unless you give bail to Stand trial, or agree to the following conditions. that is to say, you, and the rest of the Crew, Sign a Note which I send for that purpose, that you will in the Course of this summer, pay me £40 New York Currency, with the costs & Charges I have been at in prosecuting you to the present time, which are however very trifling as yet, but that will no longer be the case, if I am obliged to bring you from any of the above mentioned places. I could have had you taken in the Winter, and this Spring by Sam who worked with you, but I would not have any of my People deputized for that purpose, though often proposed to me by the Sherriff. but now you have left the Country I am Justifiable in employing any Man I choose, and Surely you cannot Know who I may employ, and be on your guard against every Stranger; therefore there is no Safety for you unless you give Security for Standing trial, or agree to the foregoing Conditions. I am willing to take the Captain of the Vessell's word for your appearance, as I mean to injure neither you or the Service you are in. I only Seek a Small recompence for a great injury you have done me, and that, I am determined to have. I have requested M<sup>r</sup> Barthe to go on Board and take the proposed Security which If you do not comply with, will be the last offer of the kind you ever will have of me

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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*Endorsed:* Detroit 30 May 1799 John Askin to Louis Derineau on Board the *S. Thames* Copy

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ROBERT NICHOL

Detroit 10 June '99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir Weak Eyes (not yet Strong) prevented my writing you Sooner in answer to your obliging letters of the 21 february, 19<sup>h</sup> april & 28 may, and a line of introduction to M<sup>r</sup> Wilmot who I think a very fine young man & have given him a letter to an old acquaintance of mine at M<sup>e</sup>Kinac. It will always afford me much pleasure to learn that you do well & am not Sorry that any friend of mine can get a genteel livelihood without personally trading with Indians. the account you Sent me I believe right & had I got the Barrel Pork, all would be Square. If not already Sent off let me have it by the *Saguinau*, the family are well and M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss A present their Compt<sup>s</sup> & the Boys wish to be remembered to you

I owe a man for taking care of my Corn who owes you 26 dollars at the Mauravian Town, I perhaps will get it for you in that way

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 june '99 John Askin to Robert Nichol Copy

EXCHANGE OF FLOUR FOR MAPLE SUGAR

Detroit 18<sup>h</sup> June '99

D<sup>r</sup> Morrison I purposed troubling you to exchange 4,000 of flour for me, for Indian Sugar, but I now only Send 2,000 in the *Detroit*. you know the price of flour, Bags, Freight &<sup>ca</sup> here Sugar is from 8 to 10<sup>d</sup> for ready payment by the quantity. If you can't exchange for 8<sup>d</sup> you will have to give 10<sup>d</sup>, but I think that is quite high enough. nothing new Since I had the pleasure of writing you last, we are thank God all well & assure you of our best Wishes, adieu &<sup>a</sup>

Signed J. Askin

*Endorsed:* Detroit 18<sup>h</sup> June '99 John Askin to Charles Morrison<sup>41</sup> Copy

<sup>41</sup> For the career of Charles Morison, see *B. H. R.*, I, 56.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

EXCHANGE OF FLOUR FOR MAPLE SUGAR

Michilimackinac 21<sup>t</sup> June 1799

Dear Askin Your favour of the 6<sup>h</sup> instant came to hand the 17<sup>h</sup>. I am happy to learn that your eyes are getting better & that your family are Well.

When the flour Arrives, I will do the best I can to exchange it for sugar, or dispose of it to the best advantage on your Accot, Sugar by the two or three thousand Weight has lately been Sold here at 12 Sols P lb The demand for it at present seems to encrease. I should have been glad you had Mentioned the price of baggs & the freight of the flour here, Which Would have been a guide for me to dispose of it. I [t]hink if Sugor can be had at the above price, the flour might be exchanged for it at cost & charges.

I am Sorry to hear of the death of Our Old friend John Porteous,<sup>42</sup> but it is a debte that you & I must soon discharge. We have Nothing New here. please Make my kind compliments to Madam Askin & all your famely. And am With esteem. Dear Sir,

Your Very hum<sup>le</sup> Servant,  
Charles Morison

N. B. I wrote you a few lines p the *Thames*  
John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit. P the *Nancy* Cap<sup>t</sup>  
Mills<sup>43</sup>

*Endorsed:* Mich. June 21<sup>st</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Charles Morrison  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup>

<sup>42</sup> John Porteous was a native of Perth, Scotland, who came to Detroit in 1762 and thereafter for many years was engaged in the northwest trade. Some of his papers (including a partial journal of Pontiac's siege of Detroit) are in the B. H. Coll.; others are in the library of the Buffalo Historical Society; while the great bulk of his lifetime accumulation of papers seems to have been destroyed about half a century ago. Porteous had a number of partners at various times. The one here mentioned has not been identified. About the outbreak of the Revolution he withdrew from the western country and during the British occupation of Philadelphia had a store in that city. He also engaged in privateering (against the "rebel" commerce). After a number of removals, Porteous, about the year 1789, located in Little Falls, New York, where he became an American citizen, and died in 1799. Considerable concerning his activities has been published; see Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VI, 47-71 and 84 ff.; Ontario Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VI, 20-36; *Michigan History Magazine*, VIII, 126-33. Information adapted from these sources and from mss. in B. H. Coll.

<sup>43</sup> William Mills was a native of Blyton in Lincolnshire, England, who for many years was a captain on the upper lakes. He was skipper of the *Nancy* as early as 1793, and as late as November, 1805. In 1796 he was one of the residents of Detroit who formally



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

INDEBTEDNESS OF CLAMORGAN, LOISEL AND CO.<sup>44</sup>

Michilimackinac 22<sup>d</sup> June 1799

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

Sir being informed that its probable M<sup>r</sup> Todd is at your place, I therefore take the liberty of troubling you with the enclosed letters for him. if you do not expect him soon at your place, be so good and enclose these letters for him to the care of M<sup>r</sup> Robert Hamilton of Queenston. I reached here the 16 ins<sup>t</sup> from S<sup>'</sup>Louis which place I only left the 20th Ult<sup>o</sup> and am sorry my mission to that Country on the affairs of M<sup>r</sup> Todd have been very unsuccessful having Not received a Single Sous for him from the unfortunate concern of Clamorgan<sup>45</sup> Loisel & C<sup>o</sup> nor will there ever from all appearances, in future be a Single Cent had from them. M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum and yourself it appears lay a claim against M<sup>r</sup> Todd, for 2500 livres said to be recover'd by M<sup>r</sup> A Todd's succession from Clamorgan Loisel & C<sup>o</sup> in which claim you are most certainly taken the wrong steps. Clamorgan Loisel & C<sup>o</sup> did receive such a Sum in account with a Mons<sup>r</sup> Vallé, but they never paid that Sum to M<sup>r</sup> Todd. they falsley gave credit for this Sum in Accounts with M<sup>r</sup> Todd which they never have nor never did intend to pay. M<sup>r</sup> Bleakley wrote Clamorgan on this

signified their intention to remain British subjects. At some time prior to 1808 he located in Amherstburg, where he had a wharf; in 1812 General Brock's plans for the military establishment of Upper Canada included, as one item, the buying of all cordage from Captain Mills in Amherstburg, in order to promote the growing of hemp in this region. Captain Mills served as a captain in the Second Essex Militia Regiment in the War of 1812, and was wounded in the Battle of Frenchtown (or Raisin River), Jan. 22, 1813. He died in Amherstburg, Dec. 10, 1813, aged fifty-two years. His monument in Christ churchyard describes him as "esteemed and regretted by all who knew him, being a worthy man and a zealous and loyal subject." Information from *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*; and tombstone in Christ churchyard in Amherstburg.

<sup>44</sup> For further discussion of the subject of this letter, see *ante*, 177-78.

<sup>45</sup> Jacques Clamorgan is supposed to have been a native of the West Indies. He came to St. Louis about the year 1780, where he engaged extensively in the Indian trade. He was the chief promoter of the company of Spanish traders which, in the middle nineties, sought to obtain a monopoly of the trade of the upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Its affairs did not prosper, and Clamorgan's management of them was sharply criticized. He enjoyed the favor of the Spanish authorities and was awarded vast grants of land in Missouri and Arkansas, which were not validated by the U. S. government. He was an early judge of the Court of Common Pleas in St. Louis under the American régime. About the year 1808, he went to Mexico and his subsequent career is unknown. See sketch in Houck, *Spanish Régime in Missouri*, II, 148-49. On the activities of the Commercial Company for the Discovery of the Nations of the Upper Missouri, of which Clamorgan was the leader, see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XXII, 14 ff.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

affair claiming the very same sum in quite another manner. What answer Clamorgan gave M<sup>r</sup> Bleakley is more than I Know, in fact I imagine he gave him none. if M<sup>r</sup> Todd agrees even to pay on this sum in proportion to his receipts from Clamorgan & C<sup>o</sup> it will be doing a great deal, tho the amount must be small indeed. I am Sir

Your very Obed. Sev<sup>t</sup>

James Swan

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Mich June 22<sup>d</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Jm<sup>s</sup> Swan to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> wrote him 21<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> Montreal

FROM DR. HARFFY TO JOHN ASKIN

Malden June 28, 1799

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I received the China Safe, all parties are Satisfied, and part of the Syrup of punch is drank, for which my thanks are due. the letters are all put on board; but they whar too late until the *Thames* arrived. the three letters which came down with her I received, & have attended to part of one. M<sup>r</sup> Backwell<sup>46</sup> cannot say with Certainty that he can take the whole, half he thinks he can promise; if more I will let you know. The Common red wine, *alias* Black Strap if good, Serle<sup>47</sup> will take payable in Pork, but as he has not quite a Barrel at present he can Send 100, or 150, at the usual price, the remainder almost immediately after. Hutchins is down the Lake, *Money hunting*. Caldwell also says he will get a Bill. if it should be agreable to you to close with Serle, he wishes you would send it down *in my Name*, that it may not appear to Park, who in matters

<sup>46</sup> William Backwell was commissioned captain lieutenant in the Royal Engineers on Aug. 15, 1794. In June, 1798, he arrived at Amherstburg to take charge of the engineer department and therewith assumed direction of the further work on the erection of the fort. His management of affairs was highly commended by Captain Hector McLean, who seems not to have approved of his predecessor, Lieutenant Robert Cooper. No indication of the duration of his stay here has been found. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, *passim*, and British army lists.

<sup>47</sup> William Searl (so spelled in formal documents which he signed by making his mark) was an innkeeper in Amherstburg. The document printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 102, seems to indicate that he was still keeping a house of entertainment there as late as 1820. He was of English origin, having married Elizabeth Kelsey in St. George, Hanover Square Parish in Middlesex County, Dec. 31, 1776. A daughter, Ann Searl, born about 1789, married Roderick Drake of Amherstburg, July 8, 1816. See St. John's Church Register, *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

of trade is a *Loup*. Theophile Myers<sup>48</sup> letter is on its passage down. I thank you sincerely for the Calash. It was not in my power to get over. in money matters I was disappointed by Roe, much against my Nephew & Self. as occurrences happen and your moneys come in you will hear from D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your truly affect<sup>e</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

P. S. have you hinted any thing to M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee, y<sup>t</sup> sooner—  
*better* Is it peace or war with France & America,

*Notation:* A small Vial of Goulard.

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> Merc<sup>t</sup> Detroit. An early answer is requested W. H.

*Endorsed:* Malden June 28<sup>h</sup> 1799 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

TIMBERS FOR FORT MALDEN

Detroit 28<sup>h</sup> June 1799

Sir I should be glad to Know If the large Saw Logs for Government's use, of 40 feet, might be squared on the 4 Sides to render them lighter, or If Shorter ones would not do as it is reported to me, that 5 Oxen which I have at the Pinerry *cannot move them*. I am &<sup>a</sup>

Signed John Askin

Thomas Reynolds Esq<sup>r</sup> Amherstbergh

P. S. part of the Wood or Timber for Goverments use will soon be down & the remainder not long after if I may Credit report.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 28<sup>h</sup> June '99 John Askin to Thomas Reynolds Copy

AFFAIRS OF ABRAHAM CUYLER

Montreal 28<sup>th</sup> June 1799

Dear Sir on overlooking some of my papers lately I found that there is a Ball<sup>ce</sup> due me from M<sup>r</sup> William Grant<sup>49</sup>

<sup>48</sup> For Martin Theophilus Myers, see *B. H. R.*, I, 305.

<sup>49</sup> For the career of William Grant, see *ibid.*, 132-33.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

on a transaction at Makina in June 1783 on acc<sup>t</sup> of an accepted Bill by John Visger<sup>50</sup> of the firm of Greverat & Visger for £640 N.Y Cu<sup>r</sup> pay<sup>l</sup> June 1783 and a Bill drawn by John Visger in my favor on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Frobisher, for £432. NY C<sup>y</sup> by M<sup>r</sup> Grants letter to me dated 7 Sep<sup>r</sup> 1783, he says "I have thoroughly secured the pay<sup>t</sup> of the 2 Notes you left in my hand belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Visger. I have got M<sup>r</sup> George Meldrums Note for £293.9 equil to £469.4. NY C<sup>y</sup>. the remainder I was obliged to take in things I have not yet disposed off."

on demanding the Ball<sup>e</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Grant he says that he was obliged to take corn from Visger which he sold to a disadvantage and that part of the Money for the sale thereof is not rec<sup>d</sup> but [he] has promised to send for his books from Makina and after which to settle my claim, and in Order to be prepared for this settlement, I beg you will have the goodness to call upon Visger whom I am told remains at Detroit, and obtain from him a statement or certificate upon Oath in what manner he discharged those two Bills and at what period of time, how much thereof was paid in Corn or other things and at what price M<sup>r</sup> Grant took the corn or other things he mentions and to send the statement or certificate to me p[er] first opp<sup>y</sup> directed to the care of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill

I think I mentioned to you in a former letter that I intended to take my future residence at W<sup>m</sup> Henry commonly known by the name of Sorel about 15 Leagues below this, where I lived near two years but found the place so dull and so little society that I removed to this place a few months since and yet continue to pass my days in Idleness on the small pittance I receive from Govern<sup>t</sup> but have it yet in view to enter into business when an Opportunity should present, Assisted by one of my Sons who is very impatient of an inactive life, and as I have been told that the Trade at Detroit has done well for a year or two past,

<sup>50</sup> John Visger, probably originally from Schenectady, came to Detroit prior to the Revolution and here engaged in trade in partnership with Gerrit Graverat (for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 309) and Colin Andrews. An interesting account of the financial vicissitudes which overtook the firm is given in C. M. Burton's *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, pp. 957-58. Askin's reply to Cuyler's present letter indicates that Visger was then (September, 1799) living in Detroit, ill, and in straitened circumstances. See *post*, 247-48. Members of the Visger family were long prominent in Detroit.

I should like to make a begining next year in sending my Son with a Cargo for an early market, if you think it advisable, in that case I wish you would inform me what Articles would be most saleable and if not too much trouble to send me an Acc<sup>t</sup> of the prices such articles might sell in case they were first at Market next season.

I suppose you will have heard before this reaches you of the arrival of Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter<sup>51</sup> as L<sup>t</sup> Governor for upper Canada, as also of the arrival of Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Milne<sup>52</sup> to succeed Gen<sup>l</sup> Prescot<sup>53</sup> for this Province. by this last change I fear I shall be a little disappointd to obtain some lands that were in good train before. report says that your change is for the better. by the last accounts from England it appears that the austrians are successful against the french, and some are so sanguine as to flatter themselves with a speedy peace but from a letter I rec<sup>d</sup> from my Brother<sup>54</sup> he seems to think such an event yet at a great distant. he is gone to Command the British Troops in Portugal, from whence I expect he will soon proceed with the troops to the Medeteranean where some warm work is expected to reinstate his Nepolian Majesty—we have nothing meterial news.

<sup>51</sup> Lieutenant General Peter Hunter succeeded Simcoe as governor of Upper Canada in 1799, and at the same time became commander-in-chief of the army in Canada. He was born in 1746 into a talented Scotch family, two of his brothers, William and John Hunter, being celebrated medical authorities of London. Governor Hunter died in Quebec, Aug. 21, 1805, while on a tour of military inspection. See sketch in Wallace, *op. cit.*, and Henry J. Morgan, *Sketches of Celebrated Canadians* (Quebec, 1862), 139.

<sup>52</sup> Sir Robert Shore Milnes was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1746. He was for a time an officer in the army. In 1795, he became governor of Martinique, and in 1799 came to Quebec as lieutenant-governor of Lower Canada. His administration, which was in no way distinguished, lasted six years, terminating, July 31, 1805. See *ibid.*, 134; and Robert Christie, *History of the Late Province of Lower Canada* (Montreal, 1866), I, 202 ff.

<sup>53</sup> Robert Prescott was born in England in 1725. He devoted his life to the army and served in America during the Revolutionary War. In 1793, he was ordered to the West Indies, where he served brilliantly both in his military capacity and as civil governor. In 1795, he returned to England and the following spring was sent to Quebec to succeed Lord Dorchester. He governed the province until 1799, when he was recalled to England, although he continued to retain the title and draw a salary as governor of Lower Canada. He had become a major general in 1781; in 1783, he was made lieutenant general; and in 1798, general in the army. He died at his home in Sussex in December, 1816. Information adapted from British army lists and *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>54</sup> Cornelius Cuyler, member of a family long prominent in Albany, was born there in 1740. He joined the Fifty-fifth Regiment as an ensign in May, 1759, and served throughout the remainder of the Seven Years' War. Practically his entire life was passed in the army and he rose in due course to the rank of general in September, 1803. He served in America throughout the Revolutionary War, being aide-de-camp to General Howe in 1775. He died in England, March 8, 1819. See British army lists and *Appleton, Cyclopaedia of Am. Biog.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

please to present my respectful Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup>  
Askin & family also to Commodore Grant & family and  
believe me to remain with great regard D<sup>r</sup> Sir  
Your old friend & Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

A Cuyler<sup>55</sup>

let me know if there is not any prospects of recovering  
any thing from Niagara

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal June 28<sup>h</sup> 1799 Abram Cuyler  
Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recvd y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> July Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

RENTAL OF SALT SPRING

Queenston June 29, 1799

Dear Sir In looking over some old papers I find a  
memorandum from you about your Salt Spring. There are  
often Salt Boilers from Onondago at this pace some of whom,  
would (I am convinced) be glad to rent it, if there is a suf-  
ficiency of water. Should you still wish to rent it out by  
sending me all the information you can respecting it and the  
terms I may probably find you a tenant

I am with respect Dear Sir

very truly yours

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

<sup>55</sup> Abraham Cuyler, a younger brother of Cornelius Cuyler who is noted above, was born in Albany, April 11, 1742. He became a lieutenant in the Queen's Rangers in the Seven Years' War, and commanded a detachment sent to the relief of Detroit in 1763, which was cut to pieces on May 28 at Point Peleé on Lake Erie, not far from the mouth of the Detroit River. From this debacle, Cuyler himself escaped, although wounded, together with about one-third of his men. The remainder, over sixty in number, were conveyed to Detroit and with one or two exceptions were there tortured to death. Cuyler in September, 1770, was appointed mayor of Albany, an office which both his father and his grandfather had held before him. With the advent of the Revolution, he remained loyal to the Crown, and in December, 1776, was forced to take refuge with the British army in New York. Here he remained until the close of the war, when he became inspector of refugee loyalists in Montreal. He enjoyed the favor of Governor Haldimand, and in 1783 the latter instructed Colonel De Peyster in Detroit to afford all possible assistance to Cuyler in the collection of a debt which was owed him by Gerrit Graverat of Detroit. For an account of what followed in Detroit, see Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, 957-58. The present letter indicates that Cuyler's westward journey, in 1783, was extended as far as Mackinac. His later life was apparently spent in Canada. He died in Yorkfield, Feb. 5, 1810. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*, and Cuyler Reynolds (comp.), *Albany Chronicles* (Albany, 1906), 268 *et passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Endorsed:* Queenston June 29<sup>h</sup> '99 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> July Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>

TIMBERS FOR FORT MALDEN

Amherstburgh June 30<sup>h</sup> 1799

Sir I received your Letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> It is not a Matter of Great Moment if the Large Saw Logs do not come down this year, as they cannot arrive time enough, for any Service they Might have been applied to, had they been here by this time. If you can bring down any of the Shorter ones, without going to any additional expence, of hewing or hauling, I wish you to do it. if not let them remain untill next winter, when perhaps the Season may be more favourable.

I am Sir your most obedient very Humble Servant

Thomas Reynolds

John Askin Esquire &c &c &c Detroit.

MOVEMENTS OF PETER RICHARDS

Amherstburg 1<sup>st</sup> July 1799

Sir yours of the 30<sup>th</sup> came to hand & by the Bearer of this I am sorry to her that Peiter Richards is absent from grose point. he was sent From amherstburg last wedensday to build a Chimney at Commodore Grants as the man tould Me but if you apharhend he has any notion of dirchasion [desertion] please to sackure him till he is Sent for he received from M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds unknon to me three months pay I have reported Him to the Commandant but saposd he is spndeing the monney in detroit. Sir I houpe you will have the goodnes to answar this when Convineant

your most obedn<sup>t</sup> humble Servt,

James Fleet L<sup>t</sup><sup>56</sup> M. D.

John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant of Detroit

<sup>56</sup> James Fleet, lieutenant in the marine department, was in the naval service on the upper lakes from about the year 1780. In October, 1805, the *Hope*, while under his command was wrecked near St. Joseph Island in Lake Huron. Before the board of inquiry which investigated the affair, Lieutenant Cowan testified that for twenty-five years Fleet had commonly had sole charge of the naval service on the lakes in winter, and had performed his duty satisfactorily. Fleet himself stated that prior to his service on the lakes he had spent seven years aboard a man of war. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, and XXIII, *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

P. S. Sir your irons that you left in the Commodors will be s[e]nt the first oppartenuity.

*Addressed:* John Askeins Esq<sup>re</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Amhurstburgh July 1<sup>st</sup> 1799 L<sup>t</sup> Fleet to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup>.

LOSS OF LAND CERTIFICATES

Dear Sir By our mutual freind the Comodore I received at York several of your favors which I shall Answer more minutely by this oportunity if not gone before I can arrange my bussiness a little behind from this Absence. The Purport of this is to say that the Comodore cannot find among his papers the Certificates you Mention for the 12 or 14 lotts of Land still coming to you & that without these nothing can be done to Secure them. If possible lett them be found & sent down without delay. Much trouble may Attend the Location as Matters now Stand, but should we get a new Governor, & should as is also thought Captain Smith go home this fall it will be almost impracticable. I think they must Remain with you as the Comodore could hardly lose them on the Road. I left him Two days ago in perfect health & he has written to you on this Subject by M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Smith who comes home by land.

We just now hear that the English fleet is in the River. It has been said that General Hunter may be expected a passenger as our Lieut. Governor. M<sup>r</sup> Todd Accompanied M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright & myself to York on the 10<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. he only staid three days there & is long eer now in Montreal. I am very Glad you did not in your present state of health Undertake a Journey down. Probably you Would have Missed him & perhaps the progress you should have made in Settling your Land Matters might not have been such as to Compensate for the trouble.

The Cheif Justice comes on the Circuit this Year to the Western district & will sitt as Commissioner on Land bussiness there. The time for this Commission has been extended for 2 Years.

We Continue to enjoy Good health here & Cordialy join



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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in best wishes that the same Blessing may Attend you &  
yours. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

your very hum. Sert

R. Hamilton

Queenston 2<sup>d</sup> July 99

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

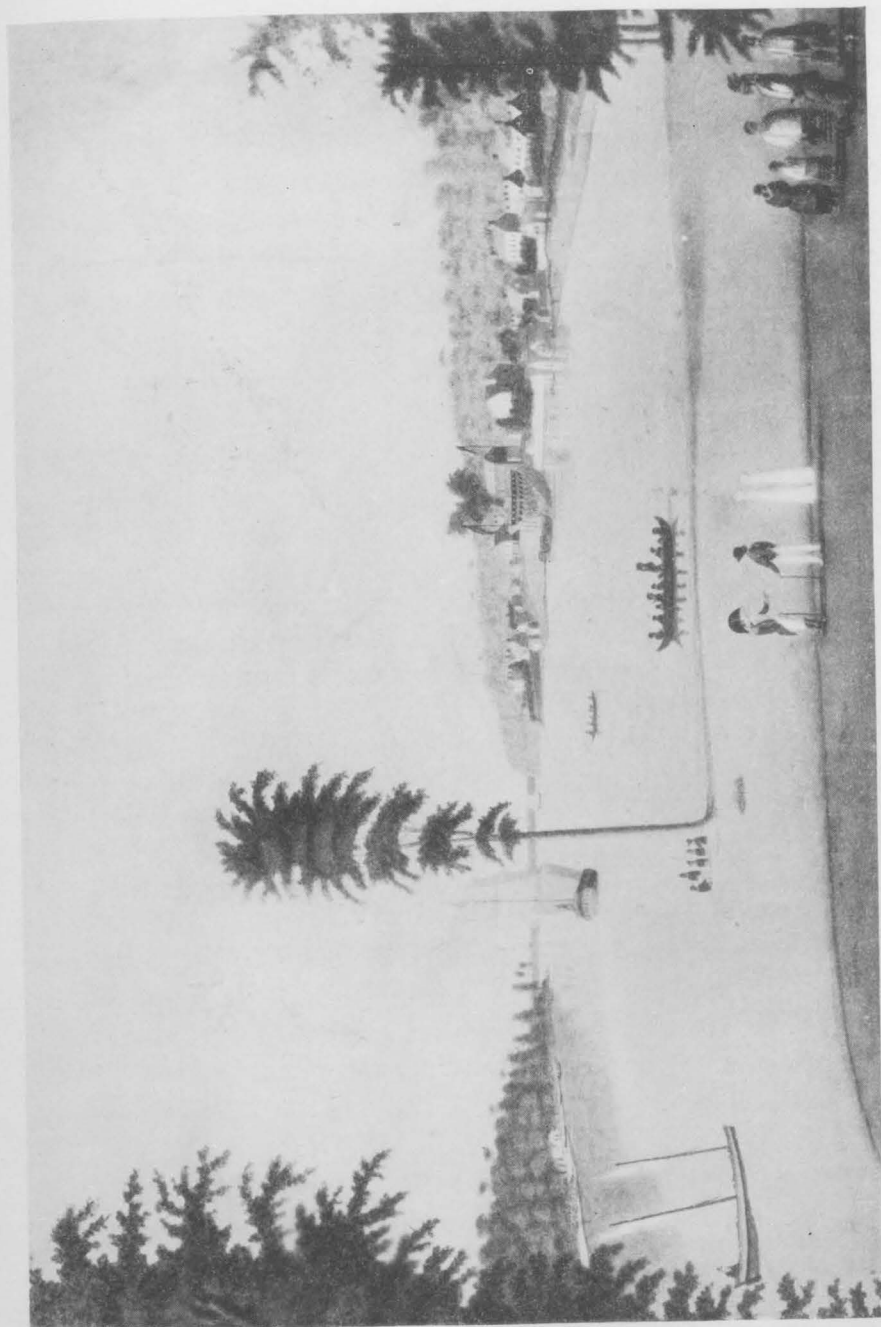
*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Queenston July 2<sup>d</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 14<sup>h</sup>

TIMBERS FOR FORT MALDEN

Detroit July 3<sup>d</sup> 1799

Sir I'm just favoured with your Obliging Letter dated the Last of June & thankfull to all those Who have the Direction of the Suply's of Timber for Governments Use for their Indulgence & wish to serve me but as the Wood wall [was] all Ready (10 large logs Excepted) before the Winter broke up & that the delay has only been Occationed Owing to the Failure of those who Undertook to draw it Out, & that I have remedied that defect by sending 5 Oxen & one Horse to the Pinery with three drivers. I have no doubt of a Great Part of the Timber being now on the Way & I'm sure the Rest will follow soon After, for my Idea is that Whoever contracts should perform without Regard to Expence & that they never fail performing what they Understood Unavoidable Accidents Excepted. I dont know of any raft of Pine Timber Arrived here from the Pinery this Year Earlier than About two Weeks ago & many have not yet Got down, Therefore I hope what I have to Furnish will be so Short a Time After the Others as not to Cause any Loss or Disapointment to Government. I have now no less than 10 men at the Pinery for the Purpose of bringing it down with Cables Anchors &<sup>ca</sup> I wrote more on this Subject than I would Otherwise do, was I not Informed that no small Pains have bee[n] taken to Create a belief that I could not bring down the Timber I had Contracted for. Tho it has run the Risk of being burnt (from Intention or Accident I Shant take upon me to say) & other deficulties thrown in the Way, yet If it is not Cast away on



FORT MALDEN IN 1812, AS SEEN FROM ELLIOT'S POINT  
*From original drawing by Catherine Reynolds owned by Mrs. Francis Cleary of Windsor*

1812  
1812

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

it's passage down, I say the principal part of it will be With  
you soon & the remainder not long after & Shortly After the  
Period that the Generality of Rafts Arrives at I am Sir

Your most Obedient Very humble Servant

Thomas Reynolds Esq<sup>r</sup> at Amhersburgh

*Endorsed:* Detroit 3<sup>d</sup> July 1799 John Askin Senior To  
Thomas Reynolds (Copy)

EXCHANGE OF FLOUR FOR SUGAR

Michilimackinac 4<sup>h</sup> July 1799

Dear Askin Your favour of the 18<sup>h</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> came to hand  
some days ago. Also the 20 Baggs flour in good Order,  
The Whole of which I have (agreeable to your order)  
exchanged With M<sup>r</sup> A. Laframboies<sup>57</sup> for Sugar. He had  
the flour at cost & Charges, Which I estimated at 39 livrés  
P Bag & I allowed him 12 Sols the pound for his Sugar, at  
which rate you have 1300 lbs. Neat, for your 20 Baggs flour.  
The Sugar is in 32 Barks Marked IA. put on board the  
*Detroit* in Good Order. Inclosed you have the Acco<sup>t</sup> of  
the Gross & Neat Weight of it & 2 lbs Suger, Over. The  
same day I exchanged your flour as a bove, Others exchanged  
flour P the Bag for 60 lbs Suger, Which Were 5 lbs. less  
than my exchange. So that on the 20 Baggs flour, you  
have 100 lbs more than Others exchanged at. The charges  
here are only 4/ York paid Soldure for brin[g]ing the flour  
on Shore.

Yesterday I received your favour P the *Russell*. I am  
happy to learn that your Sight is res[t]ored & that all your

<sup>57</sup> Alexis Laframboise belonged to the Fafard family, whose first American representa-  
tive came to Canada from Normandy about the middle of the seventeenth century. His  
grandson, Francis Fafard, *dit* Delorme, born in 1660, moved with his family to Detroit in  
1707, where he served as interpreter at the fort. Our present subject, the son of Jean  
Baptiste Fafard *dit* Laframboise of Canada, was born about the year 1763. He came west  
to Mackinac in early manhood and is supposed to have been trading at Milwaukee about  
1784-85. On March 19, 1792, he married at Mackinac Mary Joseph Adhémar *dit* St.  
Martin, daughter of Toussaint Anthony Adhémar *dit* St. Martin, for whom see *B. H. R.*,  
I, 177-78. She was born at the Northeast Coast of Detroit, April 13, 1775. Alexis  
Laframboise was captain of militia at Mackinac. He died suddenly on April 2, 1800, and  
was buried in the church at Mackinac. He is not known to have left descendants. A  
brother, François, who also traded at Milwaukee and who was killed by the Indians,  
married a Potawatomi woman, and the descendants of their union figure frequently in the  
annals of early Chicago and Milwaukee. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*,  
and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 158, *et passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

family Were Well. We have Nothing New here. Please make my best respects to Madam Askin & all your family. And belive [me] to be Sincerely your Very well wisher & humble Sert.

Charles Morison

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit P favour of Mr Meldrom

*Endorsed:* Mich. July 4<sup>h</sup> 1799 Mr Charles Morrison to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup>

APPREHENSION OF WINTERERS

Michilimackinac le 5 Juillet 1799

John Askin, Ecuyl<sup>r</sup>

Monsieur Ayant oublié de vous écrire hier pour un homme deserté de il ya environ quinze jours, hyvernant, monté dans les Canots, son nom est Pierre Turcotte et comme il a pris la Route du Detroit et que je crois que vous pourrez le trouver voicy les avances quil à, et son engagement a reçu à Compte à Montreal 94<sup>th</sup> et icy 2<sup>th</sup>.4 et son équipement qui monte à 64<sup>th</sup>. si vous pouvez le prendre vous retirez ce qu'il me doit, si non vous me le Renvoyerez par la premiere Barque.

Je vous envoie aussy le compte et Engagements des trois Lafontaine dit Marion qui mont deserté L'an dernier, un à Niagara et les deux autres au Detroit. Lon m'a dit quil hyvernoit au Miamis si vous pouvez les faire Prendre vous le ferez et leurs ferez payer le Montant et de domagement si il est possible.

Je suis Monsieur Avec Consideration

Votre serviteur tres hble

J Giasson & Cie

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Au Detroit

*Endorsed:* Michilimackinac July 5 1799 Mess<sup>r</sup> Jacque Gaisson & C<sup>o</sup> respecting his Engages who run away rec<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> July

*Translation*

Mackinac, July 5, 1799

John Askin, Esq.

Sir: I forgot to write to you yesterday respecting a man who deserted about fifteen days ago, a winterer who took up the canoes, Pierre Turcotte by name; and as he went by way of Detroit, and as I think you might find him, here are the advances made to him, and his contract. He received 94 livres in Montreal, and 2 livres 4 sols in this place, and his equipment, amounting to 64 livres. If you can take him, get back what he owes me. If not, return him to me by the first boat.

I am sending you also the account and contracts of the three men, Lafontaine *dit* Marion, who ran away from me last year, one at Niagara, and the other two at Detroit. I am told that they wintered at the Miamis. If you can have them arrested, do so, and make them pay the amount and damages, if possible.

I remain, Sir, with respect,

Your most humble servant,

J. Giasson & Co.<sup>58</sup>

RENTAL OF SALT SPRING

Detroit 8<sup>h</sup> July '99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I am favoured with your obliging letters of the 27 & 29 of last month, and thankful to you for the news which when at leisure I beg you will continue,

Please take up my news-Papers and transmit them regularly. M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton will be so kind as to pay the charges, I received the pa[c]k per the *Russel*, but no order on Mr Forsyth as mentioned in a former Letter nor is there occasion to Send one unless you choose, as what is coming from the Mauravian Indian will put a Ballance in

<sup>58</sup> Jacques Giasson was born in 1709 and in 1745 married Marie Angélique Hubert of Montreal. Their son, Jacques, was born in Montreal in 1747. The elder Giasson engaged in the Northwest trade as early as 1747, and ten years later obtained, in conjunction with his brother-in-law, a three-year monopoly of the trade of Green Bay. He died in Canada in 1762.

His son, Askin's correspondent, was engaged in trade at Mackinac during the British and early American periods. He died in 1800. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 197.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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your favour. The potatoes are arrived, and tho' late we will give them a trial; M<sup>rs</sup> A is thankful for them, she is fond of what plants, Roots &ca, that are new. I shall not want any Salt. tho' the price is low, that quantity does not answer well I am much obliged to you for your information respecting the getting a tenant for the Salt Spring.

I believe the Quantity of Salt water is considerable and for my part I wish much to let it out for five, or even Seven years, but as M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Robertson holds a Share in it, I have Sent him your Letter in order to obtain his Sentiments on the Subject. I think the person who wishes to hire Should visit the Spring himself in order to be a Judge. he might purchase If he thought proper, at least a half and there is proper Kettles now here that I believe would be Sold cheap, as the Spring they were intended for, does not answer it's always pleasing to me to hear that your prospects are good, and will be more so when I find they answer your expectations. there is nothing new in this quarter therefore I cannot make any return for your news in that way. the family in general assure you of their good wishes as does

Sign'd J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 July '99 John Askin to Robert Nichol Copy

### LOSS OF LAND CERTIFICATES

Detroit 10 July 99

My D<sup>r</sup> Sir Your very obliging Letters dated the 8 & 30 last m<sup>o</sup> reached me a very few days ago & I'm very happy to learn that your good Mother & you are well & most Sincerely wish you a prosperous voyage Home, and safe return, for I hope we are not to loose you from this country. I do not know of any commands I now have home, unless my best Comp<sup>ts</sup> to Such of my acquaintances as you may meet with.

the Majestrate's Certificates to the number of 14, with the Sales of them to me, I made up in a bundle and gave to the Commodore with the necessary directions on it, and in same bundle I think (but am not Sure) was my Memorial to the President in Council. If he has the latter I cannot See how he lost the former It is a most unlucky circumstance for

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

me, as I may never have a better opportunity to have my Claims brought forward, whilst you and so many other friends were on the Spot. I hope your, and their representation (If the papers are lost) will get me an equal quantity of Land, being in all but 2,800 acres. I rely too much on the honor of the President and Council to allow me to be So great a Sufferer where I was not in fault. I can give clear proofs of these Majestrate's Certificates or recommendations having existed, and the names of those to whom they were granted, also by the oaths of my Clerks the Sum I paid for each, and I believe I can find out the greater part of the Majestrates who granted them Specifying to whom. under these fair circumstances I really cannot entertain any doubt, that even Should the Papers be lost (which from what you wrote, I fear is true) but what the Lands will be given me and that there will Issue an order of Council to let me have the quantity aforesaid, in which case I make no doubt you will give M<sup>r</sup> Iredell directions to locate So much where any lands may be laid out and not already taken up for God's sake, get me thro' this difficulty. ways & means are better Known to you than me. it badly suits my present circumstances to loose 14 lots. as I know you must be Very busy, I will only add M<sup>rs</sup> A's assurances of unalterable esteem & regard for you & your good mother & that I remain with Sentiments of pure friendship

Signed J A

P S I have not wrote the Commodore now, as I learn he is on his way back. If with you, let him Know what I have said so as to Join with you in doing the needful

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10<sup>h</sup> July 99 John Askin to D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy

INDEBTEDNESS OF FREDERICK GRAETER

Montreal 15<sup>th</sup> July 1799

Dear Askin I wrote you from Queenstown since which I am favord with yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> June you Judged right in supposing I would be [have] Left that place before you arrived however I still hope we will yet meet. I am sorry to hear your health has been so indifferent but hope the warm weather will reestablish it. M<sup>r</sup> Swan is returned to

Michilam<sup>a</sup> without receiving a Shilling from that Rascal Clamorgan & C<sup>o</sup> and I find I will be equally disappointed by others. there is a M<sup>r</sup> Frederick Grattor<sup>59</sup> that owes me by note of hand 5630<sup>h</sup> say five thousand Six hundred & thirty Livres three Sols by Note of hand which ought to have been paid Last year at Michilam<sup>a</sup> he wintered at Post Vincenne and remains there having sent some packs to Detroit to Leith & C<sup>o</sup> to be sent to Montreal for M<sup>r</sup> Blakely. I have wrote M<sup>r</sup> Swan to send you his Note immediatly & I wish you to take the speediest method to recover payment without Letting it be known. you must know whether a writ can be procured there or whether One ought to be sent from Detroit the Latter may be the best. if there was time to send it this summer so that the payment could come in it would be well. however at all events it may be well to take the first opportunity to Get it secured. he has the Chara[c]-ter of an honest Man tho he has not behaved so to me. if there is no person going to Post Vincenne that you can depend on to secure this I would recommend your sending some person for the purpose, as I suppose you might get a Person for a Little more then 100 Dolers youll observe there will be near two years Interest before the payment can come to me and in taking Peltrey in payment the person ought to be a Judge of the quality & Value there, all of which you can Instruct him in. I suppose you know some *safe honest* Man to recommend the Person you send to at the Post. dont neglect this.

this will be delivered you by our friend Robertson who I am sure is still much your friend. in hopes of hearing from you soon and that you will send me as before requested a state[ment] of the Securitys you got from Hands with your

<sup>59</sup> Frederick Graeter is said to have been a native of Alsace-Lorraine. He engaged in the fur trade, apparently at Mackinac, and about the close of the century spent over a year in Vincennes endeavoring to collect debts, etc. In a subsequent letter to Askin he announced his intention of returning to Mackinac in the spring of 1800, where he held considerable property. Eventually he located in Vincennes, where he served as justice of the peace, and where he died in 1829. A nephew, Christian Graeter, located in Vincennes about the beginning of the century, and descendants of the family are still living in Indianapolis. Christian Graeter kept a tavern and store. He was an officer of Dragoons at Tippecanoe, served in the War of 1812, and was for many years colonel of militia in Vincennes. Two of his daybooks are preserved in the old legislative hall in Vincennes. Information adapted from article by Kate Milner Rabb, "Century Ago in Tavern Record," in the Indianapolis *Star*, Nov. 27, 1927, and data supplied by Fannie C. Graeter of Indianapolis in letter of April 14, 1928.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

opinion I am in heaste reffering you to the Bearer  
ever yours Sincerely

Isaac Todd

Mr John Askin

P S as I have settled with Clark I wish you would write to his agent at Post Vincenne to pay you the expence you were at in Gonzales business which you charged me as it is the only mode I can be paid

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit favord by W. Robertson Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Montreal July 15<sup>h</sup> 1799 Mr Isaac Todd to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

LOSS OF LAND CERTIFICATES

Detroit 15 July '99

My dear Sir I wrote you very lately Since which I learn Col. Hunter is coming out, or already arrived Li[e]ut. Governor of upper Canada, If I'm not mistaken I heard [you] say he was your particular friend, If so, perhaps your interest in my favour may be wanted, for Commodore Grant has lost 14 majestates recommendations for as many Lots with the Sales of them to me, and every requisite Paper. As my friends in council were prepared and would have got an order for the land to be Surveyed to me, and a deed in my name was my motive for sending them, I put them in a bundle directed what it was, and saw them put into his Pocket. either going on board or up the Side, they must have dropt out and been lost, for both Mr Smith & Mr Hamilton write me he cannot find them

Signed J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 15 July 1799 John Askin to Isaac Todd Copy

CONDUCT OF BLACKSMITH AND BAKER

Detroit 16 July '99

Dear Sirs When I wrote yesterday I forgot to Say that as you have sent me a blacksmith and he proves a very good one I beg you will send me a quantity of Iron of

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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different Sizes, say 8 or 9 Ct. Steel I have, and as he makes deck nails very well I shall not want any I wish I could Say as much for the Baker, but tho' he may be able to work under another, he cannot have the management of that business to himself, therefore I mean to sell his time to some other.

Signed J A

Mess<sup>rs</sup> James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Gill, mercht<sup>s</sup> Montreal

*Endorsed:* Detroit 16 July '99 John Askin to James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Gill Copy

LOSS OF LAND CERTIFICATES

Detroit July 19<sup>th</sup> 1799

My Dear sir I wrote you a short Letter last night as the Vessell was then on her way and as far as Sandwich. In hopes that she may still be Overtaken by this at the rivers mouth I send you under cover herewith the Duplicate of the Memorial I gave you with the Certificates or recommendation Sales &<sup>ca</sup>. If the Governor is not yet Arrived perhaps it may still be time to present it. if he is, perhaps it would be right to make him Acquainted with what has happened. My Friend M<sup>r</sup> Smith & you knows whats best. M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright I know has mentioned these recommendations to the Chief Justice & I dare say he will be favourable as well as M<sup>r</sup> Baby. If I'm refused these Lands it's a greater hardship than any Other has Undergone. Hundreds & perhaps Thousands of Majestrates Certificates have passed since mine were given out, & to Characters not so deserving. If Lands will not be Alloted to me on Application to the Deputy Surveyor for two years, (tho frequent applications made) am I to blame? and when I take the mode prescribed by applying to the Governor in Council to suffer or order them to be located, and from Accident all my papers are lost, there Again surely I'm not to blame? I do not wish to throw reflections at same time on Any man, or Any department, but however hope I may not suffer from delay, perhaps unavidable, tho not occationed by me. The people who got the recommendations Imediately Applied for Lands. They were told that none was then laid out but when they were, they should have them. tired with frequent

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Applications & delays, they at length sold them to me. I made many applications also to have the Lands located, with as little Success. If it's said that the Lands were only for Actual Settlers, why was a Law made to Admit of Sales, on proof of fair purchases? had the Deputy Surveyor in this District, Allotted to me, or those who had the recommendations their Lands, the Commissioners would have passed them as they did Others, & I would not have had so much trouble, nor give so much to my Friends; I do not Ask for partial favours, but hope to be put on a footing with Others, not more desirving. I may have said on this Subject more than is Necessary, but I wished to give you my sentiments. To end this long Epistle I should think that Governor in Council cannot hesitate to give an Order for my geting 2800 Acres, in 14 single lots of Land, on Condition that I prove to the Commissioners when they sit, That there was Majestrates recommendations for as Many, That they were sold to me & I paid for them, & lastly that said recommendations & Sales were by Accident lost.

Adieu I wish you health & Happiness

Yours most truly

Commodore Grant

*Endorsed:* Detroit 19 July '99 John Askin to Com<sup>re</sup>  
Grant Copy

LOSS OF LAND CERTIFICATES

York July 22<sup>d</sup> 1799

My dear Sir The misslying of your letter has distressed me [be]yound measure. And every time I think of it makes me uneasy.

But my dear Sir, I fear should your Claims be brought forward for the Transferring of Majestrats Certificates to you, would have little or no avail in geting them passed; There has been So much Impostion lately discovered regarding Majestrats Certificates and even Certificates from the different land Boards, that the Council has made a possitive rule, not [to] adhere to any Certificate whatever that was not brought forward before the 11<sup>th</sup> of June last and any

Transfers that are not the U. E. or Military Claims will not pass. the fees on lands are risen to a shilling N. York an acre. Tho two years agoe I got an order on Doct<sup>r</sup> Wrights Petition insisting that the deed of L<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Can's land was to be made out in Wright's name, the Petition was misslyed in the Council office and could not be found. And now with outmost difficulty I got the deed in Wrights name, paying the half fee tho Doct<sup>r</sup> Wright & L<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Can' are U E

And if any of the people that makes the Transfers are in the States of America, they are not attended too. I could not carry thro the additional acres to M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> because he was not at present an actual resident on the British Side

On all transferrs from U. E. or Military Claims, the person that gets the deed must pay the half fee that Gover<sup>mt</sup> paid before my most affectionate wishes attend M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and hers. The President has politly in a full Council asked me to accept of the L<sup>ty</sup> of the county of Essex's which I have. Your friend and well wisher David Smith with his mother and four Children Embarked, yesterday on leave of absence for England, and has promised to be out again next June and the old lady declares if she lives she will be out with him he says the only motive he has for takin[g] this Voyage are to recruit his health. Contrary wind made the Vessel come back M<sup>r</sup> Baby and I dines with them to day at Commissery M<sup>c</sup>Gills<sup>60</sup> at the Garrison, two miles distant from town. M<sup>r</sup> Baby and I expects [to] leave every day, but His Honor brings up fresh business dayly I fear amusing us till the arrival of our new L<sup>t</sup> Governor General Hunter—and Com-mander in Chief of all His Majestys forces in the two Cana-da's till Gener<sup>l</sup> Prescotts return. Compliment to John & his lady, Colonel Strong and his [lady, and] Doct<sup>r</sup> Brown<sup>61</sup> I am really & truely

Your Sincere friend & Servant

Alex Grant

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

<sup>60</sup> John McGill was a native of Scotland, who migrated to Virginia in 1773. During the war that followed, he served in the Queen's Rangers from 1777 to 1783. In the years subsequent to the war, he held various public offices in Upper Canada, aside from that of commissary. He died in York, Dec. 31, 1834. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>61</sup> Doctor William Brown was born in Massachusetts, Dec. 7, 1773, and located in

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Endorsed:* York July 22<sup>d</sup> 1799 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> Answ sep<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1799

DIRECTIONS CONCERNING LOGGING OPERATIONS

Detroit le 29 Juillet, 1799

Monsieur Barthe Aussitot que vous aurez fait les Cajoux de tout le bois du Roy, vous enverrai un homme pour m'avertir deux ou trois Jours d'avance, alors J'enverrai un homme pour les conduire puisque vous ne pouvez pas les conduire vous même. vous savez que les homme que J'ai a la Piniere coutent beaucoup d'argent, ainsì Je ne doute pas que vous ayez fait vos efforts pour les employer au meilleur avantage, c'est a dire au chariage des Pieces, aux chemins &ca quand les cajoux viendront, vous amenez avec vous tous les hommes, excepté Jaenton & Tom qui resteront pour couper du foin. Vous amenez aussi la paire de gros Boeufs et vous laisserez l'autre paire avec le cheval. Le *Saguinau* doit vous avoir laisse un ancre que J'ai envoyé dernièrement. Je pense presentement qu'il ne vous manque rien qui puisse arreter l'ouvrage. J'espere que vous avez pu haler toutes les grosse pieces, excepté les 10 de quarante pieds de long que vous avez trouvé trop fortes pour haler Il ne faut pas les ecarrir Sur les deux autres faces.

Si le porteur revient assez vite au detroit pour nous avertir avant que vos cajoux Soient fait, vous pourrez ecrire par Se [cet] occasion, cela vous epargnera les fraix d'envoyer un homme expres pour cela

*Endorsed:* Detroit 29 July '99 John Askin to Louis Barthe at the Pinerry Copy.

Detroit in 1798. He soon became locally prominent, and until his death, June 27, 1838, he performed varied activities and was much in the public eye. In May, 1805, he was elected a trustee of Detroit. In 1806 he was appointed surgeon to the garrison, which office he held until the War of 1812. In 1806, he was a shareholder and a director in the Bank of Detroit. For many years he cared for the Indians around Detroit without charge, and they expressed their gratitude by attempting to reward him with grants of land, the validity of which the government declined to recognize. Dr. Brown was included in the list of citizens whom Colonel Procter, in 1813, banished from Detroit. He was an early trustee of the University, member for seven years of the territorial legislative council, and president for five years of the local medical society. He lived for a time on the corner now occupied by the First National Bank, and later on Jefferson Avenue between Bates and Randolph. He never married, and his large estate was claimed by various relatives. See sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 152-53.

*Translation*

Detroit, July 29, 1799

Mr. Barthe: As soon as you have made up the rafts of all the wood for the King, send a man to give me notice two or three days before; then I shall send a man as pilot, since you cannot conduct them yourself. You are aware that the men I have at the Pinery are a great expense to me, therefore I have no doubt but that you have made every effort to have them work to the best advantage, that is, in hauling the logs, making roads, etc. When the rafts come down, you will bring with you all the men, except Jeanton and Tom, who will stay to cut hay. Bring also the pair of big oxen, and leave the other pair with the horse.

The *Saguinah* must have left you an anchor that I sent recently. I think now you are in want of nothing that can hinder the work. I hope you have been able to haul all the big logs, except the ten forty-foot ones that you have found too much for you. It is not necessary to hew them square on their other two sides.

If the bearer returns to Detroit soon enough to give us notice before your rafts are finished, you might write by that opportunity. That would save the expense of sending a man on purpose.

RECOVERY OF LAND CERTIFICATES<sup>62</sup>

York July 1799

Dear Sir Searching the other day for a paper & directing Charles to bring the papers out of my big trunk, M<sup>r</sup>. Askins were the first bundle that presented itself to my eye. All the certificates expresses the transferrers being of the River Raisen except two, and several of the certificates are given by himself which does not look well tho no bad intention. You know how nice the board are regarding Magistrates Certificates. I have privately shewing M<sup>r</sup> Askin's memorial to the Presedent who possitivly [says] he cannot or will not Agree to such transfer. I shall bring it before the board they mark on it what they Judge best.

If a vessel are to Sail Soon for Detroit Acquaint M<sup>r</sup> Askin of finding his papers that was missing, And that I

<sup>62</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

have very little hopes, if any of all, of their being of any use. The Presedent Seems determined to detain us here till he hears of Gener<sup>l</sup> Hunter either coming or remaining  
Remember me to your good lady

Sincerely Yours

Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton Esq

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

AFFAIRS OF JOHN ANDERSON & COMPANY

Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> august '99

D<sup>r</sup> Sir Your favour of the 24 July reached me on the 27<sup>th</sup> but having business at malden I did not return from thence before yesterday afternoon which is in Some measure the reason of my not answering you Sooner.

I assure you I am perfectly disposed to do what ever I can to accomodate & serve you, and If in my power will send out or go, in order to Settle the affairs of the partnership at the time you mention or as soon after as I can, for as to the real time I cannot assure you, owing to the Commissioners for settling the Lands on the british side commencing their Sessions on the 15<sup>th</sup> Instant, and as I have great number of claims to bring forward, where I am the proprietor & M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville the only witness, neither of us can be absent untill the whole matter is over. as you possess the whole Knowledge of what the C<sup>o</sup> owes, what's due them and what property they have on hand, as well as the good & bad of the debts, the most expeditious mode would be for you to make an offer of what you would give me and take the whole upon yourself as If no partnership had taken place. If I think it handsome & near the value I would prefer it to taking up your time & mine in settling a partnership business, valuing Goods &<sup>ca</sup> It is truly in your power to know nearly what all is worth, therefore [you are] able to make an offer, but as I am perfectly unacquainted with most of the matters that relate to the concern, it's not in my power to say what I could take, but you with Safety to yourself may and the Sooner the better for your future business. I have not as yet produced the order on M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson nor asked M<sup>r</sup> Calahan,<sup>63</sup> nor

<sup>63</sup> Hugh Callahan (Calahan, Callaghan) was a contractor who probably came to Detroit

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Knags for the am<sup>t</sup> of their accounts with the concern, but will in a short time. for the present I've only to say that we are well & that M<sup>rs</sup> A & I assure you & M<sup>rs</sup> Anderson of our best wishes

Signed J A

M<sup>r</sup> John Anderson Miamis

*Endorsed:* Detroit 2<sup>d</sup> Augt '99 John Askin to John Anderson Copy

RECOVERY OF LAND CERTIFICATES

Dear Sir I have now before me your seperate favors of 12 & 14<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. The barrels spirits & Pork have before now I hope come to hand; The Box of Glass & Pipes of last Seasons importation, I cannot trace, unless you send me the particular Mark & Number of each. In the Portage Account of that year, you will find particular Mention of every pack-age of your mark that passed this place; If either of these are in that Account, I shall think myself bound to shew what has become of them. if not to be found there, the presumption is, that they never came this len[g]th; Our freinds below must in this case shew how & when sent to Kingston. M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright how sent from thence.

The Comodore after much uneasiness and trouble of mind has at last found your Land board Papers. I dare say Charl[e]s had packed them up carefully in a Clean shirt, or pair of stockings. As the best explanation of the bussiness I inclose his letter. I have sent him M<sup>r</sup> Roes Memorandum respecting the Certificates lodged with the Att<sup>y</sup> General, & hope that they will be found in time to come with the Commissioner to your place. Should the Comodore be unsuccessful in the Council with the Men, I still would Maintain the Claim. Perseverance I know will do much, when oposed to what they may affect to Call the public Good; Were the Lands the private property of the present disposers I should have less hopes. Your own presence I am sencible would

shortly after the American occupation. In 1798 he drove a herd of cattle to this place from Hamilton. As army contractor he supplied the government with pork and candles, sending them to the several northwestern posts. He had such a contract on hand at the time of his death, which occurred between March 14 and May 13, 1801. See sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 196.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

do much; A Man can say more, & he generally can say it better, in his own Cause, than any other person can.

I observe your Observation about the Remittances of this Season, which from my own Experience I am Sorry to say I can readily beleive well founded.

I inclose a Scetch of an Account as in my books. if this agrees with yours, you will have the Goodness to Confirm the same. The balance you will pay when convenient to you. I have not added your order in the Comodores favor; I paid a part of this at York, & will [settle] the Balance here. You know the Amount, which I at present do not recollect.

You will be agreable surpris'd as I have been by a Visit from our freind M<sup>r</sup> Robertson. I refer to him for News.

All here are well & Join most Cordialy in best wishes for you & yours, with D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your very hum. sv<sup>t</sup>

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esquire  
Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 3, 99

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1799 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton Esquire to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> sep<sup>r</sup>

PUBLICATION OF NEWSPAPER IN QUEENSTON

Dear Sir We again Attempt a Niagara Newspaper. Anxious to encourage an undertaking which if well Man- aged may be usefull I have taken the liberty to put your Name down as a Subscriber Should you disapprove, it shall be discontinued at the End of the first Quarter. Should any of your Neighbours wish to Join I will be glad to Communi- cate their Names & forward their papers. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Yours Sincerely

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Aug<sup>t</sup> 4. 99

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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RESPONSE TO APPEAL OF MAGISTRATES OF DETROIT

War Department 8<sup>th</sup> August 1799

Gentlemen I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your representation relative to the conduct of the Military Commandant at Detroit

I can assure you it is the wish of Government to preserve to the Civil Authority its rights every where throughout the Territory of the United States and in no instance to countenance encroachments upon those rights by the Military

That the conduct of the Commandant at Detroit may undergo a regular and due Investigation, I shall refer your remonstrance to Major General Alexander Hamilton, who I have no doubt, will take proper measures to ensure in future a perfect propriety of Conduct in the Military

I have however to observe that a Military Commandant has not only authority, but that it is particularly enjoined upon him to restrain the Soldiary in whatever may lead to Insubordination, endanger a Garrison or prove injur[i]ous to themselves, that with these views he may prevent a too Frequent Intercourse, with the Citizens inhabiting at or near his post, which by affording oppertunities of intemperance would produce the worst of consequences, and that generally he has a right to give & enforce on his men under his command such orders as are necessary to their well being and the good of the Service.

I enclose a Copy of the rules and articles for the better Government of the troops of the United States, to which is Annex'd several Military laws, among these: "An Act for the better Organizing the troops of the United States and for other purposes passed 3<sup>rd</sup> March last.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Section of this Act you will observe provides an exemption from personal Arrests for any debt or Contract, for all non-comissioned officers, privates and Musicians who are and shall be inlisted & extends the same provision to the Militia or other Corps who may at any time be in the Actual service of the United States.

To prevent this law from Operating Injuriously to the Citizens it will be incumbent upon them to avoid giving Credit to Soldiers I am &c

Sign'd James M<sup>c</sup>Henry

To Louis Boufet<sup>64</sup>  
James May  
Joseph Voyer  
Charles Fra<sup>s</sup> Gerardin } Esquires

*Endorsed:* Sec<sup>ty</sup> of War. Answer to the Majestrates of  
Detroit 8<sup>th</sup> August 1799

REJECTION OF LAND CERTIFICATES

York, August 13<sup>th</sup> 1799

My dear Sir By this time, I do imagine M<sup>r</sup> Baby has delivered my forth letter since I left AmherstBurg to you, I have now the pleasure of Acknowledging yours of the 5<sup>th</sup> July—also of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Just received. I am distressed beyond measure in not succeeding better, in geting your fourteen Certificates passed the Council. There might have been Some dawn of hope, had I lay'd my hands on them before M<sup>r</sup> Smith I mean David, went away. And then he and Hamilton told me they thought they would not pass. Indeed M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton & M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright had So many Certificates and other matters of land business of their own, that a great part of this business was put off[f] till the last day and [with] some Considerable dificulty they got passed at last. And M<sup>r</sup> Baby was taken up mostly with his own land business. And with some dificulty he got his passed. So that any land business that is not as Clear as noon day And the many frauds that has been Committed in keeping up Certificates and then brought forward by a second or third hand, And other fraudulent practics regarding land, that the Council are indeed very nice in passing any wrighting or given any lands what ever as there is an order from home to sell all the wast lands in this Province to defray Some of the Expe[n]ce,

I shall make a Second attempt I am this forenoon going to speak to the Chief Justice. I shall also Speak to Colonel Shaw<sup>65</sup> and Captain M<sup>c</sup>Gill

<sup>64</sup> Louis Beaufait, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 518.

<sup>65</sup> Aeneas Shaw was a native of Scotland who served in the Revolution in the Queen's

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

The Six Certificates certified by M<sup>r</sup> Roe being left in the attorney Gener<sup>ls</sup> offices deeds are made out for them And in the Secretary office. I shall write by this oppertunity to M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton for money to pay for them. And I shall endeavor to get a deed for lot N<sup>o</sup> 128 I can my [by] staying indeed being obliged to remain here so long has drained off my £60 York, which was all I brought with me. You could hardly imagine the dificulty there is in carrying land business thru the different office[s] here let it be ever so Clear. I was ten days before I could Convince the Council & President of Doc<sup>tr</sup> Wrights purchase from L<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Can, from a Certificate Indorced two years ago being Miss layd in the Council office. And from that mistake M<sup>r</sup> Wright will have £5: 11/ halfax to pay.

The Governor are hourly expected. Calms and Westerly winds prevailing here, the last vessels from Kingston war ten days on their Voyage. I belive the Chief Justice & I go together to Sandwich or AmherstBurg, and he tells me he will go to Gross Point. Should I not be able to adjust your matter, perhaps when he sees yourself it may be brought about, but I shall not neglect doing what I can now.

Glorious news of the French being beat by land in all quarters And in the greatest expectation of hearing every moment their fleets being also beat Prince Edward are to be Governor General & Commander in Chief of British america & Gener<sup>l</sup> Hunter to Command in the Canadas. I inclose you a letter from Captain Mercer. please to forward it to Gross Point. I beg my love to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and family And belive me my dear Sir

yours Sinc[erely]

Alex Grant

We know nothing how long the Gov<sup>r</sup> Stays here

Rangers, and later in the Thirtieth Regiment. On the organization by Governor Simcoe, in 1791, of the new force known as the Queen's Rangers, Shaw was made a captain in the corps. In 1793, he became a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada, and from 1795 to 1807 he was a member of the Executive Council. During the same period, he was an officer of militia, rising in June, 1811, to the rank of major general. He died near York, Feb. 15, 1815. He was twice married, the fruit of the first union being seven sons and six daughters. See *Simcoe Papers*, I, 72, and Wallace, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

INTRODUCTION OF REV. GOTTFRIED OPPELT

Goshen on Muskingum 14 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1799

Dear Sir At the desire of M<sup>r</sup> Zeisberger<sup>66</sup> I beg leave to recommend to your friendly attention, the bearer of this, the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Oppelt,<sup>67</sup> who is going as missionary of the United Brethren to reside with M<sup>r</sup> Senseman on Thames river. We shall be much obliged for any kindness you may shew him & M<sup>rs</sup> Oppelt.

M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Zeisberger and M<sup>r</sup> Edward unite with me in best respects to Yourself and family.

I am, with much esteem Dear Sir

Your most obed<sup>t</sup> h<sup>ble</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Benj<sup>n</sup> Mortimer<sup>68</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> Detroit By favor of the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Oppelt

*Endorsed:* Goshen on Muskingum Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1799 The Reverend Benjamin Mortimer to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING SCHOOL IN DETROIT<sup>69</sup>

Detroit 24<sup>th</sup> August 1799

To John Askin, Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir, The great importance of education & instruction to youth is so generally acknowledged in all

66 For the career of David Zeisberger, see *B. H. R.*, I, 217, *et passim*.

67 Gottfried Sebastian Oppelt was a Moravian missionary who came, as this letter discloses, from the Moravian town of Goshen, in modern Tuscarawas County, Ohio, to the settlement at Fairfield in the summer of 1799. It seems apparent from later letters preserved in the Askin papers that Oppelt was sent to succeed Senseman in charge of the Fairfield mission. In a letter of Dec. 14, 1799, Oppelt stated that Senseman was very sick with consumption and his "departure" was expected very soon. His death occurred, Jan. 4, 1800. Oppelt continued at Fairfield for several years, as shown by mss. in the B. H. Coll. No sketch of his career has been found, nor have data sufficient to construct one been accumulated.

68 Benjamin Mortimer, one of the Moravian missionaries, accompanied Heckenwelder from Ohio to Fairfield on the Thames in the spring of 1798. Heckenwelder soon returned, by way of Detroit, to Ohio, but Mortimer remained at Fairfield until the autumn, when he and Zeisberger conducted a number of the converts back to Ohio, where in modern Tuscarawas County they founded the village of Goshen. Here Zeisberger died, Nov. 7, 1808, until which event Mortimer remained at Goshen. At a later date he became pastor of a Moravian church in New York City, where he died on Nov. 10, 1834. See Zeisberger's *Diary*, II, 527-28; *History of Tuscarawas County, Ohio* (Chicago, 1884), 318; and Heckenwelder's *Narrative, passim*.

69 From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

civilized nations that it would be superfluous to write upon such a topic. It is to be lamented that so many obstacles oppose themselves in countries newly settled to the establishment of proper seminaries & the procuring proper teachers. Should you think it any facility to the forwarding of such an object, You & those concerned may have of me the home on the domain belonging to me for twenty years, at twelve pounds York a year, with liberty at any period, previous to the expiration of the lease, to purchase the premisses for two hundred pounds, for the above purpose, when of course the rent will cease. I am, Dear Sir, &c &c &c

William Robertson

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1799 W<sup>m</sup> Robertson Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Respecting the Leasing out of his House for the purpose of a School

PROPOSAL TO OPEN A SCHOOL

August the 24th. 1799

Sir, On consulting my own mind, I do not like to advertise; but I have taken the liberty to send you a memorandum of an agreement, requesting you to be so kind as to show it to any of your acquaintance, who, you think, would subscribe to the conditions. I know that any writing, to become binding in law, for a sum exceeding 20 dollars, must be written on stamp paper; but I hope none will be permitted to subscribe who is not of both known principle and ability to comply punctually with the agreement; nor do I wish any to subscribe who have not pupils to send to school; for I cannot be under obligations of a pecuniary nature, except for a time after which restitution is to be made; but where no return is to be made I will receive no money. I forgot to mention in the memorandum, that I would continue for another half year if desired; by [but] that is supplied by an additional article on the back of the paper. I am, Sir,

your most obedient, humble servant,

Peter Joseph Dillon.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>70</sup> Peter Joseph Dillon probably first came to Detroit with Hugh Callahan in 1798, when he assisted the latter in driving a herd of cattle from Hamilton to this place. Dillon

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin, senior.

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 99 M<sup>r</sup> Dillon to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin.

DIFFICULTY OVER LAND TITLES

Detroit 29 august 1799

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I wrote you a few lines by our Freind M<sup>r</sup> Robertson two days ago, purely to Say, that I then could not, for want of time, answer your Sundry favours, which I now will do.

To begin with what relates to my Claims of land, & which were rejected, were I to Say half what I can with propriety, in Support of them, this Sheet would be too little. I therefore will confine myself for the present to a few observations. If the Commodore could not find my papers (when those who I meant to bring them forward & had a good deal to Say were present) it was badly Judged to do it afterwards, and even after he was discouraged by the President. I excuse all he did, as I know his intentions were to serve me, but he is a most unfit man for any thing of the Kind, nor did I mean he Should enterfere otherwise, than deliver the papers to M<sup>r</sup> Smith & you. I know his Situation in Council that he cannot oppose the head. I never was more hurt in my life, than at these Certificates being rejected. it implies an intentional fraud in me, & what for? to gain the difference between £10 to £15 (what each Lot cost) and what they may fetch, which may be a little more. and who did this? a man, a confidential man, as I'm told the council Says a good Subject, a majestrate, a L<sup>t</sup> Col. of Militia formerly a member of the Land Board, & now a Commissioner this is a great contradiction. he who would Stoop So low as to, *I say bilk* Government of so small a trifle Is very unfit for Office, and If God Spares my life in open Council, I must either be Justified, or my Supposed bad, or fraudulent intention proved.

Of the certificates alluded to, I find I have Signed three one for a man who was Drummer in the 84<sup>th</sup> Regiment and

was married, and both he and his wife are numbered among Detroit's early school teachers. The present document affords indication of the time when he started a school here. His further story, and his vicissitudes as schoolmaster are recounted in Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 710-13.

two others for men Who live at the river Raisin, & I think were recommended to me by Capt Montigny, as men who voluntarily served at fort miamis, who was going to be attack'd. I am Sorry So little distinction is made between paying what Government had pledged their word for and what Land was given on condition of actual Settlement I can assure you as having it from good authority, that one of the executive Council obtained a Grant for Lands to a man here, after he was a Captain of militia (with a large pole & flag before his door) in the Service of the united States. I dont relate this as finding fault with it. If it was promised him by Government why not. but only to point out, Mountains are Ju[m]ped over, & Straws become Stumbling Blocks. If justice is not done me, truths shall be Known in more places than upper Canada, not that I suppose myself of that consequence, that they will make much difference. I am quite at a loss to believe that Such regulations have taked place in Council, as I'm informed has, and will think it a mistake in those who related them untill I have the pleasure of Seeing the Chief Justice and from him Know the truth, and If he confirms what I have hear'd, I must then conclude, that a majority of the executive council does not possess that wisdom which their situations require. Some of [the] Council I Know & others I'm told, possess honor, honesty, & talents; but If those are the lesser number it is to little purpose I can hardly drop the curs'd subject I'm so displeas'd

I agree to pay for the news papers, but beg to have them forwarded regularly, which has not been the case. the pork is at length come to hand. I have Wrote Mes<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills about the Glass & Pipes as they did not get your length, and you wrote me that M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright says they did not get to Kingston.

I have look'd at your account but can't Say how far right, owing to the preceeding one from you being mislaid, and for a Copy of which I will be very thankfull, If not too much trouble. Some flour I Know was charged in it, given to Doctor Richardson and there is Some in this, perhaps it was delivered out twice, but one mistake there is, which is the Interest on M<sup>r</sup> Morris's note from the date thereof



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

untill you received payment, and for which you have not credited me. I'm thankful for the indulgence given respecting payment, and would send you for the mony I wrote you to pay the Comodore but by a Letter from him, he said he did not take it up, and I was to pay a M<sup>r</sup> Jackson here I leave the matter unsettled untill I see him but some mony he has applied for to pay for deeds, I must reimburse you when I know what it is. there is some Racoons &<sup>a</sup>, sent also not to my credit. they were not included in the former account. It's not £2—but *frindship* makes me say, that Commissions on Pork you purchase will be disliked by whoever you charge it to but If the same was charged for Interest on Cash paid for Pork, it perhaps would not.

my family [and my] Self, thank God, enjoy good health M<sup>rs</sup> Grant was safely delivered the 29 this noo[n] today of a Girl,<sup>71</sup> her & Child doing very well M<sup>rs</sup> A is with her. after Comps to M<sup>rs</sup> H I remain &<sup>ca</sup>

J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 29 Augt 99 J Askin to R Hamilton Esq<sup>r</sup> Copy

TRADE CONDITIONS IN DETROIT

Detroit 10 Sept 99

Dear Sir Your Kind Letter dated at Montreal, the 28 June reached me on the 21 of July last, and I should not have deff[e]red answering it So long, had it not been for my waiting to obtain from M<sup>r</sup> Visgar, the information you required. at first the only expedient was that he must have time to recollect (not, I fear, having Books to resort to) and unfortunately, he has for some time past, been so unwell, and Still continues So, that no clear information can be obtained from him. however as I hope and think that he is not in danger, So Soon as he recovers I will use my best endeavours to find out what you require. tho' it would afford me much pleasure to See any of your Children here, and render them the Small Services in my power, yet I must Strongly recommend to you as a friend, by no

<sup>71</sup> Jean Cameron Grant, born Aug. 29, 1799. On Feb. 11, 1834, she married William Richardson, postmaster of Brantford, a son of Dr. Robert Richardson, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 441-42 *et passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

means this time to enter into business at this post. I fear before this time twelve months, or perhaps Sooner it will be discovered too clearly, that all those in trade at this post are Sinking money fast, one or two exceptions, and they appear to me even doubtful. there are Several very Worthy characters at Montreal, therefore you must be happier in their Society than were you here, but am Sorry your means are not equal to your mind. & that Gover[n]-ment does not do Something more for you Your Brother by Sticking to the army has got far up, and I am very happy at it. God Knows they earn what they get but as we must all go one way or another, perhaps it is no great matter whether we are Killed or die naturally, it is my opinion. M<sup>r</sup> Visgar I'm afraid never will be able to pay you one penny, and I'm Sorry to Say, report has not told truth in Saying that I'm bettered in circumstances, however I endeavour to reconcile myself to my Lot. I have a large family to maintain, and my Trade which is Small, will hardly give a profit to Support them and I have Suffered So much by extensive business that I have dropt it, for I firmly believe now at this place, he who trades most loses most

the Com<sup>r</sup> is at York, his family are well

Signd J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 September 1799 John Askin to  
L. Col. Abraham Cuyler Copy

AFFAIRS OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Montreal 14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1799

Dear Sir, I arrived here two days ago & found all well at home. As an opportunity now offers for the Upper Province I embrace it to inclose you a more correct invoice of the articles left with you. One of the bed ticks is put down by guess as I could not find the invoice. You will observe I invoice the dry goods as sold here at twelve months & the liquor as cash; hence if any payments previous to 15<sup>th</sup> July next they will bear interest. I have not put down the transport as some of it may probably be charged to you. In a day or two, when I have had time to look about me, you shall hear from me again. In the mean time I hope

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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you will not forget to forward me your voucher in due form against the estate of Mounsey<sup>72</sup> It would be obliging me very much if Mr Innis<sup>73</sup> would draw out my claim & certify it in the same manner, which I presume he is able to do, or else Mr Heward,<sup>74</sup> otherwise I shall never get anything.

M<sup>rs</sup> Robertson joins me in kind compliments & good wishes to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & the family. I remain, Dear Sir,

Your very Hl<sup>e</sup> Serv

William Robertson

I shall send you D<sup>r</sup> Harffy's acc<sup>t</sup> next time  
John Askin, Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin, Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Montreal Sep<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1799 W<sup>m</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Esquire  
to J<sup>n</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>

SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Dear Sir I did not intend this afternoon to have troubled you with my *Scrawl* (Spelt well), but this minute I had the pleasure of seeing the Commodore. he is well *fair & Fatt*, think that he cannot be up for a few days. his Eyes altho rather dim, Seems to wish him Self at Gross point. I thought it would give a pleasure to the Family, if I wrote a few incoherent Sentences. I have this morn<sup>g</sup> had a *talk* with Tommy. he has not any objection to give a draft for the wood, admiting the Engineer would receiv it, that is if it was put into the wood Yard, but there is not any men in the King's employ to do it, and to hire it is impossible. as for the Bricks, if he could get [a] true return from Shaw [of] what has been deliver[ed] with the price, a Bill also for them will be given, but he says, he could wish it to

<sup>72</sup> Paul Mounsey was commissioned captain in the Twenty-fourth Regiment, May, 9 1789. He was in Detroit in 1793 and 1794, and in the autumn of the latter year was sent to the Maumee to serve against General Wayne. Apparently he was recalled to England the following year, for Askin's formal certificate of claim against his estate indicates that he died prior to March 11, 1797, and that the claim in question had been sent to Scotland in July, 1795. See Askin papers, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII and XXV, *passim*; and *Simcoe Papers*, *passim*.

<sup>73</sup> For the career of Robert Innis, see *B. H. R.*, I, 464-65.

<sup>74</sup> For the career of Hugh Heward, see *ibid.*, 227.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

be done all in one Draft. hoping this will arrive soon and  
your answer in return will be pleasing to D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Yours

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Friday night in a great hurry and at 10 o'clock Sep<sup>r</sup> 27  
1799

recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup>

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>, Merc<sup>t</sup>, Detroit

*Endorsed:* Malden Sep<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>h</sup> 1799 Doctor Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

AFFAIRS IN IRELAND

London, Sep<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> 1799

My dear Sir, It is long since I did my self the pleasure  
to address you, but the only excuse I have to offer for my  
apparent neglect is the very active and uncertain situation  
which for a length of time has attended me in Ireland where my  
services have been for three Years perfectly on the alert—  
which really so deranged our ideas that our Friends as it  
were became a secondary consideration. this you will  
excuse in a Military man who has been so buffeted about  
as your humble servant. however it was always a consol-  
ation for me to know that my dearest Archange never failed  
to embrace such occasions as presented themselves of  
writing as often as possible—but we are sorry to understand  
for Certain that three of her letters have been carried to a  
French Port, a Mortifying circumstance not only to us,  
but to the owners of a Nice Vessell which saild for York  
from the Cove of Cork. thank God I have weathered the  
storm thus far and after battleing with the French and  
Rebels in Ireland in almost all the Actions without any  
material injury but the loss of some Teeth, we are once  
more returned to old England enjoying very good health.  
My good fortune has led me to fall to a Company at Wool-  
wich. in consequence of an Augmentation of the Regiment,  
I am not certain how long I may remain there but I trust  
at least for this Winter & next Spring—as the whole of our  
force for the Expedition to the Continent have Saild—and  
already several brave fellows of them have fall'n by the

Dutch It is a grand Expedition but I begin to fear for its result. as to the Army part of the Story (the Navy you will ere this have heard is fall'n into our hands) [it was] the intention of Ministry to reinstate the Stadholder. restore the antient Sovereignty and afterward penetrate into France in Cooperation with the Russians, Austrians &c &c &c—but I begin to think the allies will find it difficult to execute there intended plan, as the Dutch have already shewn a determined opposition by land, little expected by the Duke of York and our other Generals. When I left Ireland, things remained in a state of uncertainty, a kind of torpid state in that Country, the People still restless, and ready to rise at the least movement of the French in their favor, who are ever holding out fresh promises of Succour to enflame their Minds into Villanious rebellion, but My Lord Cornwallis, equally Active as Lord Lieutenant and Commander in Chief, is ever ready to put them down upon their Shewing the appearance of a Stir. I dined with the good old Lord the day previous to My leaving Ireland at his Villa in the Phonix Park. he lookd well and feeling determined to hold it out with the United—or rather deluded—Miscreants who know not what their delusion would lead them to, altho so many recent examples are before their Eyes. there is little doubt that the Union with England will take place. I never saw people (upon cool reflection) so much changed in their sentiments on that subject. I think it will prove the Salvation of both Countries, if carried into effect, at same time be a complete stab to the wishes of the Common Enemy, whose seeming interest is to disunite all nations. I have little further to add, as to the Politicks of the day, nor is there any news interesting, to inform you. when I get settled at Woolwich, shall have both leisure and inclination to tell you all that's going. My dearest Archange intends writing to her dear Mother by this oppo[r]tunity You will be pleased to hear that She and our children enjoy exceeding good health, altho they have encounterd in Ireland much trouble and fatigue. we are at present staying at My Friend M<sup>o</sup>Lewes house in Grosvenor Place untill I can get covered in at Woolwich. There are good Barracks for a Cap<sup>n</sup>. of a Com-

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

pany. We intend making use of them, for the Expence of House rent & different attending taxes is now extremely high. I sincerely hope my good and dear Mother in law, with yourself and all of the Family Continue to enjoy health. You will ever have our wishes to that effect in their fullest extent. likewise my Friend the worthy Commodore, M<sup>r</sup> Grant & Family. We have been unfortunate never to have met D<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Wright. Our Friend Mercer we had the pleasure of seeing a day or two ago. he begins to look old from gout. pray remember me kindly to all about you. if you meet with the Newspaper called the *Times* dated Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> Sept—99 you will find in it a verry handsome Address to me from the Principal Inhabitants of Athlone and the Vicinity upon my leaving that place with my Brigade:

I promise you to be a better correspondent in future, which a little rest will enable me to practice. in the mean time, shall repeat my wishes in union with those heartfelt ones of your beloved and good Daughter, added to the lisping of our two entertaining children, your grand children that all happiness and health may attend the worthey Family &c & &—and believe me Most affectionately Yours. ever & &c.

D Meredith

My dear Sir I am now at breakfast at Woolwich with my Friend Colonel Shand,<sup>75</sup> a relation of my Friend Sharp—he particularly desires to be remember'd to him—is just come from Gibraltar and thought he might probably have met M<sup>r</sup> Sharp in England

You[rs] D M

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant at Detroit To the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd and M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merchants at Montreal Lower Canada

*Endorsed:* London 29<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1799 Cap<sup>t</sup> Meredith Royal Artillery to John Askin recv<sup>d</sup> May 24<sup>h</sup> 1800

<sup>75</sup> Alexander Shand, who became captain in the Royal Regiment<sup>o</sup>f Artillery on Feb. 15, 1778, and lieutenant colonel on Aug. 14, 1794.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

STATE OF DEBTS DUE IN VINCENNES

Post Vincennes October 9<sup>th</sup> 1799

Sir On the Morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of September last, I Was Honoured with your's dated Detroit the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 1799 and not until then. I felt and do yet feel a great dissatisfaction that your Letter was kept up so long from me, considering the urgent situation of your affairs in this Quarter, from the age of your Demands & from the falling situation of your Debtors.

I should approve very much of your Principles of Lenity, Provided the People of this Quarter, were Possessed of the Right Idea, of discharging their Debts when in a Situation to do so, But it can with justness be Observed, from the language of a Number of our Citizens, that they will not discharge their just Dues until Obliged, for say they severally, "I owe, and I can't Pay, for in attempting to Pay, I shall either Distress myself or my Family."

I send you, under Cover herewith, "An Answer" being my Candid & Real Opinion & that of the eldest Inhabitants of the place, to your "Memorandum of Debts Due &<sup>ce</sup>"

There has but one Opportunity offered, from this Place to Detroit by Water, within my recollection for some time past, Which was a Maj<sup>r</sup> Hunt,<sup>76</sup> & who departed the evening before I received your Letter. Otherwise I should with Pleasure have embraced them.

As to the Mortgages, you hold for Real Property in this place, You may either Make a private Sale, or Cause a public one to be made of the Property; If the first, that may be perfected, by a Transfer, or Assignment, legally acknowledged before the Proper Authority, to be admissible to record in this County. If the second, That may be perfected, by causing a suit to be Instituted in the Name of the Mortgagee or his Assignee to Foreclose the Equity of Redemption, in the Mortgagor, his heirs &<sup>ce</sup> and the Title Made by the Sheriff. You can at present make your Choise.

If M<sup>r</sup> Tousaint Dubois will give you in Prompt Payment, One hundred and fifty Pounds, N. C. for the House, Horse Mill &<sup>c</sup> & Etienne S<sup>t</sup> Mary's Lot, I think you would do as

<sup>76</sup> Probably Colonel Thomas Hunt, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 561.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

well to sell to him, in the first Mode, I have prescribed which I make no kind of Doubt, he will accede to, from his repeated act of Ownership exercised & persued with the House and Horse Mill, for I am Credibly Informed, he has rented out, the House, for those Eighteen Months Past; for there is at present a Family residing in the house by M<sup>r</sup> Dubois permission; and has permitted a M<sup>r</sup> Boyer to use the Mill until she has become Nearly if not entirely Useless.

I shall take the liberty, of considering Myself Generally Retained for you upon similar Engagements, as those of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Sibley, Sinclair & Burnett.

I have fully performed your Injunction as to Madame Gamelin. You will see from my inclosed Mem<sup>o</sup> the situation and Value of the Debts, she offers you, and what other property, she is Possessed of, and It's Value.

If you shall conclude to send forward any Bonds &<sup>ca</sup> for Collection, I will undertake the Collection for Ten per cent, and my Legal Fees, where I succeed in suits If it may or shall be necessary to Commence any. I am Sir

Your Most Obedient & Very Hub<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Gen. W. Johnston<sup>77</sup>

To John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Addressed:* Private John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit.  
Attention of M<sup>r</sup> James Abbott jun<sup>r</sup><sup>78</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup>

*Endorsed:* Post Vincent Oct<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> 1799 General W. Johnston to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> in Nov<sup>r</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> March 1800

<sup>77</sup> General Washington Johnston was born, Nov. 10, 1776, in Culpepper County, Virginia, near where the leader in whose honor he was named lived for many years. He came to Vincennes in 1793 and entered upon the practice of law. He became influential locally, held many offices, and acquired considerable renown as an orator. He is said to have brought Masonry into Indiana and to have put slavery out. He died in Vincennes, Oct. 26, 1833. See biographical sketch in *Ind. Mag. Hist.*, XX, 123-53.

<sup>78</sup> James Abbott was a son of James Abbott Sr., whose career is noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 304. He was born in Detroit, June 1, 1776, and died here, March 12, 1858. On attaining his majority, he was taken into partnership with his father, as his elder brother, Robert, had previously been admitted. On the death of the elder Abbott, in 1800, the brothers continued the business for a time. Their inherited wealth and abilities made them men of prominence in the community, where James remained a leading citizen until his death in 1858. From 1806 until 1830 he was postmaster of Detroit. In April, 1807, he was appointed associate judge of the District Court of Huron and Detroit; he served as a member of the Land Board, and in numerous ways was identified with the commercial and civic life of his time. In November, 1804, he married, in Chicago, Sarah Whistler, eldest daughter of Captain John Whistler of Fort Dearborn, becoming thereby Chicago's first civilized



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FROM WILLIAM HARFFY TO JOHN ASKIN

from M. Baby's Thursday Mor<sup>g</sup>, 10 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1799

Dear Sir I am happy to find by your letter given to me Yesterday at Sandwich, that all My letters came safe to hand, but am sorry that the *Saganah* was sail'd before their arrival; I met her going down yesterday Morn<sup>g</sup>. I came up to M<sup>r</sup> Baby's in the afternoon with an intent of seeing you, but the Wind and bad weather prevented me that pleasure. I have wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin for the Hinges. I was told by every Carpenter that there was not any to be bought, which made me request one from you. I understand Com<sup>o</sup> Grant has a Boat coming down. *if the weather is fine*, and it is not too much loaded very likely they could bring down the Musick.<sup>79</sup> I understand it is in a wretched state, so that if Charlo calls for [it], pray desire him to be very careful in bringing all the *fragments* of it. when I return I will endeavour to settle with M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds

I am truly yours to command

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Sandwich Oct<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 99 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

LOSS OF THE *ANNETTE*

Detroit Oct<sup>r</sup> 13 1799

The A. Q. M. Gen<sup>l</sup> having chartered a Vessel to go to Presq Isle for hospital Stores; The Cap<sup>t</sup> by the mutual agreement of the United States agents and myself, has been directed to touch at Long Point, in order to take on

bridegroom of whom we have record. Sarah Whistler outlived her husband many years, dying, Oct. 4, 1874. Their home for a generation occupied the site of the present Hammond Building at Fort and Griswold streets. They were the parents of two sons and two daughters, all but one of whom (James Whistler Abbott, born Sept. 29, 1805) preceded their father in death. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, V, 8-10; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Casgrain, *Families Casgrain, Baby et Perrault*; and Burton, Abbott genealogy.

<sup>79</sup> The "Musick" was a harpsichord, probably the first in Detroit. There are several references to it in the letters which follow; a short account of our knowledge of the instrument is given by C. M. Burton in his *Amusements in Detroit in Colonial Days* (Detroit, 1909), 48-49.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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board and bring to this place such of the public and private property, as was saved from the wreck of my Vessel the *Annette*. I bind myself hereby to take no advantage of the reception of those Stores by a Vessel in public service, and agree that my responsibility (if ever I was responsible) shall remain as formerly, and should I be obliged to make good the damages sustained by the loss of the *Annette* I promise to reimburse the United States the extraordinary charges of send<sup>g</sup> the Vessel by long point.

I certify that the above is a Copy of a paper agreed by M<sup>r</sup> Askin this day

F. Bates<sup>80</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit Oct<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> 1799 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askins Agreem<sup>t</sup> to take no Advantage of the United States sending for what was lost from the *Annette*

FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 15<sup>h</sup> Octb<sup>r</sup> 1799

My dear Askin I am favord with your two Letters of the 9<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>. & one of the 3<sup>d</sup> I am sorry that any change has taken place in your doing business with Ja<sup>s</sup> & And<sup>w</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill I know the former wishes to curtail the business of the House so that he may the more easily retire himself & I belive those you now do [business] with are good men & may answer each of your purposes better. this change I am convinced will make none in friendship between you & James who I am sure will on all occasions be as ready to

<sup>80</sup> Frederick Bates was born in Goochland County, Virginia, June 23, 1777. In the autumn of 1797 he received an appointment in the quartermaster's department of the army and set out on horseback for Detroit. In the summer of 1800 he embarked upon a mercantile career in Detroit, which he continued until the fire of June 11, 1805, destroyed most of his property. Meanwhile, he had studied law and had engaged actively in politics. He was the city's second postmaster, serving from Jan. 1, 1803, to June 1, 1806. In 1804 he was first receiver of the Detroit land office, and was a member of the board of trustees of the town in 1804-1805. In the latter year, he was appointed one of the first territorial justices, and he also served as first territorial treasurer. In November, 1806, he resigned his various offices and removed to St. Louis, where President Jefferson appointed him Secretary of Louisiana Territory. In 1808 he published a compilation of Missouri laws, the first book published in Missouri. He subsequently was elected governor of the state and died in office in 1825. A younger brother, Edward Bates, was attorney-general in President Lincoln's cabinet. See biographical sketches in Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, II, 1130; in Houck, *History of Missouri*, III, 49-50; in T. M. Marshall, *Life and Papers of Frederick Bates* (St. Louis, 1926), I, 1 ff.; and in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VIII, 563-65.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

serve you as ever. I wish Cap<sup>t</sup> Ernest may be induced to purchase your property & ours adjoining the Common as I have many reasons to wish to realize all I can as my situation occasioned by my late Nephew is very unpleasant & not Likely soon to be otherwise. I wish you had sent a Bill on Philad<sup>a</sup> for the money received for the House this is the Time all matters here must be settled for the year. in sending a Statement of And<sup>m</sup> Todds affairs I have valued the property in your hands taken from Hands at £350—this Curr<sup>cy</sup> Let me know if I am right I hope youll endeavour to get my payment from Gratier M<sup>r</sup> Swan tells me he Left with M<sup>r</sup> Morrison a Letter for you enclosing his Note on which you are to endorse two thousands Livers received this day from Forsyth Richardson & C<sup>o</sup> I observe what you say in your Private Letter M<sup>r</sup> Robertson & I are both of opinion it would be improper to apply at present you know there is but 5 executive Coun[s]ellors recives sallrys the other supernumery ones will expect to get this when a vacancy happens & to be a Coun[s]ellor withot pay would, not answer you. Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter will be at York most of the Summer & if in my power I will goe there if any thing then could be pointed out Wherein he could with propriety serve you my Interest will not be wanting and you probably may be able to accompany the Commod<sup>r</sup> there in hopes of hearing from you soon and as we are all now very buisey have only to assure you of my being

Ever Your Sincere & affet<sup>e</sup> friend

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Todd to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>h</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> the 17<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1800

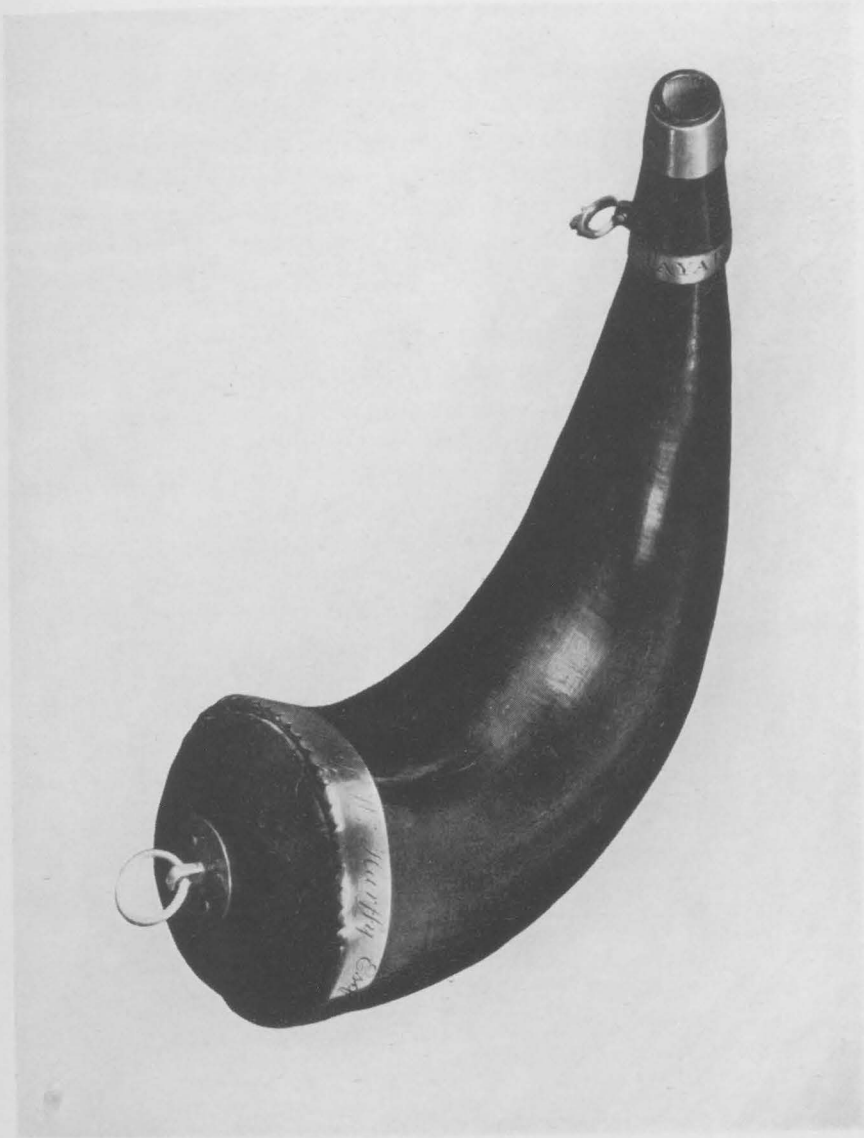
TROUBLES OF WILLIAM HARFFY

My D<sup>r</sup> Sir I really am a shabby Fellow—long 'ere long so "that is the Text."

Your letters generally come almost together. Some of mine to [you] I think from your last, must have taken a long North-West passage. In some former ones I mention'd

if you could spare a 1000 bricks, paid for on delivery, *no* answer I have received; since that another application 300, on the same terms, as the Kings Vessel will be up on the change of Wind I will endeavour to get them put on board, if you will please to send orders for the purpose. Some time since I wrote for Hinges, avail'd my self of M<sup>r</sup> Askin's Jun<sup>r</sup> having them near a fortnight; *it is cold* and the *door wide open*. M<sup>r</sup> Cornwall says his price is £100, if that is accepted. if not he will not give a Farthing more; I have inquired of Some peoples who well know the Situation, he must have it, and the land will fatten by keeping another year or two. Reynolds I have not been able to see, altho I have call "*en passant*" thrice, but as more bricks are wanted suppose I delay until they arrive. The Engineer, appears undecided. he has lately live'd free at Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee's. *Curse the Musick* I wish it was sold, I care not for what, as all my wants and wishes to attain are not worth the pains, or trouble *to my Friends*. you will favor me if it could be any way disposed of. an *Ox* I have at the river La Corce at one Bondy's, and I believe all the *Devils in Hell*, stands Sentry against me, as I have try'd every means in my power to get it. you must think me *mad*, *I really am not* but such accumulation of disappointments cannot happen but very rare. Believe me my D<sup>r</sup> Sir I am now only painting to you how I am kick'd about. It is impossible for me to leave this place. Accounts frequently I have sent on your Side address'd to some "*that once where Friends*"—no answer; but from you & M<sup>r</sup> Innis Your enclosed I gave to Ruff<sup>s</sup> immediately on the receipt. he sail'd early this morn<sup>g</sup> I

81 James Rough was a native of Scotland, born about the year 1768, who spent many years of his active career as master of a sailing vessel on the upper lakes. We have not learned when he entered upon this service; the present document contains the earliest mention of him we have found. Augustus Porter's narrative (Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VII, 321) states that Rough became half owner and master of the schooner *Mary*, built at Erie in 1806. The *Mary* was in the harbor at Mackinac when the British captured the place on July 17, 1812, and was utilized by them as a cartel ship to convey the captured garrison and American traders under parole to Black Rock. At Detroit, however, the *Mary* was seized by General Hull, only again to be captured by the British a few days later, and again to be utilized by them to convey a portion of the prisoners taken, this time to Fort Erie. After the war, Captain Rough was part owner, and for a time master of the *Michigan*, which was said to be the largest American vessel on the lakes. Many years later the *Michigan* was loaded with a miscellaneous zoological collection and sent over Niagara Falls, as an entertainment exploit. Captain Rough superintended this enterprise, and apparently was still interested in the vessel. He was one of the early residents of Buffalo, where he



POWDER HORN OF DR. HARFFY, THE GIFT OF JOSEPH BRANT  
*From the original in the Detroit Historical Museum*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

have seen Billiet,<sup>82</sup> he wishes me to ask if you have received any Dollars from Paschal Rheem<sup>83</sup> (I think *nine*) or *eleven* for y<sup>e</sup> house 2 toises & half of Stone, 25 barrels of Lime, 4000 Bricks, Billiet will do the whole work furnishing him Self for £24, you finding him a man & cart to bring the materials from the Water side to the house. in looking over your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> I thank you for your very great kindness in regard to the Harpsichord, but I am told it is a mere wreck, therefore as I have mention'd befor I wish it sold. In confidence my D<sup>r</sup> Friend, suppose you hint'd to Commodore Grant about the Beef of last Winter, and as I am only a *Toy Doll*, as a physical man at *his* house, you can hint it to him, that my coming up *twice* deserves a *little*. may Heaven bless us all, and altho souer'd with the World at large; I am happy in so sincere a Friend, who can laugh at my *petty* misfortunes, and feel for my real ones.

I am with respects to M<sup>rs</sup> A D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Your greatly obliged

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Malden Thursday night Oct<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1799

PS. M<sup>r</sup> Seabury of this place will take this with him, as he is going to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Intosh's to assist at the Launch. he will bring a return

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merct Detroit Oct<sup>r</sup> 18

*Endorsed:* Malden Oct<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>h</sup>, 1799 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

died on Dec. 4, 1828. An interesting epitaph, supplied by a friend, concluded with these words (from Burns's epitaph on Gavin Hamilton):

"With such as he, where'er he be  
May I be saved or damned."

Information compiled from mss. in B. H. Coll., and Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, *passim*.

82 The American founder of the line of Billet was Étienne Biguet *dû* Nobert, born in 1660 in the diocese of Avranches, France, who came to Canada and married in Champlain, Oct. 29, 1691, Dorothea Dubois, a native of Quebec. Their son, Jean Baptiste Biguet, was also called Billet, by which name his descendants were known. François Billet, our present subject, was a grandson of Jean Baptiste Biguet. He was born in Longueuil on Oct. 14, 1751, and married in Detroit, Sept. 28, 1778, Mary Teresa Robidou, daughter of Joseph Robidou and Mary Ann Leblanc. François Billet was a mason and lived on St. Joseph Street. He was buried in Sandwich, Aug. 19, 1812. He had numerous dealings with Askin and figures frequently in the Askin papers. He had six children, all born in Detroit in the period, 1779-94. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

83 For the line of Réaume, see *B. H. R.*, I, 170. One of the sons of Hyacinthe Réaume, there mentioned, was Joseph Réaume, who was born in Detroit, Nov. 2, 1739, and married in Boucherville, July 7, 1766, Mary Charlotte Levasseur *dû* Carmel. Joseph brought his bride to Detroit that same year and settled on St. Joseph Street. He was buried here,

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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LAND CLAIMS OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Detroit October 21<sup>st</sup> 1799

Dear Sir I was a few days ago favoured with Your letter dated the 14<sup>th</sup> last Month & happy to learn that you all Meet in good health pleas present M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & my Compliments. I receiv<sup>d</sup> the Invoice of the Articles you left here & when I find a Safe Sale respecting payment I let them go at 75 per Cent for I find to unsafe sales are made at this rate by some Merchants.

I attended the Commissioners Constantly & have had a long & hard Pull but very little done Owing to Justice Allcock<sup>84</sup> who I may say took all on himself & made as strict Enquiries *in my Oppinion* in several Cases as if they had been Criminal ones so that only about 20 as M<sup>r</sup> Roe tells me M<sup>r</sup> Dolsens passed, but Others defered & none wholly Rejected Indeed if they had I would have Appealed in your behalf & would have had no dificulty to prove that the proceedings & Decissions were not agreeable to the act, at same time lett me Observe that I believe M<sup>r</sup> Justice Allcock a very Impartial good man, but so particular & sticks so close to the law, a very unfitt man to act up to the Spirit of the Act. We are asured that the Chief Justice will make his Tour next Year & I learn he has been much more liberal in this Decision respecting Claims to Land than any other of the Judges. As I was your Attorney I did not set when any matter relative to you was before the Commissioners which gave me a better Oppertunity to speak but to no Great purpose as M<sup>r</sup> Judge Allcock did as he pleased without asking the Sentiments of the othe[r] Commissioners in hardly any case The Papers you desired Charley to Copy & send you M<sup>r</sup> Roe shewed me a letter in which you desire him to send you a Copy therefore needless in Charles

April 14, 1796. The sixth of his eleven children was Paschal Réaume, our present subject. He was born on St. Joseph Street, April 2, 1774, and married in Sandwich, April 23, 1798, Cecilia Pouget, daughter of Joseph Pouget and Frances Belleperche. The groom resided in Amherstburg. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>84</sup> Henry Allcock, an English barrister, was appointed a judge of the Court of King's Bench in Upper Canada in November, 1798. In October, 1802, he became Chief Justice, and three years later he became Chief Justice of Lower Canada. He also served as speaker of the Legislative Council in both provinces. He died in Quebec, Feb. 22, 1808, aged forty-five years. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Capt<sup>t</sup> Harrow has agreed to let you have the house Lot &ca for £260 there is some fence rails in the bargain he has wrote M<sup>r</sup> Roe to make out the Deeds in form the Park lot he had got, & is part of the premisses he Sells you. I will Indeavour to get M<sup>r</sup> Innis or M<sup>r</sup> Heward to make out Your claim against the Estate of the late Cap<sup>t</sup> Munsey as you direct, mine must have reached you long ago. All our Family & Connections are well I have only to add that I am Dear Sir

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

*Endorsed:* Detroit October 21<sup>st</sup> 1799 John Askin Senior to William Robertson Esq<sup>r</sup> (Copy)

FROM WILLIAM HARFFY TO JOHN ASKIN

Oct<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1799 Malden

Dear Sir, I have received letters from you dated y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> this day. Two yesterday of the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> one this day of the 22<sup>d</sup>. I have work'd hard with Thomas and the Engineer, and altho not as yet succeeded, I do not despair. I shall return to y<sup>e</sup> charge. By some mistake or other Shaw has sent me down 50 tiles. as there is more than I can want, I shall find a Market for them, "so far lucky for once." I *Dread* again to deal in wine, neverthe less, I think Backwell may take it. I shall try him to morrow. I wish you could send a Gill or so down to taste, that may be asked for. I have not been able to see Billiet. where he keeps himself I do not know. I have left word for him to call on me. as for the Hinges you will greatly obliged me if I could have them soon I hope to be in my house about the 1<sup>st</sup> of November pray Sir what may be the price of a very small Cast Iron stove if I can raise the Money for one. then Believe me I can give you as neat a room as any in Malden, and close by the threshold of the *Door* stands ready to receive you a *sincere* and *heartly welcome*. come soon and accept it, is the wish of

D<sup>r</sup> Sir Yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

PS. I shall be obliged to you to get off the Musick, after any manner as my *Pipe* is now *out of tune*



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit Oct<sup>r</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>

*Endorsed:* Malden Oct<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1799 Doctor Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAPTAIN THORN

Detroit October the 26<sup>th</sup> 1799

Captain Thorn<sup>85</sup>

Sir You will take on Board 18 Keggs of West India Rum & 2 Barrells of Cydar, all which you will deliver M<sup>r</sup> Traxellar.<sup>86</sup> likewise 3375 Bricks & 100 Tiles & Telling him to sell the foregoing things at the following Prices, & I will pay him for his Trouble.

Rum by the Kegg 12 Bushells Wheat or 16½ Dol.  
Cydar by the Barrell 8 do do.....or 10 Dollars.  
Tile—by the Piece.....6<sup>d</sup> Each.  
Brick by the 100.....1½ dollars.

If he trusts it must be only to such people as will surely pay him before the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next at latest & when in wheat it must be good & Clean but I am willing to take English Measure & if he thinks he could sell more to write me word by you.

You will recieve from him all the Indian Corn he has for me, Measuring it with the half Bushell you have on Board, & if he has any wheat of his own I wish he would send it & Keep as much of what he may get for me in its Stead

<sup>85</sup> William Thorn was a native of Providence, R. I., who found his way to Detroit prior to, or during, the Revolutionary War. He appears as a householder in the Detroit census of 1779, being credited with 1 "woman," 1 boy, 2 girls, 2 horses, and 2 cows. *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X, 316. In the spring of 1782, he "earnestly" besought his discharge from the naval department; it was granted, and Colonel De Peyster was about to send him to Canada, not deeming it proper for a person with his knowledge of the lakes and the country to be permitted to remain in Detroit; however, he continued in the service, and in 1783 is listed as a master, serving on Lake Erie. *Ibid.*, XXIV, 6. Prior to September, 1789, Thorn located in Cottrellville on St. Clair River, being one of the earliest residents of this vicinity. Here he remained until his death in 1842, and his descendants were represented here until a relatively recent date. He was long a lake navigator, and it is said that he piloted Colonel Croghan's expedition to Mackinac in 1814.

Captain Thorn had two sons, William and John, and several daughters. John Thorn owned and platted the first village lots on the site of Port Huron. See *ibid.*, *passim*, and Jenks, *Hist. St. Clair Co.*, I, 148 ff.

<sup>86</sup> Peter Traxellar (variously spelled in the mss.) lived on the Thames River; in 1799 Askin had announced to Senseman his intention to open a store in Traxellar's house the following season. See Askin papers, *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

You will take any grain M<sup>r</sup> Wisewell<sup>87</sup> may have to ship in preference to any other but you must not be detained above one day to wait for any Freight, unless it would make a difference of 8 Dollars or more, but if any wishes you to wait a few days for Freight, & with the Freight they give will make it Equal to 8 dollars a day, you may stay in that case a few days

Please let M<sup>r</sup> Traxellar know I had a soar Hand & therefore could not write him

*Endorsed:* Instructions to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Thorn (Copy)  
Detroit October 26. 1799

SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Dear Sir, I am at M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>intosh's so far on my way to see you but the River, and the over hospitallity of M<sup>r</sup> Jam<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>intosh<sup>88</sup> will not let me over, [n]or can I get a Canoe. that being the case, and as I must return in the morn<sup>g</sup>, I will on paper mention the purport of my intended Visit. from what I could learn from M<sup>r</sup> Grant, you seem much dissatisfied in not geting the Bills from M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds. it must *appear* to you that *I* have not acted according to your wishes, as his expression are poor man he is very unhappy in being so treated, as you have heard that the *Cedar Timber* was paid for, and not deliverd, then why not yours. in the first place the *Cedar is not paid* for, altho almost the whole hath been deliver'd. to assist the men Fifty pounds was advanced but not a farthing more at this date Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>. Various times I have spoke to M<sup>r</sup> R on the Business, but could not get a final answer. I have at last push'd him. he has promised to give a draft for the Bricks (as he has a return of the number from Shaw) *to go* by the *Nancy*, and altho I must appear to be inattentive to you my Good Sir, I hope to finish [the] matter with M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>87</sup> Oliver Wisewell was in Detroit as early as 1799, in which year he was living in the Rouge River settlement and stood as candidate for election to the General Assembly of the Northwest Territory from Wayne County. In 1803 his land on the Rouge was sold at sheriff's sale to gratify a judgment obtained against him. The document attesting this transaction speaks of him as "late" of Wayne County. See Sibley papers, *passim*.

<sup>88</sup> For James McIntosh, see *B. H. R.*, I, 308. The present document shows that he carried out the intention, there noted, of removing to the south side of the river following the American occupation of Detroit.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Backwell about the wood by that time. Men of the Garrison it is impossible to get to assist in taking up the wood. shall I hire some if I can bring it about. to whom shall the Bills be address'd. a story pathetically told, tells well. however whether I have neglected your interest, or not, I know the integrity of my heart, and we are all liable to failings, some wilfully, some accidentally, and some from what the human mind cannot foresee or avert. Nothing as I have said above but the want of a Canoe prevented my seeing you.

Billiet says he will do all the work, with [will] bring the materials and all to the house, as you have been his great Friend for £24.

I remain D<sup>r</sup> Sir ever at your service your oblige'd

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Sandwich

Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 7 o'Clock at night. I really am sorry that the Harpsichord was put in M<sup>r</sup> Grant's Boat, for he *talks about it*, "Gods *how he talks about it*"

Cap<sup>t</sup> Allan<sup>89</sup> has paid for the tiles. shall I give the sawyers the mony. he says that he has not received the spirits.

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>  
M<sup>r</sup>. Donovan will please forward this letter on receipt

Jm I [James McIntosh]

*Endorsed:* Oct<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> 1799 Doctor Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin  
Answ<sup>d</sup>

SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Dear Sir, I understand by Capt Grant, that you have lately received *two* letters from him, about M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds, he certainly is the most extraordinary man existent. I will not mention any thing about the wood that the Commodore has explain'd. in regard to the *Bricks* he promised to give a Bill, when I call'd yesterday for it. what will you say, when I ask'd for it, he said he did *not* know the price, or the *quantity deliver'd*, altho he told me before he had got

<sup>89</sup> James Allan, for whom see *ibid.*, 307.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

the number of Thousands from even *Shaw* himself. what strange conduct. I suppose from all this he wishes not to draw. As I am well convincd this letter will be with you soon be pleased to send down the *price* & the quantity, that he may be for once in his life obliged to draw contrary to his will this is taken up by Cap<sup>t</sup> Caulwells, who will return I believe immediately. I received your letter Yesterday, and thank you for the News. can I get 3000 more bricks if I send for them, or if you think of sending down your own can they be put into the same Vessel

I am yours

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Saturday morn<sup>g</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1799

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> to ye care of M<sup>r</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> Mer<sup>t</sup> Detroit let it be sent immediately

*Endorsed:* Saturday Nov<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1799 Doctor Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>

DIFFICULTIES OF MATTHEW DONOVAN

Detroit November. 15<sup>th</sup> 1799

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I have been Informed that you are concerned in Establishing a School in this Town, in Opposition to me which amazing Surprised me for I candidly declare, that I always perswaded myself, that you would be the last man in this Town that would do me the least Injury; I acknowledge that my Conduct of the 29<sup>th</sup> of October was irregular, but partly was owing to the want of wood & to the Inclemency of the weather for it was not the concurrence of the will altogether, but rather a fatality impending over me no man is his own keeper, neither is any man altogether perfect; I am not very Subject to this crime, neither do I approve of it, nor is there any person existing more grieved or concerned for it than I am. I hope never to be guilty of such a crime for I have made an absolute promise never to taste any Spirituous liquors as long as I keep School in Detroit and hope with the Concurrence of Heaven to maintain that promise I am bold to Say that I have kept a Good School these four years past and my Scholars will prove it upon examination and to Sum up the Total loss of my time in

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

that irregular way it will not exceed four days. Notwithstanding I am censured, but I censure none, I own my faults, Since few from faults are free. I perfectly Recollect to hear you Say that you had a tender feeling. I believe you have, pray let it not be extinguished towards me who am willing to Serve you to the utmost of my power

Matthew Donovan

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Donovan to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

MARRIAGE OF THOMAS DICKSON

Queenston Nov<sup>r</sup>, 16, 1799

Dear Sir I have now the pleasure to forward your papers received p[er] last Mail & to acknowledge the receipt of your obliging favour p[er] the *Nancy*.

The Cyder has been received, and will no doubt soon Sell. I am also to thank you for your obliging present of a Barrel of Apples, though as yet they have got no further than Fort Erie.

I shall not at present descant upon Politicks (though with me a favorite topick) but content myself with informing you that tomorrow Evening M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Dickson is to be married to a Young Widow (M<sup>rs</sup> Taylor)<sup>90</sup> a Union which promises much happiness to both parties. M<sup>r</sup> Selby arrived here a Week ago, by whom I was happy to hear that your Family were all in good health I beg you will present them with my most respectfull Compliments, & believe me (though in haste) with much respect Dear Sir

Very Sincerely Yours

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

P. S. Should you have occasion for any Pork in the Spring, I can probably procure you some upon more reasonable terms than any you have had from this lately

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston Nov<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>h</sup> 1799 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichols to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1800

<sup>90</sup> For the careers of Thomas Dickson and Mrs. Taylor, see *B. H. R.*, I, 542.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

ABSCONDENCE OF ALEXANDER LORANGER

Fort Miamis 16<sup>th</sup> Nob<sup>r</sup> 1799

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> I write this in grate heast to enform you that Alexander Lorange<sup>91</sup> who owes us £195 by Note was on his way up this River But the water Being So Low Couled not proceed he heas Retourned And Stored his goods at Vetocats. And is Started this Morning for Horses to Carey up his goods, he Sais To the River S<sup>t</sup> Joseph, which is out of the Country. So I think we Should not Lose any time In heaving Some thing don with him Eather Seas The Goods or take him but I think to Seas the Beast<sup>t</sup>. But as You Know More about the Law Then Me I will Leave it to You he is fited out by Gearome<sup>92</sup> he told Me him Self & his Mon also [tha]t he was on his oane Account & had to the Amount of £400-" which wouled do us Some good. It is My Real opinon he will Not Retourn to this Country. So I hope You will Not Lat one Minet pass But gat Some person to Come out to Sease or take him As You think Beast. But who Eveal Coms out Enform him Not to Mention aney thing of His Busness at the River Reason or at Detroit, as if Gearome hears of it he will take his Goods. when he pased to go up he did Not Call on Me But pased on the other Side of The River. in heast as the Bear[er] is wating I am Sir with Resp<sup>t</sup> your ob<sup>t</sup> & Humb<sup>l</sup> Sernv<sup>t</sup>

John Anderson<sup>93</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit M<sup>d</sup> by Indian

*Endorsed:* John Anderson's letter To John Askin Relative To Alexandre Lorange 1799

<sup>91</sup> On the relationships and descent of the lines of Rivard, Loranger, and Maisonville, see *B. H. R.*, I, 49 and 325. The descendants of Nicholas Rivard, there noted, commonly retained the name of Rivard. The descendants of his brother, Robert, assumed, among others, the names of Loranger and Maisonville.

<sup>92</sup> Jean Baptiste Jerome was born in 1762 and buried at Raisin River, June 7, 1832. He married prior to 1792, Mary Deliennes *dit* Belanger, and their daughter, Mary Archange, born in Detroit, Feb. 17, 1792, married Hubert Lacroix, subsequently a leading citizen of Monroe. Jean Baptiste Jerome settled in Monroe prior to 1802. In 1805 the first court of Monroe County convened in his home. See Denissen, *op. cit.*, and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*.

<sup>93</sup> For the several John Andersons of Detroit and vicinity, see *post*, 723.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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FROM WILLIAM HARFFY TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir, It is long since I have had the pleasure of a letter from you, therefore yours meets with a pleasing reception. a most Violent Fever prevented me the happiness of Seeing you last Saturday. Six days confined to my bed & I am only just now able to hobble about; Thank God I am daily geting strength, and pleasing to say am in my House, where I reside the whole day, but cannot trust the new walls for the night. The Timber is almost all in the yard, & the men I understand will totally finish next week, and then Tommy cannot frame a Jesuitical excuse, for the Drafts, as with them the papers, or vouchers, or what you will, will go by the Express. You mention about Fraser. he of all men in the World, can I wish to have any transactions with; but if you knew the Drift of this, and the price; you might not almost hesitate to say *Suborning Justice* here it rests, here it finishes, and he will not gain his Sordid Ideas. There is the History of Tommy; and if I ever live to see you, I could raise a smile. Your letter for Theophile myer, I have sent off.

Since my confinement, I have had some very pleasing acct<sup>s</sup> put into my hands, nothing less than *one* Draft on me from Mr<sup>s</sup> Harffy for £40. Sterling, another for £20, a very pretty moderate sum however I hope to be able to get y<sup>e</sup> better of it by the Express. circumstanced thus, it will render it impossible for me to give you my letter of Attorney to draw my pay this Quarter, but you will have to receive it the 24<sup>h</sup> of June & so on. I am sadly in want if you can trust me for a Table Cloth of 3 yards long, if not too dear. I also should like about 4 gallons of Sherry & Six gallons of good red port a pound of the *best* Hyson Tea, & one pound of very common green tea. as beef is very cheap with you, I think the Commodore cannot have a better opportunity of *returning my* Beef than now, as we understand it is by the Quarter 5½<sup>d</sup> or 6<sup>d</sup> per pound that being the case, and it should take place, I am led to hope I was onece enough in Mr<sup>s</sup> Askins esteem to beg her to let her serv<sup>t</sup> put it in some of her nice pickle that I may receive it down keeping out the neck, & shins for Soup, with three or four roasting pieces, for how dismal so ever the Weather

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

appears yet still we can have a craft down. We cannot get an *Onion* here, I wish I could get a Bushel. I certainly shall take you by Surprise some of these long nights, when we will talk about and about it. pray Sir what may be the price per pound of an Iron pot. I should like a thinn one, that will not weigh too heavy about 3, or 4, gallons; as I am fit for nothing, and very much troubled with the Cacoethies Scribendi (which by the by is of Service to me at present,) that I do not know how to leave off[f]. I have not seen M<sup>r</sup> Backwell, but you may depend on my speaking to him at the first interview, if you could send down, a very little of each of the Madeira, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, I would shew it to different person[s]. I know Backwell has none. let the Bottles be *Sealed* down, the last you sent had a taste of the Cask, I shew that to him, but he mention'd the taste, I should think if the [ves]sel, should not arrive there will not be any danger of its going off. Rum here is by the Single Quart. 4<sup>s</sup> Spirits is I a[m told] 18<sup>s</sup>. in short this place is continually drunk.

I have just time to bid you adieu

yours truly

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Monday morn<sup>s</sup>

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq. to the Care of M<sup>r</sup> Askin  
Jun<sup>r</sup> Detroit Dec<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1799.

*Endorsed:* Malden Dec<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1799 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>

FROM WILLIAM HARFFY TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir This morn<sup>s</sup> I received your letters of the Second & third instant, and thank you for your kind expression of Friendship towards me as your Sawyers are leaving this place I trust this letter to them I have waited on M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds, and M<sup>r</sup> Backwell, the remainder of the Scantling will be immediately drawn in the acct then made out, and M<sup>r</sup> R. says, He will then give you the draft. Thank God I am perfectly recover'd, and Yesterday I open<sup>d</sup> house and I assure you, your red wine made some of my Friends *very happy* I can now safely say I sleep & eat under my own



roof I know not of any one I wish to see there, more than you & the Commodore why cannot we meet *once* more,

My best respects to all your Family & believe me D<sup>r</sup> Sir  
Yr<sup>s</sup> Sincerely

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Dec<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> 1799.

*Endorsed:* Malden Dec<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> 1799 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>

ILLNESS OF GOTTLÖB SENSEMAN

Fairfield Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 1799

Sir The kindness, you showed me, when I was in Detroit & the kind offer of your service, I received from you, gives me the Confidence to trouble you with a Commission. I have here a letter of some importance, which I should send so soon as possible. You would oblige me very much, if you would send it, by the first Opportunity to the Post. M<sup>r</sup> Senseman is very sick on the consumption & we expect his departure very soon.<sup>94</sup> He sends his last Compliment to you & all his friends in Detroit. I beg the favor of you to acquaint with it Mr. Huntington, as I understand, Mr. Senseman had some Dealings with him, that are not settled. I shall take care to settle it next spring, whene I will have the pleasure to see you also in Det. I am Sir

your humble Servant

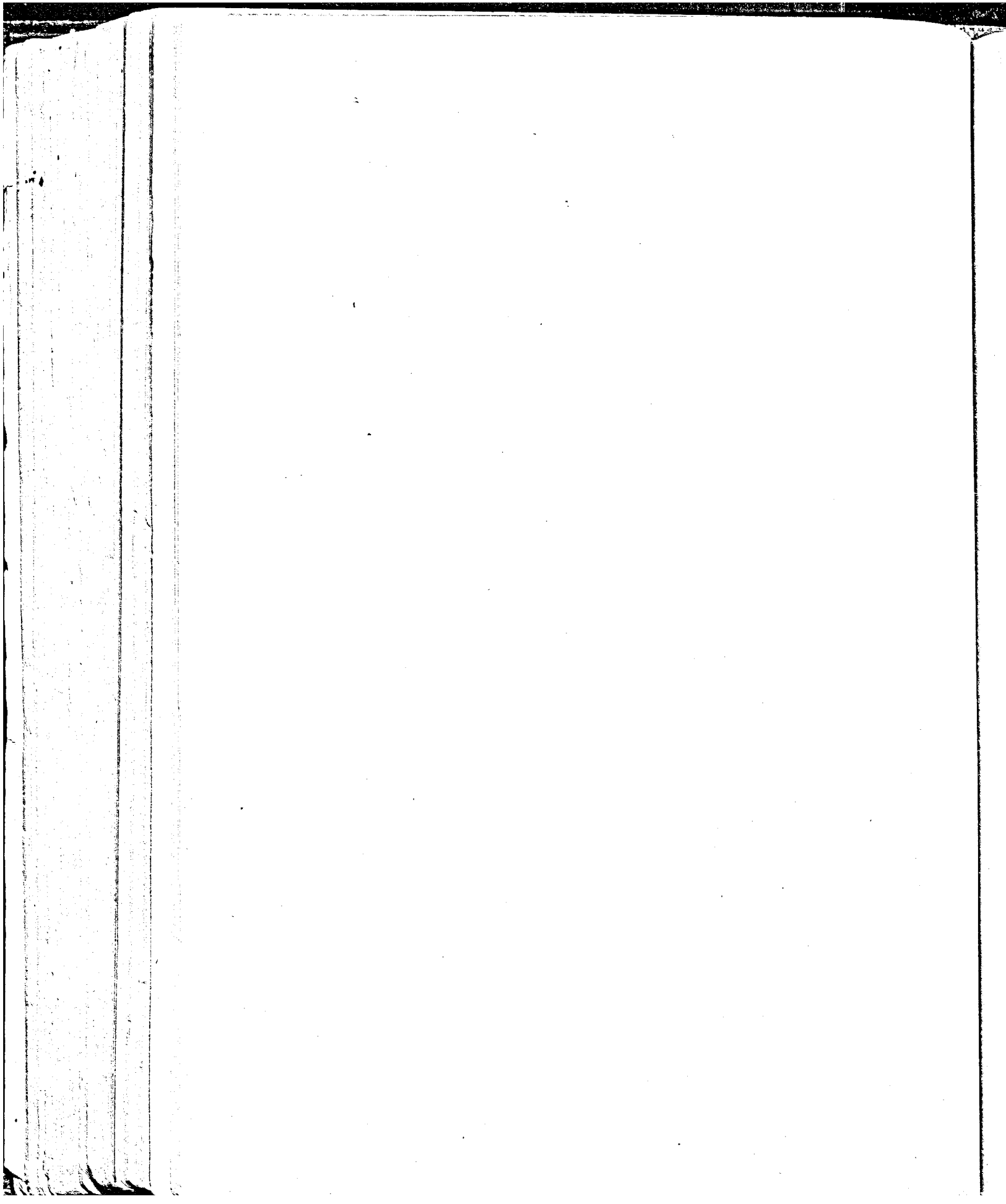
Gottfr. Seb. Oppelt

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Fairfield Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1799 the Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Oppelt to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recd y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> same day.

<sup>94</sup> He died, Jan. 4, 1800. For sketch of his career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 221.

SECTION IV  
LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1800-1801



SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Amherstburgh Janu<sup>y</sup> 8 1800

Sir I now send you the accounts of the Timber, Scantling, and Bricks, recev<sup>d</sup> from you, for the Service of Government; you will observe the quantity of Scantling is more than was agreed for, M<sup>r</sup> Backwell wished to have the Surplus accounted for as Timber, that would have been against your Interest, therefore I have drawn the accounts for the real quantites delivered. you will find the Bricks charged at 1/11 per hundred, more than your Charge. that is to pay the Men for fetching them down. Captain M<sup>e</sup>Lean<sup>1</sup> is to pay you, for 2000 Bricks, that has been applied to his own use. the Bills for the payment of the Several Sums are enclosed. please to Sign the receipts at the Bottom of the Accounts, and return them by some certain and Safe conveyance, as Soon as you can and Oblige

Sir Your verry Humble Servant

Thomas Reynold D<sup>y</sup> Com<sup>y</sup>

£ s d

Bills—391..7..3 Cur<sup>y</sup> H/x

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh Jan<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Reynolds to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Hector McLean was commissioned a lieutenant in the Eighty-fourth Regiment, June 14, 1775. From 1779, when the regiment was ordered to America, until as late as the summer of 1801, he was serving in America, most of the time in Upper Canada. He succeeded Captain Mayne as commander of the post at Amherstburg on July 24, 1797, and in June, 1801, he was still at this station. He inherited the feud begun by Captain Mayne with the officials of the Indian Department, and it was due to his representations to Governor General Prescott that Matthew Elliot was dismissed from the service. Shortly prior to Aug. 27, 1799, McLean's wife died in Amherstburg, leaving him the care of "two fine children." At the time of his Amherstburg sojourn, his commission was in the Royal Canadian Volunteers, and in a letter of Sept. 13, 1798, he expressed an intention to memorial the Duke of York for rank in the army, having lost his position by being passed over in 1783, at the instance of General Haldimand. McLean's career subsequent to his departure from Amherstburg has not been traced. Data derived from British army lists, and from letters and documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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SUPPLIES FOR FORT MALDEN

Detroit January 10<sup>th</sup> 1800

Sir Your Obliging Letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> reached me Yesterday & I'm thankfull for the manner in which you settled the Overplus Scantling. I have signed the accounts & will return them by the first person I can depend on who may be going to Malden. You have not furnished say Charged, as many Brick as I furnished There is 950 still even after my deducting 2000 for Capt<sup>n</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Lean, however we can settle this difference any other time. Your Drafts for the payment I have received £391. 7. 3½ H<sup>f</sup> Currency

I am sir your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant  
Thomas Reynolds Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Deputy Commissary at Amherstburgh

*Endorsed:* Detroit January the 10<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin  
Senior to Thomas Reynolds Commissary at Amherstburgh  
(Copy)

TRADE CONDITIONS IN MONTREAL

Montreal 18 January 1800

Dear Askin I wrote to you by the last boat since which I have received a few lines saying you<sup>t</sup> was well, which you know allways gives me great pleasure, but much more could I see you which never will happen in this world. I have been laid up since october with a complication of disorders, so that I have kept the House, and a great part my Bed, but at present am mending and as soon as I can get strength sufficient will make a Trip to the Ball<sup>a</sup> Town springs which renews ones age I wish you was there. M<sup>r</sup> Todd is going with me. he is always complaining when his intestines are empty, but after Dinner recovers wonderfully.

I observe what you say respecting hireing young men for three or four years. the opposition to N West has raised the price so very high that I dont think they can be got without giving much more than they may be got for at Detroit boys asked me seven & eight hundred livers, and would engage only for one year. the old N West Company is all in the Hands of M<sup>e</sup>Tavish. Frobisher and M<sup>e</sup>Kinsey<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The allusion is to Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer, who was one of the leading

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

is out. the latter went off in a pet, the cause as far as I can learn was who should be the first—M<sup>c</sup>Tavish or M<sup>c</sup>K—and as there could not be two Cesars in Rome one must remove.

by the last accounts from England there is very bad appearance of furs, selling well. they say most of the furr buyers are bankrupts owing to several Houses in Hamburg failing, which has bankrupt all the foreign Houses in London, and several in New York. Seaton Maitland & C<sup>o</sup> who had all the China business in hand of M<sup>c</sup>Tavish & C<sup>o</sup> is shut. I suspect it will fall heavy on them. muskratts is the only article which may keep at 24—good—and this is owing to Astore and me being in opposition. if you can sell yours for that I think you ought as you may have buyers there, for should Astore & me agree they will fall—unless they should sell high in London. there is only 10,000 Shipt from Quebec, not one from this. Astore & me bought the whole—from 20<sup>s</sup> to 24<sup>s</sup> some small parcels at auction from the spirrit of opposition sold at 26<sup>s</sup> & 27<sup>s</sup> I bought 700 Bear skins at auction when the account sales encouraged us, very high. that article I am informd will fall one half, and if some new place is not found for Raccoons they will go badly. the yankeys will trade Rum for Raccoons should you have any I would recommend you to do it. they may not be worth here 6<sup>d</sup>.

another cause has happend contrary to our expe[ctations.] 50,000 men from England landed in Hol[land], the Duke of York commanded. all the Dutch fleet surrendered. the army within a few miles from Amsterdam was drove back to their Landing great numbers kill'd, and to save the remainder was obliged to make some kind of a convention

figures of his generation in the Canadian fur trade. He was born on the Island of Lewis, Scotland, in 1763; he came to Canada in 1779, and for five years served as clerk for Gregory, McLeod and Company in Montreal. In response to his desire to become acquainted with the fur trade in the field, he was sent to Detroit by his firm in 1784, and remained here for a year. He was then admitted to partnership in the company and went to the far North-west. Thereafter, his rise to fame and wealth was rapid. In 1789 he descended the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean, and four years later crossed the continent from Fort Athabaska to the Pacific, being in each case the first explorer to reach these oceans from the interior. Between Mackenzie and Simon McTavish existed a bitter antipathy, which was the occasion of much discord in the Canadian fur trade until the death of McTavish in 1804. In 1808 Mackenzie returned to Scotland and there spent the remainder of his life. He died suddenly, March 12, 1820. His geographical discoveries have served to make his name one of the most renowned in Canadian annals. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

or Treaty. one of the articles is, we are to deliver them 8,000 prisoners without exchange. they say there are other stipulations not known Robinson is well, General Washington Dead my family all join in p[r]aying for the Happiness of yours and remain your affectionate

Alexander Henry

Rum is selling 5/. Spiritts high proof

M<sup>r</sup> Sharp Died yesterday of an inflammation of the Bowells, which will be a great Loss to Leath

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Montreal Jan<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>h</sup> 1800 Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> 27<sup>h</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>h</sup> May.

INDENTURE OF RACHAEL HUSTLER

D Etroit  
County of Wayne }SS

This Indenture witnesseth that Thomas Hustler Sergeant belonging to the Artillerists & Engineers in the Army of the UNITED STATES at DETroit Affoarsaid hath put and placed and by these presents doth put and place his Daughter Rachael Hustler as an apprentice to Elias Wallen<sup>s</sup> of DETroit afrsaid merchant The said Racheal to dwell with and serve him for the term of five Years from the date hereof which will End on the tenth day of March 1805 at which time the said Racheal to be dismissed if required, during which time she shall deligently serve as an apprentice affoarsaid to her said Master she shall do no Damage to her said Master nor Willfully suffer any to be done she shall not waste her Masters Goods nor len[d] them without leave of her said Master she shall not Absent herself but in all things shall behave herself as a true and faithful apprentice ought to do during the term aforesaid

<sup>3</sup> Elias Wallen was in Detroit as early as January, 1799, when he voted in the election then held. Documents preserved among the Askin papers disclose that in 1800 he was acting as sheriff of Wayne County, although we have found no formal record of his appointment to this office. When the town of Detroit was incorporated, in 1802, by act of the Legislative Council of the Northwest Territory, Wallen was appointed to the office of marshal. In February, 1803, Charles Curry, on behalf of Wallen, endeavored to rent John Askin's house, and in April, 1804, Curry voted for Wallen (as freeholder) on the question of restoring the stockade around the town. No information concerning his further career has been found. Data drawn from mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*, and Burton, *Journal of the Board of Trustees, passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

And the said Elias Wallen doth bind himself his heirs Executors Administrators and assignes on his part and doth hereby promise Covenant and agree that the said Racheal shall be lernt to read write and sew and further doth promise that the said Racheal shall have sifficiant Clothing during her apprentice[s]hip as allso good and wholesom diet with two Suits of good Clothing when discharged.

In testimony whereof We have hereunto Interchangeable Set our hand & Seals at DEtroit affoarsaid the Tenth day of March In the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred.

Signed Sealed & Deliv<sup>d</sup> } E. Wallen  
In presence of } Th<sup>o</sup> Hustler  
Patrick M<sup>c</sup>Niff Judge of the Court of Common Pleas  
Wayne County

DUEL BETWEEN JOHN WHITE AND JOHN SMALL

York 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1800

Dear Sir I was favored with your [letter] Some days ago, and delivered its inclosure to Commissary M<sup>c</sup>Gill. he told me he would most probably be able to Answer it by the express. he Said at present he had no orders respecting the purchase of Corn.

It gave us much pleasure to learn you are all well. Thank god we continue in the Same State. however we expect to hear from you more fully soon. you will probably have heard of the very disaggreable event that has taken place here. what I allude to is M<sup>r</sup> Small<sup>4</sup> the Clerk of the Executive Council having shott the late Attorney General in a duel, the cause of which was something that M<sup>r</sup> White<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> John Small was born in Gloucestershire, England, in 1746. In 1792 he came out to Canada; the following year he was appointed clerk of the Executive Council of Upper Canada, and this position he filled until his death in York, July 18, 1831. His wife, who figured in the fatal quarrel with White, was Eliza Goldsmith, a native of Kent, in England. They had three sons, one of whom served in the navy. Another, Charles, was long a prominent resident of Toronto. The house built by Small in York in 1796 was still standing, enlarged and reconstructed, as late as 1894. Information adapted from J. Ross Robertson, *Landmarks of Toronto* . . . (Toronto, 1894), 95-98.

<sup>5</sup> John White was a native of England who studied law at Gray's Inn and was admitted to the bar by the Inner Temple in 1785. He practiced law for a time in Jamaica, subsequently returning to England, where, in 1791, he was appointed Attorney General of Upper Canada. In 1792 he was also elected to the provincial assembly. He belonged, like



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

had said to D. W. Smith respecting M<sup>rs</sup> Small, which indeed was Saying She was everything bad, and which he repeated to the Chief Justice's family and to M<sup>r</sup> Justice Powell. M<sup>r</sup> Smith is much blamed as having endeavoured much to promote Mischief.

We received the apples and Cyder you was so kind as to Send us for which you will be pleased to accept our best thanks. Madlain joins me in best wishes for the health and happiness of all the family and all our friends near you and I am Dear Sir your most Obed<sup>nt</sup> humb<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

R. Richardson

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire, Detroit<sup>6</sup>

*Endorsed:* York Feb<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1800 Doc<sup>r</sup> Richardson to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> Y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> the 16<sup>th</sup> May

FROM WALTER ROE TO JOHN ASKIN

Sandwich, 11<sup>th</sup> March 1800

Dear Sir The Sheriff has sent me twelve bushels of Indian Corn & twenty nine pounds of Tobacco, which he says, you desired him to receive of Antoine Cencirnie<sup>7</sup> I have it safely stored & whenever you send over it will be delivered.

I must add, at same time, that a few days since, I was called on by the High Constable to interpret between him & M<sup>r</sup> Dimouchelle,<sup>8</sup> on the Seizure of your Caleche, for some Assessments that appear to be in arrear.

Small, to the small official caste of the infant capital, and the duel between the two grew out of a squabble between their wives. White was mortally wounded, and died after thirty-six hours of great agony. He was buried "in a summer house on his own land adjoining the town," Jan. 7, 1800. Small was tried for murder but was acquitted through the neglect of the prosecution to introduce the necessary proof of the killing of White. See Jesse E. Middleton, *The Municipality of Toronto: A History* (Toronto, 1923), I, 83-84, and II, 670-71.

<sup>6</sup> The following contemporary notation precedes the address: "IN4 York 12<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1800."

<sup>7</sup> Antoine Saint Cerny (Cernie) was born in the parish of Repentigny in Canada in 1759. On Nov. 26, 1787, he married in Sandwich Mary Therese Valade, who was born there, Jan. 27, 1774, daughter of Joseph Valade and Therese Bineau. Information adapted from Assumption Church Register.

<sup>8</sup> The first American ancestor of the Dumouchel (Demouchell, Desmouchelle, etc.) line of Sandwich and vicinity was Bernard Dumouchel *dit* Laroche, a native of Rouen, who lived in Lower Canada. In 1673 he married Jeanne Juin. Their son, Paul, a shoemaker by occupation, who spent his life in Lower Canada, made a journey to Detroit in the spring of 1708. On Nov. 18, 1709, he married Mary Louisa Tessier, a native of Montreal. Their

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Louis Vezina<sup>9</sup> has just called on me & wishes to make a final Settlement with you. He has been trying to exchange his Land for a Lot in Malden as I understood while I was down there yesterday. The Character that he is concerned with, is such that I have advised him *off*, & I hope that he will Afect with you, something determinate.

I detain your Statutes longer than my promise, finding them *useful* If at some time you require them they shall be immediately returned by, Dear Sir Yours

W. Roe

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire. Detroit

*Endorsed:* Sandwich March 11<sup>th</sup> 1800 Walter Roe Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin, Rec & answ<sup>d</sup> same day.

AFFAIRS OF ASKIN IN VINCENNES

Detroit March the 20<sup>th</sup> 1800

Sir Untill now, I have not had an Oppertunity of answering your obliging letter dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of October last which with your remarks on my claims at Post Vincent, and in that Quarter, I have received and am very thankfull to you for the Information it contains. The Bearer hereof, M<sup>r</sup>

sons, Louis Joseph Dumouchel, born, Oct. 25, 1712, and Paul Dumouchel, born, Jan. 11, 1717, both came to Detroit about the middle of the century. Paul married here on Jan. 26, 1749, Jane Chapoton, daughter of Jean Chapoton and Mary Magdelene Estève. She died the following July, and Paul seems shortly to have returned to Montreal where he contracted a second marriage in 1752, and where he was buried on Sept. 25, 1780.

Louis Joseph Dumouchel, the elder brother, married in Montreal on Jan. 12, 1739, Mary Louisa Leclerc, a native of Quebec. Their son, Louis Vital, is the person alluded to in the present document. He was born in Lower Canada, Dec. 12, 1745, and on Nov. 22, 1773, married, in Sandwich, Marie Madelaine Goyau. She was buried, April 24, 1796, and Louis Vital on Feb. 8, 1826. They had twelve children born in the years 1774-96. Louis Vital Dumouchel served as church warden of Assumption Parish from his election on Aug. 24, 1788, until 1822, and officiated as godfather or as witness at scores of baptisms and marriages. A militia return of 1805 lists him as a sergeant in Jean Bapiste Baby's company, belonging to the Northwest Regiment of Essex County militia. Data derived from Cyprien Tanguay, *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes* (Montreal, 1886); Assumption Church Register; and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

<sup>9</sup> The ancestors of Louis Vesina (Vessina, Vesinat, Vezina, Viscenau) resided for several generations in Lower Canada. His father, also named Louis, was born at Pointe aux Trembles, March 23, 1735, and on Oct. 3, 1774, he married in Quebec, Mary Joseph Charlotte Allegrain, a native of Three Rivers. They removed to Detroit during, or soon after, the Revolution, and on Oct. 15, 1790, Louis appeared before the Land Board, took the oath of allegiance, and applied for an allotment of land in New Settlement. He was subsequently given lot 44 in the Two Connected Townships. He was buried in Sandwich, Dec. 13, 1797. Documents in the Askin papers disclose that he was indebted to Askin, and that his widow (who was buried in Detroit, Feb. 5, 1799) living in New Settlement, undertook to discharge the debt. A subsequent report of the Land Board, listing disbanded

Smith<sup>10</sup> not being able to give me any Assurance of his going any further than Fort Wayne prevents my sending you the necessary papers for the recovery of what's due me or the part that can be got, but as every Spring some person of confidence comes from the Post & returns there I most Asuredly will not neglect forwarding them by the first safe conveyance, for I believe your remarks to be very just, that the longer those matters lie over the more I will suffer.

My Post Vincent papers have been in so many Hands, that I fear some are lost or mislaid, I cant find what relates [to] Etiene S<sup>t</sup> Mary, but as it has been registered, I suppose Monsieur Tousaint Dubois will not hesitate to purchase it as my right is on record & if you still think the Horse Mill<sup>&ca</sup> not worth more, I hereby authorize you take that sum for them, however as he has been making use of them without authority I think he should be compeled to pay more & happy he gets off so easy. Nothing but Cash will answer or his draft on Forsyth<sup>11</sup> & Smith here & the Deeds returned untill the

soldiers and others in Detroit entitled to the royal bounty, classifies Vesina along with four others as having served at the siege of Quebec as an artificer or "with other pretensions."

Louis Vesina, our present subject and son of the foregoing, was a native of Lower Canada. He married Catherine McLean, prior to the year 1800, when a son, Jean, was born, and was living in or near Amherstburg as late as February, 1815, when another son, Charles, was baptized. Data compiled from Ontario Bureau of Archives, *Third Report, passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll., especially the Ste. Anne's and Assumption registers.

<sup>10</sup> William Smith of the firm of Forsyth and Smith. Documents among the Askin papers indicate that he had considerable connection with the Wabash country. For many years he resided in Amherstburg, and he served as captain of a troop of cavalry and as adjutant of the Second Regiment of Essex militia in the War of 1812, participating, among other engagements, in the capture of Detroit and the battle of Frenchtown. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 239, and Irving, *op. cit.*, 91-92. Smith was born in 1757 and was buried in Sandwich on March 6, 1833. He married Mary Cowan of Sandwich, Aug. 11, 1801, and they had six sons and two daughters born in the years 1802-15. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*; St. John's Church Register; and Marriage Register of the Western District of Upper Canada.

<sup>11</sup> Robert Forsyth, son of William Forsyth of Detroit, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 307. He was one of those residents of Detroit who, on the advent of American rule, personally signified their intention of remaining British subjects, and on July 14, 1801, he obtained a grant of land in Sandwich. He later changed his plans, however, and on May 15, 1812, was formally admitted to U. S. citizenship. Taken prisoner and subsequently paroled by General Brock the same year, he was accused by General Procter of having violated the parole and served under General Harrison. Upon his death in 1816, John Kinzie, his half-brother, was appointed administrator of his estate. At the time of the appointment (March 21) Kinzie was living in Detroit, but in July he removed to Chicago, and in 1819 was dismissed by the court on the ground that he was neglecting his duties as administrator. At the time of his death, Forsyth owned a lot in the vicinity of modern Shelby Street and Jefferson Avenue, and 694 acres of land, comprising Private Claims 620 and 621 in Grosse Pointe.

Forsyth was twice married, although there is some question about the regularity of his

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Bills are accepted. In any payments you get for me pleas return [retain] your dues & send me the Balance. I agree to the Terms you propose of doing my Business. I should think that whoever Administered or took property otherwise in Charge and Disposed of it that belonged to any person Dead who owed me that they could be made Accountable for my proportion of the Deceased's Estate. Therefore that M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh<sup>12</sup> & the Widow of Monsieur Francois Bossering<sup>13</sup> are in those situations. I'm sorry to have reason to complain of a former Friend of mine & a man whoo I supposed to be possessed of the greatest Probity nor will I untill I hear from [you] suffer myself to think the contrary, this is Monsieur Francois Vigoe we dealt largely together and never had any misunderstanding. in the course of our dealings, he in 1786 delivered me 98 Packs and supposing it more for his advantage to have them sold in London on his acc<sup>t</sup> than in Montreal to serve him I agreed to his proposals. when they went to Canada prior to their being Shipt a supposed value was put on them as is usual untill the sales were known & I credited his account for that

union with Mary Scott. Mrs. Eleanor Kinzie Gordon, a granddaughter of John Kinzie and an ardent family partisan, stated that Mary Scott was the wife of a soldier who "obstinately refused to divorce her," and consequently was never legally the wife of Forsyth. They had three children: Robert Forsyth Jr., born in 1798, who was graduated from West Point in 1817 and spent most of his life in the army; Maria Forsyth, born in 1801, who married Benjamin Kercheval, who held several territorial and state offices; and Alice Marion Sophia, who married Major Thomas Hunt, son of Colonel Thomas Hunt and brother of Henry Jackson Hunt. By Forsyth's second marriage, with Jane Little, he had one daughter, Jane C. Forsyth, who on Oct. 15, 1833, married Charles R. Brush, son of Elijah Brush and Adelaide Askin. Data compiled from Burton, Forsyth-Little-Kinzie genealogy.

<sup>12</sup> For sketch of William McIntosh, see *B. H. R.*, I, 328-29. Considerable additional information concerning his career is given by William W. Woollen, *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1883), 378-83. At Vincennes, McIntosh engaged in a violent controversy with Judge Benjamin Parke and Governor Harrison, and thereby incurred the united opposition of Harrison's friends, who sought to drive him from Indiana. During the War of 1812, McIntosh served as army contractor. He is said to have been a free-thinker, and he joined a group of kindred spirits to purchase a tract of land on the Illinois side of the Wabash, on which they located the city of Mount Carmel. McIntosh removed thither, and according to an informant of Woollen who had known him, lived here until his death. He reared a family of illegitimate children by his negro housekeeper, and a son of this union, to whom he gave a good education, became a well-known preacher of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

<sup>13</sup> Francois Bosseron was one of the prominent citizens of Vincennes in the Revolutionary period. He was enrolled in the British militia force, but on the advent of the Americans under Clark, gave them his hearty support. He served with Captain Leonard Helm on the latter's expedition up the Wabash in 1779, and furnished ammunition for the invading army. He was later district commandant and territorial judge, dying in Vincennes in 1791. A street in Vincennes still bears his name.

Value. as he did not return to this Post after I received the acc<sup>t</sup> of sales, his acc<sup>t</sup> with me went on without any notice being taken of what his packs neated, Untill about nearly two years ago he reminded me by letter of this circumstance and even, in a note of hand he gave my agent for the Ball<sup>e</sup> then suposed due me he Inserted a condition relative to the sales of said Furrs a cobby of which note I here Inclosed. I then recollected the whole matter which realy for some time had Escaped my memory and drew a fair statement of his acc<sup>ts</sup> with me charging him with what his Peltries neated less than the estimated value, which account with a letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of May last I sent him per Monsieur Tousaint Dubois requesting his conformation of the Ballance in my favour of £735.9.1 N.Y.Cur. which if not then convenient to discharge he would Experience from me such Indulgence as he had before received; to this letter I have not received any answer tho I have no doubt he must have got it. Surely to an Honest man it should make no difference whether he finds himself more or less in dept [debt] than he suposed. What I have to request of you is, that as my Attorney you call on him & request his acknowledgement of the aforesaid Ball<sup>ce</sup> which by the account I transmitted him you will see is fairly and justly due, & let me know his answer, for in case of refusal, I will furnish you with such proofs as will put [it] in your power to recover the sum, & were [where] any thing unfair is meant I'm & allways have been determined to sue should it cost me half the original Sum. There is one deficiency in settling with the Widow Gamlin<sup>14</sup> which is she Offers certain property in Order to get a discharge from M<sup>r</sup> Sharp, M<sup>r</sup> Adhemar & myself the two latter I could answer for as M<sup>r</sup> Adhemar gave over his property to me,

<sup>14</sup> For sketch of the Gamelin family of Detroit, see *B. H. R.*, I, 27-28. Two of the sons of Laurence Eustache Gamelin and Mary Joseph Dudevoir, there mentioned, in mature life became prominent residents of Vincennes: Pierre, born in Detroit on Aug. 31, 1752; and Paul, who was born, Nov. 1, 1757. Paul Gamelin was one of the militia who volunteered for Governor Hamilton's expedition against Vincennes in the autumn of 1778, which probably marks the occasion of his first visit to that place. Pierre Gamelin was already a resident of Vincennes, where in July, 1778, he married Ursule Vaudry of that place. Another permanent Vincennes resident in this period was Joseph Antoine Gamelin, who was probably a second cousin of Paul and Pierre. He was also their brother-in-law, for he married in Detroit, Nov. 24, 1766, Mary Catherine, daughter of Laurence Eustache Gamelin and Mary Joseph Dudevoir. Genealogical data from Denissen, *op. cit.* On Joseph Antoine Gamelin, see also note in *B. H. R.*, I, 320-21.

but Mr Sharp is dead, & even before that [the] debt because [became] the property of Widow W<sup>m</sup> Macomb<sup>15</sup> and she is at New York. I have got her agent Mr Angus Mackintosh to write her to know if she will give an Acquittance but I have not heard her answer. I would share with her in proportion to her claims as I formerly did with Mr Sharp when I received any payment from the late Paul Gamlin. if M<sup>rs</sup> Gamlin will give me my share I will take it and clear her of all demands that Mr Adhemar or I have on her, at the same time I expect she will give whats fair as to a few Cows, Household furniture if not too Considerable and other small Matters, I do not wish to strip her off. Please let her know what I have wrote you on this Subject & also that I request she may deliver you for me as my Attorney all the Books papers &<sup>ca</sup> which Mr Adhemar left in her late Husbands hands as will appear by his order & memorandum of them Inclosed, & I give you full Authority to do the best for my Interest with such Notes Bonds Morgages Books Debts &<sup>ca</sup> compounding when you think it better than Sueing but doing the latter when you think it Necessary. Since writing the forgoing I have seen Mr Angus Mackintosh who says he has authority to discharge Widow Gamlin and agrees with me that his Brother W<sup>m</sup> on his part and you on mine settle that matter with her. You will please make the transfer of the property for the sole purpose of paying to me for myself & what her late Husband owed Mr Adhemar & to Mr Mackintosh for what he owed the late George Sharp in proportion to the sums due each & when the property you and Mr W<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh receives is realized to forward the acc<sup>t</sup> to Mr Angus Mackintosh & one here. he says he will by this

<sup>15</sup> For sketch of the Macomb family of Detroit, see *ibid.*, 108. William Macomb, son of John Gordon and brother of Alexander, married in Detroit, July 18, 1780, Sarah Jane Dring, the ceremony being performed by Major De Peyster, the commandant. Alexander Macomb removed to New York about the year 1785, where the further fortunes of his family were identified with that locality. William Macomb remained in Detroit, where he was a prominent citizen until his death, April 16, 1796. The present letter indicates that his widow soon thereafter followed the other members of the family to New York. She died, May 20, 1849, and was buried in Bellville, N. J. She was the mother of eleven children, all born in Detroit in the years 1781-95. One of them, Anne Macomb, married Col. Aeneas Mackay of the Third U. S. Artillery. Another daughter, Catherine, married her cousin, General Alexander Macomb of the U. S. army. A son, David Betton Macomb, married Mary, the daughter of Governor Thomas Worthington of Ohio. Data from *The Macomb Family Record*, *passim*.

oppertunity write his Brother to the same Effect. Please ascertain clearly how much the late Paul Gamlin owed M<sup>r</sup> Adhemar and what part of the debt arrises from what said Gamelin collected or sold of said Adhemars property left in his hands. In the list of Debts &<sup>ca</sup> I send you, there appears a House & two notes belonging to Adhemar & Pothair. keep those matters apart and dont dispose of the house untill you hear from me. There is some notes &<sup>ca</sup> I got in payment from M<sup>r</sup> Celeron<sup>16</sup> for want of time I send them without Examination do the best you can with them.

Please let me know if there is a Louis Dubois an engage at the Post he left this about a year ago in my debt is a fair haired round face & thick made man about 24. years of age as I suppose.

When I began this letter I was fearfull I should not have time to collect any papers to send you, however as I have I now send you several that may be of use and among them a Copy of M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe letter to me dated the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 1799 by which you will see he agrees to the London account of sales and only requires the am<sup>t</sup> should be made known to him. As he is a man I esteem If he is not now able to pay, I only require his Obligation bearing Interest and Land or other good security [I] hope you may be able to settle this acc<sup>t</sup> as it would be painfull to me to take violent Measures with Monsieur Vigoe. Nicholas Dubois should be compelled to pay, his Brother if he is put in Goal will I dare say pay the debt lenity with such people

<sup>16</sup> Jean Baptiste Céloron de Blainville was born in Montreal, Sept. 15, 1729, the son of Pierre Joseph Céloron de Blainville and Marie Madelaine Blondeau. Céloron's father was twice commandant at Detroit (in 1743-44 and 1751-54); he is best known to history, perhaps, for his expedition down the Ohio River in 1749 for the purpose of taking formal possession of the valley for France. Céloron Island, at the mouth of the Detroit River, probably derives its name from him. Jean Baptiste, our present subject, served in the marine department before the conquest of Canada. He remained in Canada, entered the British service, and during the Revolution was a member of the British Indian Department at Detroit. Governor Hamilton stationed him at Ouiatanon and Clark sent a detachment to capture him. Céloron hastily retired in advance of this blow, meeting Hamilton's army at the mouth of the Maumee, en route to the capture of Vincennes. Hamilton bitterly accused Céloron of treachery to the British cause, probably with justice. In 1789-90 Céloron was living in Miamitown (modern Fort Wayne), engaged in trade. Evidently he had made his peace with the British authorities, for this place was then wholly subject to British control. See history of Céloron family in *Bull. Recherches Hist.*, XV, *passim*; Henry Hay's journal, *passim*; and biography of Pierre Joseph Céloron in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 33-48.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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answer[s] no end. I have only to add that I am with regard

your Most Obedent Humble Servant

General Washington Johnston

*Endorsed:* Detroit March 20<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to  
General Washington Johnston (Copy)

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Detroit March the 29<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear Sir I have carefully examined the Debtor side of my acc<sup>t</sup> Cur<sup>t</sup> as stated by you in the book you left with me and have admitted such charges in whole or part as I firmly believe any impartial man would do, some others realy my good Friend are so badly founded that I have taken notice of them in the credits I have given you; in May say the 1<sup>st</sup> 1790 when you sent me an acc<sup>t</sup> you mentioned I might settle it to my liking I accordingly did and I dont find you found fault with what I had done. you might give me the same descretionary power in this, for I most asuredly would not wrong you a Copper with a design to do so. According to strict equity after the aforesaid examination I find a Ball<sup>e</sup> of £ 70.3.4 N.Y. Cur. my favour. however as a few charges are suposed ones (for want of Information) It may not be exactly that Sum, but the diference I think will not be much as by your statement the Ball<sup>e</sup> would be in your favour, & I foresee that coming to Explinations might cause Misunderstandings and destroy a Friendship that has long subsisted between us. In order to preserve that I propose a Block as the French call it as the only Friendly manner of settling our Accounts. say how it should be (without any further remarks) for the reason I have Assigned, and you will find that a few Pounds (tho my circumstances can not well afford it,) shall never make any difference between me and a man with whom I wish to continue on the footing of Friendship Its Absolutely proper that our Accounts should be finally settled, as I mean all others before I leave this, but to go over them and remark on each charge, I fear much would create Misunderstanding, which I wish to avoid, (as I before mentioned) and thats my reasons for writing you



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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preferable to saying anything to yourself which might bring on reflections.

I remain with Usual Friendship Dear Sir  
Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant  
Thomas Smith Esquire<sup>17</sup> Petite Cote

*Endorsed:* Detroit March the 27<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to  
Thomas Smith (Copy)

SPECULATION IN FLOUR

Detroit March 30<sup>th</sup> 1800<sup>18</sup>

Dear Sir I hope this will find you safe arrived at Fort Erie. Your Family here are all well. M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton wrote me that he gets 7 dollars from Government for a bar<sup>l</sup> of Flour of 224<sup>lbs</sup> nett W<sup>t</sup>. If you cannot buy cheaper I'm willing to take a half share with you in the purchase of 100 Barrels at that rate payable the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sep<sup>tr</sup> next & if you write me that you have made the purchase I will send the little Vessell for it at the worst I think we will get 10 Dollars the barrel for it here but I meant to send it to S<sup>t</sup> Mary's where I think some of the North West C<sup>o</sup> who are in Opposition to each other would give a good price for it, & If that failed they would go to Michilimackinac where no doubt it would sell well.

We begin to have a little cold Weather again I have only to add that I am, Dear Sir,

Your Friend & Very Humble Servant  
Captain Fearson at Fort Erie.

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Detroit April the 26<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear Sir Your favour of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> reached me to day as entering into reasoning on the accounts subsisting between us our Ideas are so different it would not answer any purpose, but when I have the pleasure of seeing you here, if you Please, we will give them a trial ourselves in Order to

<sup>17</sup> For the career of Thomas Smith, see *B. H. R.*, I, 287-88.

<sup>18</sup> The day of the month is uncertain.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

bring them to a close and if we fail we will then Adop[t] such other modes Friends and Old Acquaintances should. I believe your wish never was to injure me and I'm sure mine never was to injure you. Under these circumstances there is little fear but our Settlement will End in the manner we have lived together Namely Friendly

I am Dear Sir as Usual

Yours truly

Thomas Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>

P. S. Your place of geting fire Wood at the River aux Ecorse I dont think bad. If I was not going to York we might join. You had better Buy my little Vessell she would answer that purpose

*Endorsed:* Detroit April 26<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to Thomas Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> (Copy)

ESTABLISHMENT OF U. S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

(circular)

D'Etroit May 2<sup>d</sup> 1800

Sir I some time since received an appointment of Inspector of the Revenue, for the port of D'Etroit, without the necessary instructions to govern me in the duties of the office. I therefore declined acting until these were furnished me. Yesterday they arrived & I find myself compelled to call on you, for the duties on all the spirits, wines & teas in your possession, imported into this territory since 2<sup>d</sup> March 1799.

I hope that this fair notice will save me the unpleasant task of enforcing a compliance with the Laws, to which my oath of office compels me.

The form of a statement necessary to be made to this office may be had, by applying to Sir,

your most obt Serv<sup>t</sup>

Matthew Ernest Insp<sup>r</sup> of the Revenues

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin sen. Esq.

*Addressed:* John Askin sen Esq; Merchant near D'Etroit

*Endorsed:* Detroit May 2<sup>d</sup> 1800 Matthew Ernest Esq<sup>r</sup> as Inspector of the revenues to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> the same day

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Sandwich 24 April 1800

Dear Sir, I just now received your letter dated in March, and in respect to the account standing between us, I have to make this observation; That the statement of it by me is so plain and the materials so well founded, that it cannot bear but little alteration without deviation from right. If any, it must be to my advantage. Instance the 56 packs which you mention; They were laid in at one shilling per Skin less than the offers of R. Pollard and Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams and shipped to London & Sold on our joint Account, being almost all Buckskins and the best that ever was shipped from this Country, on the Sale of which according to the prices of that year I could not have expected much less than £500 of neat proceeds. you allowed me only £40 from which deduct my expence for packing, pressing, packstrings, Cartage & Shipping £18 remains only £22 for my share of Profits: Had I gone to England myself I should have made more than 500<sup>£</sup> on those packs, if sold seperate from the bad skins sent home that year, which I requested of you to have done. This is not the only instance where I am a great loser. There is no intricacy in our accounts; most of the articles have been acknowledged on both sides and from the regard for a good old Friend I am much disposed to preserve his friendship and do feel for his situation as well as my own, and were I in circumstance more opulent, there should be but very little altercation on the subject, and therefore to make a final end of the matter I am willing to receive in payment whatever article you may feel the least want of, even Land itself, altho' God knows that I am at this very moment much distressed. I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir,

Your Sincere humble Servant

Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

P.S. I have been Surveying at the River aux Ecores and find it such a handy place for wood that I have an idea of cutting 1000 Cords in order to be prepared when the Contract is given for the Garrison. there is also fine Clay for Brick and Pottery. Should you be willing to join in any enterprize of this kind I would be glad T. S.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

25<sup>th</sup> April. By the apparent arrangement which you and Mr. Robertson have made together I am also among the rest of my losses to sink a House which cost me 500<sup>£</sup> including the 500<sup>£</sup> paid you for the ground to discharge a supposed debt which in reality does not exist. The House was sold M<sup>r</sup> Robertson for half the cost (250<sup>£</sup>) in consideration of Cash being paid down, which I was then in much want of indeed: M<sup>r</sup> R. is therefore indebted to me that sum with Interest & damages incurred for breach of contract; altho' I can have no objection of your stepping into M<sup>r</sup> R Shoes whenever our old Account is settled, until then I must have great reluctance, for I will not blend an established debt with a supposed one. The account between us is now reduced to that plainness that it will not require half an hour examination, & should I have committed any mistake; It will afford me more pleasure to substract, than to add, in order to preserve that good understanding with a person, whom I have ever esteemed my Friend.

T. S.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Sandwich April 24<sup>th</sup> 1800 Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith Esquire to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> & answ<sup>d</sup> same day

NEWS FROM QUEENSTON

Dear Sir I have much Pleasure on the Opening of the Navigation of this Season to say that we all here Continue to enjoy our usual Good health, and we shall rejoice to hear the same good Accounts from your Quarter.

The vessell[s] detained at Fort Erie have now got over What to the Men must have been a tedious Winter. They have however as well as their Cargoes been preserved free from harm & they are all now ready for sailing.

The *Saguinau* in her Misfortunes of last year incurred Considerable Expence in lading Unlading & Storing her Cargoe of which I now inclose you the Account as far as it has been furnished me. Hoping tho not knowing Whether the owners may not lay a part on the Goods as Additional freight. A futher charge yet Remains for Storage of Wines in Private Cellars with which I have not yet been informed—

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

but shall request M<sup>r</sup> Warren to send up to you that you may at once have the whole before you. I have credited you £24.6.0 York for the Anchor lent the *Washington* & now returned Which is the only Alteration in our Accounts since my last.

We have had only one Vessell from Kingston this Season & she left it before any boats had come from Montreal so that we are without Intelligence from our freinds in that Quarter. We Learn from York that General Hunter is expected there about the 24<sup>th</sup> of this Month—The Legislature meets on the 2<sup>d</sup> of June. I think it probable that the session will not be a long one, probably not exceeding three Weeks and tis said the Governor after that returns to lower Canada to Meet the Duke of Kent.<sup>19</sup>

I mention these Reports that if founded you may Regulate your Motions thereby.

The Newspapers Accumulated for some time now Wait on you. All here Join in Respectfull Compliments and in best Wishes for You & Yours with Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely  
R. Hamilton

John Askin Esq  
Queenston May 3 1800

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston May 3<sup>d</sup> 1800 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton  
Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>.

AFFAIRS AT MACKINAC

Michilimackinac, 6<sup>th</sup> May, 1800

Dear Askin By the *Thames*, I have received your favours of the 18<sup>th</sup> March & of the 2<sup>d</sup> instant. By Which I am happy to learn that you & family are all Well. And that the buffalo robes contributed in keeping you Warm in the

<sup>19</sup> Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent, who was born in 1767 and died in 1820, was the fourth son of George III. He spent most of his active life in the army, and was stationed in Canada on several occasions: the first time from the summer of 1791 to the early winter of 1794, the second from 1796 to 1798, and the third from the summer of 1799 to the autumn of 1800. He was the father of Queen Victoria.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Winter. At the Same time I am sorry you Should make any apology on that head about returns, as I acknowledge my self highly indebted, for your many kind reme[m]brances in that respect.

In your Letter of March, you request to know about the settlement & distribution of the estate of the late John Coates,<sup>20</sup> & &. I not being in this Country for some years after that haponed, I can give you no information on that head; Only, that M<sup>rs</sup> Coates (when here) lived on a large Lot With pretty Good house on it, Which she said Was her Own, the House is now emty but in charge of D. Mittchelle.

With respect to Lyons,<sup>21</sup> if I am to Judge from appearance, he has for some years past lived in the family of the late Alexis Laframboies, and still lives in the Widows family, Without doing anything. It appears to me that he made Over his all to the late A. Laframboies, in Order for his future suport. He has Owed me money for this seven years Past, but he pays nobody.

With respect to News, We have none here. The Winter in this part of the World Was very Mild And the Spring early. It is thought there has been a good hunt in the Indian country, Only 2 or 3 little traders are as yet come in. Some days ago I had letters of the 3<sup>rd</sup> instont from Montreal, but no late News.

The price of flour & corn for the season is not known here as yet. It is said sugar Will be plonty;

Please make my best respects to Madam Askin & all your family. Wishing you & them all manner of happiness. And belive me to be with esteem Dear Sir,

Your Very hum<sup>e</sup> Servont  
Charles Morison

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

<sup>20</sup> John Coates was living at old Mackinaw prior to Sinclair's removal to Mackinac Island in 1780. Coates followed the garrison to the Island, and in 1781-82 was serving both as commissary and as clerk of the Indian Department. Documents of this period are also signed by him as notary public. The date of his death has not been found. A Mrs. Ann Coates was living in Detroit, keeping a tavern, prior to the fire of 1805, and for her losses on that occasion was awarded a donation lot. Whether she was a relative of John Coates of Mackinac has not been determined. See documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X and XI, *passim*; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 490; and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 230-31.

<sup>21</sup> Apparently Benjamin Lyon, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 51.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Endorsed:* Mich May 6<sup>th</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> Charles Morrison to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> About M<sup>rs</sup> Cotes. Wrote him— M<sup>r</sup> Morrison y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1800

### TRADE CONDITIONS IN DETROIT

Detroit May the 15th 1800

Dear Sir I wrote you the 8th Ins<sup>t</sup> & Inclosed the Duplicates of some Accounts Against Mess<sup>rs</sup> Giasson & C<sup>o</sup> and Mess<sup>rs</sup> Buisson Coursolle & C<sup>o</sup><sup>22</sup> since which the Vessells are Arrived from Fort Erie but no Letters from Lower Canada. The *Saganah* will begin to take in on Monday next & in her I will send the flour for Mess<sup>rs</sup> Giasson & the Remainder of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Buisson Coursoll & C<sup>o</sup> flour & Corn. No direct Opportunity having Offered before I have now to Answer your favour of the 20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> last Under cover with my Account Current & that Of John Anderson & C<sup>o</sup> both of which I find right at their dates, but a remittance made you by the Winters Express will reduce the Ballance a little & the whole of the latters will be paid off[f] with the Interest, I Suppose in Next Month. it would make me a very happy man was it in my power to say as much for the former, but realy at present I cannot say what my remittance or prospect of them with any degree of certainty will be, The appearances are realy bad & I fear will prove so with many Others as well as Myself. however all in my

<sup>22</sup> Although positive identification is lacking, it seems probable that the firm members were Michel Coursolle and Louis Buisson. Both were traders in the Great Lakes region in this period, and both were active British partisans in the War of 1812. Captain John Whistler's map of Chicago in 1808 shows a house and an enclosed field on the north side of the river, the property of "Mr. Coursoll." In 1814 Coursolle was trading on Grand River in western Michigan. At the close of the war, when the British garrison was removed from Mackinac to Drummond Island, Coursolle was given a building lot, and a report made in 1816 indicates that he was then occupying it. No record of his further career has been found. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and Quaipe, *Chicago and the Old Northwest*, 167.

Louis Buisson was at Mackinac in 1811, at which time, letters among the Sibley papers disclose he had for several years been engaged in the Indian trade, apparently on a somewhat extensive scale. He was in Chicago in 1813 and in 1815, and on both occasions was reported by Thomas Forsyth to be actively hostile to the American government. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 341. In 1818 and following he was in the employ of the American Fur Company, attached to the Illinois River outfit. Gurdon S. Hubbard describes him as at this time about sixty years of age, and as having spent forty years in the trade on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Illinois rivers. He had a Potawatomi wife, enormously fat, and two half-blood daughters. He had owned a house and land in Peoria prior to the war, and was numbered among the settlers of Peoria whom General Howard drove into flight in 1813. *Autobiography of Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard* (Chicago, 1911), 29.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

my favor [power] shall be done between this & Sep<sup>t</sup> the Usual time of our getting in Debts here, but as I once said before Thank God there is sufficient to pay Every One but I am well Aware how much better it is for Every Man in Business to get his Remittances regularly than any Other Mode. that Interest to them is not a Compensation for lying Out of their Money. but really this Country is Overdone & he who has sold least in My Oppinion has done best. I'm hardly Out of any Article & of some I have a considerable Quantity but no Cash to be got, & to sell for Wh[e]at corn &<sup>ca</sup> & give great Credits I will not, those who have done so cannot now get a purchase for their Grain. I mean for certain to set off[f] for York in the beginning of Next Month to take out deeds for my Lands & in hopes of Geting some More. If I when there find I can have time to pay my Old friends in your Quarter a Visit I will, as nothing could give me More pleasure but if I find my Business here would suffer from so long an Absence, I must deprive myself of that satisfaction not being in circumstances to loose anything. Thank God I enjoy tolerable good Health & whilst that remains I will not dispair could I part with Even some of my Fixt property here to any One who could pay me I would soon reduce your Acc<sup>t</sup> Against me very considerable. Among Other Evils here are 17 large Merchant vessels to transport the loadings of 3 or 4 at Most. ruin Detroit is not far from you. M<sup>rs</sup> Askin begs to join in best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & I remain &<sup>ca</sup>

J. A.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Jam<sup>s</sup> & And<sup>w</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merch<sup>ts</sup> Montreal

I have Also wrote at this time to

Isaac Todd Esq<sup>re</sup>  
 W<sup>m</sup> Robertson Esq<sup>re</sup>  
 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton Esq<sup>re</sup>  
 Doctor Richardson  
 Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry  
 Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichols

} But for want of time these Letters  
 are not Coppied

*Endorsed:* Detroit May 15<sup>th</sup> 1800 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Jam<sup>s</sup>  
 & And<sup>w</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Copy



Wrote at same time but kept no Copy to Other Persons  
Named Within

A SCHOOLMASTER'S CONTRACT

Articles of agreement made and entered into at Detroit in the County of Wayne, and Territory of the United States North west of the Ohio this nineteenth day of May in the year of our Lord one-Thousand eight Hundred, between Peter Joseph Dillon of Detroit aforesaid of the one part, and John Askin, George Meldrum & Mathew Ernest of the same Detroit, of the other part Witnesseth. that the said Peter Joseph Dillon for and consideration of the Covenants and agreements herein after mentioned & contained and which on the part and behalf of the said John, George & Mathew; are to be observed, fulfilled and kept, hath engaged and by these presents doth engage himself as a Schoolmaster to the said John, George & Mathew for one whole year next ensuing the date hereof and fully to be compleated and ended during all which said time as aforesaid, the said Peter Joseph Dillon is to teach & Instruct the Children of the said John, George and Mathew (and such others as they may please to send not exceeding twenty-two in number) in the science of reading, Writing and speaking the English language, Grammatically, in Arithmetic, Geography & Trigonometry: and in any other Branch of Literature that may be thought most useful.

And should it so happen that the said Peter Joseph Dillon at any time during the time aforesaid, through sickness, Or any other necessary course, suffer a temporary discontinuance in his school, the time which he may so loose shall be made up at the expiration of the aforesaid time of one Year. In consideration of which said services the said John, George & Mathew hereby obligate and oblige themselves to pay or cause to be paid unto the said Peter Joseph Dillon, the sum of five Hundred Dollars in manner following (that is to say) fifty Dollars to be paid on the opening of his school and four Dollars per week afterwards: during the time aforesaid and the remainder of the said sum of five hundred Dollars shall be applied towards the discharge of a demand which the said John Askin & Mathew Ernest now have

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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against the said Peter Joseph Dillon, for advances already made. He shall keep a fair & just account of all moneys he may receive for instructing any other Children that may be sent him (except those of his employers) and a true statement render thereof every three months; and the money he may so receive shall be considered as applied towards the payment of the said four Dollars per week; and should it so happen that at the expiration of six months, he shall not have suffered a sufficient discount in his wages to satisfy the aforesaid demand which is now due the said John & Mathew; by drawing only the aforesaid sum of four dollars per week, this said sum of four dollars, shall be subject to such further discount as will discharge him from debt at the expiration of the time aforesaid. They shall also find & provide the said Peter Joseph Dillon with a commodious school house and fire wood as the season requires it. And further it is consented and agreed upon by and between the parties to these presents that no Children shall be received into the said school but such as are sent or approved of by the said John, George & Mathew: neither shall any be dismissed or turned out of the said school but with their approbation

And for the true and faithfull performance of all and singular the Covenants and agreements herein before contained and set forth: the parties to these presents bind themselves each to the other in the penal sum of five hundred dollars. In Witness whereof we have here unto set our hands and seals at Detroit aforesaid the day, Month & Year first above written

Signed, Sealed &  
Deliver'd in presence of

Peter Joseph Dillon  
Schoolmaster  
George Meldrum  
John Askin

FROM PETER JOSEPH DILLON TO MATTHEW ERNEST

May the 24th, 1800

Sir, As I can no otherwise acknowledge your unabated friendship but by complying with what you recommend, I have signed the articles, and will attend any time when

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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desired to acknowledge the signature. It is not necessary to take a copy. I want none, and this may be left with you. If it is agreeable to you to send me 50 dollars in the course of the day, you will greatly oblige me; and I will take care to call for money only according to the quarterly sums mentioned in my last, nor even for that, except I should really want it; and not to trouble you with more on this subject, I subscribe myself, Sir, with great respect,

your most obedient humble servant

Peter Joseph Dillon,

Mathew Ernest, Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* M<sup>r</sup> Dillons agreement May 1800

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN<sup>23</sup>

Montreal 26<sup>th</sup> May 1800

Dear Askin Yesterday I returned from the United States, where I have been since the first of February. I have been endeavouring to repair this old frame of mine which begins to decay. I have been at the Balls Town Springs, where I left our friend Todd, repairing his Brases, and drinking salt water instead of Medeira. I expect he will be here next week. I wrote to you by the Winter express. am much surpris'd you could harbour any doubts of my friendship for you & yours becoming rusty. no—that can never be while I live, I have not many old friends alive—and but few of them on that footing of friendship that has continued between us for so many years. my only regret is that chance, fortune, or what ever you may call it, has obliged us to live so distant one from the other, but I am Happy to find you intend coming down, this summer. dont think of returning from York. there is no one in the World that I want to see more than you. while I was at the Springs I dayly see James Gordon<sup>24</sup> who would be very glad to see you. we only wanted you there to make the party square. Gordon, Todd, you and me, would have been company enough.

<sup>23</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>24</sup> James Gordon had been a partner of Askin in Albany, prior to the removal of the latter to Mackinac in 1764. *B. H. R.*, I, 5.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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I brought no news from the States. no sales of furs come as yet to Hand, but we have reason to hope from the Hudson Bay sales that Beaver, Bear & deer & Otters will sell as well as last year William Robertson lost his wife some time past and remains inconsolable.

adieu my dear Askin. my famely all join in wishing you and yours every Happiness this World can afford, which at the best is not much.

Your old friend

Alexander Henry

Since I wrote this we have news from London with sales of furs.

common Bears very bad, not worth shipping  
fine Bears very High.

Deer 10<sup>d</sup> to 1/ worse than last year  
raccoons—will neat about 1/3 Halifax.

Muskratts the only ones sent Home was by [torn]ston which he orderd to be sold [torn] 23<sup>d</sup> & bought in a mercantile Trade if you have any order them to be sold here at public auction.

Otters Better than last year 6/ pr Skin.

Todd is arrived. I will expect to see you soon

A H

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

SALE OF CUYAHOGA PURCHASE SHARES

River Thames June 20<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear sir As you declind bying of M<sup>r</sup> Ruland our share of the Cyahaughga purches at the price it cost, I will now make you the offer to pay you for all your shares the prime Cost for them, as I am informed that they Cost you about one hundred pounds a share, & as I understand that you are an agent for several of the shares I take the Liberty to rite you on the bisness pleas to Let me know as soon as possible from sir your very Humble servant

E Allan

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

N.B I must inform you that I have not amediately the money but I Con give you god security, or morgage my

Mils & land property, [which] as you know is of ten times the value. dont fail in closing this bisness amediately if ever for if there is much time Lost I am of the belief we shall make nothing of it. alan

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit or York

*Endorsed:* River Thames June the 20<sup>th</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> Ebenezer Allan to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin relative to purchases of Indian Land [torn]

THOMAS SMITH'S VIEWS ON LEGISLATIVE CONDITIONS

Dear Sir I am very happy to hear of your arrival safe to your family. The heat of the weather has been so intense and my having been obliged to walk the greatest part of the road from York threw me into a Fever, and have been unwell from the time I left the River Thames to few days ago.

It has been my misfortune always to differ in sentiments with great men in general, altho' God knows it arises from that pure principle "of doing what I thought was right" This four years past I have served the public, & however blamable my conduct may appear to some, I have nothing to reproach my conscience.

Our mother Country has given us a Constitution approaching to her own, as near as circumstances & local conveniences could well admit—and it is now left to us to preserve the purity of that constitution to our descendants, and which can only be affected but by the choice of upright, liberal, & independent characters, who have resolution & integrity to withstand the torrent of the Imperious. The House of Assembly consisted only of 16 Members—four of them were absent, and eight of the remainder unfit to go through the duties of the House—so the weight of the whole House fell upon the Shoulders of Four members in the drawing of Bills, addresses, Examination of Provincial Accounts and the expounding of the laws as well as to withstand the Usurpation of ambitious characters, who are endeavouring to trample on our rights by the corruption of our delegates—and which is too evident to all enlightend men, that they are sowing the first seeds towards the annihilation of our free Constitution.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

The man whose lot it is, to be a Repres[en]tative of free people must (from the experience I have just had) lay himself out "to betray the Trust reposed in him or receive the frowns of the Great"—one of these situations is too evidently mine.

Walter Roe and Iredell have been canvassing for 6 or 8 days past for Jarvis,<sup>25</sup> Selby and Elliott—whom in justice to myself I set my face against, as Representatives, altho' perhaps worthy persons in any other situation.

Selby and Jarvis are not eligible according [to the] act of Parliament which says "That no person holding an office under [the] Government created since 1705 shall be eligible to be a member of Parliament" see Blackstone under the title "Electors" I think it incumbent on me also to remark from my experience in Parliament of the Conduct of Lawyers, that they are not eligible from their being influenced by the Chief Justice, & consequently the Executive Government. and moreover it will be a shame to us not to be able among us to find liberal Characters without borrowing persons from other Districts, who are influenced and in short, who have neither qualifications or talents to recommend them. If yourself, Meldrum, Park or any liberal man of my old acquaintance should put up I will heartily give them my vote and all my Interest, But should they not, I shall make all the opposition I can, *and let the people at York know, that Mr. Roe or Iredell has no influence here*—and I therefore beg of your Interest and your Son's and those of your acquaintances. Essex sends two Members, Beginning at a certain place in Lake Sinclair & extending towards Point au pins, being the extremities of the County.

I forgot to mention to you before I left York that I resign[ed] my Commission as Capt. of Militia and all other Employments under Government. I am

very truly & sincerely yours etc [?]

Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith

Sandwich 24 July 1800

<sup>25</sup> William Jarvis was a native of Connecticut who in the Revolution adhered to the loyalist cause and in 1782 became a cornet in the Queen's Rangers under command of Colonel John G. Simcoe. When the latter became lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, he brought Jarvis with him as provincial secretary, which position he continued to hold

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

N.B. The day of Election is the 6<sup>th</sup> of August at Sandwich—  
M<sup>o</sup>Intosh returning officer, It would be [a] great shame to  
our old standards to have it said at York that Roe & Iredell  
—you may say Strangers should have as much influence in  
our Country as to take the lead and put in who they please  
as Representatives. It will make us appear trifling.

*Addressed:* John Askin Senior Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Sandwich July 24<sup>th</sup> 1800 Tho<sup>s</sup> Wood [Smith]  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

LAND CLAIMS OF JOHN ASKIN

Detroit, August 4<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear Sir I wrote you a line from Queenston, when I  
heard of your arrival in this Country. I hope Ere this you  
are got to York with your good Mother, & Child & that you  
are all in good Health.

This goes by your old Acquaintance M<sup>r</sup> Heward, who at  
his Excellencys request, I have recommended to him as a  
Clerk or Secretary. I never knew but one fault to him, and  
that Exists no more, nor had he it to such a degree so far as  
I have ever seen, to Incapacitate him for Business.

What of my Land Matters I could not get thro the Offices,  
I left with M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Allan,<sup>26</sup> & have taken the Liberty to  
direct him in case of any dificulty to beg your Assistance.  
Tho I do not foresee any that can arise on what I left with  
him to be done. The thirteen Claims, that the Commodore  
mislaid, for thirteen single Lots, I'm like to loose owing to  
their not being located, tho I have the Deputy Surveyors  
Certificate of my having Tim[e]ously applied to have them  
located & the Chief Justice to Whom I shewed these papers  
declares that he believes the whole Transaction relative to

until his death in York on Aug. 13, 1817. Jarvis married, in 1785, a daughter of Rev.  
Samuel Peters of Connecticut Blue Law fame. They had seven children, several of whom  
intermarried with the children of Robert Hamilton. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>26</sup> William Allan was born near Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1770. He came to Canada in  
early manhood and located at Niagara and later at York, where he quickly became an  
influential figure in governmental affairs. During the administration of Peter Hunter as  
lieutenant-governor, his frequent absences from York necessitated leaving the affairs of  
government in the hands of a commission of executive councilors, thus giving rise to the  
so-called "Family Compact," of which Allan was regarded as one of the pillars. He served  
as major of militia in the War of 1812, became wealthy, and was long prominent in banking  
activities. He died in Toronto in 1853. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

them is fair, and Honist in me, but that if the Council Admitted of them he knew a House where there was 500 claims of a similar nature & who If I recollect right he said were waiting to see the event of mine. Under such circumstances I thought it best to defer bringing them forward, and in Particular as you were absent. Next year on my way to Canada, if god Spare me I will see you and take your advice what's best to be done. I know I have Interest with the General<sup>27</sup> thro some Friends therefore have not given up all hopes. It was a great Loss to me your Absence and I Staid longer than I intended in hopes you could come out before my departure.

I have only to add that Mrs & Miss Askin joins me in Compliments to your good Mother & best wishes for you all and that I am as Usual Dear Sir

Your Obliged very Humble Servant

P. S. If all the descriptions are not gone from your Office I beg you will have as many Lots put in each as well can be as it will save Expences, of which I have much need.

The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> at York

*Endorsed:* Detroit 4<sup>th</sup> August 1800 The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> (Copy)

NEWS OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1800

My Dear Sir I have not been favoured with any of yours Since I last wrote you. it gave me pleasure (however) to learn that you had a tolerably agreeable passage to Detroit & upon the whole I think that your journey to & from York has not been unpleasant, & I must think that you have been in a peculiar manner the favourite of Fortune in your passages over both Lakes. I hope also that travelling has not in any respect injured your health, but the contrary.

I wrote you a hasty Line from Chippawa & mentioned how I had been employed the preceding week What I then

<sup>27</sup> Peter Hunter, who in addition to being Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, was commander-in-chief of the British forces in Canada. From 1795 to 1802 he held the rank of major general, and from 1802 until his death that of lieutenant general in the British army.



hinted has actually happened & M<sup>r</sup> Street<sup>28</sup> though every Exertion was made by his friends was at the Closing of the poll on Monday Evening the 4<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> *Minus* 22. this is the more to be regretted as M<sup>r</sup> Streets long acquaintance with publick business, & active talents would have been of great Service to the Country & added respectability to the Legislature. M<sup>r</sup> Dickson<sup>29</sup> on the 28<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> came forward on the Hustings & in one of the best Speeches (perhaps) ever delivered in Upper Canada avowed himself a candidate for the Suffrages of his fellow Subjects, he had the Support of all the discerning & respectable part of the Freeholders, which however was of little avail as the other party had a decided Superiority in point of numbers. In consequence of which he on the 3<sup>d</sup> day of the Poll came forward & declined being any longer Considered a Candidate M<sup>r</sup> Clench & M<sup>r</sup> Swayze<sup>30</sup> have therefor been returned duly Elected, You know the first the other you must have heard is accused of Stealing Horses &° in the United States. The people of York & the District of London have made rather better choices than us. Judge Allcock & David Smith being chosen for those places.

My troubles are now just beginning, the English Goods Continue to arrive & what with them & the vast quantity of Packs now upon the Communication I have Scarcely a Moment to Myself

Our large Boat on its way to Chippawa with 19 Souls on board & 200 packs was in a most violent Hurricane Swamp'd yesterday forenoon M<sup>r</sup> Clark<sup>31</sup> happened to be on the way

<sup>28</sup> There were many Streets in the Niagara region in the period under review; a brief account of the family relationships and history is given in Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 22, pp. 57-61. There were two Samuel Streets (uncle and nephew), the former of whom served in the second parliament of Upper Canada (1797-1800), and may have been the person here alluded to; the nephew, Samuel Street of Bridgewater, was also nephew and for some years partner, of Thomas Clark of Queenston. Whether he, rather than his uncle, was the unsuccessful candidate in the election of 1800, we have been unable to determine.

<sup>29</sup> Apparently William Dickson, for sketch of whose career, see *B. H. R.*, I, 461.

<sup>30</sup> Isaac Swayzie was a New Jersey loyalist who took up his residence in the Niagara district, where he died in 1828, aged seventy-seven years. He was a member of the first assembly of Upper Canada in 1792, and of several subsequent assemblies. See Janet Carnochan, *History of Niagara* (Toronto, 1914), 247 *et passim*; Irving, *op. cit.*, 40.

<sup>31</sup> Thomas Clark of Queenston. The sketch of his career given in *B. H. R.*, I, 585, incorrectly identifies him with Thomas Alexander Clarke of the British Indian Department. Thomas Clark was born in Dumfries, Scotland, about the year 1770. He came to the Niagara region prior to 1790 and was for many years a merchant of Queenston. Numerous

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

down & Endeavourd to get off to them but without Effect, & was obliged to ride to Chippawa 10 Miles before he could get any Assistance the people after Sitting 3½ Hours up to their Chins in Water were Saved, likewise all the packs to the Exception of 30 or 40—Most of which I am Sorry to understand are the property of M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson M<sup>r</sup> Heward, M<sup>r</sup> Innis, M<sup>r</sup> Stedman,<sup>32</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Macombe, M<sup>r</sup> Powers & a number of other passengers were among the Sufferers

I now Send you forward a parcel of papers rec<sup>d</sup> by last Mail. They Contain a great deal of very interesting information on which however I shall not now descant.

I spoke to M<sup>r</sup> Clark respecting the Magazines the loan of which he has accorded, I shall Send them up P[er] Judge Powell, who goes the Western Circuit should not a Safe opportunity offer before.

I request my best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin [torn] family—& though I have had a hard days work to day I do Assure you that I continue with Sentiments of Esteem & Respect My Dear Sir

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> & very Humble Servant

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichols to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>

ARRIVAL OF MORAVIAN MISSIONARY

Goshen, Moravian Indian Town,  
River Muskingum 12 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1800

M<sup>r</sup> John Askin,

Dear Sir, The bearer of this is my worthy friend the Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Dencke,<sup>33</sup> who arrived here lately from Bethlehem, and

letters and accounts pertaining to him are preserved in the B. H. Coll. His partner for a considerable period was his nephew, Samuel Street of Niagara. At another time he seems to have been in partnership with Robert Nichol. His wife was a granddaughter of Sir William Johnson and Molly Brant. He was lieutenant colonel of the Second Lincoln Militia in the War of 1812, and colonel in 1818. For more than twenty years he was a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada. He died in 1837. See Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 19, pp. 62-63; *ibid.*, No. 22, pp. 57-58; Irving, *op. cit.*, *passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

<sup>32</sup> For the career of John Stedman, see *B. H. R.*, I, 108.

<sup>33</sup> Christian Frederick Denke (Denke, Dencke) had spent several months with Zeis-

is going to reside as Indian missionary on the River Thames. You, my dear Sir, we have the best cause to regard as a sincere friend and well wisher to the good cause in which he is engaged. As such, on the bare mention of his name & character to you, you will I am sure be happy to render him any civility in your power. I flatter myself also, that on acquaintance, he will acquire your personal esteem. He is desirous to apply himself with zeal to the study of the Chippeway as well as of the Delaware language, with the benevolent intention of endeavoring to make that benighted heathen nation acquainted with the saving truths of the gospel. The loan of a vocabulary of Chippeway words, or any other assistance or advice to promote the speedy acquisition of their language, will be particularly acceptable to him.

M<sup>r</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Zeisberger & M<sup>r</sup> Edwards<sup>34</sup> unite with me in best respects to Yourself, M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & family.

I am very truly Dear Sir Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Benj<sup>n</sup> Mortimer

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> Detroit By favor of Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Dencke

*Endorsed:* Goshon Muskingum Aug<sup>t</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1800 The Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Mortimer to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>

PROSPECTS OF HUGH HEWARD IN YORK

York 14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1800

Dear Sir I arrived here the 12<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> and was most favourably received by Major Green<sup>35</sup> and His Excellency who has appointed me to his Office with Liberty when other Depart-

berger at the Moravian mission at Goshen before his removal to Fairfield on the Thames, as noted in the present document. In 1802, he endeavored to establish a mission at the head of Harsen's Island (letter of Askin, Sept. 20, 1802, printed *post*, 381-82), and he seems to have continued his missionary activities during the years that followed.

The invasion of western Canada by General Harrison, in 1813, compelled the Indians to flee from Fairfield and Denkey and his wife went with them to Burlington Heights, where he conducted a mission for a time, returning with the Indians to Fairfield in 1815. See *History of the Moravian Mission by a Member of the Brethren's Church* (London, 1838), 295 ff. Letters in the B. H. Coll. show that he spelled his name as here printed.

34 For the career of William Edwards, see *B. H. R.*, I, 221, *et passim*.

35 James Green was commissioned lieutenant on Sept. 1, 1779. On May 11, 1795, he was appointed Military Secretary of the Indian Department, and he continued to serve in this capacity as late as the autumn of 1807. Numerous letters to or from him are printed in the *Mich. Pio. Colls.* During most of his service as military secretary, he seems to have

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

ments want Assistance to write for them and be paid for it. my present pay is a Dollar a Day and His Excellency has promised that some time hence it will be made better, that it is his Intention. I have a Small House in the Garrison of two Rooms appointed for me until the beginning of September when they Depart from here and when I am to return to Detroit to bring down my Family & C and winter here. I have wrote M<sup>r</sup> Henry<sup>36</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Heward on the Subject, to give M<sup>r</sup> Henry more time to provide a proper person to receive my Charge, and I will do everything to render up all

been stationed in Quebec. A letter from Hugh Heward to Askin, Aug. 12, 1802 (ms. in B. H. Coll.) presents Green's private character in a highly unfavorable light. See also British army lists, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and *Simcoe Papers*, IV, 42.

<sup>36</sup> James Henry was a native of Lancaster, Pa., who came west in the late autumn of 1796 in the capacity of agent for General James O'Hara (for whom see *ante*, 148), who had the contract with the government to provision the western army posts. Henry's instructions from O'Hara contemplated that he should operate from Fort Washington (Cincinnati) to Detroit, and he first visited the latter place on Jan. 6, 1797. O'Hara withdrew from the army contracting on Oct. 1, 1800, and Henry, who, in 1797, had established (in partnership with General John Wilkins of Pittsburgh) a tannery and general store in Detroit, seems to have terminated his employment with O'Hara about this time. As a citizen of Detroit, he quickly won both local esteem and financial success. On Aug. 21, 1798, he was appointed justice of the peace by Governor St. Clair. He was judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions, 1802-1804; was appointed, in 1802, a member of the first board of trustees of Detroit; was county commissioner in 1804; tax assessor in 1807; and on April 15, 1807, was appointed by Governor Hull Associate Judge of the Court of Huron and Detroit. He ran a tannery and a leather-goods store, and in 1807, was president of the Bank of Detroit. He lost heavily in the fire which burned Detroit in 1805, and seems never wholly to have recovered from this blow.

Henry belonged to a large family. His father, William Henry, was an important figure in Revolutionary Pennsylvania, having held numerous public offices, among which were that of member of the Assembly in 1776; Treasurer of Lancaster County from 1777 until his death, after which his wife, Ann Wood Henry, held the office several years; manufacturer of guns and superintendent of arms and accouterments for the army; member of Congress, 1784-86. He was an intimate friend of Thomas Paine and Benjamin West; and an inventor of no little merit. One brother of James, Matthew, engaged in trade at Mackinac, and died there on March 29, 1804. Moses Henry of Vincennes was an uncle. Another brother, John Joseph Henry, served as president of the several courts of common pleas in the Pennsylvania counties of Lancaster, York, and Dauphin. In 1810 his son, Stephen Chambers Henry, a graduate in medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, came to Detroit to engage in the tannery business with James, and after the death of the latter conducted the business for several years.

In a letter of April 27, 1810, Henry expresses a wish to return east and states that he has therefore contracted no marriage ties. Notwithstanding, he had a daughter, Maria, born, May 10, 1803 (the mother was Charlotte Quimfers), for whom he seems to have evinced the usual paternal regard. She was reared by her uncles in Pennsylvania, and attended the Moravian seminary in Bethlehem for a time. She subsequently returned to Detroit, where on July 23, 1821, she married Charles Rouleau. James Henry was a man of some education and culture. Among his possessions were such books as Gibbon's *Rome*, and the works of Homer, Milton, and Shakespeare. There is some uncertainty about the date of his death. The nearest contemporary record is a letter of Elijah Brush to John Askin, undated by the writer but endorsed by Askin as of Dec. 31, 1812, which indicates that he died on December 29 of that year. See *post*, 744. Data chiefly adapted from biographical sketch by Louise Rau in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VII, 65-80.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Accounts to his Satisfaction to the End of the Contract. I hope he will take it in good part, as a Man who has always wished my Happiness and Interest. should you see him you can well explain my Motives as reasonable.

I am most thankfully and truly

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> hum<sup>e</sup> Servant

Hugh Heward

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* York Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Heward to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup>

PROMOTION OF DR. HARFFY

I thank you My D<sup>r</sup> Sir for your favor of the 16<sup>th</sup> which I received early this Morn<sup>g</sup> and have in My power to return an answer thus early. how much is the Heart at ease, when we have a Friend to communicate our pleasures and that will partake of our pains, by administering to our bodily relief, and Mind distress'd. I expect Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee every day—and believe me My first vacant hour will be dedicated to you on either Side, that that will be for your happiness let be done God only knows what is for our good. I think I now see you smile at the poor Doctor, smile on it will be the Smile of a well tri'd Friendship, that I know. Now to the point. This morn<sup>g</sup> the *Charlotte* came to the Mouth of the River, from Fort Erie on Wednesday. by her I had an answer to my Memorial from the Prince, through the hands of My Friend Holmes,<sup>37</sup> a very flattering one, and an augmentation of pay 2/6 p<sup>r</sup> day Hallifax. the Prince express'd every Satisfaction, but as My Situation was provincial, he wish[ed] to know from what time & by whom, that M<sup>r</sup> H. has cleared up. I think 26 years Service Requires it, & I am very thankful for it. Not any news. M<sup>r</sup> Allison<sup>38</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Holmes was military surgeon in Quebec. For his possible identity with William Holmes, formerly surgeon of the Fifth Regiment, see *B. H. R.*, I, 378.

<sup>38</sup> Captain Thomas Allison, brother-in-law of Captain William Caldwell, for sketch of whose career see *ibid.*, 386-87. The death of his wife, Therese Baby, occurred March 27, 1839, instead of Aug. 6, 1847, as there stated. See *Bull. Rech. Hist.*, XX, 306. Her age at death is there given as seventy-three and one-half years. Captain and Mrs. Allison left an only daughter (a son, Thomas, died in boyhood in 1809), Susanne Allison. She married,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

& his Wife & Children are arrived, & now at Caulwells. The house of Bourginione, I have look[ed] at & taken the opinion of a person £65 or 70, is the entire worth of it as it now stands. Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lean will not give him a Grant for the Lot, altho there is a house on it, as it is not puting in a way of furnishing. the person who may buy it, will have it in His name. I hope I have answer'd yours in some particulars. I am ever yours

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

Tuesday Morn<sup>g</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1800

P. S. The Vessel is loaded for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh with English goods. it is coming up very fast as the Store at the Chippaway are full therefore you May expect the *Saganah* Soon

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> Detroit with Care & Soon

*Endorsed:* Malden Aug<sup>t</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1800 Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>

DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING LAND TITLES

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1800

Dear sir As perhaps you may think it right to Mention the whole or part of the Contents of this Letter to his Excellency General Hunter I will not mix it with any Other Matters.

For the sole purpose of Obtaining Deeds for my lands I went last Year to York the only Voyage I have made for Nineteen Years past as I wished much to deliver M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>c</sup> Gils & you Patents for the Lands I sold you & get others for my own that Remained. for this purpose I took with me Above 700 Dollars & gave dayly Attendance at all the Offices for One Month & two days which I remained there Sundays Excepted. When I came Away I did not Understand nor do I now of any Objections to my Grants being made Out but yet I cannot get them. The Descriptions for many I myself carried from the Acting Surveyor Generals office to that of the Solicitor Generals & took Fiats from him & delivered them to M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis the Secretary who told

in 1811, Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, author of *Les Anciens Canadiens*, and other important works, and died Aug. 6, 1847. Their descendants have long been prominent in Canada and elsewhere.

me the only delay would be Untill he got a proper Sized Book from Canada to Cobby (As I Understood him) the Patents into for that he had Parchemnt to make them out On. As I was disireous of bringing a few with me which I wanted much, I offered to go to the Expence of having these copped on paper from which he could Afterwards take them into his Book. to this he Seemingly Assented at all Events gave me Reason to suppose that some would soon be Ready & the Others not be detained long After. However by a Letter rec<sup>d</sup> from Doctor [?] Richardson dated the 28<sup>th</sup> July & an Other from M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Allan of York dated y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> (with whom I left 500 Dollars to pay for the Patents as when ready) for the Other fees of Office I p<sup>d</sup> myself, that's to say at the Council & Acting Surveyor Generals Office. yet Neither have been Able to Obtain from M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis as they wrote me a Single patent, tho I do not know of any Excuses for delay or detention, for once the *Fiats* are delivered at his office all seems to be settled. At the Solicitor Generals Office there arose a difficulty which was this, he said before he was Authorised to make Out *fiats* for the Persons in whose favour the Commissioners had deeded respecting Lands purchased, a Cobby of the Commissioners report should be sent him from the Council Office. This I Applied to M<sup>r</sup> Small the Clerk of the Council for, he said he must first have the report from the Acting Surveyor Generals office. the Clerks then said thay had no such report to make to him, Unless when they found some Mistake in the Commissioners Report & as they had not found any that related to me they had Only to give me descriptions for the Lands that by the [?] Commissions were Reported to be mine & which they did from day to day as far as Other Business would permit & promised to send the remainder to the Solisitor Generals office. finding That the Disputes at the Offices prevented my geting *Fiats* for the Lands (only reported on by the Commissions) I mentioned the matter to the Chief Justice<sup>39</sup> the day before I came Away who said he would go to these offices & put that matter soon right whether he has done so or not Doctor Richardson in his letter has not Explained to me, but I

<sup>39</sup> John Emsley, for whom see *ante*, 78.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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rather suppose they [illegible] to M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis not making out & delivering the Patents for these Fiats I had actually lodged at his office before I came Away. it is a very great hardship indeed that Disputes of Office or Neglects should cause such Expence & delays to Individuals & I'm sure it is very contrary to his Excellencys Instructions, for when I was at York he Obliged the Clerks at Each office to report to him what they had done in the Week to prevent them as I believed from being Idle as The Day I came away I mentioned to his Excellency my Anxiety to get the Patents out as I owed M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Gill & you the [several words illegible] when taking my leave of him, (but not before) [illegible] could he would Serve me, had he given me this opening before, I would have presented him with a [two words illegible].

Whatever Bussiness I had to do with the Council I there meet with no delay. they meet Every Day when anyone had Bussiness to do with them.

I Remain my Dear Sir as Usual

Your Ever Obliged Friend

J. A.

Isaac Todd Esquire at Montreal

TITLE TO MORAVIAN LAND

Detroit, June 29<sup>th</sup> 1796

Sir Tho I have not had the pleasure of receiving a Letter from you these many Years I have made it my Business to inquire of every Gentleman who had seen or heard of you at home how You & Your good Family were & it made me happy to hear in general that you were all well.

In a very few days the Americans will take Posesion of this Fort & from every Information I can get I Understand they are very unfavourable to Indian Grants, however as I do not Mean to give up your pretentions or mine to the 4,000 acres of Land on the River aux Hurons formerly where the mauravians lived, I should be glad to bring forward the best authority in my Power for making the Purchase & as I understood from you that you once wrote the late L<sup>t</sup> Gov. Hope on that Subject & had a favorable



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

answer If you are still possessed of that Answer & will Send it to me it may perhaps be the means of preventing our loosing S<sup>d</sup> Lands, which probably will Soon be valuable or If you have any other papers or matter to advance to Strengthen our Claim I Should be glad to have them. Gov. Sinclair<sup>40</sup> I understand is to reside here. M<sup>rs</sup> Askin's Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup> Ancrum

I am Sir your &<sup>ca</sup>

(Signed) John Askin

Major William Ancrum<sup>41</sup> 34<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> Near Dublin Ireland

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1800

Sir The foregoing is the Duplicate of a Letter I wrote and to which I havenot had any Answer. The Claims to Indian Lands arenot yet decided On, but Commissions for that purpose is Expected next Spring or Summer before which time I hope to have your Answer. Conner<sup>42</sup> keeps Possession of the whole but If the United States proved favorable to Our Purpose, I will soon set the Lawyers at him. before it would be Needless. Your Old Friend M<sup>r</sup> Leith is here. to him I will give this letter in charge & I Dare say he will be Able to have it conveyed to you in Safety. Of your Old Acquaintances here I only know of Colonel M<sup>c</sup>Kee, M<sup>r</sup> Sharp<sup>43</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Abott Dead.

I remain with Real Regard Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. A.

*Endorsed:* Detroit June 29 96 and The 22<sup>d</sup> August 1800 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin To Major Ancrum

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH DISTILLERY

Montreal 23<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1800

Dear Askin My last was p<sup>r</sup> your Grand Son W<sup>m</sup> Robertson I at same time wrote M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton acquainting him I

<sup>40</sup> Governor Arthur St. Clair.

<sup>41</sup> For the career of Major William Ancrum, see *B. H. R.*, I, 222.

<sup>42</sup> Richard Connor, for whose career see *ibid.*, 228-29.

<sup>43</sup> Alexander McKee, for whose career see *ante*, 209, and *B. H. R.*, I, 301; George Sharp, for whom see *ante*, 15.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

had proposed to you to Try a Distillery at Detroit on a moderate Scale in which his opinion would be wanting having had experience in that Business I find M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton has two Stills arrived at Quebec perhaps he could spare them to you but the first & essential part is to obtain a Man who understands the business and will manage on a share of profit & to be economical in erecting the building &<sup>ca</sup> To all this I expect your answer. I hope you will pay attention to my letter to you of the 2<sup>d</sup> July respecting my concerns at Detroit and dont neglect [illegible] M<sup>r</sup> Gratiers Note for without that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Forsyth & C<sup>o</sup> [illegible] pay his Draft. I think it probable if I live I will visit Niagara & York Next Spring. Remember me kindly to all your family & belive me Your Sin[c]lere Friend

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> Detroit Favor'd by—  
Elliot Esq<sup>re</sup>

*Endorsed:* Montreal Aug<sup>t</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1800 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>re</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> same Day

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Grand River, Aug. 30. 1800

Sir, It is a considerable time since I first was made acquainted with the land Affairs you are engaged in latterly you more fully informed me yourself in a conversation we had together that I have taken it into consideration. before I can with any propriety engage in it, I think it necessary that we should be fully acquainted with the conditions of your agreement for which purpose M<sup>r</sup> Jones,<sup>44</sup> now setts off for your quarter and I hope you will

<sup>44</sup> Augustus Jones was a native of New York, born, according to one authority, in 1763. His son, Rev. Peter Jones, states that Augustus studied surveying in New York City, and, armed with a recommendation from the son of Governor Colden, journeyed to Upper Canada, where Governor Simcoe gave him employment as deputy surveyor of the province. Another account states that he came to Upper Canada in 1786 as a United Empire loyalist, and secured a tract of land on the shore of Lake Ontario, immediately west of Stony Creek. He ran the line of Dundas Street from Burlington Bay to the forks of the Thames (modern London), and in 1796 he surveyed Yonge Street from Toronto northward to Lake Simcoe. In May, 1798, Jones married a squaw of Grand River. Scadding represents her as belonging to the Mohawk tribe, but Peter Jones, her son, states that she was

please to give him every necessary information. when he returns, and I have an explanation of the business I shall let you hear of our determination, but as I have already hinted I think it adviseable that you should go thro' the agreement again and get the Wyndotts, and other Indians to agree that there may be no future discontents or uneasinesses. when this shall all be settled it will then be proper for me to get it confirmed and our people may then sitt down on it with security

Sir, I am your very humb & Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Jos. Brant

John Askin, sen. Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askins, sen. Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Grande River Aug<sup>t</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> Joseph or Capt. Brant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FOR REV. DAVID BACON

Detroit Sepr 13<sup>th</sup> 1800

Friends & Brothers The Bearer hereof M<sup>r</sup> Baken<sup>45</sup> is one of the *Great Spirits* representitives on Earth. he Asked me where shall I go to render Service to Indians and point out to them & Their Children the Means of happiness here & hereafter, I Answered to my Frinds the Ottawas at Arbre à Croche & the Mission where I once lived they are the Nation best disposed to hear what the *great Spirit* has to say to them & who knows how to behave to his representative. He now goes to see you. *Brothers* Treat him well & dont make me a liar. he will shew you and your Children how to be happy here & hereafter Adieu Friends & Brothers

John Askin

the daughter of a chief of the Missisauga. Ten children were born of this union. One of them, Peter, born at Burlington Heights in 1802, became a Wesleyan Methodist minister and for over twenty years served as missionary to the Ojibway, dying in Brantford on June 29, 1856. He was the author or translator of various works, including a history of the Ojibway tribe, published in London in 1861. Augustus Jones was living as late as 1826. Data adapted from Wallace, *op. cit.*; Henry Scadding, *Toronto of Old: Collections and Recollections Illustrative of the Early Settlement and Social Life of the Capital of Ontario* (Toronto, 1878), 415 ff.; and mss. in B. H. Coll.

<sup>45</sup> The spelling "Bacon" is interlined at this point in the manuscript. David Bacon, the person alluded to, was born in Woodstock, Mass., in 1771. He studied for the ministry, and in the early autumn of 1800 came west to Detroit on an appointment to do missionary

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Endorsed:* To the Chiefs & Principal people of the Ottawa Nation at Arbre à Croche & the Mission.

SCARCITY OF CURRENCY IN DETROIT

Kingston 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1800

Dear Sir On the 12th I received your Favour of the 25<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> and M<sup>r</sup> Leith delivered the Sum of fifty Pounds York on Account of the Consignment of Pork. I am sorry to find that Money & Bills are so scarce, and as Matter of Accommodation to such as may be disposed to purchase, I would be willing to take a Pack or two of good Buffaloe Robes & Mackason Leather in Payment, and a Macinac Feather Bed or two might not come amiss. At all Events I wish you to do as you would were the Articles your own: only let me know what Marks have & what have not been sold that I may settle with the Furnishers.

With best Respects to M<sup>rs</sup> & Miss Askin, I remain Dear Sir,

Your most ob<sup>tt</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Cartwright

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Kingston Sept<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1800 Rich<sup>d</sup> Cartwright Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> the 9<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

DIFFICULTIES AFFECTING LAND TITLES

Detroit Sept<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1800

My dear Sir I wrote you so fully per our friend M<sup>r</sup> Lieth the 24<sup>th</sup> last Month that most of what you require per

work among the Indians. Shortly after the writing of the present letter, he embarked for Mackinac, but his vessel being becalmed on Lake St. Clair, he was persuaded by his interpreter, Bernardus Harsen (son of the owner of Harsen's Island), to remain among the Indians of this vicinity. Before long he returned to the East, and in the summer of 1801 was back in Detroit with a bride. Here he opened a school for boys (meanwhile preaching in the town), while Mrs. Bacon opened one for girls. On Feb. 19, 1802, a son, Leonard Bacon, was born in Detroit, who subsequently became professor at Yale University and one of the foremost Congregational divines of his generation. David Bacon was not conspicuously successful as a missionary, although he exerted himself intermittently in this field for several years. He founded the village of Tallmadge, Ohio, a settlement to which only Congregationalists and Presbyterians were admitted. He died in Hartford, Conn., Aug. 7, 1817. Data condensed from Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 714 ff.

yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> August (that came to hand two days ago) is answered The Distillery I mean to sett up & think it most Advisable or sure, tho perhaps not more advantegious to erect them on the other Side on or very near the Farm of yours got from M<sup>r</sup> Hands. A man this Minuet offers to deliver the Stille here in May next for 10/ per Gallon or at Presqu'ile for less so that getting this part of the Bussiness done will be a small Expence & indeed I hardly know of any thing except the Grain (after the Still) that will require Money, nor will that If I have a Store of Goods. I have wrote the Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & C<sup>o</sup> how you & M<sup>r</sup> Jam<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill are to receive the Money due by M<sup>r</sup> Innis, it will be in a Draft with some of theirs. I inclosed you the Copy of a letter I got from my agent at York If you think proper you may mention the Matters to His Excellency but keep back the informers name. I also inclose you a paragraph from a letter I received which will shew you what the General can do when he pleases. my Recommendation got M<sup>r</sup> Maisonville 3000 Acres of Land that had been refused him in every Quarter in lower & upper Canada &<sup>ca</sup> for many Years and the Council with whom he had been rejected all his demands and claims on that score and said He never did nor would for him or any man enter into any knowledge of losses. he plagued me so much the day I left York to speak to the General about him when I was taken leave that I promised I would and did tho I had not the most distant idea of his reaping any Benefit from it you see how much I was mistaken & I now find whoever the General thinks fit to give land to the Council dare not deny I wish my Friends & self had so much Interest to get Lands for my just Claims as I have had for others. God Knows for a good faithfull Subject of Governments I am straightly deal with. respect is shewn me & confidence placed in me yet I cant get a foot of my local Demands.

I got a letter from our Friend M<sup>r</sup> Robertson and [am] happy to find he is something better. his Agents here M<sup>r</sup> Roe & M<sup>r</sup> Fraser<sup>46</sup> are by no means so active in his affairs as I think they should be. Neglect and a worse cause has

<sup>46</sup> James Fraser, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 300.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

great share in the matter, for his good I meant to write him to authorize me to employ such Attorneys for him as I think fit.

Judge Powell the Commodore & Myself were ready as commissioners to hear & determine on M<sup>r</sup> Robertsons claims to a good many Lots M<sup>r</sup> Dolson<sup>47</sup> & the Surveyor (necessary proof) attended. but his Lawyer M<sup>r</sup> Roe from a cause too evident to the World could not bring any one claim forward when it should therefore they must lye over to an other Year and [he] has lost the best chance they must ever have of being passed. you may mention the circumstances to him. I have only to add that the Family are all well and will ever retain a due sense of your Friendship. Adieu my Dear Sir

Your ever Obliged Friend

Isaac Todd Esquire

*Endorsed:* Detroit Sept<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to Isaac Todd Esquire (Copy)

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JAMES MACKLEM

Detroit September 18<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear Sir I was favoured with your of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> a few days ago. I have sent your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Artell and required a friend of mine to ask for payment. M<sup>rs</sup> Askin is not disposed to part with the Negro. The feathers are to be got at Michilimacinac (not here) but nothing on my part shall be wanton to procure them but it's probable they may not be obtained before next year. The Cider you shall have, but in order to get it good it must be made as late as possible so as to go by the last Vessell.

What do you ask for the House (partly finished and Land) about 7 Miles below Fort Erie I am Dear Sir

Your Most Obedient Very Humble Servant

M<sup>r</sup> James Macklin<sup>48</sup> at Chippawa

*Endorsed:* John Askin to James Macklin (Copy)

<sup>47</sup> Probably Matthew Dolsen, for whom see *ibid.*, 222-23.

<sup>48</sup> James Macklem was a native of Tyrone County, Ireland. He is said to have migrated to Pennsylvania in 1789, and about the year 1790 or 1791 to have come to Chippewa, where he and his sons established several industries of local importance. He was living as late as

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

FROM JAMES MACKLEM TO JOHN ASKIN

Chippawa 1<sup>st</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1800

Dear Sir I have Received your favour of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ult. which perfectly Satisfies me concerning the Negro, Feathers & Cyder; and you are certainly very Good to give yourself so much trouble for my Accomodation. The Farm & In-closed Frame (with a Cellar under it) which you mention, I have for some time held at five hundred pounds York; In-stalments being the common mode of Receiving payment for Lands: but four hundred & fifty pounds in hand, will purchas it. Should you have any commands, which may be in my power to execute, I hope you will honour me with them.

I am Dear Sir Your Obedient humble Servant

James Macklem

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Chppawa Oct<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1800 M<sup>r</sup> James Macklan  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>

AFFRAY OVER BRITISH DESERTER

Detroit Oct the 15th. 1800

My Dear Sir I have just finished a Letter to You in Your Official capacity in Answer to one of Yours. as I learn our friend M<sup>r</sup> Heward may leave this About the 20<sup>th</sup> I would not let him depart without dropping you a line. I know it will give your good Mother & You pleasure to Hear that my Family & your Friends in General in this Quarter are well. An Unlucky accident happened here some Nights ago. a Serjiant from the Other side with some Soldiers, Endeavouring to free a deserter from the British, Over the River Reced. Some Wounds & he also gave the Disarter Several Wounds with his Bayonett of Which the Latter is since Dead. This I apprehend will be a Serious Business & those concerned required by the American Goverment to

1821, when he was made a trustee of the church of all denominations to be erected in Lundy's Lane. This became the Presbyterian church. See "Some Graves in Lundy's Lane," Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 22, p. 45; and Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VIII, 225, and XXV, 305-306.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

be delivered up for trial. I hope both Governments may put a stop to forcing Over Desarters from Either Side. Otherwise I fear it may be attended not only with the loss of several lives but also create Misunderstand<sup>s</sup> Which should in my Oppinion be prevented. I have got a Small House on the British side now fitted up for the Reseption of Myself & Family so that should I meet With a Purchaser for where I now live I can give it up at a very short Warning.

Your Mothers Tree bears no Apples this Year, but I have Directed to you a Bar<sup>l</sup> nearly of the same sort.

M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & your Acquaintances of My Family beg leave to Assure you & yours of their best Wishes as Does My Dear sir

Your Obliged very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit October 15<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to The Honorable D. W. Smith (Copy)

AFFRAY OVER BRITISH DESERTER

Dear Sir I have an Appearance of a good oppertunity of writing to you. I have seen M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds, the Bricks will be Accounted by Capt M<sup>c</sup>Lean as you mentioned. My expectation of seeing you at Sandwich on Tuesday, I am sorry was not attained. you might expect as usual Selby would be the first mention'd and first he was made, it is true, the reason evident. The unfortunate affair on your Side with the Deserter, Made it necessary as some thought to Sport & Send to the Govenor a presentment, concirning that outrage—and who better to take care that it was securely done & strongly worded than the Chairman & very likely set on foot by him & Elliot: *if possible to ruin the Cap<sup>t</sup>*. I will allow it was doing a very unjustifiable Act, and that Some Meanes should be taken to prevent anything of that sort in future. but I thought it was taken up with too great Acrimony, and more attention paid to it, by them than ever I have seen before from the Bench. If I can continue in My present Mind My Visits there will be very Seldom until the Spring, then this System *Must* be altre'd. to show how well the Minds of Men like the Grand Jury May be play'd on by a smoothe tongue, *Not one could write or read*, and by the



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Bench it was Requested that it might be *Strong* & well drawn up. as much as to say not for Attention to the Community at large but to answer private Malevolence. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee has been much out of order for this two or three days, is now getting better. as for M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee she tells Me She is perfectly well, her looks certainly bespeak it.

with truth I am

Yours Sincerely

W<sup>m</sup> Harffy

P. S. I received your note on the Bench  
Amherstburg Oct<sup>r</sup> 17, 1800

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit W. H.

*Endorsed:* Malden Oct<sup>r</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> 1800 Doctor Harffy to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>.

CONTRACT FOR BEEF IN AMHERSTBURG

Detroit October the 17<sup>th</sup> 1800

My Dear Sir As I have wrote you frequently of late on different subjects this will be only one namely that of a Contract with Government for furnishing Beef for the Garrison of Malden. I do Assure you I know not anything that would be more Advantagious to me nor anything I could Undertake with such certainty The finest of Beef comes in from the States from the 1<sup>st</sup> May to the 1 November and in such Quantities that Stall fed Beef in the Spring is got for 5 Dollars the Hundred, Hide Tallow & Offalls in and now the good Beef is at 3 Dollars the Hundred Cows, & Calfs with them for 12½ Dollars the Price. If you could prevail on the General to make such a Contract, nothing but a Warr with the United States could in any Degree render the fullfilling of the Contrac doutefull. If even 6 per lb could be got from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November a 8 from that to the 1<sup>st</sup> of June again it would prove an Excellent Bussiness. If more could be got so much [the better] Surely this mode of furnishing the Troops would be much Cheaper than giving them Pork and as I know the General wishes to save Expences to Government I should think he would Accept of the Offer. If it's refered in any manner to the Agent Purchaser you will please get my good Friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill to

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

write him for I do not think him favourable to any Contract that does not Originate with himself (Tho I may be mistaken) If you Succeed you will do me an Essential Service & I dare say M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill would join you in giving Security in which you may depend there is not the Smallest Risk imaginable, for there will not be any decrease in Cattle coming in to be Sold at the low rate they are, for in their Country they require no Hay nor Grain to winter them unless the Stall fed Cattle & their Indian Corn is so low that the Expence [is] very Trifling. Here the Cattle cost more for keeping two Years than the others do altogether. If you make a Contract the longer the better and the only Exception should be that if great Britain & America should have any Misunderstanding that would prevent a free intercourse with each other, in that case the contract to End. I fear Some others may think of making proposals for this same Business and even lower but I know of none.

I would undertake for still less if it would not be got otherwise, All here well and Asure [you] of their best Wishes as does My dear Sir

Your ever Obliged Friend and Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> Mercht Montreal

*Endorsed:* Detroit 17<sup>th</sup> October 1800 John Askin to Isaac Todd (Copy)

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT<sup>49</sup>

Detroit October the 17<sup>th</sup> 1800

Dear Sir As I know your great wish is to render Service and in particular to the Country where you Reside. I hope you will not think it presumption in me to represent to you that many Artificers Seafaring Men and others who earn from 8/ to 20/ per day (of which Number are Le Blanc the Wheel Wright, say, Mill Wright, Letour the Carpenter & others known to you) never have had, nor ever will if they can help it a penny before hand such Characters I cannot suppose to be the People the Legislator had in view when they exacted that humain Law entitled "An Act for the relief of Poor persons imprisoned for debt. to a person of your pene-

<sup>49</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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tration it will soon appear that such a Law without Amendment may serve the purpose of getting Rascals clear of Debts which they might easily do by their Labour or Service to their Creditors or others. Therefore if something to the following Effect could be Added as an Amendment to the aforsaid Law I think you will Agree with me that it would be Usefull to this part of the Territory at least. Provided in no case such Prisoner shall be Intitled to the benefit of this Act who shall refuse to come out of confinement. If thereunto required by his Creditor and work for reasonable wages in order to pay the person at who's Suit he may have been imprisoned.

I hope you have got safe through your Voyage and that I shall have the Pleasure of seeing you again in good Health

I am with Esteem Dear Sir

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Solomon Sibly Esq<sup>r</sup>.

one of the Representatives for the County of Wayn

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Detroit October the 26<sup>th</sup> 1800

Sir I was favoured with your Letter per M<sup>r</sup> Jones dated the 30<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> last & as he is now on his way back I take the Oppertunity of answering it. All the information which M<sup>r</sup> Jones required of me I have given him and Shewed him the deed of Sale from the Indians to me and others of the Tract of Land you wish to purchase from which he has taken some notes. I have authority from two Merchants in lower Canada to dispose of their Shares and as my Son and I hold two others there is only three remaining Shares, the proprietors of whom are on the Spott, I think your best method and what will be most likely to be Accepted of by all Concerned is to Offer a certain Sum for the whole & if it's not convenient to pay the whole in Money, Lands at your Place will be Accepted in part. As I have told M<sup>r</sup> Jones my Oppinion respecting an Other Deed or the Confirmation of the Present it's not Necessary to repeat it here I am Sir

Your Most Obedient Very Humble Servant

Captain Brant at Grande River

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Endorsed:* Detroit October 26<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to  
Captain Brant (Copy)

MARRIAGE CONTRACT OF SIMON DROUILLARD JR.

Detroit  
Comté de Wayne } SS

PARDEVANT le Notaire public pour le Comté de Wayne, résidant, au Détroit, furent, présans, le S<sup>rs</sup> Simon Drouilliard fils, veuf de défunte Archange Laforest, d'une part, et Marquerite Couvillion veuve de Défunt Jean Anicratte d'autre part lesquels parties, du consentements de leur Parens et Amies Si après nommés, scavoir, de la part dudit Simon Drouilliard fils, dusieur Simon Drouilliard Son Père, dame Marguerite S<sup>t</sup> Jean Drouilliard Sa Mère, dusieur Joseph Coté son oncle Joseph, Louis B<sup>te</sup> Drouilliard Ses Frères, B<sup>te</sup> Rousson Son Beau frère, J. B<sup>te</sup> Laframboise Cousin, Simon Bertrand aussi Cousin Dame Josep<sup>te</sup> Drouilliard Rousson Sa Seur, Isabelle Le beau, et Catiche Dufour Belle Seur on faits les conventions et accords, de Mariage, qui suivent, C'est a Scavoir que lesdits, Simon Drouilliard fils, et ladite Marguerite Couvillion, ont promis, et promettent, reciproquement, Seprandre, L'un, et L'autre par Nom et loix de Mariage, et Icelui, faire sélébrerr et Solemniser en face de notre Mère S<sup>te</sup> Eglise Catholique aussitot que faire Se pourra, et Lorsqu'une des partie enrequérera l'autre. Seront les dits futures Epoux, un, et Commun, en tout biens meubles et Conquets Immeubles, Suivant l'anciéne Coutume, úsité en ce Pays, renonceants pour cet Effét, a toutes coutumes Contraires, aux quelles ils ont par ces présentes Expressement derogé, et renoncés

Ne seront, neenmoins, les dits futures Epoux tenu des dettes, l'un de l'autre, faites, et Créés avant leur Epousailles, et ci dettes il y a elles Serons Payés et Indemnisés, améme les biens de celui ou celle quis les aura fait Sans que les biens de l'autre en soyent tenûes.

Ledit future Epou, a Doué, et Dou, laditte future Epouse, de la Somme de; vingt pounds Cour de Nouvelle York de Douaire prèfix pour l'avoir, et prandre aussitot qu'il aura lieux, Surtout, et Chacuns les biens dudit future Epoux, quis en sont désaprésen, hipotéqués.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Le Survivant des dits futures Epoux prandrat pour préciput, avant, partage la Somme de dix pounds Cour de Nouvelle York, Sur les meubles de la ditte Communauté, suivant la prisé de l'inventaire, ou la dite Somme en argent a Son Choi, et pour la bonne Amitiez que les dits futures Epoux se portent, l'un a l'autre ils se font par ces dites présentes, fait dons Mutuel, et reciproque, au survivant d'eux de tous les biens, muebles, et Immeubles, quis appartiendront au premier Mourant, pours par le Survivant, en Jouire, Savi durante Sans, être tenu, de faire Inventaire, ni de randre aucun Comptes aux Enfants, Ni autres Héritiers; et apres la mort des deux cequi se trouvera, de leurs bien sera partagés, entre leurs héritiers, de parts Egals, Suivant, ladite ancienne Coutume. Car ainsi sont convenûes, les parties, de bonnes foix Promettans &° Obligeans &° Renoncant &° fait et Passé au Détroit en la Maison dudit Sieur Simon Droulliard Père le vingt deuxième Jour de Novembre l'an Mil huit Cents, et ont les parties, faits leurs marques ordinaires, et Scellés, en presence de leurs dits Parens, et amies quis ont aussi signés apres lecture faite, Suivant L'ordonnance;

Sa  
Simon X Droulliard fils (L.S.)  
marque

Sa  
Marguerite X Couvillion (L.S.)  
marque

Sa  
Jean B<sup>te</sup> X Couvillion  
marque

Simon Droulliart

Sa  
Joseph X Coté  
marque

Sa  
J. B<sup>te</sup> X Droulliard  
marque

Sa  
Joseph X Droulliard  
marque

Sa  
J. B<sup>te</sup> X Lafranboize  
marque

Sa  
Louis X Droulliard  
marque

Sa  
J. B<sup>te</sup> X Rousson  
marque

Sa  
Simon X Bertrand  
marque

(L.S.) F. D<sup>x</sup> Bellecour  
Notaire public

*Endorsed:* Contrat de Mariage Entre Simon Drouillard  
 fils et Marguerite Couvillion du 22<sup>e</sup> Novembre 1800

Enrégistré en mon office registre N<sup>o</sup> 1, pages 94 et 95,  
 pars moi F. D. Bellecour

*Translation*

Detroit }  
 Wayne Co. } SS

BEFORE the notary public of Wayne County, residing in Detroit, appeared in person Simon Drouillard junior,<sup>50</sup> relict of the late Archange La Forest, of the first part, and Marguerite Couvillon, relict of the late Jean Anigrothe, of the second part, who, with the advice and consent of relatives and friends hereinafter named—that is, on behalf of the said Simon Drouillard junior, were present Simon Drouillard,<sup>51</sup> his father, Marguerite St. Jean Drouillard, his mother, Joseph Coté, his uncle, Joseph and Louis Baptiste Drouillard, his brothers, Baptiste Rousson, his brother-in-law, J. Baptiste Laframboise, his cousin, Simon Bertrand, also his cousin, Mrs. Josette Drouillard Rousson, his sister, Isabelle Le Beau and Catiche Dufour, sister-in-law—have agreed and contracted for their marriage as follows: The said Simon Drouillard junior and Marguerite Couvillion have promised and do mutually promise to take each other in the name and institution of marriage,

<sup>50</sup> For the Detroit line of Drouillards see *B. H. R.*, I, 183. Simon Drouillard Jr., the present bridegroom, was a grandson of Jean Drouillard, and a nephew of Pierre, there mentioned. He was born at the South Coast of Detroit (near Sandwich), Feb. 27, 1762, and married there (first), Aug. 19, 1782, Archange La Forest, daughter of Guillaume La Forest and Margaret Tremblay. Archange La Forest was buried in Detroit, Jan. 29, 1797, and on Nov. 24, 1800, Simon Drouillard married (second) Margaret Couvillon, widow of Jean Anigrothe (Anicratte). There were children born of each marriage. See Denissen, *op. cit.* The marriage record of Drouillard and Margaret Couvillon in Ste. Anne's Church Register describes her as the widow of Jean Mayritte. We are unable to resolve the contradiction with the present document which describes her as the widow of Anigrothe.

<sup>51</sup> Simon Amable Drouillard was born in Montreal, March 4, 1734, the son of Jean Drouillard and Elizabeth Rapin, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 183. He married in Soulanges, Aug. 29, 1757, Margaret Martin *dit* St. Jean. They came to Detroit prior to 1762 and resided at the South Coast of Detroit. Two children were born before the removal, and ten in Sandwich, the first of these being Simon Drouillard Jr., bridegroom of the present document. Margaret Martin was buried, Nov. 18, 1803, and on May 14, 1804, Simon Drouillard married (second) Mary Meny, widow of Jean Baptiste Brilliau *dit* Lesperance and of Michael Houde. He was buried in Detroit on July 26, 1805. Mary Meny was buried there on March 7, 1812. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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and to have this celebrated and solemnized before our Mother, the Holy Catholic Church, as soon as convenient and whenever either asks it of the other. They, the future husband and wife, shall hold all property in common, both movable and immovable as acquired, according to the ancient custom of this country, renouncing for that purpose all contrary customs, which, by these presents, they have expressly relinquished and renounced.

Nevertheless, the said future husband and wife, either of them, shall not be held responsible for debts made and contracted before their marriage, and any such debts shall be paid and liquidated from the property owned by the one who made and contracted them, the property of the other not being held therefor.

The said future husband has endowed and does endow the said future wife with the sum of twenty pounds, New York currency, as dower settlement, to have and to take the same as soon as in every respect reasonable, and this to be secured by any and all property of the said future husband now in his possession.

The survivor of the said future husband and wife shall take as his or her portion before any distribution the sum of ten pounds, New York currency, in movable property as priced in the inventory, or the said sum in money, according to choice; and for the good will which the said future husband and wife bear towards each other, they agree by these presents to make mutual and reciprocal gift to the survivor of all property, movable and immovable, which shall belong to the first deceased, for the survivor to enjoy during life without being required to make an inventory or to render any account to the children or to other heirs; and after the death of both, whatever property remains shall be divided equally among their heirs, according to ancient custom. For thus has it been agreed in good faith between the parties, promising, etc., obliging, etc., renouncing, etc.

Executed in Detroit, at the house of the said Simon Drouillard senior, the twenty-second day of November, one thousand eight hundred, and the parties have made their accustomed mark, with seals, in the presence of their

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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said relatives and friends, who also have signed, after hearing the reading hereof according to ordinance.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Grand River 12<sup>th</sup> January 1801

D<sup>r</sup> Sir I have fully explained to Captain Brant the Circumstances of the Indian Grants, you have of the Lands, on the South shore of Lake Erie, and as he has wrote you his int[ent]ion to Come up next Spring I shall accompany him and I beg leave to say, that I think it best to keep the meeting of the Indians as private as possible, for fear of some people thro some private Views enterfiering, which might make difficulty with the Indians. I have borrowed the map I mention<sup>d</sup> to you of Capt Brant, which I wish you to keep safe till his arrival to your place. the mony I owe you, I shall bring with me when I come. With my best thanks for your kindnesses to me I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your very Humble servant

A. Jones

John Askin Esquire Detroit

N. B. Capt Brant wishes the meeting of the Chiefs not to be earlyer than about the first of may or there abouts. A. J.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Grand River Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1801 M<sup>r</sup> A. Jones to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> March 20<sup>th</sup>

FROM DAVID W. SMITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Yorke 9 March 1801

My dear friend I hope your eyes will be sufficiently recovered, to read a line from your old acquaintance, & tho I have nothing new to communicate, it will be a satisfaction to you I hope to have it repeated to you, that no new ideas exist in my mind. it bears the same friendship & goodwill towards you it ever did—& I beg you will assure your Son Charles, that I am much obliged by his attention in writing to me. taking me by the hand at Yorke wont do, alone. your land matters cant be settled without taking much beef & pudding with me. the difficult parts much be settled



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

over some port wine, & you can have a little bed Chamber to yourself.

Some of the 24 & 26 [regiments] were taken in going home, but have been permitted to return to England on Parole, giving Hostages. Bunbury<sup>52</sup> has Also been taken, but in a very different way, by a young Girl of 16, to whom he is married. She is the daughter of an Attorney.

My Mother unites with me in kind regards to yourself & M<sup>rs</sup> Askin.

Believe me Much Yours  
D. W. Smith

York 10<sup>th</sup> March, 1801

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Amherstsburg on the Detroit rec<sup>d</sup> after Closing Paid IN4 Paid

*Endorsed:* York March 9<sup>th</sup> 1801 D. W. Smith Esquire to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> April Answ<sup>d</sup> same day and Again the 12<sup>th</sup> May

IMPRISONMENT OF ALEXIS LORANGER

DEtroit March 13, 1801

Sir I am in Confinement and am not able to call on you. wishe you to be so kind as to Call and See me today and see if I can make any arrangement that will answer you and liberate myself from here as the Cost is increasing and Some body must pay it I am not able to pay the Debt at present but if you will give me time to rase the money I will pay it as Soon as I Can but iff not I must stay where I am and take the benefit of the law that is made and prov[id]ed for insolvent Debtors. I am

Your most Obedient Humble Serven[t]  
Elexis Lorange

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Présent

*Endorsed:* Prison Detroit March 13<sup>th</sup> 1801 Alexis Lorange to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>

<sup>52</sup> Joseph Bunbury was commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-ninth Regiment, Jan. 14, 1775, and presumably came to America with his regiment the same year. He was made captain on April 13, 1782, and on Dec. 24, 1785, was commissioned captain in the Fifth Regiment. In this capacity he saw service in Detroit, where in August, 1791, he was ap-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

IMPRISONMENT OF ALEXIS LORANGER

Detroit March 14<sup>th</sup> 1801

Sir I have been so unwell as not to have gone to Town for near two Months past, therefore cannot call on you, however by M<sup>r</sup> Brush, I have let M<sup>r</sup> Anderson know that we had better come to some arrangement with you. I think you had better say what you have to give. You told my Son & some Others of property you had & would deliver up. I should be glad to know what it was for I have no wish to keep you nor any Man in confinement, longer than is Necessary. yet I beg leave to remark that you are not of that Discription of Debtors that the Law of the Territory will set at Liberty without your creditors consent. I am Sir

Your Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Alexis Lorange

*Endorsed:* Detroit, March 14<sup>th</sup> 1801 John Askin Senior  
to M<sup>r</sup> Alexis Lorange (Copy)

TITLE TO MORAVIAN LANDS

London 23<sup>d</sup> March 1801

Dear Sir, I was favor'd with your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1800, about three months ago, after it had travell'd, I believe, all over England, Ireland, and Scotland—and it at last reach'd me by mere accident here in London.

The copy of the letter it contains, dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 1796 which you did me the favor to write on that date, I never receiv'd; or I certainly should most punctually have answer'd it.

The subject on which you have written those letters (the purchase of our lands from the Moravian Missionaries and Indians settled on the Huron River) I am but ill prepar'd

pointed by Major John Smith president of a board of survey to report upon the condition of Fort Lernoult and adjoining government property. In 1793 he accompanied the U. S. peace commissioners from Niagara to Detroit; in August, 1794, he was ordered to occupy Turtle Island in Maumee Bay with about one hundred men. The same month he was ordered to proceed to Fort Erie with a detachment of the Fifth Regiment. In 1796 he was appointed Deputy Agent of Indian Affairs for Lower Canada. Data derived from British army lists, *passim*; documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, and in *Simcoe Papers, passim*; and *Can. Archives, Rep.*, 1891, p. 138.

at present to answer, to give all the satisfaction I cou'd wish, as all my papers are in Ireland. But as soon as we had made this Purchase from the Missionaries and Indians, I immediately acquainted Gen<sup>l</sup> Hope of it and receiv'd a very favorable answer, assuring me that we shou'd not be interrupted in it; and, I think, I either show'd you this letter, or mention'd the contents to you. And when I went down to Quebec, I mention'd the matter very particularly to General Hope himself; And I remember very well his answer; which was, that tho' Government in general was not favorable to such Grants, but that as we had been at a very considerable expence in this purchase, and on the lands afterwards; (And also paying me some compliments on my conduct during my Command at Detroit, which I dont chuse to mention) that on this Occasion the Grant should be looked upon as valid. And, I think, I wrote to this purpose to you from Quebec before I sail'd for England, but of this I cannot now be certain, after so long a space of time.

I shall certainly hope that those Gentlemen, the Commissioners, when they come to settle those claims, can have no objection to this of ours, so fairly purchas'd; And which at the same time was a great Act of humanity and justice to those Missionaries And Indians; in re-imbursing them for the expences they had been at in their Buildings, And clearing the lands, and a reward for their labour, and which otherwise must have been a total loss to them, on leaving the spot.

You have all the papers respecting this purchase with the Missionaries & Indians; Specifying the Sums we paid, And Sign'd by all the Missionaries, and also the Chiefs of Indians, I believe. As also a Correct Survey of the lands taken by M<sup>r</sup> Frey<sup>53</sup> which cost us likewise some money. I have also a Copy of that Survey.

From all those circumstances, I can make no doubt of our being perfectly Establish'd in our right—tho [I] regret not having it in my power to have recourse to my Papers and correspondence with General Hope, which I cannot have at present.

<sup>53</sup> Lieutenant Phillip R. Fry, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 226.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Pray, who is this M<sup>r</sup> Connor who you mention to be in Possession of those lands at present? I never heard of this circumstance before.

As I cannot doubt of the justice of the Commissioners of the United States, and their clearly deciding in favor of Our claim; I expect this M<sup>r</sup> Connor will be speedily dispossess'd.

I request my best Regards to all my remaining friends with you. I am very Sorry to hear of the death of some. With best Respects to your family, I am with much Regard & Esteem

Your Sincere friend & Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> C. Ancrum

P.S. As I cannot at present exactly say where I may be when you may next write to me Direct to, Park-house old Brompton near London, and it will be forwarded to me.

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Askin Detroit

*Endorsed:* London March the 23<sup>d</sup> 1801

[Note on the last page] Recorded in the Land office at Detroit in Liber E. Folio G. &° By me

Geo. Hoffman Register

IMPRISONMENT OF ALEXIS LORANGER

Detroit April the 8<sup>th</sup> 1801

Dear Sir Your favour of the 2<sup>d</sup> reached me last night. I will make Enquiry if S<sup>t</sup> Louis is come. however it will not Answer any purpose Unless you are here when he comes, for to put him in prison is only throwing good money after bad. perhaps we may Even be Obliged to pay something when Lorange is set at Liberty. I have been Unwell for some days past is the reason of my not having settled that matter before now. Indeed I wish you were here at the time for no person can settle business so well as those who gave credit

I am Dear Sir your most Obedient Humb<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> John Askin [Anderson] Merchant Fort Miamis

P. S. since writing I have send to Lorange who has given us bad answers & shews so little disposition to do what is

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

fair [that] I think we should keep him in as long as we can he depends on the Law setting him free & I think it will not, but you must be at court to Oppose him.

*Endorsed:* John Askin to M<sup>r</sup> John Anderson At Fort Miamis (Copy)

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Grand River 9<sup>th</sup> April 1801

Dear Sir I wrote you some time ago, but in Case of Mis-carriage, now write you on the same Subject, viz—The business M<sup>r</sup> Jones went about last fall.

I shall leave the Grand River the 3<sup>d</sup> of May, and shall be with you on the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> at farthest. It will be necessary, to have the Indians Handy, that I might see them & do What is necessary in the affair, so that the Bussiness May be completed immedeatly.

M<sup>r</sup> Augustus Jones joins me in best respects. and I remain Dear Sir your most obedient and very humble Servant

Jos. Brant

John Arskine Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Eskine Esquire, Detroit

*Endorsed:* Grand River April the 9<sup>th</sup> 1801 Cap<sup>t</sup> Brant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & answered same day.

NEWS FROM MONTREAL

Montreal 10 Aprile 1801

My dear old friend The day that I forget you will be my last. in the last Hour my wishes shall be for your happiness and that of your family. when the express left this I was absent in the Country which prevented my writing. that was one reason, but my dear Askin my mind is not at ease. I have this seven years been doing but little business, and what I did ended bad. lost by every thing that I toutched, and to mend the matter, a great part of the furs I shiped last fall was by the last ship saild so late that no insurance could be made and she is taken. I am continuing to eat up the little remaining, and unless I die soon there will be

nothing left. I think I have lived long enough. at a time of life when we should be enjoying the labours of our youth, we are vexed with disapointments and obliged to deprive ourselves of these comforts which we have been accustomed to is a misfortune. however a few years more and we will have no occation for anything and be on a footing with the rest of the World. [four lines cancelled] however providence knows what is best, a dependence on him is a relief against anything. we must all have our Share of misfortunes in this world. it may be necessary to prepare us for another. I will now quit this Melancholy subject and say that me and my family enjoys good health which is one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy in this life. I am sorry to find your eye is so bad that you cannot write. am in hopes it is only a slight disorder and that you will soon recover.

Our friend Jo Frobisher a few days ago heard of the Death of his favorite Daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Obrian being burnt to Death by her cloaths taking fire, and my old friend Comodore Grant before you receive this will be informed of Doct<sup>r</sup> Wrights Death in Jamaca, and his unfortunate Wife who on her returning to her parants, died at New York on her arrival, these are grievous Troubles, but we are all in the hand of the Almighty and he does what seemeth good unto himself, and for our good altho we cant see it. our friend Todd is well much better than for some years past. I now will give the politicks. M<sup>r</sup> Pitt and all his friends are out of the ministry and a new sett are in. The Emperor of Russia Denmark Sweden are all at war with great Brittan. Peace between france & the Emperor of Germany. Bonaparta the greatest man in the World. England in Great distress for bread, which has rais'd it up to two dollars here. Jefferson and his Democratic sett Governs America, which will soon bring on a War with Great Britain. the Hudsons Bay sale of Beaver was 20 p<sup>r</sup> C lower than last year and a bad appearance for all furs.

Now my dear Askin I have said all I have to say, and given you a true picture of things, which I have never done to any other, and it gives me pain to think that I have [ms. defaced] to communicate more pleasing to your feelings. dont [ms. defaced] something may Turn up when we least expect it.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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I am still in Hopes that you and I will meet somewhere and let what will happen there is nothing in this world will ever deprive me of that friendship & affection which I allways had for you & family. M<sup>rs</sup> Henry join me in our wishes for every good this world can bestow

[I] remain your affectionately  
Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* To John Askin Esquire, Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal April 10<sup>th</sup> 1801 Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec. the 15 & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> May

QUEST FOR HATTER'S MATERIALS

York 11<sup>th</sup> April 1801

Sir This is to introduce to you M<sup>r</sup> Cozens, a respectable Hatter here in good Custom, who comes to Detroit in Want of Materials, particularly Wool, for carrying on that Business, and which cannot be procured here. if you can help him with your advice to facilitate his procuring what he wants, you will find him a good young Man, and worthy of a little assistance; but he is a Stranger, and does not understand the French Language.

I hope to have the pleasure of hearing you are better by Commodore Grant in next Month. I received Charles's very handsome Letter, and am happy he can so write for his Father when it is inconvenient to him.

M<sup>rs</sup> Heward joins me in best Respects to all your Family. I am most truly

Your Obedient Hble Servant  
Hugh Heward

John Askin Esquire

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit favoured by Mr. Cozens

*Endorsed:* York April 11th 1801 M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Heward to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> May 1<sup>st</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

NEGOTIATIONS FOR CUYAHOGA GRANT

Detroit April the 17<sup>th</sup> 1801

Dear Sir Your favour of the 9<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> reached me today but your former letter I never received. I therefore wrote M<sup>r</sup> Jones on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March last my reasons why the Indians we purchased the Lands of could not be Assembled no doubt he has communicated to you the contents of that Letter as it was meant for that purpose it was undercover to you & sent by a Moravian Minister therefore I think could not have Misscarried. Tho there cannot be a Meeting of the Aforesaid Indians in may next for the purpose you mention, Yet if any Other Business calls you this way I will Always be happy to see you at my House & in the main time Remain

Dear Sir, your most Obedient  
Captain Brant at Grand River

*Endorsed:* DEtroit April 17<sup>th</sup> 1801 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to  
Captain Brant (Copy)

PROPOSAL FOR OPERATION OF *SAGUINAH*

Detroit April the 20<sup>th</sup> 1801

Dear Sir With no Other Intent than to facilitate the *Saguinahs* Voyage this Summer I think it would better for you to take the whole of the freight & say what you would Allow me let her make Little or much If this agreement takes place I mean to furnish my share for all Repairs & If the Vessell should be lost support my proportion of that also. but I not to pay any part of Cap<sup>t</sup> Fearsons wages or the crews or have any thing to do with their rations & The Vessell of coars will be Intirely Under your directions & you will send & Employ her as you think fit & the freight I have or can procure you shall get. but I can not keep back M<sup>r</sup> Geassons goods to wait for her. After you have Examined this matter with M<sup>r</sup> Park please call in any time & let me have your Answer

I am Dear Sir Your most Obed.  
George Meldrum, Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to George Meldrum Esq<sup>r</sup>



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 21 April 1801

Dear Sir We wrote you on the 20<sup>th</sup> by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Giassen & C<sup>o</sup> Boats and we are now to attend to your favour of 4 last December being the only letter received from you by the Express in winter. we regret exceedingly & are sorry for your Situation. it could not nor did it enter into our head that in so short time as transactions have passed between us and their small amount that your fixed property must be sold in order to enable you to pay the debt owing to our late firm. we conceived that on settling with Todd M<sup>c</sup>Gill & C<sup>o</sup> you remained with so much property in Goods, Debts & vessells as would put it in your power to be very punctual in future transactions. we have been unfortunately wrong in our opinion and we felt the disappointment more painful than any that had happened for many years which drew from us the remark which seems to have given you pain. we never entertained an Idea that were an accident to happen to you, the fixed property would not be forthcoming but have you reflected on the very unpleasant task that it would be for us to have even the appearance of severity to the widow of our Friend? we hope and trust that nothing of the kind will ever be necessary, that your health will continue to admitt of your attending to your own affaires & finishing yourself a business which has been productive of vexation to both Parties.

We now hand you continuation of your a/c with our late firm the balance on 10 Inst being £2155.18/9 also state of J. Anderson & C<sup>o</sup> acc<sup>t</sup> balance against them £35.1.9. & both Currency; of the latter some part will be paid when L<sup>t</sup> Backwells Bill is discharged; but as yet we cannot say the time and as to your own, you know our expectations and we shall therefore not add at present on that head.

We have had Sales of deer Skins from England & unfortunately they are very low. we do not think that all the Detroit ones have exceeded 4/6 S<sup>t</sup> & the charges are not less than 1/2. our Friends the Macgregors are better off by Six pence the skin.

As we shall have Goods to go up in Summer & packs to

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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come down, we mean everything that is to be landed, to be to your address in hope therefore that if you leave home there will be some person of confidence to act in your absence we have only to add that with great regard We are Dear Sir

Your very obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

James & And. M<sup>c</sup>Gill & C<sup>o</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal April the 21<sup>st</sup> 1801 James & And<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & C<sup>o</sup> to John Askin I dont know when rec<sup>d</sup>

DEALINGS WITH MORAVIAN INDIANS<sup>54</sup>

Fairfield May 6<sup>th</sup> 1801

Sir I received your favour of Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> by M<sup>r</sup> Barthe & tried all in my power to settle fairly the Affair respecting what our Indians owe You. You will find how much is settled of the debts. I could not get more this year, which you can see by the remarks I wrote to the Account. Samuel was not home, but as much as I know he had nothing at present to pay with. It is a very hard thing to collect old Debts by the Indians, because they look upon old Debts, as if they were paid.

Therefore I will recomand to You, to give no Indian much upon Credit. Their intention is to pay, when they take the Goods, but they do not consider, if they ever will be able, to do it. If You wish to continue trading with them, the best would be, that You send early in the Spring a Boat with Goods here & give the Man, who sells the Goods strict Orders, to give nothing out upon trust & to fetch the corn directly down. Because it is very difficult to save up Corn here, during the summer on account of the vermin.

We know out of experience, that no Indian understands [how] to trade. In the Beginning they pay good, but at last both the Merchant & the Indian will loose thereby. It is the same now with Ludwig. He died 2 years ago & left many Debts, which are now demanded of his poor widow. The

<sup>54</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

Missionaries can not mettle [meddle] with trading. Because in the first place it is hurtfull to their character as Missionaries. This was the case of one of our former Missionaries, who upon that Account had to leave the Mission. And then, we have no leisure at all to attend to it. I could show you it plainly, if we would have to see You once here on a Visit. Let me assure You, that I sometimes do not know, how to get time, to do all what belongs to my business & besides that I have to learn a very difficult language.

Respecting the Goods Mr Barthe left with Jacob last Year, I send You a Statement. M<sup>r</sup> Barthe takes the next down You will receive by This Opportunity the Corn & some skins, which are paid for it. Only 8 quart of Salt were not paid to Jacob. How much Corn you will get I do not know as yet, but I will mention it, before I close the letter. Jacob told our people that you wished they should add some Corn more for the Goods had of him, because You could not take the Corn for more than 4/ per Bush. Some came to me & asked me if the[y] should pay for the Goods twice. I told them Your meaning, but They said, if they had known it, that You would take the Corn only for 4/ they would never have bought any of the Goods, because they could sell that time their Corn for 6/ here on the River. Wheat is very scarce in the town & only few raise some. So are skins, because our people dont hunt much. I am very sorry that I could not accomplish the business to Your Satisfaction, but I am not able to do more, as I did. I have to add, that Jacob was obliged to throw away 15 Bush of Corn, which were quite spoiled by the Vermin. You will be so kind as to settle with Jacob in such a Manner, that he will have no damage by it, as it gave him much trouble.

Jacob had some Coffee & suggar from Charles Askin to trade with. He sends some skins for the payment & the next as you will find in the other Paper. Anne Mary (Molly) askes me to write you, that she had given 2 Bush of Wheat to Mr Barthe as a payment for Goods which she took last Year in Detroit.

We took from the Goods an Ax for £1, & an Adze £1 and a Scythe 8/ And as we have no corn to spare & sold our wheat, Mr Denke will settle it, when he goes down to Detroit

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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this year. Some little Things I took & paid in Wheat. We send by this Opportunity some Suggar as a little present to Mr<sup>s</sup> Askin & I will put to it some seeds of Spanish Beans & of a very good kind of Pumpkins. If our Indians had returned from Muskingum I would had the pleasure, to send Mr<sup>s</sup> Askin more Garden seeds but they did not arrive as yet

I am much obliged to Mrs Askin for the 2 twigs of Rose-trees, which she had the kindness to send me by Mr. Denke. I inoculated them in wild Rosebushes & they seem to thrive well. Mr<sup>s</sup> Oppelt sends her Compliments to Mr & Mr<sup>s</sup> Askin wherein I join her

I remain with much Esteem Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

Gottfr. Seb. Oppelt

P. S. Because M<sup>r</sup> Barthe could not load all the Corn left with Jacob at once, but means to send up a canoe or two from M<sup>r</sup> Trexelers to load the remainder, therefore I could not now mention the correct Number of Bushels & must postpone it till all is loaded.

*Addressed:* Mr. John Askin Sen. Esqu<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Fairfield May 6<sup>th</sup> 1801 the Reverand M<sup>r</sup> Oppelt to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Contents Ent<sup>d</sup>

AFFAIRS OF COMMODORE GRANT

Amherstburgh May 14<sup>th</sup> 1801

My dear Sir I have been this two days anxiously looking out for you & M<sup>r</sup> Robertson, hearing that both of you was coming down. about an hour ago, old Maisonvill come in and delivered me two letters from Gross Point which made me happy having not heard from there since I come down. M<sup>r</sup> Maisonvill told me that M<sup>r</sup> Baby had more letters from you to me; I imagine by that that you are not coming down nor Robertson. The *Ottawa* Sails for certain to morrow And if the wind is fair that in the morning.

My dear Sir I shall beg the favor of you to consult M<sup>rs</sup> Grant and answer Doctor M<sup>c</sup>Costrie letter as soon as possible. From the length of time it has been wrote, he

will naturally think it is our neglect. mention the time we received it.

I shall write to M<sup>r</sup> Francis Baby to direct the two Battalions to assemble when I mention'd to you before Please send him the regulation and the Copie of the return to be made the 4<sup>th</sup> of June. M<sup>r</sup> Duff Just arrived from Sandwich. Endeavour to get M<sup>rs</sup> Grant for a few days to your house, and then send her to stay [a] few days at M<sup>r</sup> Duffs.<sup>55</sup> It will do her a deal of good. The *ottawa* are loaded with flour. make my love to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and Compliments to M<sup>r</sup> Robertson. Jhon [John] your Son told me he comes Soon by land to York I shall hear from you by him. I had a letter to day from Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee mentioning his putting off going down till the *Francis* or next Vessel Sail'd Its a doubt with me if he do's not put it off for good & all. 5 oClock Friday 15<sup>th</sup> It looks a rainy dirty morning. I have the Commissions for Barthe & John. Youl please to make out Barths Company

Sencereley yours

A Grant

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh May 14<sup>h</sup> 1801 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin.

RESPONSE TO ISABELLA GRANT'S SUITOR

Detroit May the 14<sup>th</sup> 1801

Sir Your letter dated the 8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> last directed to Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant Esq<sup>r</sup> was received by him not long since and as he goes to morrow with some other of the Council for York is hurried therefore, has requested of me to answer it which I do conformable to their M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Grants sentiments and what they say the Young Ladys are. Theirs are never to force the inclination of their Children unless when the choice is very improper and as they do not think that the case in the present instance & they find their Daughters

<sup>55</sup> Phillis (Felicity) Grant, born, Aug. 29, 1782, married Alexander Duff, Jan. 20, 1801. He was the son of Rev. William Duff of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and had lived in Detroit for some years prior to the American occupation. He was subsequently barrack master in Amherstburg, where he died in June, 1809, and was buried in Christ Church yard. He and Mrs. Duff had three children, and their descendants are still found in Amherstburg. Information adapted from biography of Alexander Grant in Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXII, 177, and mss. in B. H. Coll.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

attachment still the same I'm authorized by them to say you may come here when you think fit and on their part you will not find any Opposition to the union you so much wish for.

I am Sir Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant  
Doctor M<sup>o</sup>Coskrey<sup>56</sup> in Camp on the borders of the Ohio  
16 miles below Masac

*Endorsed:* Detroit May 14<sup>th</sup> 1801 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Doctor  
M<sup>o</sup> Coskrey (Copy)

PROPERTY OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Detroit 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1801

Dear Sir, You have often heard of the delay & great amount of my outstanding debts in this quarter, & of the obstacles to their recovery. I am persuaded you know me too well to suppose any of my remarks, in the course of our different conversations, could have had any allusion to the balance you owe me. You have unfortunately experienced those delays & those obstacles yourself, & probably, in a greater extent than I. From a knowledge of you, for now near twenty years, I am convinced of your honour & integrity; & that as soon as you recover, even a part of those debts, or realise a part of the value of those lands you hold, you will be in a situation to do ample justice to your affairs; & I have not the least doubt of the rectitude of your own intentions, as will appear by the enclosed paper. I

<sup>56</sup> William McCoskry was born in Carlisle, Pa., about the year 1763. From 1778 to 1782 he served as surgeon's mate in the corps of Artillery Artificers, created by order of General Washington in 1777. He was surgeon's mate in the levies of 1791 and was present at St. Clair's defeat on November 4 of that year. He served subsequently in Wayne's campaign and came to Detroit with the American troops in 1796. A prior visit had been made in 1793 when he accompanied the Quaker peace delegation from Niagara to this place (journal of Joseph Moore, in *Friend's Miscellany*, VI, 298, 311). He evidently remained here long enough for the romance with which the present document deals to bud. It did not bear fruit, however, for in January, 1803, Isabella Grant became the wife of William Gilkison of Sandwich and in due course bore him eleven sons. McCoskry resigned his army commission in February, 1802. He subsequently took up private practice in Detroit, living for many years in a house on the corner of Woodbridge and Randolph streets. Here he died, May 16, 1831. On Sept. 21, 1814, he married Felicité Levasseur, who was born in Sandwich, Jan. 29, 1782, the daughter of Pierre Levasseur and Marie Ann Leseur. They had two children, a daughter, Felicité, and a son, Alfred. A nephew of Dr. McCoskry was Bishop Samuel A. McCoskry. Data derived from sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 209-10; Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*; Assumption Church Register; obituary note in *Detroit Democratic Free Press and Michigan Intelligencer*, May 19, 1831; and papers of William McCoskry preserved in B. H. Coll.

think I may pay the same tribute to those who may succeed you; & with accompanying that tribute, with a confidence they will justify my expectation, & that of those who may succeed me. As long as I am on the spot, or in this country, I can act in my own affairs myself, as I think best; those that might succeed me, might, possibly not know you or your family so well as I have had occasion to do. It is therefore I enclose you this paper (alluded to above) for your own satisfaction; because I have some thoughts of going to Europe for my health, but am by no means finally determined to go further than the city of Quebec to see my little daughter. I will thank you to pay attention to those matters pointed out in my note of 23<sup>d</sup> instant, as well as to any others that m[ay] occur in my absence relating to my own personal affairs & lands in this country, or under our government of Upper Canada; where I hope soon my claims for lands will be completed, as they are now in a train of adjustment by the commissioners report & the activity of the Legislative (Executive I should have said) Council. If my time permit[s] me to go to York I shall endeavour to stimulate their exertions, on this point; either by speaking to His Excellency, to whom I have for some years had the honour of being personally known; or, by memorial to his Executive Council; at all events, do me the favour to reiterate my claims to the commissioners who may come up this summer. Knowing how well you are acquainted with the affairs of this quarter in general, and of my own, I think it unnecessary to detain you by being more particular. I therefore conclude, with assurances of esteem & regard, & remain, Dear Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

William Robertson

N.B. Some papers from the U. States that have lately come in, & which I have been looking over, have taken away somewhat from the keenness of my appetite for a voyage to my native country. France, Holland, Swisserland, Italy, Egypt, Spain; Denmark, Sweden, & above all, Russia, combined against us! tis too much! Some of those Chaps may take me & Lucy, and carry us the Lord

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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knows wither. I believe I had better stay on this side the water, for the present; & keep out of their way.  
To John, Askin, Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Letter & inclosure to John Askin, Esq<sup>r</sup> from W. R.

RELATIVES OF JOHN ASKIN<sup>57</sup>

Detroit May the 26<sup>h</sup> 1801

Dear sir Your very kind Letter dated the 16 June last at Drimcar reached me so late, that I could not have answered it before the winter Express left this in February & then my Eyes were so sore that I could not. I'm sorry you are disapointed in not finding the Brother you so tenderly seek for I'm the son of a James Askin of [Strabane] in the north of Ireland neither him or any of his Family I Ever heard of has come to this Country & I'm sorry to say I fear they are all dead Except a Sister which I hear is in England I was brought up with my Grandfather John Rae within a mile & an half of Dungannon & on his Death came to this Country. It gives me great pleasure to hear that M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Clintock<sup>58</sup> was well. I Esteemed him very much. he was a Good Clerk and a worthy young man. I [am] sorry he did not stay with me & take a part of my Business If you see him after you receive this, please Asure him of my best wishes.

I remain with much Esteem Dear Sir

Your most Obedient very humble Servant

M<sup>r</sup> James Erskin at Drimcar near Dunleer County of Leith Ireland

AFFAIRS AT GRANT CASTLE

Detroit June the 2<sup>d</sup> 1801

My Dear sir Several Letters which I wrote you are still here Owing to M<sup>r</sup> Robertson's having lost his Passage both

<sup>57</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>58</sup> Probably James McClintock, a former clerk of Askin, who subsequently returned to Ireland.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

in the *Thames & Nancy* By the *Charlotte* who I Expect Every hour he certainly will go & take this & the Other Letters with him. Johny Askin<sup>59</sup> was at Gross Point Yesterday & by him M<sup>rs</sup> Grant desires I may write you to get the Child<sup>60</sup> from New York by all means & [send her] up here. in this I think she is very [sensible]. she also wishes that no part of the late M<sup>rs</sup> Wrights Cloths may be sold but that M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Comb may be directed to forward them to the [this] Place. Johny Grant<sup>61</sup> is just come down all well. M<sup>rs</sup> Duff at Gross Point. all here well I wrote Doctor M<sup>c</sup>Croskey long since. In haste

Your most truly

Commodore Grant at York

*Endorsed:* Detroit June the 2<sup>d</sup> 1801 John Askin Senior to Commodore Grant at York Coppy

NEWS FROM QUEENSTON

Queenstown June 15<sup>th</sup> 1801

My Dear Sir \* \* \* \*<sup>62</sup> I am on a great many Accounts happy that you have decided to remain at Detroit as upon mature reflection I think it more to your advantage, and in coming here you would be quite at a loss from the unfortunate state of Contention and Strife in which our little Society is at present involved, and from which I see no Prospect of being Soon Extricated.

As I have been a principal though unwillingly in bringing matters to this Crisis I would from a desire to Explain to You my motives and reasons give you a detail of particulars, but as the matter has been by me laid before a Court of Justice I defer biassing any of my friends and trust to a

<sup>59</sup> Jean B. Askin, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 69.

<sup>60</sup> Therese Wright, the Commodore's granddaughter, for whom see *ibid.*, 461.

<sup>61</sup> John (Jean) Grant was an adopted son of Alexander Grant. He was brought to Detroit about the year 1781 by a Chippewa war party, returning from a raid upon the American frontier. He was then a child of about three years of age, and ignorant alike of his name and his birthplace. The Grants purchased the waif, gave him a home and name, and reared him to manhood. In 1803 he married Judith Campau of Detroit. He lived at Grosse Pointe until an advanced age and reared a large family. See *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VI, 78; and sketch in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, III, 299 ff.

<sup>62</sup> The portion of the letter here omitted deals with various matters of but slight present-day interest.

Verdict of my Country for a Vindication of my Conduct. I have however requested Captain Gilkison, who is acquainted with the merits of the business, to give you an account of it.

I had a Jaunt to Pittsburgh this Spring and there met a Number of Your very old acquaintances, all of whom ask'd very cordially about You, & It gave me real pleasure to give them Satisfactory Answers to their enquiries.

By some of our Niagara Papers now forwarded you will see the debates of the wise men at York. they are not very elegantly reported and are only interesting from their immediate relation to Ourselves.

M<sup>r</sup> Clark left this for Kingston & Montreal on the 26<sup>h</sup> Ultimo. he is building a Kentucky Boat at the former place, in which he intends going to Quebec with 350 Barrels of Our flour. it will (I imagine) be the first Boat of the kind that ever descended the Saint Lawrence and interests all the Mercantile people of this part of the Country very much. it has I imagine left Kingston by this time, and I think we shall have accounts of its destiny in about a fortnight.<sup>63</sup>

The Quantity of Flour going down this year from the District of Niagara is immense, say upon a moderate calculation Five thousand Barrels, which for the first Year is really very great. we have taken great pains to have *ours* of a good quality and I think it will command a good price. The prospects of good Crops next Harvest are really flattering but I sincerely hope (though against my own interest) that the Same calamity may never again happen in any Part of the world.

\* \* \* \*64

<sup>63</sup> For the outcome of this experiment see *post*, 353. The Kentucky boat, or "broad-horn," was the chief vehicle of freight transportation on the western rivers of the United States until displaced by the advent of the steamboat. "They were," says Hulbert, "great, pointed, covered hulks carrying forty or fifty tons of freight and manned by almost as many men. They were the great freighters of the larger rivers, descending with the current and ascending by means of oars, poles, sails, and cordelles—ropes by which the craft was often towed from the shore." See Archer B. Hulbert, *Waterways of Westward Expansion: The Ohio River and Its Tributaries* (Cleveland, 1903), 113 ff.

<sup>64</sup> The section omitted is devoted to comments by the writer upon the course of the European war.

16<sup>th</sup> I this moment learn that Doctor Richardson and his Family arrived last night at Fort George on their way to St<sup>t</sup> Josephs where they are to be Stationed. You will therefore have a Visit from them in a Short time which will I am Sure give you all great pleasure, though that will receive some alloy from the dreary prospect they have before them however as Lieut Cowell<sup>65</sup> the intended Commandant & Doctor Lee<sup>66</sup> the Garrison Surgeon are both married men, the Society will be rather better than it has hitherto been.

I hope My Dear Sir that you will let me hear from you by every convenient opportunity, and be assured that I shall ommit none, on my part to testify my Esteem & respect

In requesting an Affectionate remembrance to my young Friends, and my very respectful Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> and the Miss Askins, I fulfill a very pleasing duty, and in assuring you of my sincere regard I always am My Dear Sir,

Your Obliged Humble Servant

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston June 15<sup>h</sup> 1801 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> July 8<sup>h</sup>

STATUS OF VINCENNES DEBTORS

John Askin Esquire, Detroit.

Sir Your Letter of the 6 May last has been received; a double of its inclosure had been already transmitted.

The real Estate of the late Paul Gamelin has been sold by the Sheriff, and I became purchaser of the greater part of it, because it did not rise to near the value in my opinion.

<sup>65</sup> Robert Cowell was commissioned lieutenant in the Queen's Rangers, June 19, 1793. In 1796 he was stationed at Fort Chippewa. His command of St. Joseph had terminated prior to January, 1804, when Capt. Alexander Clerk had charge of that post. On Sept. 10, 1803, he was commissioned captain in the Fourth Battalion of Reserves. See British army lists, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*; and *Simcoe Papers*, IV, 344.

<sup>66</sup> William Lee, hospital mate, was appointed to St. Joseph Island in the spring of 1801 to succeed Dr. David Brown, whose health had failed. On Nov. 29, 1803, Mrs. Lee died at St. Joseph, leaving three small children, and Dr. Lee asked to be relieved in order to convey his children to Quebec. He was still at St. Joseph in July, 1804, and in November, 1805, he testified before a court of inquiry in Amherstburg. Presumably he is identical with William Lee Sr. who served as surgeon of Canadian militia in the War of 1812, and died in York, July 1, 1833, aged seventy years. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*, and Irving, *op. cit.*, 34.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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The Governor purchased a part, and I am in expectation of disposing of my purchase, which was made for your use, to him at an advance, payable at a period not very distant. A few acres near the Town were well sold, which will put me in Cash for Costs. After I shall have entered satisfaction for so much, at our August Court, I shall transmit the Judgment to you, that you may obtain Execution in your Court of Common Pleas to sell the Tract of Four Arpents by Forty, situate at Monguagon, granted by Bellêtre to Paul Gamelin, of which the W<sup>o</sup> [widow] has delivered me the Grant agreeably to her proposition. Of the great Sum, proposed by the W<sup>o</sup> to be ceded to you whereof the Vouchers have been received by me as your Agent, but a Small part I am sorry to inform you will ever be received. I have in the Instance of Laderoute who owed 4000<sup>n</sup>, taken his Note with Interest payable to you, and to enable him to pay I have aided him in establishing his claims to land, which will soon be acted on by the Governor

The amount realised, and there is not more to be expected, on the Mortgage [of] Bergand to Adhemar which was for about 9000<sup>n</sup> does not authorise the conclusion you have suggested in your Postscript. The mortgaged Property of Pelletier in the list you enclosed, was, soon after the execution of that act, abandoned by him, and there is nothing remaining but the bare Lot, which will not sell for 25 Dollars. He is out of this Country and has not any other property in it. I have determined for your Interest, not to commence suits except in cases which apparently will Justify it. Before I instituted that against the Adm<sup>r</sup> of Bosseron I proposed to settle on terms which I believed equitable, and which certainly would have been approved by you, but he tho't otherwise. The points on which we differed were, the value of livres, owing to an ambiguous wording of one of the Obligations, and the In<sup>t</sup> on all. I insisted that three of them equalled a Dollar, he contended for four. Upon condition he admitted my construction & agreed to relinquish half the In<sup>t</sup> provided he would empower DuBois to pay you in May last at Detroit or me here in Cash, which I had reason to think and believe he would have acceded to, in consequence of Stipulations with his

Correspondants for Peltry. I made those proposals last year to the Adm<sup>r</sup> who I believe would have closed with me, had not his Partner in trade and brotherinlaw, who has taken adm<sup>n</sup> on the Estate of the W<sup>o</sup> Bosseron with a view of absorbing the Estate in satisfaction of her marriage Contract, to the injury of the Creditors, prevailed on him to suffer himself to be sued, which I immediately bro't and expect to have Judgment at August Term, before any other. DeBois then was very incorrect indeed when he informed you he was one of the Jury and that the Judgment was about 800 Dollars. It is yet uncertain what it may be: I shall use every exertion to encrease it; and I have the pleasure to acquaint you that there is property to satisfy it, of which you shall be duly informed. Meeting with Sutherland was a fortunate circumstance, which put it in my power to remit you in Cash. I shall be extremely happy to comply with your wishes in transmitting you Bills or Cash in my future remittances. It will be necessary that you and the others concerned in Gamelins Debt should inform me of your respective shares. I shall keep seperate Accounts for your and Adhemars Matters, which are in my knowledge, but I am unacquainted with the shares in that Debt. It is not with M. Vigo as you have been told. he will not have property to pay his Debts; and what is worse he is not very solicitous to pay them I called on him this morning, having long before communicated your answer as it regarded him, and asked him when you should expect money; he replied that I knew he had none, that his situation did not admit of transacting business so as to collect any, and that he expected a little more indulgence. I intimated that I would accept of some Town Lots he owns, and altho' I was not authorised by you, that I would accept of some land and Obligations I knew he had for your Debt, but he waived the subject and plainly hinted that you must wait a while. Should the Miamis Company distress him, he will not have any property to pay you. I have determined if they direct suit to be bro't against him; which they will probably do 'ere long, to engage him to admit your Debt in Judgment before that due to the Company; and in the mean time I shall endeavour to secure it for you.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I have obtained Judgment against the Sister of Renaud<sup>67</sup> your Debtor, she inherited of her brother. On his death his sister's Husband who is now dead obtained adm<sup>n</sup> from an unauthorised Court formerly at this Place, and took possession of his Effects. He had two valuable Slaves besides a considerable parcel of Pelleteries which he was conducting to Detroit I presume for you. I believe Vigo acted then for you. The Slaves were vendued and Vigo and Col. Hamtramck purchased them much below their value. The Sister who is ignorant has assured me of this and that she and her Husband were much deceived at the disappointment of not receiving *any Thing*, from so considerable an Estate. Three years before I was entrusted with by you to manage your business in this Country this Woman sold me four hundred acres of land which The United States had granted to her brother as a head of a Family in the Illinois; and I had paid her for it. Now it is possible that our Courts would determine that the lands of Renaud should be liable for his debts altho' the Heir had sold them bona fide before suit bro't. These considerations have not deterred me from sueing the Sister, who may not be able to pay your demand, nor repay me the price of her brothers land. I shall issue an Execution in due time; but I shall expect your Instructions in so peculiar a Circumstance, before I proceed on the Execution against the land.

With great regard, I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> and much obliged h<sup>l</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Will. M<sup>c</sup>Intosh

Postvincents 15. June 1801.

*Endorsed:* Post Vincent June 15<sup>h</sup> 1801 Mr W<sup>m</sup>  
M<sup>c</sup>Intosh to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> July 9<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>.

GIFT OF SITE OF STRABANE ACKNOWLEDGED

Detroit June the 24<sup>th</sup> 1801

My Dear sir Your very kind Letter dated the 15<sup>th</sup> May last reached me Yesterday. That of the 12<sup>th</sup> April I answered fully by our good friend M<sup>r</sup> Robertson In a short

<sup>67</sup> Antoine Renaud, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 320.

time I will send you ready for Execution the deed of Gift which your unbounded Friendship dictates you to make.<sup>68</sup> I hope your reward will be in a better world In this I know you neither Expect nor wish to have any. however should the wheel of fortune bring me or mine up in a future day we will talk over this matter on an other footing.

You have my most Sincere Thanks as well as those of John for your Application in his behalf to his Excellency General Hunter whether the Appointment takes place or not I hope his Conduct in Office should it take place will never give you cause to repent having been his Security.<sup>69</sup> In general we are tolerable well, but I'm Often ailing tho hot weather [agrees] with me best. We jointly wish that happiness may be your Lot here & hereafter Adieu my Dear Friend

Your most truly

Isaac Todd Esquire at Montreall

*Endorsed:* Detroit June the 24<sup>th</sup> 1801. John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Isaac Todd Esquire Merchant Montreall Copy

INDEBTEDNESS OF WILLIAM SMITH

29<sup>th</sup> June 1801

Sir after my Respects to you I must inform you that I'am Now in Jail for a Writ of five hundred Dollars Damages in your favour I have [torn] thing to Observe to you that Is you Will please to inform me What these Damages is if you Do not inform me that immediately I Shall observe to you that my Resolution is this that I mean Either to Lis't as a Soldier or take the Benefit of the Act for I am not Able to Support myself here in prison I have Suffered a Long time over the River in the prison and have Expend[ed] all my property your answer to this or your person present at this prison Will oblige your humbl[e] Svt

William Smith

John Askins Esq<sup>re</sup>

<sup>68</sup> The land given was the tract opposite Belle Isle on which Askin, on removing from Detroit, built his home, Strabane.

<sup>69</sup> The allusion is to the position of collector of customs at Amherstburg, which John Askin Jr. held from 1801 to 1807.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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*Addressed:* John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup> present

*Endorsed:* Detroit June the 29<sup>th</sup> 1801 W<sup>m</sup> Smith to John Askin rec<sup>d</sup> the 29<sup>th</sup> & answ<sup>d</sup> same date.

INDEBTEDNESS OF WILLIAM SMITH

Sir I have sued you for a debt, good[s] furnished & never paid for, and not Damages, and if you do not make me some payment out of your wages, I will not set you at liberty & perhaps you may find yourself mistaken both as to being a Soldier or geting the benefit of [the] act

Y<sup>r</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

June 29<sup>th</sup> 1801.

*Endorsed:* Detroit June 29<sup>th</sup> 1801. John Askin Senior to W<sup>m</sup> Smith. (Copy)

INDEBTEDNESS OF WILLIAM SMITH

29 June 1801

Sir I Rec<sup>d</sup> your answer to my first this morning informing me that it was Dept that I am sude for Sir please to Bring forward your ac[c]t and Settle With me and if Right I Will pay you one half of my Wages on Sight & the other half I must pay to M<sup>r</sup> Gowy<sup>70</sup> I Will Do any thing that is Right With my Creditors I hope you Will understand me and Come and See me or inform me of the ac[c]t in Righting Dont Delay the Business Look on my family and you as a man of feeling of thare Distress you Will Certainly Rather Deliberat[e] me from prison than keep me in Confinement Whare I Can Earn nothing Reflect Call and See me I Remain your Obt Humble Sert

William Smith

John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit June 29 1801 William Smith to John Askin Senior rec<sup>d</sup> the 29<sup>th</sup> no answer made

<sup>70</sup> Probably Robert Gouie of Sandwich, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 308.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

ACTIVITIES IN YORK

York July 4<sup>th</sup> 1801

My dear M<sup>r</sup> Askin Your several letters both by Robertson & maisonvill are received by me, which has made me very happy being the first intellengence received from [your] place Since my departure; Only a short letter from M<sup>rs</sup> Grant the 20<sup>th</sup> of may. Robertson & Maisonvill arrived here the day before yesterday. poor Robertson. as he tells me and indeed his looks and appearance show it; that he had been near deaths door for four days at M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton at Q—town And that it was a mericle his escape

I suspect he & maisonvill has been keeping up the ball freely

All the oppertunity I have had yet of speaking to His Excellency Since I received your letters, was only to make him your most profound respects. And that you was happy that the Complaint made to your disadvantage, was made to a gentleman of generosity and Candore. His Answer was he never gave it the least credit, And he was glad you kept your health

Clauss,<sup>71</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee and Selby are all here now. Selby stays with us, as I may say. the old lady<sup>72</sup> and David are as civil and kind to me as possible. I am much indeed pressed for the Returns of the militia of our County by the General. Why in the name of god did not M<sup>r</sup> F. Baby send them down by maisonvill; Your militia business I had no oppertunity yet to speake to the Gener<sup>l</sup> or Major Green about We are very much hurried, or Confined to business in our Legislative Capacity owing at the begining of the Session every thing were kept the most of the time in a Confusion, from

<sup>71</sup> Colonel William Claus, son of Daniel Claus and grandson of Sir William Johnson. William was born in Williamsburg, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1765. His mother was Ann (Nancy) Johnson, and one of his uncles was Sir John Johnson, one of the most noted loyalists of the Revolution, and after 1783, Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs in North America. By reason of his family connections, Claus enjoyed the confidence of the Iroquois, and on June 13, 1796, he was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Niagara. On the death of Colonel Alexander McKee, in 1799, Claus succeeded him as Deputy Superintendent-General and Deputy Inspector-General of Indian Affairs. He died at Niagara, in 1826. See *Simcoe Papers*, IV, *passim*; Carnochan, *Hist. of Niagara*, *passim*; and Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>72</sup> Apparently Mrs. Smith, widow of Major John Smith, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 407, 441.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

the members of the lower house (of which many new ones) were continually bringing forward their receiving their wages out of the treasury, which would not be admitted of by the Upper house. We imagine once from this dispos[ition] of the lower house no business would be gone through at all

But the good Sense, prudence, And mangement of our friend David Smith *Speaker* brought within this few days matters about with good feeding [feeling] of them &c. &c. that every thing will in few days be finished to the Satisfaction of the Country & Governor &c. &c. Yesterday there was an election for a member in place of Judge Alcock, who tryed every means and did not leave a Stone unturned to keep his Seat but could not—tho the House and principle Gent<sup>m</sup> wished much his remaining—Smal Plater,<sup>73</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Aully<sup>74</sup> & Angus M<sup>c</sup>Donald<sup>75</sup> were Candidets. the latter, by a majority of about 200, are elected

Our friend Hamilton finding Robertson upon his arrival here in such debilitated state applyed immediately to the General for the schooner *Toronto* to bring them over to niagara You cannot imagine the Change in R. looks since I saw him at your house.

I have not heard from Macomb since I wrote him the 23<sup>d</sup>

<sup>73</sup> Apparently George Playter, a native of England who lived many years in Philadelphia. Here he became a Quaker and married a woman of this sect, but on the outbreak of the Revolution he abandoned his Quaker creed and enlisted as a loyalist for military service. The date of his removal to Upper Canada we have not learned, but presumably the removal was a consequence of the service noted. He was living in Toronto as late as 1821. He had a family of several sons and one daughter. Data adapted from Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 287-88, *et passim*.

<sup>74</sup> Probably Dr. James Macaulay, army surgeon. He was born in Scotland in 1759, and became surgeon in the Thirty-third Regiment about the year 1785. He came to Upper Canada with the Queen's Rangers and was stationed at Kingston and Niagara. He was subsequently appointed deputy inspector general of hospitals. In 1790 he married Elizabeth Hayter, by whom he had several sons and daughters. One son became colonel of the Royal Engineers; another a clergyman; another an attorney; and another Chief Justice of Common Pleas of Upper Canada. In 1817 Dr. Macaulay married (second) Rachel Crookshank. He removed from Niagara to Toronto when the capital was established there, and seems to have resided there until his death, the date of which has not been learned. James Street and Teraulay Street are named in his honor. Data adapted from *ibid.*, 307, *et passim* and Robertson, *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe*, 118-19.

<sup>75</sup> Allan MacDonell was a native of Scotland who, in 1773, settled in the Mohawk Valley. He was a loyalist in the Revolution, and at its close migrated to Canada, locating in Glengarry County on the St. Lawrence. He died in 1792. Angus MacDonell, his eldest son, became an attorney, and in 1792 was appointed the first clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. An account of this election to the legislature is given by Scadding in his *Toronto of Old*, 249, and of his death on 293. He was drowned in Lake Ontario, Oct. 7, 1804, when the *Speedy* was lost. See Scadding, *op. cit.*, and Wallace, *op. cit.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

of may from Queenstown I expect to hear from him every day. I wish sincerely the Child could arrive before I left Niagara for the upper Country The Chief gos up for certain and in all probability, he & I will keep Company his mother is come from England and at his house I had a letter yesterday from Major Green regarding the Return of the militia for June last. I shall inclose it to Francis Baby for god sake speak to him to send the Return. This letter go's by Captain Elliot—I had not a line from my family which surprizes me.

My love as usual to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, Alice Charles James &c. &c.

*Friday* I think monday we will be dismissed.

The Captain had been here seven or eight days before Therese come over she being prevail<sup>d</sup> on to stay at Captain Clauss's. She is here now but says she never will [torn] behind him Again. her absence from him Changed her [torn] for the worse, he gos on as usual taken every [torn] Ga—us & others of that stamp are his attendance

Yours with every kind [torn] for all of you. god almighty may bless you Say

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

Comp<sup>ts</sup> to Johnny & his ladie.

John Askin

P. S. The Glorious news of Copenheagon and Gener<sup>l</sup> Abercrombie<sup>76</sup> ho-ra ho-ra for old England A Grant

Remember me to our American friends at Detroit A G.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit favored by Captain Elliot

*Endorsed:* York July 4<sup>h</sup> 1801 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Sir Ralph Abercromby (1734-1801), the foremost British general of his time, was given the task in October, 1800, of driving the French out of Egypt. On March 21, 1801, he decisively defeated the French army, but was himself fatally wounded, dying on March 28. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Queenstown July 25<sup>th</sup> 1801

Dear Sir \* \* \* \* You may perfectly rely on every Exertion in my power to Procure freight for any Vessel in which you may be interested, but at present there is not a Single package of Chance freight on the Communication, nor is there any expected that I know of. all that I can do shall be done and [I] hope that something may turn up.

Two days ago I had a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Clark. he arrived at Montreal with his Ark containing 340 Barrels Flour in 10 Days from Kingston, and has proceeded with it to Quebec where I hope he will sell it to advantage.

He is much pleased with the Mode of conveyance, and I presume from the very great Saving, it will be generally adopted. You will See by the Niagara paper that Parliament have taken the Hemp Business into consideration and have determined to give the Culture of that article every Support in their power. for this we are much indebted to M<sup>r</sup> Selby's Exertions at York, for without the Steps which he took the Business would have fallen to the ground; Your Estate on the Lake S<sup>t</sup>Clair appears to me well calculated for the growth of that article and I think you & M<sup>r</sup> Barthe should make an Experiment with four or five Acres of it the Expence will not be great & the profit is certain

I have forwarded to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin the News papers: and the 1<sup>st</sup> Volume of the History of England to Charles. the others shall follow in a few days & I hope he will make a good use of them

There is no prospect of getting any price in Cash for Sugar. therefore [I] don't think it advisable for you to Send any down, as the risk of its lying a long time on hand is almost certain

We would take a quantity of Cyder from you provided we could make payment in any other manner than *Cash* for that is not to be had. if it would suit you to Barter it for Salt or Whiskey We would take Twenty or Thirty Barrels at all events Send us two of your own making for *Home Consumption* and let it, if you please, be put into Sweet Barrels.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

To Your Family I request you will present my Sincere regards. they always have my best wishes and in Assuring you of my respectful Attachment I remain—Dear Sir  
Your Obliged Friend & very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Queenston July 25<sup>th</sup> 1801 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichols to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> the 8<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> in part same day Answ<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> the 12<sup>th</sup>

INFORMATION ON CULTURE OF HEMP

Detroit August 8<sup>th</sup> 1801

Dear sir I<sup>m</sup> this Instant favoured with Your kind Letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> last month & as the *Saguinah* is just going to Sail & that I<sup>m</sup> Anxious to adopt any mode of Lime [living] by which I can honestly make a profit, Please let me know what is the proper soil for Hemp how & when plowed & prepared; when to be sown & Ever[y] Other Information to the culture thereof & also provide & point out to me how I can get seed. In haste Dear Robert

Yours truly

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nichol at Queenston

*Endorsed:* Aug<sup>t</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1801. John Askin S<sup>r</sup> to Robert Nichol Merchant Coppy

INFORMATION ON CULTURE OF HEMP

Queenstown Aug<sup>t</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1801

My Dear Sir I hasten to reply to your favor of the 8<sup>h</sup> instant respecting the Culture of Hemp as I consider it at present an Object of vast Magnitude to your part of the Country. Yet as my present Engagements will (for at least some time to come) prevent me from Entering So much into detail on the business as I could wish—I forward a Volume—the property of *our Agriculture Society* (which I know you will take good care of) containing a great deal of very correct information on that very interesting subject, in addition to which I shall as often as opportunities will allow transmit you such further information as I may be able to obtain relative to it.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

There is no prospect of procuring seed from this quarter. I therefore advise you to take immediate Steps for procuring it from Kentucky where I understand it is very abundant. I at the same time take the liberty of Suggesting the utility of instituting a Society for promoting the Culture of Hemp and obtaining a Supply of Seed, which would give the business a Stimulus superior to any to be expected from the Exertions of an Individual Your plain or Prairie Lands at the Mouths of the Thames Ruscum & Peches Rivers appear to me well calculated for raising Hemp, and I think they might be easily brought to a proper tilth, to Effect which the Grass Should immediately be set fire to & the Quantity wanted for use plowed up very deep this fall that it may be mellowed by the frost. it will require three more ploughings in the Spring (for it must be very mellow), and three Bushels of Seed to the Acre is I understand the common allowance

I inclose the Resolutions of the Society of Arts and Commerce of which I hope you may be able to avail Yourself.

The Bounty for raising and Exporting will more than Pay the Charges of Cultivating & the produce of an Acre which you may within bounds estimate at half a Ton will be a very handsome allowance for Curing transporting rent of Land & risk.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merch<sup>t</sup> Detroit with a Book

*Endorsed:* Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1801 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>

REMOVAL OF DR. RICHARDSON TO ST. JOSEPH

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 6<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1801

Dear Sir We arrived here safe on the 31<sup>t</sup> after a verry pleasant passage. We have now had time to look round us and I assure [you] I by no means think S<sup>t</sup> Josephs so bad as we had every reason to believe from all accounts given us. We have got a comfortable lodging belonging to the Girl that lives with M<sup>r</sup> Frero A[t] the rent of thirty dollars

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

p<sup>r</sup> annum. There appear to be plenty of vegetables and we are told the Indians in the Spring and fall bring plenty of fish Ducks &.

If you can manage to Send us an ox one or Two Barrels of flour Two or Three Barrels of Corn and a few fowls I have no doubt we will make out very well I have wrote to Montreal some time ago for some Things, among others for a Barrel of salt however as They may not arrive in time to come from [?] you will please Send me a Keg of best Salt. If Flournoy returns here he will willingly bring up any thing for me and will call on his way Up, but with respect to the ox it will be better not to depend on his vessel. I will write to Col. Smith to request he will allow the Kings vessel to call opposite to your place for any Thing you may have for me.

I hope John is a good boy and attentive to his Grand Papa. Madlaine frets a little some times about him, but I am perfectly easy myself as I am certain he is with his best frinds, next to ourselves. We are all Thank God in perfect health, which blessing we Sincerely hope will be long continued to you and yours. Will you please Send us a pepper or Coffe mill, by the first oportunity. If You can make it any way convenient I shall be glad if you can Sittle with M<sup>r</sup> Mac Intosh an account of M<sup>r</sup> Cowell for £24. the one half to be charged to me the other to M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton Any time this fall will answer M<sup>r</sup> Cowell Madlaine joins me in best wishes to you and The whole family and I am Dear Sir

Most Sincerely and Affectionaty your

R. Richardson

P.S. I took The liberry [liberty] of drawing on you for £2. in favor of M<sup>r</sup> G. Cottrel<sup>77</sup> on the River St. Clair

will you also send if you please a tin Cullender if there is any such thing to be found.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit.

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Aug<sup>t</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1801 Doc<sup>r</sup> Richardson to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>

<sup>77</sup> For the career of George Cottrell, see *B. H. R.*, I, 195.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

TUITION BILL OF REV. DAVID BACON

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

To David Bacon D<sup>r</sup>

For instructing his son Alex<sup>r</sup> from the first of June to the 25<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>t</sup> one third of the time in writing at 12/ per month, the other in arithmetic at 14/ per month.....£1 " 16 " 6  
For instructing Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant<sup>78</sup> the above mentioned time in writing..... 1 " 13 " 0  
For instructing his son Charles & James, a half a month each, in english grammer & geography, at 16/ per month..... 0 " 16 " 0  
For instructing John Richardson in reading from the 17<sup>th</sup> of July to the 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> at 10/ per month 0 " 12 " 6  
For instructing his daughter Elenor in reading, writing & sewing, from the first of June to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August at 12/ per month..... 1 " 13 " 0  
For finding ink & quills for three of the above, at 6/10 each..... 1 " 0 " 6  

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£7 11 " 6

Rec<sup>d</sup> payment in full for the above August 29<sup>th</sup> 1801  
David Bacon

Contents en<sup>d</sup> the 30<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1801

*Endorsed:* M<sup>r</sup> Bacon's bill for schooling August 1801  
(paid as per receipt affixed)

MISCONDUCT OF INDIAN SLAVE

Sandwich 14 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1801

Dear Sir M<sup>r</sup> Barths Pawney Man has been brought before M<sup>r</sup> Francois Baby for having Assaulted and Beat J. B.

78 Alexander Grant, only son of the Commodore, was born in Detroit, March 19, 1791. In the summer of 1802 Simon McTavish of Montreal offered to "take care of his education and future prospects in life," if the Commodore would send him down to Montreal for this purpose. See *post*, 389 for the date of his departure from Detroit. McTavish died in July, 1804, but a legacy of £1000 to the boy made provision for the fulfillment of his promise. On completing his education, Grant entered the army, and at the age of nineteen was commissioned lieutenant in the Canadian Fencibles, then stationed at Quebec. He later at-



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Nadau.<sup>79</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Baby from Indisposition not being able to act has desired me to acquaint you with the Circumstance and Judging that M<sup>r</sup> Barths property must be much exposed in the absence of his Man wishes to know whether you & M<sup>r</sup> Barth will be security for his appearance at the next General Quarter Sessions.

I remain Dear Sir with respect

Your hbl Serv<sup>t</sup>

Will<sup>m</sup> Hand

*Addressed:* John Askin Senior Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Sandwich Sep<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1801 W<sup>m</sup> Hands Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Ans<sup>d</sup> Same day.

WRECK OF THE *HARLEQUIN*

Detroit September, 21<sup>st</sup> 1801

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir, The arrival of the Sloop (*Good Intent*) on saturday last from Presque Isle, and no accounts of the schooner *Harlequin*, having been seen or heard of confirms me in opinion that her and the Crew are totaly lost.<sup>80</sup> the stroke is a very severe one for me, the effects of which I shall feel for a long time; perhaps the rest of my days. the loss of my Negro man, will probably be the cause of my loseing the negro woman, who ever since the misfortune happend, has been delirious and is now very Ill, in bed; being now deprived of two of the best servants, in this country, my sittiuation is very distressing, unless you will condecend to let your Boy George, remain with me until I can have time to look about for a servant, his Mother is very anxious to have him stay

tained the rank of major. Upon retiring from the army he settled in Brockville, where he died, unmarried, some time in the sixties. See George F. MacDonald's biography of Commodore Grant in Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXII, 176, and letters in the Askin papers, *passim*.

<sup>79</sup> For the Nadeau family line see *B. H. R.*, I, 318. The individual mentioned in the present document has not been identified.

<sup>80</sup> The clearance of the *Harlequin* (preserved among the Askin papers) shows her to have been a vessel of 28 $\frac{1}{4}$  tons burden. She cleared for Presqu' Isle (modern Erie), July 29, 1801; besides a crew of three men, the vessel had three passengers (Dr. Wilkinson, his wife, and a servant man) and a small cargo of government goods consigned to the army quartermaster in Detroit. Of the crew of three men, one was Joseph May, master, and another James May's negro slave here alluded to.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

with her, & says it will be the only comfort she has in this world now she has lost her Husband, to have her son with her. should you be inclined to part with him, I would purchase [him], but cannot undertake to give a great price nor to promise you the Money down, but will endeavour to give you the worth of him some way or other.

It would not be amiss to appoint a time & place, in order to settle the small affairs relative to the unfortunate schooner; I remain Dear Sir

your very humble & obedt Servt.

James May

*Endorsed:* Detroit Sep<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1801 M<sup>r</sup> James May to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

SUPPLIES FOR ST. JOSEPH

Amherstburg 2<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1801

Dear sir Colonel Smith has just given me directions to acquaint you that the *Francis* will leave this for S<sup>t</sup> Josephs on Monday next, will stop at Sandwich to receive any articles you may have to send M<sup>r</sup> Richardson.

There has no stores that we know of arrived here for him from Montreal, but least he may want this Winter, the Colonel requests you would consider the matter, and use your discretion in forwarding to him such Articles as you think he will stand most in need of, as in all probability there will be no other conveyance this Year. The Colonel mentions M<sup>r</sup> R expected goods from Montreal, but they cannot be forwar[d]ed by a kings vessel as the *Francis* will be the last this year. Perhaps M<sup>r</sup> R has left some orders at Sandwich. will you have the goodness to enquire to have them in readiness. The *Ottaway* will sail for Fort Erie about the 10<sup>th</sup> instant.

I remain Sir Your Humble Servant

John M<sup>c</sup>Gill Adj Q R

M<sup>r</sup> John Askin

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh October the 2<sup>d</sup> 1801 John M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> to John Askin Senior rec<sup>d</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> & ans<sup>d</sup> the 6<sup>th</sup>

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

WRECK OF THE *HARLEQUIN*

Fort Erie 20<sup>th</sup> October 1801

Dear Sir, Having heard of part of the Wreck of the *Harlequin* being drove on Shore, about four Miles above Point Ebino, I gave directions to the Man that found it to bring it to me. he has accordingly done so. I therefore find that the foresail and Jib with all the cordage attached to the fore Mast is now here. In order to save expence, in addition to the loss already sustained, Captain Cowan being present, we thought it best to compensate the Mans trouble by giving him the Jib. The Mast also came on shore broke short off above the Deck, and had buoy'd the above articles on shore. I had intended to have sent those things up to you and M<sup>r</sup> May on Board the *Ottawa*, but here is now a M<sup>r</sup> Hay of Presque Isle present, who says he is a part owner, and says that he has no objection to their going, if appraised here and that you agree to take them at the appraisement, or else that they remain here, until directions are received from the owners what is to be done with them This has deterred me from sending them until I receive directions from the concerned. The Cordage is merely fit for nothing but to make rope yarn, or Oakum, the Sail is rubbed pretty much, but with repair might serve again,

The boat was found by an Indian, and is now at Buffaloe Creek in possession of Joseph Palmer Junior. he says he gave five Dollars for her. he has repaired her, and has her now in use.

None of the people on board has yet been found. the report said that Cap<sup>t</sup> May<sup>81</sup> was taken up and buried by some Indians.

I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir your humble Servant

John Warren Sen<sup>r</sup>

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Fort Erie Oct<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1801 Jn<sup>o</sup> Warren Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

<sup>81</sup> Joseph May was a native of Birmingham, England. He served as a lake captain for some time prior to his death by drowning, here noted. He married Rebecca Knaggs, daughter of George Knaggs and Rachel Schley, who was born at the Maumee and bap-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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PROJECT FOR DISTILLERY

River thames Nov<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>, 1801

Sir I am Informed that you Intend for to Set up a distilery on this River, and as I am out of Employ at present I would willingly join any business for an honest living if you would think proper, I would Superintend the business or take a Share I have as Convenient a place for the business as any that I know of. I have as good a distiller living on One of my farms as any in this Country he has followed the business for twenty years.

I remain Sir your Most hum<sup>ble</sup> & most obed<sup>t</sup> ser<sup>t</sup>

John Drake

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* River Thames Nov<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1801 Cap<sup>t</sup> Drake  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

PROJECT FOR DISTILLERY

Detroit November 18<sup>th</sup> 1801

Sir Yours dated the 12<sup>th</sup> instant rached me yesterday. I have hired out my Stills untill June next after which time I had formed a plan respecting them which I think will be advantegious. If you will call in the first time you come to town I will let you know it and if you like it, its probable we [can] make a joint matter for from our long acquaintance I think we must agree together I am Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Very humble Servant

Captain Drake River Thames

*Endorsed:* Detroit 18<sup>th</sup> November 1801 John Askin  
Senior to Captain Drake Copy

EDUCATION OF ASKIN CHILDREN

Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1801

Dear Sir, I am afraid if your sons do not pay further attention to English Grammar, they will lose what they have got. In the course of their winter evenings they might

tized in Sandwich on March 1, 1778. See Denissen, *op cit.*; mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

obtain a perfect knowledge of it, besides doing something more in Geography. Beamont would be able to assist them in grammar. And they shall be welcome to my schoolroom 4 evenings in a week and to what assistance he can afford them; & I would try to help them occasionally myself, if you will please to send them & let them find their own fire-wood & candles. Perhaps several others would join them & be [do] their part in the fire-wood

Yours with great respect

David Bacon

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Present

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> The Reverend David Bacon to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup>

FROM JOHN ANDERSON TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Miamis 6<sup>th</sup> Decb<sup>r</sup> 1801

Dear Sir I wrote you Som time ago on different Subjects to which I heave Received No answer. one of which was Relative to what Cap<sup>t</sup> Whistler<sup>82</sup> owed us & wanted to give flour, but as I did Not hear from you I did Not like to do it—but he Made Such a poor Mouth & Saide W<sup>m</sup> Hunt was going to sue him I heave took his floar, but will pay you in Cash if you do Not like the floar. his Familly is very large & he put a good dale of Money in our way when he Comd<sup>t</sup> hear.

I hope you heave got the £22 odd from M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson in

82. John Whistler, of English descent, was born in Ireland in 1758. At an early age he enlisted in the army, and being sent to America, was one of the soldiers surrendered by General Burgoyne at Saratoga in 1777. Whistler subsequently returned to England, where he soon eloped with a daughter of Sir Edward Bishop. The young couple found their way to America, locating in Hagerstown, Md., where their eldest son, William, was born in 1780. A decade later Whistler joined the army which was being raised for service in the Northwest, served through the campaigns of St. Clair and Wayne, and in subsequent years at Detroit, Fort Wayne, Chicago, and other western posts. He built the first Fort Dearborn in 1803, and for several years commanded there. Both before and after this sojourn he was stationed at Detroit, and this place, more than any other can be regarded as his home. He died at Fort Belle Fontaine near St. Louis, Sept. 3, 1829. He reared a large family, several of whom were born or married in Detroit. Many of his descendants have served in the U. S. army and certain of them have achieved widespread fame. See biographical sketch in *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, V, 1-16, and Quaife, *Chicago and the Old Northwest*, *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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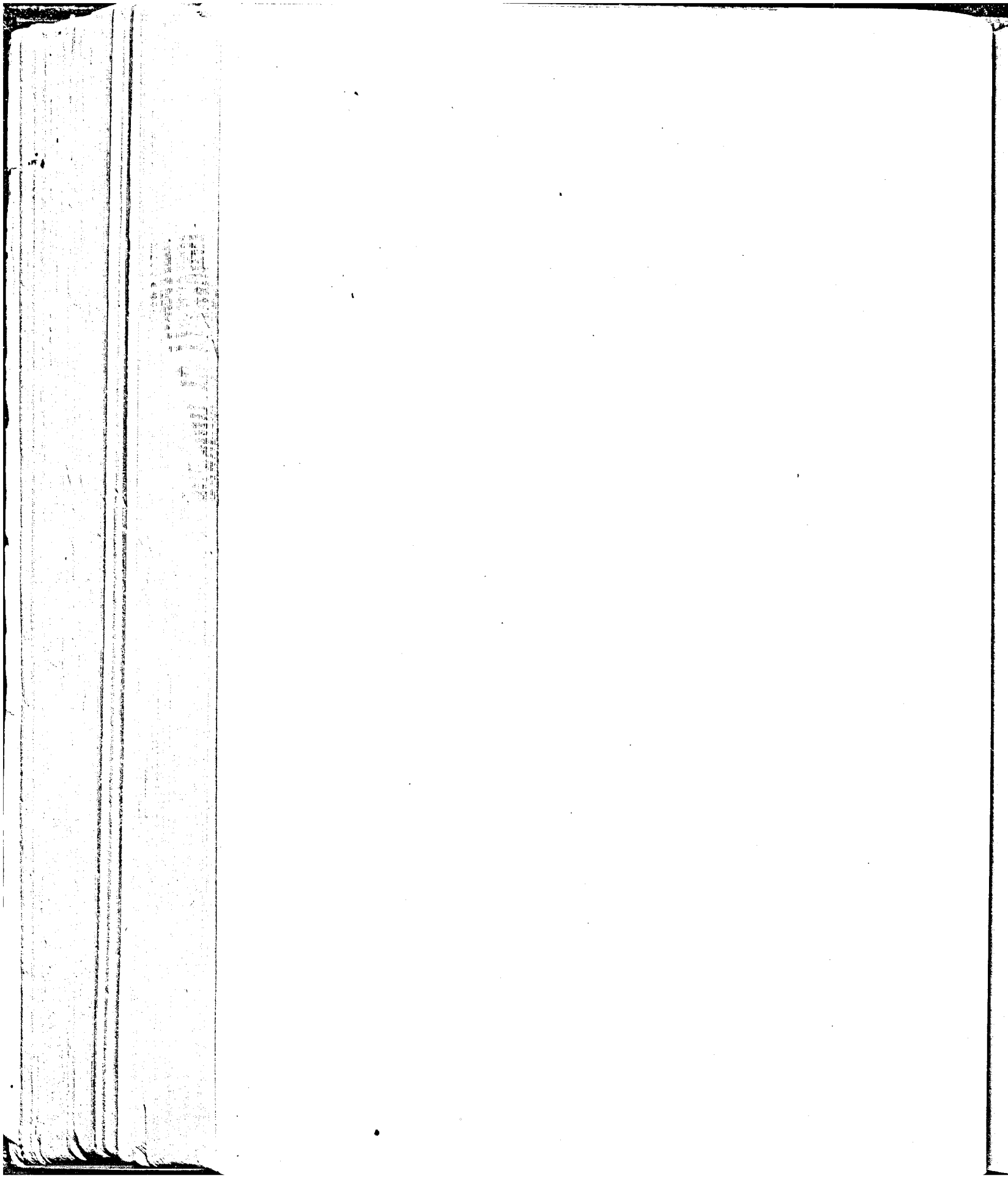
goods as I Settled with him for that. with Respts to Mrs<sup>a</sup>  
Askin, I am with Esteemes Your obed<sup>t</sup> & Hum<sup>b</sup> Ser<sup>t</sup>

John Anderson

John Askin Es<sup>r</sup>

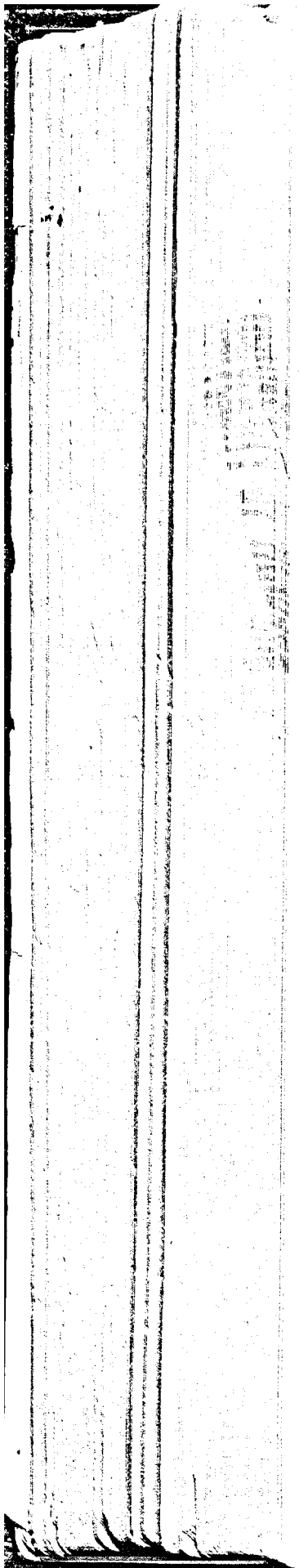
*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Detroit

*Endorsed:* Fort Miamis Dec<sup>br</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1801 Mr Jn<sup>o</sup> Anderson  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>



SECTION V  
LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1802-1804





## SETTLEMENT WITH VINCENNES DEBTORS

Moy<sup>1</sup> 12 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1802

Dear Sir, In reply to the letter I had the pleasure to receive from you yesterday I acquaint you that Monsieur Vigo's Debts to you have been satisfied by his own Promissory Note for Eight Hundred and thirty eight Dollars and 62½ cts. payable with In<sup>t</sup> from 24 August last to you in Detroit in May next; and by the Note of Toussaints DuBois for One thousand Doll<sup>rs</sup> with In<sup>t</sup> from same date payable to you in Detroit in May 1803. That on account of Adhemar's debts to you I have received in full of his claims on the Estate of Bosseron, Toussaints DuBois Notes for One thousand Ninety three Dollars and 35 c<sup>ts</sup> payable to you in May next at Detroit which several Notes are in my possession for you. Of your and the Miamis C<sup>os</sup> claim on the Estate of Paul Gamelin I wish I could say as much, but no more than 40 Dollars have as yet come to my Hands, which were applied to Costs as you shall find when I render my Gen<sup>l</sup> Acco<sup>ts</sup>. It is true I have Governor Harrison's Note for 500 D<sup>rs</sup> payable next Sep<sup>tr</sup> for a tract of land of that Estate I bo't in at vendue at 450 and sold to him just as I was coming away for the above sum, and that he owes me 40 Dollars for [an] acre of land he bo't, to be paid at same time. The rest of the Lands the Widow offered to you were bo't in by me for want of bidders, and will not be converted untill I return, when I presume I shall receive Instructions, to dispose of them for your advantage, the Tract in the County of Wayne exep<sup>t</sup>ed, to sell which I daily expect a transcript of the Records of Knox, and have with me the original grant to Paul Gamelin, to be delivered over to whomsoever shall become the purchaser. Nothing has been received from the Papers she delivered over to me. In a few instances I have obtained obligations in your name instead of the late P. G. from poor People who owed.

<sup>1</sup> Moy was the home of Angus McIntosh in modern Windsor. See *B. H. R.*, I, 293-94.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Etienne S<sup>te</sup> marie had sold you a tract of land, of which I found the Deed among your Papers. A Special Power of Attorney from you will be necessary to enable me to convert this property.

M<sup>r</sup> Sparkman<sup>2</sup> has promised my brother a Bill on Montreal which he says you may have, of which you shall be fully informed in a few days. He and M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh join me in our best respects to you and M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and your family, in which none can be more Sincere than Dear Sir

Your mo obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Will M<sup>c</sup>Intosh

John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Moy Jan<sup>y</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1802 W<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh Esq<sup>re</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Contents Ent<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1802

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH

St Josephs 9<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1802

Dear Sir. I take this oportunity of telling you we are all in good health and to Say it will give us Most Sincere pleasure to hear The Same from you The Indians that now go down will return and we hope will bring us news of a removal I assure you we are heartily Sick of this place Our Situation at Kingston was So very different. that we feel the drearyness (and idleness on my part) much more Severely. however we cant complain of being badly off either in point of lodgings or with respect to provitions. I believe we have now in the house 20 ham a dosen Partidges [illegible] fish, all of them got for a little Rum and Bread. You will Readily believe that Madlaine and My self are extremely Anxious to hear of little John. We trust him in good health and a good Boy. We are perfectly convinced That he is in good hands—M<sup>r</sup> Cowell sends down these Indians in Consequence of a Fire which burnt down his Kitchen and the Bakehouse and also having Suspended M<sup>r</sup> T. Duggan<sup>3</sup> from his place as Storekeeper. 'till the

<sup>2</sup> For sketch of the career of John Sparkman see *ibid.*, 308.

<sup>3</sup> For sketch of the career of Thomas Duggan, see *ibid.*, I, 286.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Generals pleasure is known. he has given himself up almost entirely to the drinking of Grog and I think will Scarcly see The Winter out but The immediate Cause of his Suspension was complaints Made by different Indians of has taking their provitions from them after getting it out of The Store. As I have repeatedly heard our Brother John Say he wished much Duggans Appointment I wrote him last fall Saying he ought to lose no time in applying if he still wished it. you can let him know what has taken place and he can then do as he thinks proper. I hope you will find it convenient to Send the things I mention'd in the fall by the first oportunity. Should it be a Merchant vessel, Col. Smith I have no doubt will arrange The Freight So that it may be Return'd. I believe I [torn] Some plan. here is also a Small memorandum at the bottom.

Madlain joins me in best wishes for you and the whole family and I am Dear Sir

Most Truly yours

R. Richardson<sup>4</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Feb<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1802 Doc<sup>r</sup> Richardson to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> March Answ<sup>d</sup> the 13<sup>th</sup>

RECOMMENDATION FOR OFFICE OF SHERIFF<sup>5</sup>

Detroit February the 23<sup>d</sup> 1802

My Dear Sir Always troubling you for myself or some others. M<sup>r</sup> Pollard is gone to Quebec in order to obtain Holy orders if he can. I hope poor man he may succeed for in my oppinion he is twenty times fitter for a clergyman than a Sheriff. this leaves an opening for the latter place. M<sup>r</sup> Hands of Sandwich who you have known well wishes to get that place & the first characters here mean to Memorial his excellency the Lieutenant Governor in his behalf as soon as he comes to York, but least there might be an application before that time will you be obliging as to mention M<sup>r</sup> Hands his name and intention to Governor in so doing you will serve a poor but worthy man well calculated to fill that

<sup>4</sup> In the manuscript a memorandum of goods desired follows at this point.

<sup>5</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

office these reasons alone if they even came to you thro a stranger I'm sure would influence you in his behalf, & I believe you are convinced that for my nearest relation I would not request of you to get an unworthy or unfit person into office (If I thought them such) so as to cause any reflection to your recommendation.

As this is a chance opportunity and the letter may not get down I shall write no other by this opportunity. nothing new, since I wrote you & my good Friend M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>c</sup>Gill by the express. My Family thank God are in good health. My daughter Alice married to M<sup>r</sup> Brush—a lawyer who has a good deal of practice and well liked.<sup>6</sup> Detroit is now a corporation<sup>7</sup> the limits of which extends from the line between M<sup>r</sup> Beaubien & me to the line between the late W<sup>m</sup> Macomb & Chene. this it is thought will raise the value of the property within these boundaries I'm by a law of this territory tho' a British Subject named the first of five trustees to make laws for the corporation & put them in force. I mean to move over to the other side in may next and am in hopes of selling my present place of residence on this side. There is some people who have applied to know what you would [sell] some of the lots you and M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill got of me for on the British Side. The value of some will be much greater than others of which from information I'm a tolerable good Judge, however untill you get a list of the whole from me I suppose you [will wish to] leave them as they are. Land in my oppinion cannot fall in Value.

I remain My dear Friend Gratefully Yours  
Isaac Todd Esquire Merch<sup>t</sup> Montreal

SALE OF THE SAGUINAH

Detroit Feb<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1802

Mess<sup>rs</sup> George Meldrum & William Park

Dear sirs Our scatered situations making it now incon-

<sup>6</sup> For the careers of Elijah Brush and Adelaide (Alice) Askin, see *B. H. R.*, I, 15, 207. The date of Brush's death as there given is incorrect. In a letter to Solomon Sibley, Dec. 6, 1813, John Anderson reports his serious illness; while Benjamin Chittenden, in a letter to Sibley of Dec. 31, states that Brush died after an illness of about two weeks. Mss. in B. H. Coll.

<sup>7</sup> Detroit was incorporated by act of the General Assembly of the Northwest Territory, Jan. 18, 1802. For an excellent account of the conditions resulting in this development, see Burton's Introduction to *Journal of the Board of Trustees*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

venient to hold a joint share in the *Saguinah* & Exposing her to Public Sale at this time in my Oppinion would Answer no good End I therefore have to Propose that if you will set a price on her & give me the offer of buying it or not I will make an Allowing of £50 for such cho[i]ce. that is to say if I prefer the payment to my share in the Vessell £50 will be taken from her Valuation, or if I prefer the Vessell I will give £50 more for her. The payment by those who get her as follows £100 N Y C on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> next, the remainder due in two Equal shares on the 1<sup>st</sup> of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804 & 1805 no Interest to be required Except from the day Each Sum is due & the purchaser to give his notes payable to order for the Sums. The Balast & Vessell Boat go with the Vessell & Every other thing belonging to her

I am Dear Sirs Your most obedient Humble servant

(Signed) J. A.

*Endorsed:* Detroit Feb<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1802 John Askin Senior to Mess<sup>rs</sup> George Meldrum & W<sup>m</sup> Park (Copy)

COMMISSION TO HIRE SHOEMAKERS

Detroit Feb<sup>y</sup> the 27<sup>th</sup> 1802

Dear Henry Having wrote you some time ago I have nothing now to add relative to my Family which thank God are all well except that my only daughter except one that was unmarried has taken a husband unto herself a few days ago he promisses fair, has a good character and [is] reckoned a good lawyer which is not a bad profession in this quarter

The principal intent of this is to request you will hire for me two canadians good shoemakers single men of good characters & not to exceed 600<sup>th</sup> wages for one year, to commence from their arrival here they shall be well used and fairly paid at the expiration of their times if you can find such please advance the equipments and not more than a half Johannes to [each] in money & I will send you a draught for both. you will please send them up early in some persons boatt so that the expence of their voyage may not cost much or perhaps which would be better, you could get them in as middle men & I receive something for their services I address myself to you to hire these men as I

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

think you are better acquainted than most people with the tradesmen in and near Montreal. Its of great consiquence to me to get these people as I expect to have an interest in a tannery but I would not give higher wages than the 600<sup>n</sup> each.

I have only to add tha[t] me & mine wish you and yours health & happiness

Adieu Dear Henry yours  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esquire Merchant Montreal

*Endorsed:* [first line illegible] John Askin Senior to Alexander Henry (Copy)

AFFAIRS IN DETROIT

Detroit April 8<sup>th</sup> 1802

Dear Sir I was favoured with your two letters bearing date 8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> March past the former covering an account current and the latter summons's declarations Coppies &<sup>ca</sup>. I have only as yet lookt slightly over the account however believe [it] to be right. I wish M<sup>r</sup> Nichols could get land from Norton<sup>s</sup> to discharge it or at least a part. The summons and declarations or copies rather have been properly served on Mess<sup>rs</sup> John & James M<sup>c</sup>Gregor and I now inclose you the original with the proof of service. I beg you will not appologize for asking me to do any thing in my power for you here. Im much indebted to you on that score. I'm sorry to observe that M<sup>r</sup> John M<sup>c</sup>Gregors<sup>9</sup> mode of conduct I fear never will make him Friends. you are most asuredly justifiable in sueing any man that would treat you as it appears he has. I have not employed M<sup>r</sup> Woods<sup>10</sup> as he is retained annually for the Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregors indeed there was no occasion yet I'm sure he wishes to serve you.

<sup>8</sup> John Norton, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 457.

<sup>9</sup> For the career of John McGregor, see *ibid.*, 369-70.

<sup>10</sup> James Woods, the son of a Scotch merchant of St. John's, Lower Canada, was born in 1778. He studied law in Montreal and about the year 1800 came west to Sandwich, where he died on June 18, 1828. In Sandwich he achieved local prominence and prosperity and his activities as attorney caused him to figure frequently in the documents of the period. He was a friend and professional colleague of Solomon Sibley of Detroit, and much of their correspondence is preserved in the B. H. Coll. He was an ensign in the Essex County militia in 1804 and a captain in 1812, but no record of actual service in the war has been

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I'm very happy to learn that the dear Children in every quarter are so well. when collected together it would afford me great happiness to see them. I wish you much joy and hope M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton is got well over the job. they are dangerous tho from being common [are] thought little of. Poor Women what do they not suffer in this life. I'm sorry on both your acc<sup>t</sup> and mine that I took so much pains and trouble to spoil my cider. its probable that *too much cookery spoils the broth* if I find any of my cider sweet and good in May perhaps I may send you some.

Part of my stock are sent over the River and in about two weeks we will move after them. however in justice to the Gentlemen on this side I must say I have received nothing but politeness and civility from them above these two years past & I assure you debts are recovered here without delay which is a great Object for a Merchant. Now [I am] on this subject I wish to mention that Poor Doctor Harffy our District Judge has been so unwell for these two sessions past that he could not attend & I'm very fearfull never will. I assure [you] I think it very injurious to a country to have but but one district judge why not several as they get no salary. On this side there is seven or eight judges of the Court of Common Pleas by which means business goes on without any interruption. If you agree with me in oppinion I wish you would bring in a bill for that purpose. there should not be less than three district Judges in each district however if the old mode should be continued and we loose poor Harffy, I wish you mentioned to the Governor to be carefull of his choice of one in this quarter. would you think that if I was called on for my oppinion I would be at a loss who to recommend. some I find too haughty & Passionate others not so fair characters as I could wish, others ignorant and many would be too much interested in most cases that could come before them. there is less risk in a number than in one. Let me have M<sup>r</sup> Cartwrights and your oppinion on this subject.

found. On June 12, 1804, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Commodore Grant, and to them were born four sons and three daughters. One son, Robert Stuart Woods, born, Oct. 21, 1819, was long prominent in western Ontario as attorney, judge, and citizen. Information adapted from documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; George M. Rose (ed.), *Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, 1886), 471-72; Robert S. Woods, *Harrison Hall* (Chatham, 1896), *passim*; mss. in B. H. Coll., especially among the Askin and Sibley papers; and St. John's Church Register.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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This place in incorporated M<sup>rs</sup> Macombs farm and mine are in the Town. The legislature honored me so far as to make me the first of five trustees who they named & to whom they gave great authority. A Market is established by us and a small market house built. M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Brush returns their compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton & you he bids fair to be an able Lawyer has considerable practice is sober and industrious therefore I believe Alice has made a good choice. The poor Commodore & his Family have been and still are much afflicted with sickness. he is very weak and low however I hope not in danger

M<sup>r</sup> Askin and my Family in general assures M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton you and yours of our most sincere best wish Adieu Dear Sir

Yours Most truly

*Addressed:* Robert Hamilton Esquire Merchant Queens-  
ton

*Endorsed:* Detroit April 8<sup>th</sup> 1802 John Askin Senior to  
Robert Hamilton Esquire (Copy)

NEWS FROM MONTREAL

Montreal 18 April 1802

My Dear Askin I received a few day ago your two letters from Detroit in January mentioning your wish to have a Shoemaker. I have made every inquiry in my power, and find there cannot be found such a man as understands his business under one dollar pr day and found. Shoemakers are the dearest article here. they charge at present on account of peace one shilling more than they ever did before. this goes by our friend Pollard who has been so fortunate as to procure the Gown, and may make a Tolerable Parson—anything for an Hones[t] livelyhood. Honor or shame from no condition Rise. act well your part there all the Honor lies—as a great poet says. what do you think I have turn'd Commission Merch<sup>t</sup> Broker & Auctioneer and have a great deal of business. I wish I had done it seven years past it would have been better for us both. I have been Idle to[o] long, but now must work to make up lost time. good Deer Skins sold well in last sale it is suposed

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

all other furs will sell well this year but take care of the next, it was the first year after the War we speculated with Todd which I will remember a long time.

Muskratts & I think Martens will all go to the States. the price of this article, muskratts is 36 [illegible] if tolerable good. my sons are all abroad. there is only M<sup>rs</sup> Henry, my daughter & my self keep House who has our Health at present, but we have had a sickly winter. however we now eat our allowance and peace will bring us Plenty. the two North west Parties make our [illegible] disagreeable. M<sup>o</sup>Kensey is Knighted for his discovery of the N West Sea and has come out—and setting off for the Grand Portage. if these bucks had less money they would not be so anxious as they are.

I request that you will inform Joseph Lambert his mother is dead, and that the Garden his father bought for him is not paid any part, and that it costs his father much Labour to keep up the fences and pay the Tax, and says he is so old and infirm that he cannot longer work and has no money to lay out both of which I certify to be true. so that if Joseph does not send money to his father, he must send a renunciation or quit claim so that it may be sold. otherwise it will go to distruction and not be worth half what it cost and then all his father hath must be sold to pay the dificiency this you will inform him off and let me know, as the old man has for many years been my partner and is very poor. I remain my dear old friend ever your most affectionate one, with my famelys best wishes for yours.

ever yours sencerely

Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit Favoured by M<sup>r</sup> Shepherd.

*Endorsed:* Montreal April 18<sup>th</sup> 1802 Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>

DEATH OF WILLIAM HARFFY<sup>11</sup>

Amherstburg 18<sup>th</sup> April 1802

Dear Sir I received your letters of good friday & of

<sup>11</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

yesterday and observe the contents of them. if I had seposed the Coffin had been so long amaking I should have come up to have consulted with you or to have taken your derections. all we have to do now in my opinion is to have our late worthy friend Bueried in a decent Christian Like Manner which is comenced by having the colours of the Garrison and Vessels hoisted half mast up. the Paul berars will be the officers of the Garrison and Colonel Caldwell, the chief Mourner will be his Nephew. The Funeral will Proceed from His Howse at half after five this Evening. Not one word respecting his funeral is mentioned in his will, a Copy of which will be Sent you with all convenient Speed. I shall attend to what you Say respecting the effects being taken care of. all the Papers are Sealed up and also the Room in which they are

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1802 We last evening performed the last office to our worthy deceased friend the Funeral was attended by every one in the Place. the Paul berars were Colonel Smith,<sup>12</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds, M<sup>r</sup> Macintosh Cap<sup>t</sup> Fleming<sup>13</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Burns<sup>14</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Sinclear<sup>15</sup> M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill read the

<sup>12</sup> Samuel Smith was born in Hempstead, Long Island, Dec. 27, 1756. He was commissioned ensign in the Queen's Rangers in 1776 and captain in 1780. At the close of the war he settled in New Brunswick, removing to Upper Canada after Simcoe, his old commander, became lieutenant-governor. He was appointed captain in the Queen's Rangers on Dec. 20, 1791, and was promoted lieutenant colonel in 1801. The duration of his service at Amherstburg was comparatively brief, since Captain McLean was in command as late as the early summer of 1801, and the Rangers were disbanded in 1802. He became a member of the Executive Council of Upper Canada in October, 1815, and subsequently twice served as administrator of the province. In later life he lived in Toronto, where he died, Oct. 20, 1826. On Oct. 22, 1799, he married Jane Isabella Clark of Kingston and two sons and six daughters were born to them. One daughter was born in Amherstburg, June 23, 1802. Data adapted from Wallace, *op. cit.*; *Simcoe Papers*, I, 72; Young, *Parish Register of Kingston*, 101-102; and St. John's Church Register.

<sup>13</sup> Apparently William Fleming, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 383. He was long a member of the British naval establishment on the upper lakes; in 1793 he commanded the *Felicity*, and in 1794 the *Dunmore*. See *Simcoe Papers*, *passim*. In November, 1798, Captain Hector McLean at Amherstburg reported that he had assigned a lot of ground to Fleming, who had a large family, and "no place for them." *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 258. One William Fleming, presumably the same man, was a sailing master in the provincial marine during the War of 1812. Irving, *op. cit.*, 204.

<sup>14</sup> Apparently Alexander Burns, who became paymaster of the Queen's Rangers, May 17, 1799. See British army lists for year 1800. Letters from him to Solomon Sibley in October and November, 1801, disclose that he was then serving at Amherstburg. Mss. in *B. H. Coll.* On June 22, 1802, he stood godfather for a baptism. Entry in St. John's Church Register.

<sup>15</sup> John Sutherland Sinclair was commissioned lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, Sept. 25, 1796, captain, March 12, 1803, and battalion major, June 4, 1814. He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel, Nov. 14, 1826. He was serving in Canada as early as 1797 and was still here during the War of 1812. See British army lists, and Irving, *op. cit.* Entries

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Service & Mr McQueen<sup>16</sup> comanded the party that fired Doct<sup>r</sup> Gamble<sup>17</sup> also attended in his Place. He is Buried Next to Mrs McLean & with your approbation I think a Red Ceder Picketing would be the best which shall Be done when I hear from you which I wish May be soon. I should think the best way would be to let the Howse for the Present if It can be don and to have somthing done to the Garden at all events. his Nephew is here at Present and I shall recomend him to come to consult with you what he is to do if he could be serviceable in colecting any property that may be out you will I sepose employ Him. there is little Prospect of him getting any thing unless affairs are much better than I expect At the time the Chieff Justice was here last year the Howse was Mortgaged to Mr Gray for at least 170 pounds Hallifax and as the will was made before that I am afraid that the house will be obliged to be sold. in overhauling his Papers perhaps somthing may appear that May give us information. I shall wait your Instructions respecting every thing that is to be done in the matter. Mr Allan<sup>18</sup> I should think will be a Proper person to take the Inve[n]tory of the effects as he was well acquainted with our late friend and as he is Nottary Public Mr Allen Informs me that the doct<sup>r</sup> mentioned to him in his lifetime that he wished his Nephew to have all his wearing Apperal. the Man who Waited on him in his last Illness cannot be sufficiently Rewarded for his attention. Please write me your sentiments on the above and any thing that may Accrue [occur] to you as I am very lame in the Bussness.

My Best respects to Mrs Askine and all the rest of your

in the St. John's Church Register disclose that he married Mary Ann Allan Gamble on June 22, 1802, and that sons were born to the couple, Dec. 5, 1803, and Feb. 6, 1805.

<sup>16</sup> Alexander McQueen became an ensign in the Queen's Rangers, Dec. 7, 1796. See British army list for year 1800. The St. John's Church Register records the birth, Nov. 15, 1801, of Mary Flora, daughter of Alexander and Grace McQueen, and of a son, William, born, March 3, 1803. In the Register the name is variously spelled McQueen, McGuin, and Maguire.

<sup>17</sup> John Gamble became surgeon in the Queen's Rangers, July 6, 1796. On June 22, 1802, a daughter of John and Isabella Elizabeth Gamble, Jane Smith Gamble, was baptized at St. John's Church. On the same day occurred the marriage of Lieut. John S. Sinclair and Mary Ann Allan Gamble, apparently an older daughter of John and Isabella Gamble. On April 20, 1804, Surgeon James Geddes married Sarah Hannah Bois Gamble, presumably another daughter of John and Isabella. See St. John's Church Register.

<sup>18</sup> Apparently James Allan, whose career is noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 307.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

good famely and believe me to be with great respect Dear  
Sir your most obliged Hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

David Cowan

J. Asken Esqr Detroit

P. S. M<sup>r</sup> Charles brings you a copy of the will Perhaps  
Not very exact but you will see By it the Intention and be  
able to Judge Better of matters by it.

D. Cowan

*Endorsed:* Amhurstburgh April 18 & 19<sup>h</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Cowen to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin respecting the funeral of the late Doc<sup>r</sup> Harffy

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit.

FAMILY NEWS FOR COMMODORE GRANT

Cote des Outawas June the 8<sup>th</sup> 1802

My Dear sir Under cover with this you have a Letter  
from me relative to the Militia as perhavs you may think  
it right to show it to the Governor is the reason I did not  
mix any Other matter with with it. M<sup>r</sup> Baby having said he  
would sett off[f] for York several days ago & not yet gone is  
the reason that you will receive several Letters from me at  
the same time. I know of little now in this Quarter. on  
the other side there is great changes among the Officers &<sup>ca</sup>  
which you are acquainted with. Johny Grant tells us that  
Everything is in the best Order at Gross Point the Family  
are all well & M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Cormick<sup>19</sup> gives great satisfaction Alex  
comes on very well. I have sent word to let him come over  
on Saturday next and take one good days play with our  
Alex & Johny Askin who comes every Saturday in the after-  
noon & return on monday morning I [was] surprised to hear  
that our Friend Arthur keeps up such good Order & at the  
same time is so fond [of] the Children. I hear Maria<sup>20</sup> is  
quite afeard of him I thought nothing good [could] keep  
her in Order & that poor Jean<sup>21</sup> is at school also. Some of  
your Ladies & our nelly have been constantly during the  
court with Allice it ended yesterday & Robertson I hear  
has gained one or two of the Gros Point Causes. One of

<sup>19</sup> Arthur McCormick, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 376-77.

<sup>20</sup> Maria Julia Grant, born, April 4, 1796, and subsequently the wife of William Robison.

<sup>21</sup> Jean Cameron Grant, for whom see *ante*, 247.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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them against S<sup>t</sup> Bernard<sup>22</sup> who has troubled that place so much Ambroise by Agreement is to get the place that S<sup>t</sup> Bernard built on if he lost the one give him in exchange. I think he is in a bad way however I suppose he will appeal. all with me are well & when warm I [am] so also but we have had very little of that yet. As John has a great deal of trouble and very little profit as Collector, for his whole time almost is spent in watching the smugglers, I was thinking that his being a Vendue Master would help him much and not interfere with his other matters to get the place I cant think will require much Interest as M<sup>r</sup> Park was admitted. If that is the case will you have the Goodness with your other Friends to get him that office. I suppose the District is not [blank] to one I have only to add that we all most sincerely wish you health & Happiness and that

I am most sincerely My Dear Sir Yours  
Commodore Grant

SALE OF THE *SAGUINAH*<sup>23</sup>

Strabane July 6<sup>th</sup> 1802

George Meldrum & William Parke, Esquires

Dear Sirs Having Explained to you both seperately the reason why I'm to have an allowance of £50, N. Y. Cur. made me for leaving it at your choice to take the Sloop *Saguinah* or oblige me to take her at the Valuation I may mention & you having agreed to the same it only remains now to mention the Price & term of Payment. The price is £700 N. Y. Currency for the Vessell riging furniture & apparel with every thing belonging to her likewise the Ballast Boat and stage; The Payments to be in three Notes to Order payable in the Months of May 1803, 1804, & 1805 without Interest each Note for the Amount of the Third of the same to be paid. this business IM happy to say will now be finished as you according to our Verbal agreement will take or give. I am Dear sirs

your most Obedient Humble Servant

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<sup>22</sup> Joseph St. Bernard, for sketch of whose career see *ante*, 188.

<sup>23</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

INDEBTEDNESS OF CAPTAIN JOHN WHISTLER

Near Sandwich August the 11<sup>th</sup> 1802

Sir It appears by a list of Debts delivered me by M<sup>r</sup> John Anderson and that you were Indebted to him & C<sup>o</sup> in the sum of £20 19 N. Y Currency in September 1799, since which you paid £6" 8" 0 as I'm necessitated to make payments in a few days I beg you will pay unto M<sup>r</sup> Brush or my son Charles the remainder. the receipt of either will be a sufficient discharge for that debt at M<sup>r</sup> Andersons particular request I have forebore making this demand last year or that before but realy now my necessities for Cash will not admit of longer indulgence from Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> most Obedient very humble Servant

Cap<sup>t</sup> Whistler at Detroit

*Endorsed:* near Sandwich August the 11<sup>th</sup> 1802 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Captain Whistler Ccopy

SALE OF THE SAGUINAH

Sandwich 17<sup>th</sup> August 1802

John Askin Esquire

Dear Sir It is Only Now that we have been able to Answer yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> Regarding your price for the Sloop *Saguinan*: We therefore Agree to Accept of the Proposals Made therein: That is to say you shall have her, with every thing bellonging to her, at Your Valuation viz £700 N.Y. C<sup>y</sup> & that you grant Us Notes as expressed in your Letter, for the Proportional Part we hold in Her. We are equally happy as you are in bringing this Business to a Conclusion. We are Dear Sir

Your very obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

William Park

George Meldrum

*Addressed:* John Askin Senior Esquire Straebane

*Endorsed:* Sandwich Aug<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1802 Sale of the *Saguinah* from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Meldrum & Park Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> all sett<sup>d</sup>

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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MORAVIAN MISSION ON HARSEN'S ISLAND<sup>24</sup>

Dear Sir, Permit me to write a few [lines] to You, upon a subject, which is highly important to me & the whole of the Society to which I belong.

I conjecture, before this You have heard already that I am situated here at present at the River St. Clair & am determined to live with the Indians & to instruct them & acquaint them with their God & Creator, so as our Society has already done, among other Indian nations, as is well known to You. For this sole reason I have been sent out by our Society to these poor Gentiles.

Now of needs I must have a fixed place of settlement & in order to acquire this, the Indians, especially the two great chiefs Nangi & Whitanessa, (I suppose both known to you) have delivered the head of Harsens Island over to me & I have their Wampums, for a seated place for me, & those of them who would in time join; this piece of Land, is indeed well situated & fitted for such a purpose, where Indians could live more by themselves.

On delivery I scrupled, & told them, should it happen, that their ancesstors or any of them had given out this small tract already, now in this case They mutually & firmly promised, that they would then, replace or give to him who rightly owned it already, the same quantity of acres, above or before the Sanagokanink, or perhaps somewhere else.

Since this time now, I have received better information of M<sup>r</sup> Grusbeck<sup>25</sup> who tells me that they have given it away, & that the deed thereof, is lodged in your hands—further that Sanagokanink is in the same deed.

As it is not consistent either with the general adopted character of our Society at large, or with either individual, & therefor likewise against me, to dispute, quarrel or wrangle with any person, I have taken the liberty to ask you about Your sentiments & opinions about the affair, & as You have it in hand, as the acting person, Your information will be of great consequence, & clear the whole matter at once. You will therefore greatly oblige me, to send me a few lines

<sup>24</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>25</sup> William Groesbeck, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 306.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

with the next opportunity (perhaps an Indian, that comes home) as I am very anxious to receive the due information.

If the matter is duly treated, with the mutual consent of either party, then amity & goodwill, will be the future conductor, but on the contrary, should it be slightly overrun, it could create in time hence, enmity, dispute, quarrel, highly disagreeable to me or the Society, who send me.

In case it should be possible that an exchange of land, should take place, I have surveyed the head of Harsens Island, upon request of the Indians & found it 110 Acres the greatest part of the land is poor, & but little timber or wood on it.

With sentiments of regard & esteem to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin Yourself & family, I remain D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your sincere friend & humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Christ<sup>n</sup> Fred. Denkey

Harsens Island

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich.

*Endorsed:* Harsins Island Sep<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1802 The Reverend M<sup>r</sup> Denkey to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup>

GREETINGS FROM COLONEL DE PEYSTER

Mavis Grove, near Dumfries 8 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1802

My dear Askin The bearer of this M<sup>r</sup> Clarke, son to an old acquaintance, and Brother to my worthy Friend Samuel Clarke of Dumfries, having this instant informed me that he sets off for Gre[e]nock tomorrow on his way to Niagara, affords me an oppertunity, though an hurried one, of assuring you and M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and family of M<sup>rs</sup> DePeyster and my unshaken regard and best wishes. M<sup>r</sup> C. will inform you all about us, and tell you what a sober fellow I am growing, owing to the good guidance of one of the best of women. We beg you will remember us kindly to our Friend Grant and his good Lady. and to M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton, with such other of our old acquaintances as you think will be glad to hear that we still retain a sense of the many obligations we were under to them during our peregrinations.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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God bless you, and believe me to be with unalterable friendship.

Your obliged Humb Ser  
A<sup>t</sup> De Peyster

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit for<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Clark

*Endorsed:* Forwarded from Queenston Feb<sup>y</sup> 11<sup>h</sup> 1803 by  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup> T. Clark

AFFRAY OF JOHN R. WILLIAMS

Queenstown Oct 15 1802

My Dear Sir I was duly favord with your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> instant p<sup>r</sup> Mons<sup>r</sup> Campeau respecting the unfortunate & very unhappy M<sup>r</sup> John Williams.<sup>26</sup> It affords me pleasure that in this instance I had anticipated your intentions & from motives of Humanity independent of my respect for his connexions had Shewn him every attention & rendered him every service in my power. The moment I heard of the unfortunate accident which was the Morning afterwards, I went immediately to Fort Erie & accompanied him to Niagara Goal & believe I was instrumental in procuring him indulgencies & accommodations which he would not otherwise have obtained.

Notwithstanding there are very favorable prospects of

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<sup>26</sup> John R. Williams was the son of Thomas Williams and Mary Cecilia Campau, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 169. The son was born in Detroit, May 4, 1782, and was baptized by Colonel De Peyster. Thomas Williams died, Nov. 30, 1785, and on May 1, 1790, his widow married Jacques Lauzon (Lauson) of Detroit. Three children were born of her marriage to Williams, and eight of her union with Lauzon.

In 1802 John R. Williams entered the employ of his uncle, Joseph Campau of Detroit, and on July 20, became his partner in the firm of Campau and Williams. Shortly thereafter he went to Montreal to purchase a stock of goods for the firm, and on the return journey, at Fort Erie, on the evening of October 1, engaged in a drinking bout with Jacques Lacelle, another young merchant of Detroit. A dispute ensued, which ended in the shooting of Lacelle by Williams. For this he languished in prison in Upper Canada somewhat more than a year, utilizing the time in mastering the English language, which had been a foreign tongue to him during his earlier years. Lacelle recovered from his wound and subsequently sued Williams for \$3000 damages, but the trial resulted in a verdict for Williams.

The further career of Williams belongs to the public history of Detroit and Michigan. He served as a trustee of the town in 1804-1805, and as justice of the peace in 1807. In 1817, he was adjutant general of the territorial militia, ultimately rising to the highest rank in the organization. In 1832, as major general, he led the militia to Chicago, which was believed to be in momentary danger of an Indian attack. He drew up the first city charter of Detroit, and became the first mayor in 1824, being subsequently reelected mayor

Mr Lasselles<sup>27</sup> recovery, I had advised him to be prepared for the worst, & in consequence of my advice Mr Powell was retained. I am in hopes that from his Exertions & the favorable Situation of Lasselle he will be admitted to Bail, which can be easily procured.

The unfortunate Story has been variously told but my Opinion does not comport with the general one formed in this Neighbourhood & I have had a Herculean task in combatting the torrent of prejudice which broke out against poor Williams, rather undeservedly. I admit that he was much to blame in using pistols, but I cannot see any propriety in trying & convicting a Man before he has been regularly arraigned. When the matter comes properly before the Country it is my belief some who now bluster & say a great deal on the subject will be put to shame for the part they acted upon the occasion—but enough of this.

I understand that the Commercial Treaty between Great Britain & France has been signed & that its provisions give great Satisfaction to the Commercial part of the Community but from the very unsettled state of affairs on the Continent new difficulties are expected to occur.

The Heats & divisions in the United States have got to an alarming height & will it is thought plunge that ill fated Country into all the Horrors of Revolutionary Anarchy. virulence & Calumny are constantly employed in prostrating the most respectable Characters & no person however innocent & obscure is safe from the "lascérations of Slander" & the malignant & rancorous attacks of party spirit.

five times. "It would seem," says C. M. Burton, "that whenever the City got into great financial straits, the people called upon General Williams to help them out." In 1831 he bore a leading part in the founding of the *Democratic Free Press*, which is regarded as the ancestor of the present *Detroit Free Press*.

Mr. Williams long lived at the corner of Woodward and Grand River avenues, and a bronze tablet on the business block which today occupies the site, commemorates this fact. Possibly a more permanent memorial has been erected in the naming of John R. Street. Mr. Williams himself added the letter "R" to his name in mature life to distinguish himself from another John Williams of Detroit. In 1805 he married Mary Mott of Albany, who died on Jan. 18, 1830. Ten children were born of the union. Mr. Williams died, Oct. 20, 1854. His personal papers comprise one of the important groups of manuscripts in the B. H. Coll. For published sketches of his career, see Fred Carlisle, *Chronography of . . . Wayne County* (Detroit, 1890), 161-62; *Bench and Bar* (Detroit), IV, 3-7; and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIX, 491-96.

<sup>27</sup> For the career of Jacques Lacelle of Detroit and Raisin River, see *ante*, 34.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I beg my affectionate regards to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & Family, &  
am with Sincere Esteem, Dear Sir,

Your Friend & Servant

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1802 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> Ab<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>t</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

DIFFICULTIES OF JOHN AND WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Strabane near Sandwich January 14<sup>th</sup> 1803

Dear Robert As a long Yankee often passes my House when I least expect it & vows he is starting for Niagara I think it adviseable to have an answer to your favor of the 30<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> last ready in Case such an opportunity should answer. Your Constant Friendly attention to my family has my most warm thanks God be praised they and I are all well as also M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Brush and a fine Boy<sup>28</sup> I shall mention your kind remembrance of her. I have mentioned to M<sup>r</sup> Williams his Uncles the necessity there will be of having Security ready at York early in next Month in case the Judges should be disposed to admit the poor unfortunate Young man to Bail of which M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton gave some hopes.<sup>29</sup> I have rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from William and am truly sorry for him & Johns Situation I did not know or think they would be in any wise Embarrassed. I think he does wright in going

<sup>28</sup> Edmund Askin Brush, eldest child of Elijah Brush and Adelaide Askin, was born, Nov. 21, 1802. He was educated at Hamilton College, and subsequently studied law. He early assumed the management of his father's estate (the Brush Farm), to which he largely devoted his active life. He conceived the policy of holding it intact, granting leases to tenants, but refusing to sell the real estate. The growth of the city conferred wealth upon him, and at the time of his death, July 10, 1877, he was reputed to be worth several million dollars. He had been for several decades one of the city's leading citizens, and although never active in politics had held several offices of public trust, including that of water commissioner, 1852-68; police commissioner, 1863-64; commissioner of grades, 1854-61; and city-plan commissioner, 1857-69. In the latter capacity he is said to have been in large measure responsible for the vagaries in street locations which still afflict much of the older section of the city. Mr. Brush was a man of great will power and marked individuality of character and temperament. He married Elizabeth Cass Hunt, daughter of General John E. Hunt and a niece of Governor Cass, who long survived her husband. They had five children; only one, Alfred E. Brush, outlived his father. Data derived from biographical sketches in Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit*, II, 1210; *Detroit Free Press*, July 11, 1877; and newspaper clippings (unidentified) in scrapbooks in B. H. Coll.

<sup>29</sup> The allusion is to the affray of John R. Williams with Jacques Lacelle, for which see *ante*, 383-84.

immediately Home to see his Uncle. were my Circumstances different from what they are I would never suffer them to be in any difficulty. Please tell John for it will be too late to write William that in any matter when he knows I can serve him to freely Ask for [aid]. tho I have had but few opportunities of seeing his Brother and him they have as great a Claim on me as any other of my Grand Children and perhaps a greater as their Father and Mother is no more. The former a most worthy man whose honest Character I esteemed much and the latter a most Dutifull fond Child, very Dear to me I hope poor young fellows they never will be so hard drove as not to be able to do better than take refuge with me yet should it so turn out, my Doors will be always oppen for their reception. William Mentions flour with you being only at 16/ N.Y. Cur<sup>y</sup> the Cw<sup>t</sup> if you can lay it in at that p[rice] besides Casks &<sup>ca</sup> and will send up 100 Barrells in the Spring I think I can procure a Sale for it at perhaps 32/ half the profits, to be mine or the Boys for our Trouble if its in John's way & he can furnish 50 of them I dare say you will have no objections. I have not wrote him by this opportunity. Its not unlikely but I may send down the *Saguinah* early. If I do I wish the flour to come in her. If not you shall know in good time and then you can send it by the *Montreall* now at Fort Erie.

There is nothing new at [present] in this Quarter worthy of Notice except Miss Bella Grant being married to Captain Gilkinson not Doctor McCrosky<sup>30</sup> I dont know how to spell his name, & Young Thomas McCrae to Miss Litle<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> For Doctor William McCoskry's suit for Isabella Grant, see *ante*, 337-39.

<sup>31</sup> For data concerning Thomas McCrae Sr., see *B. H. R.*, I, 304. He had three sons, William, Thomas, and Alexander. The second of these is apparently the bridegroom of the present document. He married Elizabeth Little on Jan. 4, 1803, the ceremony being performed by James Henry in his capacity as judge of the Court of Common Pleas. The bride may have been a daughter of John Little (for whom see *ibid.*, 305, 309), although her identity is not certainly known. In the marriage entry, Thomas McCrae is designated a "merchant," and various accounts preserved in the B. H. Coll. disclose him as engaged in trade. In 1803 he served as sheriff of Wayne County, and about the same time he performed also the duties of assessor, fire-inspector, marshall, and police officer. In 1809 he petitioned the court in Detroit for a divorce from his wife, who had separated from him in 1807. He was then living in Raleigh Township, Upper Canada, and there were three children of the marriage, Ann, Eliza, and George, born respectively in 1804, 1806, and 1808. A letter of James Woods to Solomon Sibley, May 22, 1818 (ms. in B. H. Coll.), discloses that McCrae had become intemperate and dissolute, and that his father's estate had been willed chiefly to the elder and younger brothers of Thomas Jr. See Ont. Bureau of Archives, *Third Report*, *passim*; Burton, *Journal of the Board of Trustees*, *passim*; and Burton, Forsyth-Kinzie-Little genealogy and mss. in Sibley papers, in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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May health & happiness attend you is the Sincere wish  
of all mine as well as Dear Robert that of your constant  
Friend

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nichol Merchant Queenston

*Addressed:* Strabane near Sandwich Jan<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1803. John  
Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nicholl Queenston (Copy).

MISFORTUNES OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON<sup>32</sup>

Queenston Feb<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup>, 1803

My Dear Grandfather I should be sorry to let this opportunity pass without informing you of some thing material received by M<sup>r</sup> Clark respecting my Uncle William and to thank you in the kindest manner for the affection shown both William and me in your letter to M<sup>r</sup> Nichol. I am sorry there should have been any cause to affect your Mind so sensibly and would fain hope that every thing may yet be for the best. Our Cargo small as it is will support us decently and should no unlucky circumstance occur think we may keep out of debt.

My brother left this on the third of Jan<sup>y</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Clark who arrived the day before bro<sup>t</sup> us very distressing accounts of our Uncle William who had arrived in London in the month of August. He is fast vergeing towards his grave by his former ill habit and am afraid will hardly live to see my brother. On his passage home he made a new will, leaving his Daughter only £5000, a trifling legacy to a friend or two and the remainder of his fortune to an Irish Catholic Priest who had been sometime acquainted with him in Quebec and went in the same Vessel with him to England. This will was wrote by the Priest and dictated by himself. the Capt<sup>n</sup> and Mate witnessed it. it was from them his Sister received this information who happened accidentally to be on a visit to London from Scotland at the time they arrived. She used every means in her power to recover her brother from his sad state but in vain, after remaining a Month with him she was obliged to return home her daughter and husband on her arrival set off for the same purpose they

<sup>32</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

bro<sup>t</sup> him as far as Liverpool on their way down to Scotland the villain of a priest followed and persuaded my uncle they were taking him to Edinburg to put him in Bridewel (as a Lunatick) They made their escape and when M<sup>r</sup> Clark left Scotland were liveing in London in a large Hotel, the Priest and him in continual debauch. his poor daughter is allso there and only a servant woman to attend her. M<sup>r</sup> Clark was desired by our relations in Edinburgh to mention all [illegible] to us and insist on my brother going to England immediately. From him I have just heard of his arriving in New York on the 19<sup>th</sup> he was to sail in two days his letter is dated the 27<sup>th</sup> My paper is grown short and must close my letter. Will you give me the pleasure of hearing from you soon and whether you think it necessary to secure my Uncles property in this Country by getting the deeds for his Land. the power of att<sup>y</sup> gives the power to sell them. Your affection will I hope excuse this long letter. I beg my kindest love to all the Family and believe me to be

Your affec<sup>t</sup> Grandson

John Robertson

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Feb<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> No 3 M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Robertson to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> March.

CARES OF MRS. GRANT<sup>33</sup>

Amherstburg May 17<sup>th</sup> 1803

I was glad to see your dear boys, & Nelly here And to understand from them and your favour by Charles, that upon the whole my dear M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and you were in tolereble good health

Which will add more to both your ease is a letter from Capt<sup>n</sup> Pelkenton<sup>34</sup> to Capt<sup>n</sup> Cowan gaven a healthy account of Capt<sup>n</sup> Meredith & family in England

<sup>33</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>34</sup> Robert Pilkington was born in 1765 and in 1787 became second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. In 1789 he was transferred to the Royal Engineers and was stationed at Quebec. He was on Governor Simcoe's staff, serving in Upper Canada from 1793 to 1796 and in this capacity seems to have performed much useful service. He constructed Fort

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I imagine the Children has been fully gratified with their Jaunt down from the very prety Launch, our good And really hamsome, Vessel to all present appearance has made.

It is intirely out of poor dear M<sup>rs</sup> Grant ever to leave Gross Point while such a numerous family as she has with part of the slaves very ungratefull and turbulant, And herself never relieved from the helme, had a long speale of it. And if she, dear Soul lives her lot never to quit it

Even Johnny who is much interested and alert, cannot do any thing without consulting M<sup>rs</sup> Grant except kissing his Wife, & M<sup>r</sup> Duff and Phillis has been for this week past perplexed and Troubled very much with a Cursed negroe wench they bought some time Agoe from Capt<sup>n</sup> Elliott. She and a negro man are both in Goal here for theft and information of a great number of vagarents hovering about here to bring off as many negros as they can And as I am told forming a Town on the other side of Sandusky. at present there is forty Black men there. There was no body from Detroit yesterday at the Launch

M<sup>rs</sup> Grant is also fitting out Poor dear Alick for his voyage to Montreal I shall be up Soon to bring him down I shall be ready to sail with the new vessel Again the begining of next month Harrow told me when I saw him last he would go down with me all the way to York I have been looking or thinking regarding the Militia Again[st] the First of June. I think Captain Clarke as he and his company are so near Sandwich better Join your Battalion which I shall mention in my order in [a] few days. Major Elliot Commands the Battalion here. Your Son John is to Call on me to day to see a return of your Battalion

Captain Cowan tells me he spoke some time since to M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds for the Loan of a Cabble for a friend of his. M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds gave for answer that the commd<sup>g</sup> off<sup>rs</sup> order must

Miamis on the Maumee. In 1796 he was recommended by Simcoe to the Duke of Portland as an officer especially qualified to survey the boundary line between Canada and the United States. Pilkington remained in Canada until 1803. In 1825 he became Major General of Fortifications in England. In 1799 he was given a grant of land in Canada, later known as the Township of Pilkington. He later undertook to colonize this grant and his efforts in this connection are said to have kept him poor the remainder of his life. He died in London, July 6, 1834. Information derived from documents in *Simcoe Papers, passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; Robertson, *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe, passim*; and sketch in Toronto *Canadian Countryman*, Dec. 9, 1922.



be procured, & then two receipts taken one to be sent to Mr Craigoir[?] the other to remain in office. Tho I shall take an opportunity [to] get to talk to him. no less went up the other day as I am told in the American Packet then nine sett of Stills, and Sixteen more at Presquill so I think we Farmers Will get vent for our grain. So long since you & I has had no correspondance, this scrole will tire you out Remember me in the most affectionate manner to my dear Mrs Askin And belive [me] my dear Sir to be you, & yours, kind wisher & Friend

Alex Grant

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

I heard the other day that the gentlemen of Detroit honoured themselves or Governer Harrison with given a ball and that two of our daughters was there. And that Mr May was so polite as to go for them to the Point, and had them lodged at his own house which is very kindly of him. tho I never was there. Your Son in law<sup>35</sup> took umbrage at Gross Point at Mrs Grant, & cursed and sown at the Point some says at Mrs Grant. She says [she] never showed more attention to any man than she did to him when there. Donovan was with him when there. I asked Donovan what could offend Mr B. the only thing iritate him because there was not some fine Cherrybounce Mrs G. had formerly produced. last year the cherreys failed.

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh May 17<sup>th</sup> 1803 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin. Answer<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

INDEBTEDNESS OF CAPT. JOHN WHISTLER<sup>36</sup>

I was extremely sorry to learn from Charles that you were sued on my account be asured its the last step I ever wish to take against you or any Gentleman If I can by any other means obtain [or] even secure whats due me. I'm convinced there must have [been] some mistake in this matter & if I have the pleasure of seeing you I will convince you it is so I even mentioned to Mr Brush that as you might be pinched

<sup>35</sup> The allusion is to Elijah Brush for whom see *ante*, 370.

<sup>36</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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for want of Money I would take any Valuable thing else [as] payment. how M<sup>r</sup> Anderson who gave me in an Account of what he received, did not mention your having paid him, surprises me much, for I know he likes you and will be sorry for what happened and yet he is in some degree the cause for not letting me know that you paid. An other matter also surprises me why you did not show M<sup>r</sup> Anderson's receipt when M<sup>r</sup> Brush asked payment. I shall only add that I feel for all Gentlemen with large familys therefore never wished to distress them If it could be avoided & I'm sure M<sup>r</sup> Brush has the same disposition I am Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> very humble Servant  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Whistler at Detrot

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich July 9<sup>th</sup> 1803 John Askin  
Sen<sup>r</sup> to Captain Whistler at Detroit. (Coppay)

DEATH OF HUGH HEWARD<sup>37</sup>

Near Sandwich July 22<sup>d</sup> 1803

Sir Your favour of the 20<sup>th</sup> June last did not reach me untill last evening the Widow Heward arrived here some time ago & delivered to me the last Will and Testament of the late M<sup>r</sup> Hugh Heward saying it was his directions to deliver it into my hands she also offered to deliver me over a Trunk with his papers but as I seen the great impropriety of acting as Executor when I could not be of use I therefore declined the papers and as to the will I wish to deliver it either to the widow who gave it to me or any other who may be duly authorized The Honorable D. W. Smith should he come out, of course is the properest person being also an executor and being on the spott may be able to render Service as the deceased, his property is in that Quarter. in this I believe he has but little, except a few debts. any assistance I can give in recovering them or in any other manner, If I can help the Widow Son or Nephew of an Old Friend I will most cheerfully do, when authorized by whoever may be legally appointed. I have but little knowledge of the late M<sup>r</sup> Hewards property you who reside at York should know best what will remain for his Widow Son and Nephew

<sup>37</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

When his Debts are discharged. I dont know that he owes anything in this Quarter. the Will is worded nearly as you mention, the Widow to have the use of the Estate real and personal during her Life which afterwards is to be divided equally between the Son & Nephew of the deceased. however this mode of bequeathing seems to me to admit of difficulties as much of the personal estate must consist of Perishable Articles which it would be perhaps out of the power of the Widow to preserve during her life, what the real construction should be is much better known to those who have studied the Law I am Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Servant

M<sup>r</sup> William Bond<sup>38</sup> at York

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich July 22<sup>d</sup> 1803 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> William Bond at York (Copy) Widow Heward &c Hon D. W. Smith Mentioned

NEWS OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON<sup>39</sup>

Queenstown July 27<sup>th</sup> 1803

Dear Grandfather You could scarce think to have had a letter from me so soon from this place. my speedy return will no doubt surprise you as much as it did my other friends; I have not as yet been gone 7 Months; yet was I above five weeks in England. I reached London on the 21<sup>t</sup> of March, just three days after my Uncle was married to M<sup>r</sup> Ogilvy's Mother. I hope this will prove a fortunate circumstance for him, from the good character given of her and her influence over him, I am in hopes she will be able to reclaim him from that dreadfull habit he had. I did not find Matters so bad as they were said to have been. that there was such a person as a parson who went over with him who had his passage and other Expences paid, and who was also fond of the bottle I beleive was true, but nothing More; I found

<sup>38</sup> William Bond was a sergeant in the Queen's Rangers. As early as 1794 he had a farm on Yonge Street about eighteen miles north of Toronto, surrounding a lake which is still called Bond's Lake. Here he developed Toronto's first nursery. An amusing account of his efforts to sell the property is given by Scadding in *Toronto of Old*, 462 ff. See also Robertson, *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe*, 307; and *Simcoe Papers*, III, 24.

<sup>39</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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him much better than I expected, he was very happy to See me indeed, so much so that he would scarce allow me to return after a Months residence with him. had it not been that his affairs as well as my own required My presence I beleive I should not; It was seldom I could get him to speak of his affairs here; he does not Seem to care much about them. he used to speak frequently of you and the family. He seldom writes his nearest relations. he will not give himself the least trouble about any one thing I have by no means any reason to repent my journey he has given John & myself a Credit on the House of Parker Gerard, Ogilvy & C<sup>o</sup> for £2000 Hfx We have not as yet quite determined what to do, whether to remain here or go to Lower Canada. As John writes you on bussiness, I shall not at present Say anything to you on that Score. It gives me much pleasure to hear that you and all the family have had such good health this Season; I landed in Ireland from America, and I beleive travelled thro your Native Town, Strabane, I think 16 or 18 Miles beyond Londonderry. I enquired if there were any persons of your Name there and understood there were I was then in the Mail Coach on my Way to Dublin. I was Much pleased with the Country round the latter place. I hope to have the pleasure of hearing from you Soon. with my kindest love to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & all your kind family, beleive Me to be with the greatest affection for you and them.

Your Grandson

William Robertson

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston July 27<sup>h</sup> 1803 W<sup>m</sup> Robertson Jn<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> 10 Aug<sup>t</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 18 Aug. 1803

Dear old freind This moment your letter came to Hand and I will not loose one moment in writing to you. I own I have been too long in not writing but am determined to

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

make it up. no one [is] more happy in hearing from you and family than I am, I despair of ever seeing you in this World, what may be done in the next can't say, time will discover. I am growing old, and infirm have been laid up this five weeks with being overheated at a fire in this Place. some evil dispos'd persons has sett fire, to this place eight times within this Month and bur[n]t upwards of thirty dwelling Houses, two Churches, the prison & Colege, besides a number of stores out houses &<sup>ca</sup>. it is clear that it has been done on purpose. five hundred pound reward is offer'd to discover. it must be french agents. your boots I will get made, am sorry you did not send one of your legs. Knowls is Dead but his young man may have your measure as for the *Saw a Bardeaux*<sup>40</sup> I dont know what it is however will find it out. I find you have turnd farmer. so much the better you are out of the chances of Misfortune. I have turn'd Auctioneer to get a living which is not a pleasant business, however any port in a Storm. you and me missed our port when we left off the N West business while we was young, but it is too late to repine. in a very few years it will be the same, as if we enjoyed every thing we wish'd. your old friend Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill still continues well. that is Todd is well after dinner, but always sick in the mornings. he is geting old every way. I wrote to you last year respecting James Frazer and I also wrote to him which he has not answer'd. In Casety & Williams Accounts there is a large sum due by Tague the spanard, and I am informd he has given Lands for the amount to Frazer & his agents, and that he has recoverd many other debts which he has not accounted for. this therefore is to request you will examine him & the Books and he must Transmit to me all security, for Lands or otherwise which he may have for or on account of said Casety & Williams and that he forwards me an account of the whole and delivers you a copy, otherwise I will be under the necessity of sending an Agent on purpose or I will empower any person you recommend & take the Books & affairs out of his Hands. this you may tell him from me. last fall he wrote me he intended to make a dividend, since which [I] have not heard from him.

<sup>40</sup> For the explanation of this line see *post*, 396.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

he never render[e]d us an account of what he has received, only made dividends & remitted them, which was not his business. only to Transmit to me what he received from the Estate, was what he ought to have done. I will write to him by this opportunity. be so good as to take a moment to think of this business and let me know. as you are out of the furr way I need say nothing to you. much money has been made by Bears. but they must take care. my family is all well except myself and join in every good wish for you and yours. & remain ever

your affectionate old friend

Alexander Henry

N.B. pray what did you do with the note of M<sup>c</sup>Gregor to R Henry. if you cant get any thing send the note to me.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Aug<sup>t</sup> 18<sup>h</sup> 1803 M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ALEXANDER HENRY<sup>41</sup>

Near Sandwich Oct<sup>r</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1803

My Dear Henry Now I have started you I will keep you a going your kind Letter dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of August reached me the last of September. Your a nice boy not to say anything about your family pray do [you] not think that M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and I have some regard for them however from your silence on that head we have reason to suppose they are all well and we most sincerely wish it. I will tell you news that you will like. I'm better in health and more contented in mind thank God than I have been for Thirty years past and yet during that time I have not had great reason to compllain yet dont think I'm rich far from it. If anyone say's so he tells a *Whopper* but I begin to see clear that no one will suffer by me tho payment may be delayed on this side I have Lands well secured that brings me 20/ per Acre. tho not all Cash down but well secured and on the other side I have a quantity of Land also part

<sup>41</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

of which tho not the greater is secured also my Family seems also in a fair way of being provided for and under these circumstances if I was not content I would deserve not to have cause to be so.

You begin to loose your french. formerly *Soi a Bardeau* was a particular kind of Plow Shear and not a Saw for Shingles as you would make it to pay for the Boots and it which I suppose you have sent P<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Donovan, I have inclosed you Mons<sup>r</sup> Giassons Draft, he does not say However on whom for 199<sup>th</sup>, but as he is in Montreall it's no matter.

I'm very sorry for the distresses of the poor people who have suffered by fire it seems to me punishments are not adequate to the Crimes always. If the wretches who set fire were to be burnt from time to time so as to raise blisters be cured and burnt again [it] would be a greater Example than [to] be sent out of the World by the run. I have nothing further to do with Bear Skins my Trade is in those of Sheep and Lambs.

I note what you say respecting M<sup>r</sup> Fraser and will make it my business to enquire into the matter and let you know. however at all events he can no longer transact your nor any mans Business as usual. he is following our worthy friend M<sup>r</sup> Robertson fast its strange how people go. You and I had the best right to bruise the Grogg being old Champaigners perhaps you would do well to give me a power to Name an Attorney and I will look out for the properest person for I cannot do it myself. after our joint best wishes for all you and yours believe me to be to the last My Dear Friend

Your unalterable Friend

Alexander Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich Oc<sup>br</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup> 1803 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> Merchant Montreal (Copy)

CONDITION OF DEBTORS IN VINCENNES<sup>42</sup>

Vincennes 24 December 1803

Dear Sir: Your very much esteemed Favors of the 24<sup>th</sup>

<sup>42</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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September and 18<sup>th</sup> November last were received by the Company's Courier.

The circumstances you state of the conduct of DuBois in the transaction with M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregor exhibit his character in its real point of view. Vigo is at present in the Illinois Country, and is expected in a few days. Upon his return he shall be pressed for the payment of his Bond to you, now in my possession, and payable at the time you mention. No opportunity has yet presented of disposing of the Lott which DuBois wanted to purchase. The Garrison has been erected on the adjoining [one], which afforded a more eligible site. The Contractor for the troops has some thoughts of purchasing it, on Account of a Spring which is conveniently placed for a Distillery. Were I to form an opinion of its value by comparing it with that of the tract next it, I should estimate its value about five hundred dollars. I shall dispose of it If I can obtain about that sum. The small tract you had from Etienne S<sup>te</sup> Marie has not yet been confirmed, for want of testimony to prove actual cultivation. If it is confirmed, it would bring one hundred and perhaps fifty Dollars. I am very happy that you are authorised by M<sup>r</sup> Henry to receive the Books and Papers of the Estates of Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams & Jn<sup>o</sup> Cassedy<sup>43</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Fraser. Whilst he was in health, none could have been more attentive to business I believe; but I found such an alteration in him, when I was last at Detroit, that I declined talking to him on the subject of those debts put into my management by him. At my return I pressed Vigo for a settlement of his obligation to the Estate of Williams, and would have admitted about Eleven Packs of Beaver which he says he p<sup>d</sup> on account, and accept of lands to please me, at one Dollar an acre for the balance, on the principle of his inability to pay in Cash. But he insisted on my allowing two doll<sup>rs</sup> for the land, without choice, which I would not agree to; and I finished by instituting an Action, returnable at March Term. Bail has been given; and I have been informed he has said that after his arrival from the Illinois, that he intended to go into the Atlantic States to dispose of his lands for Cash

<sup>43</sup> For the career of John Casety, see *B. H. R.*, I, 185.



to pay his Debts. Of Pierre Gamelins Obligations I have made the most. I established his right to some Land and then to obtain it from him I agreed, to give up one of the Notes for the part he owned after allowing myself part for my trouble and Expencc in securing it. a Tract adjoining that which you will obtain by your Judgment ag<sup>t</sup> Paul Gamelin will form the greatest part of what will be coming to the Estate of Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams by this transaction. I therefore wish you would attend to have it and the other ascertained. Gamelin's Conveyance to me has been recorded at Detroit where that tract is situate, and the Deed for the other in this County. When I can dispose of it so as to realise, you shall be informed, or M<sup>r</sup> Fraser. Unfortunately, Gamelin is almost always intoxicated at the Expencc of *any person* so that there is no hopes of ever getting any more Property from him; for at present he has none, nor can he ever acquire any. Should any favorable circumstance occur respecting your own business or that of those Gentlemen's Estates, you shall be regularly informed by the Mail.

In the mean time I take the liberty of presenting my most respectful comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and all your Family; and of wishing you all many happy returns of the Season, in which none can be more sincere than Dear Sir

Your much obliged and most obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

William M<sup>c</sup>Intosh

John Askin Esquire.

APPOINTMENT AT ST. JOSEPH

Montreal 24 Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1803

My dear Sir I was duly favord with yours of the 5<sup>h</sup> Octb<sup>r</sup> respecting your Son Johns wish to get the appointment M<sup>r</sup> Chaboillez<sup>44</sup> has at S<sup>t</sup> Josephs. I beli[e]ve you must be wrong[ly] informed respecting that Gent<sup>m</sup> quitting his situation. I have enquired at his friends here, also at

<sup>44</sup> Charles Chaboillez was appointed clerk and storekeeper at St. Joseph Island in the summer of 1802, succeeding Thomas Duggan, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 286. He remained here until the summer of 1807, when he was succeeded by John Askin Jr., who reported that he intended to go to Lower Canada within a month. See *post*, 553-54. Various allusions to Chaboillez at St. Joseph are found in Vol. XXIII of *Mich. Pio. Colls.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

the Indian department, neither of which know any thing of such intention so situated it would be improper to make any application. M<sup>r</sup> Chabouillez friends tell me the[y] suppose he will not stay there above a Year Longer & when I see Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter I will mention on a vacancy my wish he would appoint John but to intitle him to it he must be attentive and carefull to Transmit Accounts in his present employment as Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter is verry exact and wishes all under him to be so. I am sorry to hear that Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee & M<sup>r</sup> Ironside<sup>45</sup> have got there pay for irregularity in their Accounts & Vouchers. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill will answer your Letters respecting Land & property. I have been for some time Confined with a Complaint in my heart. I am getting fast old. Wishing you M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & family many happy returns of the Season I am as usual

Ever Your Sinc[e]re friend

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1803 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1804 Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>

AGREEMENT FOR OPERATING THE *SAGUINAH*

Articles of agreement, made and concluded at this day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and three; between George Meldrum & John Askin Merchants on the one part, & Captain Fearson of Detroit of the other part Witnesseth

Article 1<sup>st</sup> That the aforesaid George Meldrum & John Askin equal owners of the Sloop *Saguinah* do hereby bargain and sell to the said John Fearson, one third share in the Sloop *Saguinah*; with a third of her tackle rigging, apparel, Boates, stages, & every other thing to her belonging; for the sum of one hundred & sixteen pounds thirteen shillings and four pence New York Currency, to be paid to each seperately; forming in all for said third of said Vesel &<sup>ca</sup> the sum of three hundred and thirty three pounds six shillings & eight pence New York Currency as aforesaid

<sup>45</sup> George Ironside, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 332.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

2<sup>nd</sup> And it is mutually agreed between the said George Meldrum John Askin, & John Fearson, that the said *Saguinah* shall be put in repair; in order to sail in the spring, at the equal and joint charges of all three, in which is to be included the main Sail now making by said John Fearson.

3<sup>d</sup> That the said George Meldrum, John Askin & John Fearson, in their joint capacity as owners of the *Saguinah*, do agree with the said John Fearson, to pay him the sum of eighty five pounds Halifax Currency; for his service, trouble and pains in Navigating said Vessel, during the whole of the next season as well as directing her repairs, hiring workmen and Sailors purchasing materials and provisions and in every respect doing all in his power for the interest of the owners of said Vessel; without any other charge whatever; except for making the Main Sail which he has now on hand: and further said owners of the Sloop *Saguinah*, do hereby agree with said Captain or Master that he shall have all the advantages of the Cabin Pasingers, & their reasonable baggage for his own use; however nothing that pays freight is to be taken into the Cabin, unless the hold is first full except it may be Sugar or Provisions for Captain Fearson own or family's use, for which no freight in the Cabin will be charged. He is likewise to have the same rations as formerly with this exception; the Sugar to be twenty five lbs. brown, and as many of white and as many candles and as many as the Vessel may want. & the said John Fearson on his part agrees with the aforesaid owners to accept of the aforesaid pay and recompence, & perform (so far as he can) the duties above mentioned from the present time until the Vessel may be laid up in the fall.

4<sup>th</sup> That said Captain Fearson will purchase whatever may be wanted for the Vessel use and hire Sailors and workmen on the best terms in his power, giving the preference to the owners only, when they will sell as cheap as others and also consulting them [when] any purchase of consequence is to be paid or men hired, unless absent from where they live

5<sup>th</sup> That in case any other person should in future wish to purchase any share in said *Saguinah*, the said Meldrum,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Askin & Fearson do consent that the terms on which a majority of them agree, shall be binding on the whole; as well as to the Port or Bay, where the Vessel should sail the first, or succeeding Voyages

6<sup>th</sup> That as soon as may be convenient, Captain Fearson will send to John Askin, accounts of all the purchases he may make Freight Notes, &<sup>ca</sup> which said Askin promises to enter into a Book properly; and always to be ready for the inspection of all the owners without making any charge for so doing.

7<sup>th</sup> That all monies received for freights or any purchase of a share, in said Vessel shall be first employed to discharge what the Vessel may owe to the Master, Sailors; or others not partners in her before the dividend shall be made

8<sup>th</sup> George Meldrum promises to assist Captain Fearson so far as he can, in obtaining workmen and sailors cheap, to use his Interest to get freight for the *Saguinah* and to try and borrow stores or let Captain Fearson know where he thinks they can be obtained cheapest, & in all respects which relate to said Vessel to give what assistance he can, so as not to neglect his other affairs, & for which he is not to make any charge.

9<sup>th</sup> And it is mutually agreed on by and the parties aforesaid that in case they shall think fit in future to make any purchase of Flour, Pork, liquor of any kind Salt, or other Articles for their joint accounts That it must be done with the approbation of the whole and a Memmorandum signed by them of the articles they agree so to purchase

Lastly in Testimony of the parties consent and approbation to this triplicate agreement according to the true Interest and meaning thereof they have hereunto set their hands and affixed their Seals the day and year first above written

Witness Present

PRICE OF FLOUR

Fort Erie February 1<sup>st</sup> 1804

John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup>

Dear Sir I on the 18<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup> wrote you a hasty letter

in reply to your favor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> but as that could not be very Satisfactory, and as the time given by our immaculate Post Master, to answer letters, after the Arrival of a Mail is seldom Sufficient for them to get up here, I avail myself of a little leisure and a Knowledge of what will happen to reply to it more at large.

Flour with us, owing to the great demand and a Knowledge of your wants, is now high, and will I fear rise. little has yet Come to Market & the farmers in my Neighbourhood are Keeping it up, with the view of getting a higher price. it cannot be Shipt by the Merchant at less than Five Dollars P Barrel of 196 lbs, at which price I will deliver the Quantity you order for yourself. the Pork shall also be procured, tho I fear the price of that article, will also be much increased, the Market being bare owing to the large Supply purchased by Government

I have endeavoured to Bargain with several of my Neighbours for flour, but they all Keep aloof so that I cannot well Say what quantity I shall be able to procure at even five Dollars. I am in hopes however that I Shall be able to make out 100 Barrels. I shall also put up about 100 Bags of Corn. I will thank you to say what proportion the Winchester Bushel bears to the Minot, as we have no Measure of that Kind here<sup>46</sup> Ashes I have in Abundance.

I wrote you the other day Per M<sup>r</sup> Burns, to which refer. No European Intelligence of Importance since that time, tho we are in dayly Expectation of something very interesting from England.

I request the usual Compliments to the Family and am My Dear Sir with the sincerest good wishes

Yours very faithfully

Rob Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Near Sandwich

<sup>46</sup> A manuscript memorandum of 1765 upon the condition of the colony states the minot to be the equivalent of five pecks. In 1799 a list of grievances of citizens of Detroit drawn up for presentation to the General Assembly contains a statement concerning the inequitable system of weights and measures in use; merchants purchased grain from the inhabitants by the French bushel of 40 Winchester quarts, while they sold salt and grain by the Winchester bushel of 32 quarts. Askin in replying to Nichol's query (see *post*, 403) stated there was "no real standard" established in Detroit between the Winchester bushel and the French minot.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Endorsed:* Fort Erie Feb<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup>

GOODS FOR DETROIT TRADE

Near Sandwich Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1804

Dear Robert Your favours of the 28<sup>th</sup> December & 18 June last reached me long since and [I] observe what you say respecting the Hulled Corn but am sorry you are doubtfull about furnishing the Flour and Pork I think I before observed to you that these last articles were more saleable than the Corn, yet when there was demand for it, the profit was often greater. Flour with us is now at 40/ but that not owing to the Mills not going than the want of wheat which is only 9/ winchester measure your observation of paying interest where Cash is laid out, or the produce furnished will fetch Cash is just and reasonable and to which I can have no objections for you know to force a Sale on any thing in this part of the Country is impossible and the flour that fetches not 20/ in one Month has brought double the next therefore it is better for you and me to pay any interest than be obliged to make payment on a certain day where the produce is sold payment with interest will be immediately made. there is a great prospect of much gain on Whisky which can be laid in at 5/6 and unless cast away never can cause a loss, but [I] observe if Pork and Flour could be got from the American side and such vouchers sent as would prove that here it would be a great saving when sent to Michilimacinac. the Duty on the former is 2/ per Gallon and on all provissions above 12/ Per Cent. The *Saguinah* is now under repair and if the Captain & Carpenter does not deceive me much she will sail from this as early as any Vessell.

The whole Family join M<sup>r</sup> Askin in wishing and in every wish that may tend to your Happiness and wellfair and I remain as usual D<sup>r</sup> Robert

Yours most truly

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nicholl Merchant, Queenston

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich Feb<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1804. John Askin  
S[<sup>r</sup>] to M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nicholl Merc<sup>t</sup> Queenston Copy

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

EARL OF SELKIRK'S ENTERPRISE

Niagara Feby 15 1804

I am this Moment favored with yours of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>h</sup> & shall answer them in succession Flour Corn & Pork shall be provided & perhaps a little Whisky, properly provided, *id est* from the States, Certified &° &°

I am Sorry to find that my letter by Burns did not reach you by himself both on his Lordships Acct & yours. his business will in time be profitable, & is most certainly respectable Lord S.<sup>47</sup> will however be at Detroit himself in the course of next year & will be able to discriminate between Honesty, Intelligence, Plain Dealing & respectability on the one Side, & Vulgarity low Cunning, Over-reaching &° &° on the other

A Number of letters to Answer by both Mails Obliges me to Conclude briefly by saying that Neither time or distance shall Obliterate the Sincere & Affectionate regard, felt for yourself & Family, by Dear Sir

Your friend & Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> Strabane Near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Fort Erie Feb<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> March 1<sup>st</sup>

AFFAIRS OF THOMAS WILLIAMS AND COMPANY<sup>48</sup>

Near Sandwich March 2<sup>d</sup> 1804

Dear Henry I was favoured some time ago with a Letter from you conveying a blank power of Attorney which agreeable to your Ideas and my oppinion I filled up with M<sup>r</sup> Brushes name for it appears to me people make payments much sooner to Lawyers (even when they do not sue)] than to others. M<sup>r</sup> Fraser has been very unwell but now is better which is the reason that he has not before now delivered the statement Books Notes &<sup>ca</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Brush (who I have seen to day) and says he will get them in a

<sup>47</sup> Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk (1771-1820), whose colonizing efforts in Canada included the settlement of Baldoon, near modern Wallaceburg, Ont.

<sup>48</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

few days I have shewed him your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> January as well as that which you wrote at the time you sent the power of Attorney to the contents of both he says he will pay due attention. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh writes me he will have a Judgment against Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe for what he owed Thomas Williams & C<sup>o</sup> on M<sup>r</sup> Casity in this month at Post Vincent. M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe offered him lands at 16/ per acre but M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh thought them worth only 8/ therefore commenced a Suit. I have carefully looked over my old papers but can not find the Note which you mention which surprises me much for I never loose a paper and therefore think that if I ever had it I must have mentioned it however the loss to the owner cannot be anything for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregor I dare say will not deny the debt but realy I believe he has Nothing to pay on the contrary I believe he and Family are mostly maintained by his Son & Cousin or Nephew, for I dont know which John M<sup>c</sup>Gregor is.

Was I strong I would lodge some money with you to buy articles at auction but that is not the case and I fear will not [be], for old people seldom get stronger. however if a brass kettle not Copper it being dearer falls in your way to contain 70 Gallons please purchase it if under the common price & I will send you the Cash for it I want it for my Distillery. Please send me a pair of Fishermans Boots not the very heaviest sort, but good soals, also a Plow Shear such as last year, these two will cost about £3<sup>15</sup> Haf<sup>x</sup> and I believe you have about that ballance in your hands. If M<sup>r</sup> Geasson comes up next summer I will shew him as clear as the Nose on his face that he owed me the 24 Dollars I demanded and now much more as I have a last years freight acc<sup>t</sup> against him. I did not know it was fashionable now for a man not to sign his name to what he wrote but I know your letter as well without as with. However after best wishes for you and yours according to the old fashion I subscribes myself Dear Henry Your unchangeable Friend Alexander Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich March 2<sup>d</sup> 1804. John Askin Senior to Alexander Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal. Copy



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

PROPERTY OF ISACC TODD AND JAMES MCGILL

Near Sandwich March 2<sup>d</sup> 1804

Dear Sir Your favour of the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> last, reached me the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month the Deeds for the whole 40 Lots sold M<sup>r</sup> Todd and you are now ready you have 3 Each which are bounded by the Belle River & 1 each within a few Lots of these which with the 32, before, forms the whole. I'm sorry for the delay which however has not been my fault. I have several other Deeds to receive of Government and will think myself happy if they are ready in twelve Months to come to be taken out of the office indeed it has at this session been reported to the Governor and Executive Council not to Issue a Commission for settling further claims as there are more reports in th[e] offices at York than Deeds can be made for in less than twelve months. I note what you say respecting M<sup>r</sup> Brushes purchase, also not to make repairs nor let any place out, that rent can not be got for. I will act as you direct. as to M<sup>r</sup> Brush I imagine he will pay yearly or perhaps all next summer I dont see any great difference it can make to him therefore will advise him to [do] it for he is not pinched in money matters for a sum of that kind. I begin to think from his limiting a time for payment that he has made a purchase for some other who can not make better payments. I'm sure that im not less hurt than you and M<sup>r</sup> Todd are at the perches made of me on the other side turning out so badly I can only say that my best endeavours have been used to prevent it. im happy that those on this side will make some amends. The best prospect I see for the Wind Mill is to sell it to M<sup>r</sup> May and give him full time to pay otherwise he can not purchase. he is noted for immidiately puting every thing he buys in the best Order therefore the worst that can happen would be taking it back again when it would be worth double what it is today. both M<sup>r</sup> Park & Meldrum are of my oppinion I wish to have yours soon M<sup>r</sup> May has not told me (but M<sup>r</sup> Brush has) that he wis[h]ed to purchase it.

I remain &<sup>ca</sup>

J A

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> Montreal

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich March 2<sup>d</sup> 1804 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to  
Jm<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal (Copp)

NEWS FROM COLONEL DE PEYSTER

Dumfries 11<sup>th</sup> March 1804

My dear Askin Your friendly letter from near Sandwich opposite Hog Island, without a date is truly flattering as it convinces both M<sup>rs</sup> D and myself that you are that steady friend I always supposed you would prove, for it is time alone which is the true touchstone of friendship. You have introduced however a number of new acquaintances all of whom I sincerely wish may prosper. Our old ones I see are made of good tough materials. the Comodores good Lady I fear will however make him tender through too much indulgence. mind to remember us kindly to that Loving couple. Mon Ami Maisonville you say enjoys his Health. *Chant il encore les Vespres?* If so, tell him it is time he should learn some other tune which must not however be a gloomy one. it would misbecome one of a turn of mind so like my own. You'll say this is no small compliment to myself.

The bearer of this M<sup>r</sup> Dickson the Elder, will give you a full account of our Arming in this Quarter for the reception of Bonaparti and his Numerous Attendants. There is so much to be said upon the Subject of that little Corse that I must refer you to printed, and to Verbal accounts. Whilst he may expect a Warm reception in case he has the folly to land in Britain.

My old Indian friends, the Chiefs I mean I hear are mostly dead Particularly Quiouigousquin and Moneso Bennets fr[i]end Matchiquis. If Wawayachterin the Pottawatomie is living and you see him tell him that I have not forgot him nor any of my Huron friends.

Your friend M<sup>rs</sup> DePeyster you may tell M<sup>rs</sup> Askin is as happy as the day is long and Sleeps all Night as sound as a top. I have my health thank God, and must still have some small share of activity or I could not justify in these busteling times having accepted of a Deputy Lieutenancy of the County with the Command of a Regiment of Volunteers as fine a set of fellows as you ever beheld. If I begin the other side of this paper I shall write it full, and thereby

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

fatigue you not a little. I will therefore conclude here with thanks for your past favors to me, which I often reflect upon with gratitude. Remember us to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and all friends in the kindest terms and believe me truly My dear Sir

Your friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>

A<sup>t</sup> DePeyster

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich opposite Hog Isl-  
and North America fav<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Dickson

*Endorsed:* Dumfries March 11<sup>h</sup> 1804 Colonel DePeys-  
ter to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15 June Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1805

COTTON SEEDS FOR MRS. ASKIN

Poste Vincennes le 24 Mars, 1804

Madame Je Profitte de L'occassion de la voiture de Mr. Dubois Pour vous faire parvenir les graines de Cotton que vous m'avez demandé je vous en envoie un petit sac qui sont des graines méele jaune et blanche de la meilleure qualité qu'il e été a mon pouvoir de vous envoyer Si au cas je puis m'en procurer du jeaune point mellee de bonne sorte je vous les envairais par quelqu' autre aucassion et Si je puis vous être de quelque utilité pour tout autre chause je vous prie de ne point m'épargné je me ferai un plaisir de pouvoir vous satisfaire bien de mes respect et amities a Mr. Votre Epouse et a toute vôtre famille et suis vôtre tres humble et

Obéissant Serviteur

Fran Bazadone

*Addressed:* A Madame Madame Askin Résident aux  
Detroit

*Endorsed:* Post Vincennes le 24<sup>e</sup> Mars 1804 Mons<sup>r</sup>  
Bazadone to Madame Askin Reponse faite le 24<sup>e</sup> May 1804

*Translation*

Post Vincennes, March 24, 1804

Madam: By Mr. Dubois' conveyance I am sending you a small sack of the cotton seeds you requested. They are mixed, yellow and white, and of the best quality that I

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

could get for you. In case I can procure some good yellow, unmixed, I shall send it by another opportunity, and if I can serve you in any way whatever, I beg you not to spare me. It will be a pleasure to me to be able to give you any assurance of my respect and friendship for your husband and for all your family, and to remain

Your most humble and obedient servant,  
François Bazadone

CARE OF PROPERTY OF TODD AND MCGILL

April 3<sup>d</sup> 1804

Dear Charles I was very sorry to learn that M<sup>r</sup> Brush had taken down the Fence between his Orchard & the four little Houses & let Doctor Scott<sup>49</sup> plow all between the Houses in Order to plant potatoes. I have Every wish in the World to Oblige Doc<sup>r</sup> Scott and any place on Land belonging to me when M<sup>r</sup> Brush chooses he may let him plant a spott but as those Houses & the Lots belonging to them are not mine I can not have them Occupied or planted by any person but those who hire them, nor must they be Inclosed with any Other Lots but left perfectly Oppen & separate for to hire to any One who wants them. for you

<sup>49</sup> William McDowell Scott was a British subject who, according to his own statement "entered" the United States early in 1796 and several years later became a citizen. The date of his coming to Detroit has not been learned. On Sept. 9, 1801, he was married here to Mary Ann Meldrum, daughter of George Meldrum and Mary Catherine Angélique Chapoton, who was born in Sandwich, Sept. 2, 1786. In 1803 Scott became a trustee of Detroit, and during the ensuing decade he served at different times as justice of the peace, justice of the Court of Quarter Sessions, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and U. S. marshal. In 1805 he is listed as an attorney, and the same year he was captain of riflemen in the Legionary Corps, of which Elijah Brush was lieutenant colonel. In fact, Scott's activities were so various that only a portion of them can be listed here. Despite his official activities, he was frequently cited for violations of the fire regulations of Detroit. Scott was a member of the Michigan militia surrendered by General Hull in August, 1812. For some reason he incurred the suspicion of Colonel Procter, by whom in February, 1813, he was ordered to leave the territory. He set out for New York, but en route thither was seized by the British military authorities and subjected to a long confinement in Quebec under suspicion, apparently, that he was still a British subject who was harboring treasonable designs. In the spring of 1814 he was released, and going to Washington, he petitioned for an advance of pay for his service as marshal of Michigan from 1806 to 1811, to enable him to return to his home. On April 2, 1814, he was appointed garrison-surgeon's mate in Detroit. He was dismissed, December 12, following, and died a few months later. No record of the date of his death has been found, save a bill against his estate dated June 18, 1815. His widow married (second) Melvin Dorr; she was buried from Ste. Anne's Church, Aug. 1, 1825. See Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit, passim*; *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit, passim*; Burton, *Journal of the Board of Trustees of Detroit, passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*, especially XV, 406; and mss. among the Solomon Sibley papers.

know it would be the greatest reflection on my Character to make use of Mess<sup>rs</sup> T & M<sup>c</sup>Gills places for my private purpose & I dare say would soon be known to them. Whoever would hire the Houses would want the Lots belonging to them, for no man would wish to go thru an Other persons potatoe Lot to get in Or Out of his House. These are matters I'm sure did not Occur to M<sup>r</sup> Brush when he Allowed Doc<sup>r</sup> Scott to plow & I suppose he also thought the Houses were in so bad Order that no One would hire them. Let that be the case or not, as they do not belong to me I must keep them free in case Tenants should Offer. please Explain this matter to M<sup>r</sup> Brush so that nothing further may be done to these Houses or Lots. I Owe Cadiou four Dollars Answer so much for him at the Vendue. I wanted to see you last night to know what you had bought & how things sold. come Over this Evening. Our best wishes to M<sup>r</sup> Brush Alice & Dear Edmund

Your Tender Father  
John Askin

COLLECTION OF DEBTS IN VINCENNES

Near Sandwich April 30<sup>th</sup> 1804

Dear Henry, God be praised my Family & self have weathered an other Winter, & enjoy good health a like blessing we sincerely wish may be the portion of you and yours

M<sup>r</sup> Fraser has not as yet made up the Accounts & delivered them with the Books to M<sup>r</sup> Brush but promises shortly to do it which I believe he will be able to do his Health being some thing better & as he has Vandued all off and lives now at M<sup>r</sup> Mays he has leasure time to settle all his affairs. M<sup>r</sup> William Mackintosh writes me as I believe I before wrote you that he had sued M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe but oweing to a want of Judges there was no Court at Post Vincent last March. In his last letter he mentions Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe means to defend by saying he made several payments which he will prove. how little proof will be rec<sup>d</sup> in that Country provided it keeps a British Subject out of his right in money matters, I'm convinced of, Yet I dont mean to throw reflections on the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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whole, but what can a few upright men do among so many of a different cast. in short I have so little prospect of success in that or any other trial by Jury at Post Vincent where one of the parties is a Citizen & the other a British Subject that I never would try the issue if I could help it and I have now a suit of my own depending where a Gentlemen of the Post owed me a sum of money for which three Notes were given payable in as many Years two of which were regularly paid but as the third was not I after two years directed it to be sued for and there is now a defence set up that I have already in the two Notes that are already paid received more than was ever due me and that it could be proven from this you may conclude that let the instrumen[t] be what it will, the Lawyers of that Country undertake to set it aside and so feared am I of their success that im now trying by fair and gentle means to get to pay me rather than trust to determination of the Court and Jury. for these very Good reasons in my oppinion I have desired M<sup>r</sup> Brush to write Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe to know how much he will give in Order to have the suit withdrawn and a full acquittance given on account of the late Williams & Casity I think you wrote me you would take £1000, N. Y Currency at the expiration of two years on that Sum being well secured

I have only to add that I remain Dear Henry

Your constant Friend

M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Henry at Montreal

*Addressed:* Near Sandwich April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1804. John Askin Senior to M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry, Merch<sup>t</sup>, Montreal (Copy)

INDEBTEDNESS OF FRANCIS VIGO<sup>50</sup>

Proche de Sandwich le 12 Mai 1804

Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe

Mons<sup>r</sup> Je suis extrament mortifie d'apprendre par une lettre que Mons<sup>r</sup> William Mackintosh M'Ecrie que votre concelle L'Avocat General a dit que vous mavez payé plus que vous me deviez jamais et que je vous ai triché. Que je ne vous ai jamais triché ni aucune autre homme sur

<sup>50</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

terre est la Verité, et je crois ce L'opinion de tout honnette homme qui me connoit, Mons<sup>r</sup> L'Avocat General a pris bien de liberté sans me connoitre mais je suis flatté d'apprendre que vous dite qu'il na pas eu votre autorité pour parler de la facon. Je n'ai jamais manque une occasion de vous servir soit avec la compagnie ou dans nos affaires propre. La dernier fois quand vous etiez chez moi et que votre Billett étoit due plus qu'un ans alors je ne voulois pas vous arrete ni vous faire la paine, malgré le grand besoin que j'avois alors d'argent, Je ne voulois pas suivre le conceille de vous faire prendre et assurer mon argent, je demande seulement que vous agisé avec moi comme j'ai fais avec vous, Si vous supposiez qu'il y Eu d'Error dans nos compte pourquoi pas m'a L'avoir dit quand vous etiez ici et je vous aurai fait voir clairement le contraire ayant les ventes chez moi de tous les peltrie que j'ai envoyé a Londres et d'autre preuf que tout ce que je vous aie porté au compte étoit juste. Croyez Moi n'Opposez jamais rien contre le paiement de billett que vous avez faite, ce paroitra mal dans une Cour de justice et au meme temps vous ne réeussirez pas ils faut que les obligations (qu'il ne soit pas obtenue per surprise ou force) soit payé tot ou tard. J'ai le moyent encore de vous servir d'une affaire de beaucoup plus de consequence que tout ce que vous me devez. La dette que vous dever a Mess<sup>rs</sup> William et Cassety est entre les mains de mon gendre Mons<sup>r</sup> Brush et Moi avec autorité de faire payer tout la somme si vous avez autant ou de vous acquitter pour Moins. Mons<sup>r</sup> Fraser n'a plu rien à faire avec vous pour cette affair la. Vous dit avoir fais une paiement considerable à Mess<sup>rs</sup> William et Cassety per la vois de la compagnie de Miamis. comme j'ai les Livres de compte de cette compagnie, Je serrai capable et disposé de prouver tout ce que vous avez payé. Ce n'est pas commune qu'un person Avec qui est en proces, donne une avis à son adversaire, Mais comme Dieu Merci Je nai pas aucune rancune. Je vous donnerai la miens. Faites une offre Honorable et juste à la compagnie de Miamis, Aussi biens que pour ce que vous devez à Mons<sup>r</sup> William et Cassety et je employerai mon Interest pour mettre fins a tout vos proces sans la quelle vous n'aurez jamais la Paix et tranqulité tant que

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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vous Viverez sur terre, Nayant rien autre chose à vous  
marquer Je suis Mons<sup>r</sup>

Votre tres humble Serviteur

*Endorsed:* Proche de Sandwich le 12 de Mai 1804 John  
Askin to Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe. Copie

*Translation*

Near Sandwich, May 12, 1804

Mr. Vigo

Sir: I was extremely annoyed to learn by a letter from Mr. William McIntosh that your counsel, the Attorney-General, says that you have paid me more than you ever owed me and that I have tricked you. I have never tricked you nor any other man on earth, and every honest person who knows me will say the same, I am sure.

The Attorney-General took a great liberty with my character since he has no acquaintance with me, but I am glad that he does not have your sanction in the matter. I have never let a chance slip of serving you, either with the Miamis Company or in our own private affairs. The last time you were here, when your note had been overdue more than a year then, I would not have you arrested, nor cause you any inconvenience, in spite of my great need of funds. I would not take the advice to have you prosecuted to secure payment. All I ask is that you should do the same by me. If you thought there were errors in our accounts, why did you not say so when you were here and I could have shown you the contrary, absolutely, having in my house all bills of sales of peltries sent to London, as well as other proofs that everything I had charged you with was correct.

Believe me, one should never make trouble about paying one's note. It looks bad in court and at the same time never has any effect. Debts must be paid sooner or later, or payment will be enforced in some way. There is an affair on right now of much more consequence than all you owe me in which I could help you. Your debt to Messrs. Williams & Casety is in the hands of my son-in-law, Mr. Brush, and myself, for collection, with authority to



enforce payment of the whole sum, if you have it, or to let you off with less. Mr. Fraser has nothing more to do with it. You state that you have paid Messrs. Williams & Casety a considerable sum through the Miamis Company.<sup>51</sup> As I have the account books of that company, I shall be able and disposed to give you credit for all that you have paid. It is rather unusual to advise one's adversary in legal matters, but as God is merciful I have no spite against you and would show you mercy. Make an honorable and just offer to the Miamis Company, also as much as you can for what you owe Messrs. Williams & Casety, and I shall use my influence in putting an end to all your lawsuits, otherwise you will never have any peace or comfort while you live on this earth. Having nothing further to communicate, I remain, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich, May 12, 1804. John Askin to Mr. Vigo. Copy.

TRADE CONDITIONS AT MACKINAC

Michilimackinac, 30<sup>th</sup> May 1804

Dear Askin. Your esteemed favour of the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> I had the pleasur of receiving some days ago. After an interruption of more than Six months, I am very happy to learn that you & family are well. I am at a loss for words to express my gratitude to you & family, for your kind wishes for my happiness & wellfaer. &c. We have nothing new at this place. After a Short Sickness, we lost M<sup>r</sup> Matthew Henry<sup>52</sup> on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, much regretted. The winter here was mild & the Spring early. The few traders who are Arrived

<sup>51</sup> On the subject of the affairs of the Detroit firm of Williams and Casety, here alluded to, see *B. H. R.*, I, 185; also document printed *post*, 431-34.

<sup>52</sup> Matthew Henry was a brother of James Henry for whom see *ante*, 305. William, cousin of James and Matthew, had been serving as Mackinac agent of Major O'Hara, army contractor. When O'Hara withdrew from the contracting business in 1800, he was succeeded by Wilson and Ormsby. William Henry continued in their employ at Mackinac until the autumn of 1801, when he returned to his home in Lancaster, Pa. His place as agent at Mackinac was taken by his cousin, Matthew, who arrived from Detroit on Sept. 2, 1801. He continued at Mackinac in the employ of Wilson and Ormsby until his death, here noted, March 29, 1804. Writing to James Hopkins on Feb. 16, 1810, James Henry gave the date of Matthew's death as May 28, 1804. Henry papers in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

from the Grand river, &c, Gives a very poor Acc<sup>t</sup> of the trade in that part of the Count[r]y.

In the *Wilkinson* came a few Adventurers, with Flour, Corn, Whiskey, Pork, &c. &c. I am told that Flour is Sold at 5 Dollars, but as yet there is very little demand for those Articles. I am told that Sugar will be plenty.

As to my hea[l]th, I have not been able to Stir from my Own House all the winter, from the Rheumatesm & a weakness in my limbs. I am doing all I can to wind up & Settle my Small Affairs, in Order to leave this Country.

My best respects waits on Madam Askin & all your family. And am Sincerely. Dear Sir,

Your Very Humble Sev<sup>t</sup>

Charles Morrison

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Near Sandwich.

*Endorsed:* Mich. May 30<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Charles Morrison to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> June 7<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>

INDEBTEDNESS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Poste Viencennes, le 9 Juin 1804

M<sup>r</sup> Askin Je Reçû Vos Deux Laitres dattée du 12 May 1804. Vous Me paraissé bien Mortifié de ce que mon avoca a dit de Vous, mais Jespere que Vous ne prendere pas en Consideration Ce que un avoca peut avoir dit ou ce quil dira Sée Messieurs Emploie tous ce qu'il est en Leurs pouvoire pour L'intairais de Leurs Clyens. Vous me demendé pourquoi Lorsque Jetais Chévous je ne vous ay pas Dit qu'il y avais de Lerreur dans nos Comptes. Je vous protaiste que ne L'é jamais panssé, et ay toujours Cruéu vos comptes juste, mais Vous Connaissé ma faiblese et mon Caractaire Vous ni nioré poin que je ne Seé nit Lire nit Ecrire et que Je ne puis me Rendre Compte moy même, la confience que Jé toujours uéu den toute les personnes avec qui Je fais des affaire, et particulierment En Vous a fait que Je né Jamais Employé personne pour la Verification de Mes Comptes, toute personne Son Sujet a Sce tronné trais posibles que Cela Vous Soit arrivé comme a une autre, Cit

Cela Est Soyé persuadé que Je vous Ren trop de Justisce pour penssé que vous L'ayée fait de gaité de Coeur.

Pour me Justifié d'un démenti qui ma été donné par M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> McKintoch en presence detoute la Cour au Sujet d'une Laitre que Javais Reçû de la C<sup>o</sup> des Mits en 90 par M<sup>r</sup> Abbot par la quel Vous Manonssiée M<sup>r</sup> parque et vous, que la C<sup>o</sup> avais divissé les daite de Voibache quil etoiet duëu ala dit C<sup>o</sup> que ma daite Etoiet tonbée a M<sup>r</sup> abbot que Je navais affaire qua lui, Je fut obligé de déclaré ala Court Sou Sairment la Verité, M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch ma dit que Je navais Jamais Reçû de pareil Laitre, ensorte En Chairchant Cette Laittre Javais Rassemblé tous les papié Consernent nos affaire dans une Luiase San panssé en faire aucune usage;

M<sup>r</sup> Dubois avais promis de Vous payé labalance au prentems M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch en paraissai satisfait. M<sup>r</sup> Dubois devais avan Son Départ pour la chute faire Son Billiet a M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch en votre faveur, Mais Infortunément il la totalment oublyé et est parti sans Lefaire, Le lendemain M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch ma envoyé son avoca me demandé le payment quil lui falais ymediatment Cinq Cents piastres pour Vos affaire yci, Je lui fit Réponse que Je navais pas dargent, que Je le pryais d'atendre le Retour de M<sup>r</sup> Dubois quil payeroiet que Javais prit des arangement avec lui pour Cela, que Sit M<sup>r</sup> Dubois navais pas passé Ché lui que Cela Etoiet un oubli aussitos Son Retour Laffaire Sarenjerais, pour toute Satisfaction le landemin Je Reçû une prise de Corps alors Je fut obligé d'employé un avoca et Lui Remaitre tous les papié Consernent nos affaire, Jé Seû aprais qu'il y avais trouvé une herreure Considerable, Considairé Monsieur que L'objet de M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch nest pas que Vous Recevié de largent au detroit mais Bien de faire Vandre les biens des peavres débiteurs Les Ruiné pour Son Intairais particulier, pour preuve de Cela il a fait Vandre une tairre dans la prairie denbas par Jugement Sit Jene mit Etoiet pas trouvé elle naurais pas payé les frais de Court &c. Je L'é poussée moy mêmé Jusque a Cinquante piastres, et il la uëu pour Cinquante Cinq, Ce qui fait plus de Cent pour Cent audesous de Sa Valleur, demaniere que le debiteur Est Ruiné et toujours En daite et le Créanssier ne Reçoit Rien, quand a Laffaire de M<sup>r</sup> Cassety M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch man a parlé il y a

Environ deux ans que Sit Je Voulais il allais au detroit il arranjerais Cette affaire pour moy que Je navais qualui faire mes proposition qu'il les presenterais a Sée Messieurs, Je lui fit Voire une Laitre de M<sup>r</sup> Cassety par laquel il Confaissai davoit Reçû une Certene quantité de pelterie quil Envairais le Castore en Canada alorse Je lui offere pour payment de la Balance de 2000 acre de terres, ou M<sup>r</sup> McKinroche ma dit que Cela Etoiet fort Genereux et que Cetoiet Même trop, Ebien Je par ma lil dit je né nul doubt Daranje cette affaire, Efectivement a Son Retour il ma dit qu'il avais fait ma proposition et que Sée Messieurs Lacceptais quelque tems aprais nous allame de C<sup>o</sup> Voire Les Cinq Lot de 400 acres Sur Sept quil me Raistoiet, Je né Reçû de ce moment aucune Satisfaction pour Cette affaire Sinon une prise de Corps, don Le procès comencêra a la Court de 7<sup>bre</sup> prochain aussibien que le Votre, Je né Jamais Rufussé de payé aucun Compte et Billiet qui mon Eté présenté ou Je les ay payé imediatment ou Jé prit avec les personnes des arangement pour cela et Je met au defit le plus Intrépide de tous les hommes de me Convaincre du Contraire de Cette Verité. Je ne Jamais depuis 29 ans que Jé fait des affaires uêu de prossée avec personne Ce Son Les deux premiers, et il a falut pour cela que cela Soit entre les mains de M<sup>r</sup> McKinroche qui a Juré Ma Ruine totalle en presence de cés deux Compagnion de Voyage, don M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>bste</sup> Laplante En Etoiet un, Vous Voyé M<sup>r</sup> quil mais Inposible de prendre des arangement avec une homme qui chairche a maneantire, quand aux ofre Genereuse de Cervisee que Vous Mofré il Me Son tres agréable, Je vous en prie faitte tous Ce quil cera en Votre pouvoire étan étant tres persuadé que Vous pouvé beaucouppt quil ne depan que de Vous pour me donné la tranquillité, de mon Coté Je feré tous les sacrifisce posible pour Maitre fin a des affaires aussit Enbroullée, Je Suit Lenemit Juré des procès Je pense que un Mauvais arrenjement Veauderais mieux que tous les melieurs proces. Je Vous auré une éternelle Reconnaissance pour tous ce que Vous fera pour moy. Javais Intention daller dans le Missouri Cette autone Jetoiet Certan d'un Bon Succais par les Connaissance que J'i ais et la fassilité davoit un permit. Mais Coment pouraye Mazardé a demandé des Marchandise Sachan que Jé deux

procais Sur les Bras toutes personnes ne Son pas obligé de Sçavoire que Jé fait tous Ce qu'il Etoiet En mon pouvoir pour les Evité, pourten Je ne Cerais pas en paine d'avoire de merchandise mais ma delicatese menpaiche de les accepté. Vous Voyé M<sup>r</sup> Combien il Est danjereux d'avoire des ajans Vendicatif Car Sit Ce navais pas Eté pour me faire du Mal Sans vous fair de bien il aurais Selon ma pryere attendu quelque Jours le Retour de M<sup>r</sup> Dubois Vous aurié Eté payé Moy tranqui Je naurais Jamais panssé a Regardé Sit il y avais de Laireure Entre Vous Et Moy. La preuve est que le Landemain du Retour de M<sup>r</sup> Dubois il a Eté Ché M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch aven même que de Venire Ché moy Lui afrire de Rempire La promaise qu'il Lui avais faite En Sexcusent de Lavoire oublié En parthen, M<sup>r</sup> McKintoch Lui a dit qu'il netes plus tems. Rien de plus a Vous Entretenir. Jé L'honneur daitre avec Consideration Monsieur

Votre tres henbles et tres obeissent Serviteur

Vigo

*Addressed:* A Monsieur Jhon Askin S<sup>q<sup>urs</sup></sup> au Detroit

*Endorsed:* Post Vincent June 9<sup>h</sup> 1804 Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe à Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recu Le 23 Aout wrote him 5. Nov<sup>r</sup> 1804

*Translation*

Vincennes, June 9, 1804

Mr. Askin: I received your two letters dated May 12, 1804. You seem much vexed at what my lawyer has said about you, but surely you do not take seriously anything that a lawyer may have said or that he is likely to say. These men use every means in their power for the interest of their clients.

You ask why I did not mention the error in our accounts when I was with you. I swear I never thought of it and that I have always trusted you that they were all right. You know me, my frailties and my disposition. You will not deny that I can neither read nor write and that I cannot make up my accounts myself. Because of the confidence that I have always had in the people with whom I did business, and especially in you, I have never employed any one

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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to verify my accounts, but all men are liable to make mistakes and it is not impossible that this should happen to you as to any other man. If it is the case, be assured that in justice to you I could never think you did it purposely.

In open court Mr. William McIntosh accused me of lying when I testified under oath that he had told me that I never received the letter that you and Mr. Park said I had, written by Mr. Abbott for the Miamis Company, in 1790, stating that the company<sup>53</sup> had divided up its Wabash debts and that what I owed was to be paid to him and that I had nothing to do with any other person. Therefore, to justify myself I made a search for that letter and put all the papers relating to our affairs into one package but with no thought of using them.

Mr. Dubois had promised to pay you the balance in the spring and Mr. McIntosh seemed satisfied with that, but before his departure for the falls, Mr. Dubois was to give Mr. McIntosh his note in your favor. Unfortunately, Mr. Dubois forgot this entirely and left without doing it. The next day Mr. McIntosh sent his lawyer to me demanding payment, saying that he needed 500 piastres immediately for your business at this place. I replied that I did not have the money, that I would pay him upon the return of Mr. Dubois with whom I had arranged for payment, and that if Mr. Dubois had not gone by his place it was because he had forgotten, but that as soon as he returned, everything would be arranged satisfactorily.

The next day I was served with a writ of habeas corpus, and was then obliged to employ a lawyer and to place in his hands all the papers relative to our business. Afterwards I learned that he had found a mistake of some magnitude. But consider, Sir, the object of Mr. McIntosh. It was not that you should receive money in Detroit, but for the sole purpose of having the property of poor debtors auctioned off and themselves ruined for his own interest. Here is a proof of this. He had a tract of land in the lower meadow put up for the judgment obtained. If I had not happened to be there, it would not have brought the ex-

<sup>53</sup> On the division of debts due the Miamis Company, here alluded to, see *B. H. R.*, I, 325 ff.

penses of the suit. I bid for it myself up to 50 piastres and he got it for 55, more than one hundred per cent less than its value. In that way the debtor is ruined and the creditor gets nothing.

With respect to my business with Mr. Cassety, Mr. McIntosh told me about two years ago that he was going to Detroit and if I wished he would settle it for me, that I had only to make him an offer and he would present it to the gentlemen there. I showed him a letter from Mr. Cassety in which he acknowledged the receipt of a certain quantity of peltry, adding that he was going to send the beaver to Canada. I then offered 2000 acres of land to pay the balance, which Mr. McIntosh said was very generous and even too much. "Oh, well," he said to me, "I'm going up and have no doubt but that I shall settle it all right." On his return he told me that he had presented my offer to the gentlemen and they had accepted it. Some time after, we went together to look over the five lots of 400 acres by 7 that remained to me. From that day I have had nothing in settlement of that business except a writ of habeas corpus for which the suit begins next September, the same time as yours.

I have never refused to pay any account or note presented to me. Either I have paid it immediately or I have arranged for the payment, and I defy the most daring man on earth to convict me of the contrary. In the 29 years that I have been in trade I have never had a suit with any man. These are the first two, and it was necessary for them that the business should be in the hands of Mr. McIntosh, who has sworn my total ruin in presence of two traveling companions, one of them being Mr. Jean Baptiste Laplante.

You see, Sir, how impossible it has been for me to come to any terms with a man who seeks only to destroy me. Your generous offer of aid is most acceptable, and I beg you to do all in your power, being fully persuaded that you can do much and that my only dependence is in you for any peace of mind. On my part, I shall make any sacrifice to put an end to such a tangled state of affairs. I am the sworn enemy of litigation. Better far is a bad bargain than the most favorable lawsuit. I shall be eternally grateful to you for anything you may do to help me.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

It was my intention to go into the Missouri Country this fall where I was sure of good trade from my knowledge of the country and the freedom in the matter of a license. But how can I venture to ask for goods with two lawsuits on my hands? Every one may not know that I did all in my power to avoid trouble. However, there would be no difficulty in getting goods. The fact is, I am scrupulous about accepting them.

You see, Sir, how ruinous it is to have spiteful agents. If this one had not wanted to do me harm without doing you any good, he would have waited for the return of Mr. Dubois, as I begged him to do. You would have been paid, myself at ease, and I should never have thought to look if there were any errors in our accounts. In proof of this, the day after Mr. Dubois returned, even before coming to see me, he went to Mr. McIntosh and offered to fulfill the promise he had made, apologizing for his forgetfulness when he left. Mr. McIntosh told him it was too late.

With nothing more of interest to you, I have the honor to remain respectfully, Sir,

Your most humble and most obedient servant,

Vigo

AFFAIRS OF ISAAC TODD

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> July 1804

My dear friend On my return from N. York I found your favors of the 29<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> & 27<sup>h</sup> febr<sup>y</sup> [since] which Malincholly events has prevented my Answering. I found my friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Tavish in a bad State of health which occasioned My being much with him & his famely he departed this Life the 6<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> his Loss will be felt by his famely, his friends & his Country he has Left a Large fortune part of which is disposed of much to his honor he has Left £1000 to the Commod<sup>re</sup> Son.<sup>54</sup> as I am One of his Executors & the perticular friend of his disconsolate Wife, occasions my attention & many painfull scenes. and to add to this, I buried on the 15<sup>th</sup> a favorite House keeper after a painfull

<sup>54</sup> Alexander Grant, for whom see *ante*, 21.



Complaint, which Terminated in a Consumption She was only 31 Years Old Lived with me near 10 Years & was Mother to a Little Girl that Calls me and truly her father I acknowledge her as Such I before the Mothers death took her to Quebec to place her under the Care of [a] respectable Woman who teaches School she costs me £100 P<sup>r</sup> Annum her Mother has Left two other Daughters by her Husband, James Kyle who has Lived with me 12 Years. poor Woman she was unhappy fearing these Children might be Neglected as their father is a Young Man and may Marry again I promised I would take care of them. I have done so Leaving in the hands of Trustees £1000 for each the Interest to Educate them, the principal to be paid on their being of Age, or Marrying with the Consent of the Trustees, if One dies to [the] other to Inherit her Share, I know of no use Money is but to do good, and to enable me to assist others I with pleasure deprive my Self of comforts I could enjoy. those Events my Good friend have depressed my Spirits Much & even injures my health, and as Montreal will now be Much Changed to me I may probably take a Trip to England this fall or winter at Quebec. we must endeavour to do our duty while we Live. I have seen some of the Passengers by the Fleet who says that Miserable Man W<sup>m</sup> Robertson Lives such a shamefull Life as to be often found Lying in the Streets as no Coffee house nor Lodging will keep him Long & of course no decent man keep him Company. I know you will with me wonder that a Man such as he was can be so lost. I find you have got the debt owing by Roland [Ruland?] to My Nephew Secured. as I am often absent M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill will Give you instructions respecting our Joint Lands I have only to wish you would Send me from the Orriginal Schedule a Note of the Lots Sold or exchanged & what remains to be paid of the purchas. is there no demands for the property at River Raisin? I am extremely grieved to hear of the Conduct of Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee on Account of his Good Wife her fate has not been such as she deserved. we must be resigned to meet with Trouble which God inable us to bear my mind is not yet recovered from the Late events so as to say much on business Rememb<sup>r</sup> me kindly

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & all Your famely God Bless you all &  
beleve me

Your Sinc[e]re friend  
Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Detroit favor R.  
Hamilton Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Montreal July 20<sup>th</sup> 1804 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

TUITION OF ALEXANDER ASKIN

Detroit August 8<sup>th</sup> 1804

Dear Sir I have enclosed the Acc<sup>t</sup> of Mas<sup>r</sup> Alick's<sup>55</sup>  
Schooling from The first time of his commencement to the  
5<sup>th</sup> of August and have given Credit for all the Money that  
I received, the Price of one thousand of Bricks which I have  
had Received by Your order from John Shaw I don't know  
therefore You'll be pleas'd to deduct it. And as I am under  
the Necessity of paying a large Sum of Money I would con-  
sider it a great favour if you would be Pleased to Send me  
the Balance. I am certain that I have not the least doubt  
of your good inclination of serving me in my distress and on  
my part I conceive & think that I have discharged my duty  
faithfully for I am not ashamed of the progress that Mas<sup>r</sup>  
Alick has made while under my care & Tuition and be  
assured Sir, that I will not be in the least slack or Remiss in  
advancing him in every degree to the utmost in my power  
Mas<sup>r</sup> Alick has a pretty collection of Books, but unhappily  
lost his Grammar which is the Key & Instrument to all the  
Authors. Perhaps you could procure him one Soon. I hope  
you will be so kind [as] to Inform me if I have any prospect  
of receiving that Small debt that the late Doctor Harffy  
owed me

<sup>55</sup> Alexander David, the youngest son of John Askin, was born, Feb. 22, 1791. He died in early manhood, apparently toward the close of 1815. For several years following the family's removal to Strabane, Alexander attended school in Detroit. He subsequently read law with his brother-in-law, Elijah Brush. If family estimates may be trusted, he was a youth of much natural ability, who never really applied himself. He was present at the surrender of Detroit, in 1812, as a lieutenant of the Flank Company, Second Essex Militia Regiment; the following year he is listed as a lieutenant of the Troop of Provincial Royal Artillery Drivers. See Askin papers *passim*; and Irving, *op. cit.*, 40, 91.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Dear Sir, with best respects & sincere Compliments to you & Worthy family I remain your very humble & obedient Servant

Matthew Donovan

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Mathew Donovan to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>h</sup>

DEATH OF SIMON MCTAVISH

Queenston August 10<sup>th</sup> 1804

Dear Sir After a very pleasant Jaunt to the Lower Province, I got home three days ago. I had the pleasure to find my family in perfect health, nor have I as yet perceived that the Bussiness had been [illegible] by my Absence. At Montreal I found most of our old freinds well & hearty. Unfortunately during our stay there, the Society suffered a very serious Loss in M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Tavish. Full of health & spirits last year, he had projected to build a most Magnificent house in the Vicinity of Montreal. With a Man of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Tavishs enterprise the Execution of the Plan followed the project very close. He had it founded in the Fall, & early this spring on superintending the Work, he got a severe cold which being at first neglected, soon became serious, & when too late was found past the power of medecine to remove. His death caused a Sensation not only in Montreal, but through the Whole Province, which I will not Attempt to describe. He has left a very large Fortune very [illegible] by Will to his family, relations, & freinds. Some of the particulars are said to be as follows,—to his Widow 1200 a Year, his Second Son £20000, to each of two daughters 10,000, to a nefew not a partner £5000, to each of the others £1000, as allready well provided for. to the Sisters & Gray Nuns £1000 each in Charity, to a Son of his old Freind M<sup>r</sup> Frobisher £5000, to finish the Education of our freind the Comodores Son £1000, and many others equally well Selected, to the Amount tis supposed of half his fortune The Residue supposed £50-or 60 thousand pounds to his eldest Son. I have been thus particular as you Well knew the Man, & will as much as any body be sensible of the Loss the Country has sustained. Our Worthy freind M<sup>r</sup> Todd is

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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one of the Executors to this Will, and was much Occupied by his Attention to him on his death bed. We found him however freindly and kind as ever. He begins to find old Age creeping on, but still must be going about. He projects spending this Winter in Quebec, & half promises us a Visit in the spring. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill we found in perfect health. To me he appeared as Young as he was Twenty Years ago. In a very comodious Country house, about a Mile from Town, with a most excellent Garden, he seems to possess and to enjoy as much Comfort, as generally falls to the Lott of humanity. His Brother Andrew has lately taken to himself a Young Wife, and seems of course perfectly happy. We found your old freinds A. Henry & W<sup>m</sup> Lindsay in partnership in a Commission & Vendue bussiness, seemingly doing Well, & kind in their Enquires after You & Yours.

We spent a Week in Quebec with many old and kind freinds, and completed our tour in Six Weeks very much to our Satisfaction.

I found your last kind letter on my desk on my return. It gave me much satisfaction to learn that all [illegible] with You. I brought up a large English packet which I got at Quebec from Sir G. Pounal it Accompanies this, & I hope gives you good Accounts of your freinds at home, which I shall be very glad to learn. Of our freind W. R. the last accounts are Miserable beyond description. Lost to every sence of Shame, his Conduct would disgrace the lowest Member of the lowest class of Society.

M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton requests to Join me in best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & in best Wishes for you & all yours. I ever am  
Dear Sir

Yours very sincerely

R. Hamilton

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1804 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton  
Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> sept<sup>r</sup>

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

TUITION OF ALEXANDER ASKIN

Colonel John Askin

To Matthew Donovan Dr

To the Tuition of his Son Mas<sup>r</sup> Alexander Askin  
 from the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1802 to the 5<sup>th</sup> of August  
 1804 Being 2 Years & 3 Months at 16 Shillings £ s d  
 P<sup>r</sup> Month.....N. Y. Currency 21" 12" 0  
 C<sup>r</sup> by 10 Dollars Rec<sup>d</sup> by Mas<sup>r</sup> Alexander in  
 Septem<sup>r</sup> 1802..... 4" 0" 0  
 by a Bank Bill Rec<sup>d</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Brush in July 1804.. 4" 0" 0  
 8 0 0

By 1 Thousand of Bricks Rec<sup>d</sup> by Your order of  
 John Shaw..... 13" 12" 0  
 I dont know the price, you'll be pleas'd to  
 deduct it..... 3 —

Ent<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1804 £10" 12" -

Rec<sup>d</sup> of John Askin the Balance of the within amount  
 being ten pounds twelv[e] Shillings. Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 14, 1804.  
 Matthew Donovan

paid out of [illegible] see M<sup>r</sup> Brushes statem<sup>t</sup>

Endorsed: Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1806 [1804] M<sup>r</sup> Mathew Donovans  
 receipt in full £10" 12

AFFAIRS OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Strabane Aug<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1804

Dear W<sup>m</sup> Your letter dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of last month reached  
 me the 9<sup>th</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> and I assure you it allways gives us pleasure  
 to hear from you or John however I do not mean from  
 that to exact such a correspondence as would take you or  
 him from your necessary bussiness but when at leisure a  
 few lines will always be pleasing and particularly so when  
 any change takes place that may effect either of you.

Respecting the conduct of your Uncle W<sup>m</sup> Robertson for  
 some time past no real idea can be formed of what he  
 means or I rather think what he does has no meaning he

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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has sums Due him where he does not call for them or make any enquiry about them and he protests bills drawn on him for money due agreeable to an account current and letter both in his own hand writing. I consider him an honest worthy friendly good man, who has got a Strong fever or something which opperates as such and untill that fit gets over if ever it does not [no] great consistency in action can be expected. however my advice to you as his Nephew and agent is to continue doing all you can for his interest, which advice is I dare say needless to you who have so great an inclination to serve him, and as to what he may write for the present little stress can be laid on it. I Should think the letter he wrote Mess<sup>rs</sup> Parker Gerard & Ogilvie & C<sup>o</sup> will authorize them to charge him £2000 Hf<sup>x</sup> advance[d to] you and I'm persuaded in his real senses he never intended to withdraw that credit, therefore what he may now write you on that or any other subject should only guide your actions so far as you think them the same sentiments he would have expressed some years ago.

I think your Uncles agents should stop the sale of his houses for the ballance due the Commodore he now finds there are more drafts protested than he thought at first so that there must be above £300 Ster<sup>s</sup> now due. the matter is easy done but how you or Charles or both rather are to undertake it without his concurrence and that I dare say he will not give you for the only reason as he may call it that he will not be drove to any thing, tho perfectly right and for his interest and credit. for my part was I his agent I would undertake the payment of the debt and tho he might blame me in his present state I'm sure he would thank me in future should he ever recover from his present situation. I dont believe Visgar will gain much if any thing from your Uncle by the suit he has instituted for Charles has found out the account of sales of his Peltries and after deducting the expences in Lower Canada very little if any thing will remain, and if there did I'm sure your Uncle David must have given [it] to him and taken no notice of it in the accounts otherwise M<sup>r</sup> Visgar would not have been so long silent and made payments since.

Your Grand-mother had been unwell but is perfectly

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

recovered. I never have had my health better than this year but [have been] a little indisposed for some days past all the rest of the Family in perfect health as was Cap<sup>t</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith with their Children in April last.

After the familys assurances of strong attachment to you and John I remain Dear W<sup>m</sup>

Your affectionate Grand-father

M<sup>r</sup> William Robertson Jun<sup>r</sup>  
Merchant Queenstown

*Endorsed:* Strabane Aug<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1804 John Askin to  
William Robertson Jun<sup>r</sup> (Copy)

FROM ROBERT DICKSON TO JOHN ASKIN

Michilimackinac Aug<sup>t</sup> 24 1804

Dear Sir As I am just setting out for the Mississippi and as I leave a young man to pass the Winter at this place, finding that you have a quantity of whisky for sale here, please direct to Patrick Adhemar<sup>56</sup> informing him of the lowest price and enclose an Order on Jaques Geasson with whom it is stored for what quantity he may want for which I will be accountable & remitt you the Amount next spring. My best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & family, wishing the full enjoyment of health, I am Dear Sir,

Your very Obed<sup>t</sup> & very hbl<sup>e</sup> Servant<sup>t</sup>

R. Dickson<sup>57</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Mich. Aug<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Dickson to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> wrote an Answ<sup>r</sup> to Patrick  
Adhemar y<sup>e</sup> 29

<sup>56</sup> Patrick Adhémar witnessed several marriages at Mackinac in the period 1792-99. Presumably he was a son or other connection of Toussaint Anthony Adhémar *dû* St. Martin (for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 177-78), but of this we have found no record. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, *passim*.

<sup>57</sup> Robert Dickson was one of a family of six sons and four daughters, children of a merchant of Dumfries, Scotland. The father suffered business reverses and possibly this was a factor in the migration of three of the sons, Robert, William, and Thomas, to Canada, where their cousin, Robert Hamilton, was established in business. William and Thomas located in the Niagara region and their careers are sketched in *B. H. R.*, I, 461 and 542. It is known that William Dickson came to Canada in 1784, and since Robert was the older brother, it seems probable that he came at the same time. From 1786 to 1788 he was at

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Erie August 26 1804

My Dear Sir I have written you two or three times Since my return, but have not been favored with any of yours. the purport of the present is to inclose an Account of Sundry Articles, furnished by me on joint Adventure Account, & of 4 Barrels of Pork, furnished & forwarded P your own order the first Amounting to £250-6-0 & the latter to £28-16- New York Currency, both of which will I hope prove Correct. As the time is now fast approaching when my remittances must be made I trust I shall be excused for urging the propriety of Selling at any price which will Cover Cost & Charges, for I must remit. I however hope that, the greatest part if not the whole has been already disposed of & to Advantage. I have been So much disappointed in the Mackina and Detroit Markets, that I shall not be very forward to try them Again, thinking it better to sell at a Saving price at home, than to run great risks for the prospect of an uncertain Advantage.

The first of the English Goods arrived the other day at Queenstown but have not yet got this length. we may now Speedily Expect to be Constantly employed in the Forwarding line which will Keep us busy enough 'till the Close of the Navigation.

The *Saguinah* left this Some days ago with a load of Salt for Presqu'isle, by which she will not indeed gain Much, tho' it will help to pay her Current Expences. there will be another load ready for her when She returns, which Considering the Number of Vessels in Port, belonging to the owners of the Goods Coming up, & the little prospect of her getting any Chance freight, is the best manner in

Mackinac, serving as clerk and storekeeper in the Indian Department. The remainder of his life was passed in the Indian trade, chiefly of the Upper Mississippi region. There he acquired wide influence, particularly over the Sioux, one of whose women he married. This influence was largely decisive in allying the Indians of the region west of Lake Michigan with the British in the War of 1812. After that war the trade of the Minnesota region became progressively less prosperous for the British traders, and Dickson was on the point of withdrawing from it and establishing his family in the vicinity of his brothers at Niagara, when he died at Drummond Island in 1823. One of his sons, William Dickson, became a trader in the Red River region. Here he incited a half-breed rebellion in 1836, and two years later committed suicide. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; article on Robert Dickson in *Minnesota History*, VI, 330-42; *Niagara Hist. Soc.*, pubs., No. 30, pp. 19-21; and Quaife, *Wisconsin, Its History and Its People*, 333 ff.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

which she can be employed. Should it be in my Power to give her any other Assistance in the freight it shall be most Cheerfully exerted. There is Some talk of the probability of Peace Speedily taking place in Europe, tho' I fear matters are not ripe enough for that Yet.

I request My regards to the Family, & am with the Sincerest Wishes for their joint & individual Welfare, My Dear Sir

Your friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Fort Erie Aug<sup>t</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Erie Septem<sup>r</sup> 6 1804

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

My Dear Sir Your favors of the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 26<sup>h</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> came duly to hand and are now before me, the first advising of your having Sent Six Dollars for the Purchase of a Lottery Ticket in the Neighbouring States, which sum I have received & shall dispose of as directed.

I am Sorry to See by yours of the 26<sup>h</sup> the unfavorable situation of the small adventure, forwarded by me this Spring, particularly as I calculated on the Am<sup>t</sup> of it to add to my fall remittances. Flour & Pork with us are almost the only payments we get for our Goods, at this place, & from them we must make our remittances. I however Still hope that Something will Come from that Quarter. If not I shall be greatly deficient. I am anxious if possible to avoid paying Interest in Montreal for it like a Cancer eats up all the profit.

I sent up no Flour in the *Saguinah*, 40 Barrels Per the *Lark* being all I forwarded this as directed I have Charged to your Account, at 50/. I have also Charged you with 6 Barrels more Pork at £7-4 del<sup>d</sup> at Sandwich, agreeably to the inclosed Account, by which it appears you are indebted to me to the Sum of £17 8 New York Currency, which I think you will find right. there will then remain at

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Mackina 14 Barrels of Pork which went forward in the *Saguinah* the freight on which to Mackina must be deducted from the Sales.

M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds's Bill has been received, and is at your Credit. the Tea I Expect in about a fortnight. so soon as it arrives it shall be forwarded.

The *Saguinah* is now under Sailing orders having I suppose about 100 Barrels Bulk of Merchandise on board. there is no prospect of her getting more at present, I however hope that we may be able to do something better when she returns, at all events depend on my best Services.

I shall endeavour to do Something with Norton when more at leisure.

I am happy to hear that Capt<sup>n</sup> Meredith and Family were well, & shall always participate in the felicity of You & Yours. I beg my regards to the Family and am with the sincerest friendship My Dear Sir

Your Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Sep<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin  
recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>h</sup>

AFFAIRS OF THOMAS WILLIAMS AND COMPANY

Montreal 18 September 1804

Elijah Brush Esq<sup>r</sup>

Sir I received your favour of the 2<sup>d</sup> & 13 Ultm<sup>o</sup> respecting the business with Fraser & Williams<sup>58</sup> previous to the death of John Casity I received a power of Attorney from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Murray & Sansom London, and M<sup>r</sup> David White<sup>59</sup> the two principal Creditors of Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams & C<sup>o</sup> on my departure for Detroit M<sup>r</sup> Cruickshank for himself & M<sup>r</sup> Kay<sup>60</sup> approved of my settling their business also. on my

<sup>58</sup> John R. Williams, for whom see *ante*, 383-84.

<sup>59</sup> For the career of David White, see *B. H. R.*, I, 195.

<sup>60</sup> William and John Kay, brothers, were Montreal merchants engaged in the western fur trade in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. William was a member of the grand jury which indicted Lieutenant-Governor Henry Hamilton of Detroit in 1778. Another brother, Alexander, was a lieutenant in the Indian Department at Mackinac

arrival at Detroit I found the Estate in the Greatest confusion, no person interesting themselves for the Estate or Creditors, and it was with the consent of the Creditors at Detroit that M<sup>rs</sup> Williams<sup>61</sup> and M<sup>rs</sup> Casety<sup>62</sup> assign'd & made over the Estate to me in due form according to the custom of the country at that time there being no other mode of proceeding. a copy of this act I send you. on my leaving Detroit [I] did with the advice of the Creditors & my friends there appoint M<sup>r</sup> Fraser my Attorney to act for me as long as I thought proper, and to revoke that power when I pleased. his procuring himself to be appointed Curator to the Estate afterwards<sup>63</sup> without the knowledge of the Creditors and particularly me must be considered and viewed by your Judges as done with intent to defraud and keep the Estate in his own Hands, and the appointment must be considered illegal, as the Estate was previously disposed of for the benefit of the Creditors, and put into my Hands. respecting Williams wishing to get the Estate into his Hands to dispute the demands of the Creditors, so many years admitted, is absurd. this plainly discovers his intent to defraud the Creditors, which your Judges must plainly see. M<sup>rs</sup> Casety's assignment you will find I think registerd in the register at the same time as M<sup>rs</sup> Williams. if M<sup>r</sup> Williams would propose a certain sum and give security for the payment perhaps it would be as well, however his attempt to defraud us, ought to prevent him having any advantages. you mention that it would be best a number of the Creditors here would sign the power

during and after the Revolution, where he died about the year 1786. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*.

61 Mary Cecilia Campau, widow of Thomas, and mother of John R. Williams. She was the daughter of Jacques Campau and Catherine Menard, and was born at the Northeast Coast of Detroit, Sept. 11, 1764. She was married to Thomas Williams (for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 169) by Colonel Arent S. De Peyster on May 7, 1781. Williams died, Nov. 30, 1785, and on May 1, 1790, Mary Cecilia Campau married (second) in Sandwich, Jacques Lauzon, who was born at the Northeast Coast of Detroit, Dec. 13, 1760. They had eight children, born in the years 1791-1803. Mary Cecilia Campau was buried in Detroit on June 24, 1805. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

62 For the career of Mrs. Casety, *née* Therese Baby, see *B. H. R.*, I, 185.

63 There was no regular court in Detroit prior to the coming of Judge William Dummer Powell in 1789. For a careful account of the law and practice in Detroit with respect to the administration of estates in this period, see Riddell, *Michigan under British Rule, passim*, especially chap. x.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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of attorney. you will observe I am the agent for the only creditors to any amount, the rest trifling both at Detroit & Elsewhere, M<sup>r</sup> Cruickshank being the only one for a small sum, and he says the estate was already assigned to me by M<sup>rs</sup> Williams, therefore I was the proper person to convey the power. re[s]pecting the amount of the balances due to the Creditors, M<sup>r</sup> Fraser has the statment and in course will give it to you. should M<sup>rs</sup> Casetys assignment not be found it cant be of any consequence as Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams & C<sup>o</sup> was John Casety, and at Williams death he continued the business without any settlement being made with the Creditors and he was greatly indebted to the estate of T Williams, the amount of the whole M<sup>r</sup> Fraser if he pleases can give you information thereon I remain in hopes of hearing from you.

Your Most hum<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Alexander Henry

as Murray Sansom & C<sup>o</sup> & David White are the only Creditors of any consequence, suppose Williams would give me a sum I would acquit the Estate from these demands, and he would easily settle with the others, five hundred pounds York cash, exclusive of what you have in Hand will not be what it is worth, as Vigo owes 1700. besides 15 years Interest. A. H.

*Endorsed:* Letter To Elijah Brush Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Appended:*

Copy

To all to whom these presents shall come I Cecille Campaux of Detroit send Greeting, whereas my deceased Husband Thomas Williams of Detroit Merchant was at the time of his decease in company & joint partner with John Casety since deceased, when at the time of their Death and continue so to be at present indebted unto Alexander Henry Merchant of Montreal as Agent attorney for Murray Sansom & C<sup>o</sup> of London and other Creditors, now know ye that I Cecille Compaux widow of the deceased Thomas Williams for and towards the payment and satisfaction of the said Debts and divers other good Causes and considerations me thereunto moving, have Granted assignd

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

bargaind & made over and by these presents do realy and absolutely grant and assign and make over all my r[i]ght Interest & Claim unto said Alexander Henry for the afore-said purposes all and in all manner of goods chatels debts, moneys, and all other things whether real or personal property of what kind or nature or quality soever in the state they are in at the time of my Husbands decease to have and to hold the same unto the said Alexander Henry his [h]eirs executors, administrators and assigns untill such Debts are paid and discharged in witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & Seal this el[e]venth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty eight

sign'd Cecille veuve Tho<sup>s</sup> Willians

Joseph Campau

W<sup>m</sup> Monforton<sup>64</sup> Notary Public

registerd in the register of Detroit page 318 by me

Signd W<sup>m</sup> Monforton NP.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ROBERT NICHOL

September the 19<sup>th</sup> 1804

Dear Robert, Your favour of the 6<sup>th</sup> reached me on the 17<sup>th</sup> I have enquired and find that M<sup>r</sup> Reuff<sup>65</sup> will be the first person who goes for Michilimacinac by him I will give directions to have the Pork sold if it should only bring first cost freight & Duty so as you may have some payment and perhaps something may turn up so as to enable me to discharge the Ball<sup>e</sup> I owe you though I do not as yet know of anything for certain. The Interest of that sum shall not fall on you at Montreal or elsewhere. As the *Saguinah* returns, I will put a few Barrells of Cider on Board sell them for what they will fetch & Credit me as the cider is made early it will not do to keep long though there is not a spoonful of watter in it. I missed Captain Cowan therefore you will take a Barrell of what I send for your own use.

<sup>64</sup> For sketch of the career of William Monforton, see *B. H. R.*, I, 107.

<sup>65</sup> Captain James Rough, for whom see *ante*, 258.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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All well here and assure you of their best wishes, as Does  
D<sup>r</sup> Robert

Your Friend

P.S. If you can sell the Cider as you before mentioned at  
6 Dollars I will perhaps be able to send you £100 worth

*Endorsed:* Sandwich Sep<sup>r</sup> 19th 1804. John Askin  
Sen<sup>r</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nichol Merchant (Copy)

MISCONDUCT OF GABRIEL HUNOT

Sandw[i]ch 5 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1804

M<sup>r</sup> G Hounot<sup>66</sup>

Sir your letter of the 23 March last is before me I have  
a great deal to say to you but as you intend coming Nex  
spring I shall mak a shorter letter than I intended Certainly  
I had great reason to send M<sup>r</sup> Smith or some other person  
to look after my affairs in your hand when I found that you  
did not hesitate to put my property into the hands of your  
Creditors and involved me into Law sutes with them for  
the sake of argement what would you or what would My  
marchent say if I put my packs into the hand of a Man  
that I was deeply Indebted to or even if I did ow[e] him  
any thing the transaction had a bad apperance My  
friends at Montreal has wrot me on this Subject and they  
disaprue of your conduct and that you doo not Merit any  
Incuragment I hope for the futer such mistakes will not  
happen I think that sending in Eight Men with 54 packs  
was rather extravagant admitting that the adventure  
could afound it. I wish you to sell off all the goods on hand  
the insuing spring if it was even to a Small disadvantage for  
ready payment your Nephew requests me to inform you  
that he delivered all the packs in good order Which was  
certainly the case they wer[e] in perfect good condition  
[illegible] said that you had 20 More packs which he  
[illegible] had those packs you did exceedingly wron in not  
sending them in As you Must know that 20 packs more  
would have mad a great change of the face of the amount  
My good[s] & many others are yet on the comunication

<sup>66</sup> An inventory of goods accompanying this document discloses that this was Gabriel  
Hunot Sr.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

consequently the assortment is by no means compleat The scarcity of Cash in this countree is such that we are distressed for want of it Even Bills of Exchange will not command it Therefore I would recomend it to you to arang with your Men for Merchandize and also to procure as much as would be wanted for silver works in great heast I am Sir your Most respectfull friend & humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Robert Gouie

M<sup>r</sup> Gabriel Hounot New Madrid

P.S. Cap<sup>t</sup> Peyroax will call on you for a few articles put up among the thing-belonging to the adventure which you will be pleased to Deliver the Gentleman agreeable to his Invoice R G

have the goodness [illegible] pounds wight of Indigo Next Spring

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Gabriel Hounot New Madrid

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Erie October 19<sup>th</sup> 1804

My Dear Sir I wrote you a hasty letter the other day by Captain Gilkison, & have Since (say this morning) rec<sup>d</sup> your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> As the *Saguinah* is nearly full & will be ready to Sail this evening I think it best to be prepared for her departure.

I remark what you Say respecting the Amount due me. the disappointment to me tho' great, will not prove So much So as I at one time expected, having fortunately been able to realise property which I did not during the Summer & first of the fall Calculate upon. the Matter Sooner than you should be obliged to make a Sacrifice must lie over.

Your order for Milk of roses shall be attended to but I must Candidly Say, that I highly disapprove of all Cosmetics. they (the most innocent) are very dangerous, ruin the Constitution & not unfrequently occasion the death of those who use them. I shall apply to my Friend Doctor Walsh for a preparation which will I am sure be more safe & equally Efficacious.

I have forwarded by Capt<sup>n</sup> Fearson a Barrel of Timothy

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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seed cont<sup>s</sup>  $3\frac{3}{8}$  Bushels. out of this M<sup>r</sup> Selby must have two Bushels. I shall forward on an Additional Quantity for yourself with a little for Capt<sup>n</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee, & the Clover Seed, which will be taken up by Capt<sup>n</sup> Mills's or some other vessel.

We have accounts from England to the 11<sup>th</sup> of August at which time nothing of moment had Occurred, it is however generally believed that Our present Ministry will not suffer the Energies & resources of the Nation to be consumed & dissipated in Idle Pomp & Parade. Expeditions are talkd of in the best informed Circles, & I think it not unlikely that we shall attempt in France, what Buonaparte has long boasted he would do in England. Notwithstanding the Servility & Abject State of the press in that Country it requires but little Sagacity to discover the general discontent & horror with which the daring Usurpation of the French Throne by a Sanguinary Tyrant is viewed by the great Mass of the People, & although Some might Consider my Ideas Extravagant, I will insist that if the Bourbon princes were to land in the West of France accompanied even by Such an Army as we Could Spare, M<sup>r</sup> Buonaparte's power would soon totter to the foundation the great Mass of the people are from principle attached to the House of Bourbon & only require the presence of the princes of that House with an Army to Support them, to rally round them & assist in driving out the Wretches who have So long disgraced France by their Enormities.

We seem to look with great Confidence to an Offensive and Defensive Alliance with Russia & Sweden. Such a Measure by placing at our disposal a large & well disciplin'd Army would very Soon restore the Ancient Government of France, & Consequently Adjust the Balance of Power on the Continent.

My time since the Arrival of the English Goods has been Constantly Employed without intermission & this is almost the only leisure day I have had these Two Months past. the season is now however fast approaching when I shall have rather more leisure than I wish for. Solitude is to me a most insupportable State, & was it not for the few Books



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I possess, & now and then a visit from Some friends, I should die of Ennui.

It gives me great pleasure to Announce to you that Contrary to (I presume) all our most Sanguine Expectations the *Saginah* sails with (or nearly) a full load. every Exertion has been used both by M<sup>r</sup> Clark & myself to assist her & I am happy to think we have so well succeeded. On reviewing her transactions for the Season I think you may Calculate on a profit of £500, or 400 Pounds, no bad thing in these unfortunate times.

I rejoice to hear of the good health of your family My best wishes for a long Continuance of this invaluable gift are unceasing. I request My best regards to every individual of it & am with every Affectionate wish My Dear Sir

Your Sincere Friend & Most Faithful Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol

PS. I have seen a rule of the Detroit Court authorising M<sup>r</sup> Warren to take the Evidence of M<sup>r</sup> Douglas in a Cause in which Capt<sup>n</sup> Lee of the *Contractor* is defendant by giving *me* three days Notice. I have prevailed on M<sup>r</sup> Warren to postpone the business untill I hear from M<sup>r</sup> Brush who is his Attorney. If I should not write Mr B I will thank you to mention my wish to have his instructions. R N

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Fort Erie Oct<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

DIFFICULTIES OF RICHARD POLLARD

Dear Sir I have been so Extremely ill, that I have been Oblidged to Keep the house, this Month; I thank God I am somewhat better, & shall endeavour to do duty to Morrow.

I Knew what would be our situation, for want of Church Wardens! no Kind of preparation or Assistance for the Holy Communion! no Attention About the hire of a Stove, Or Wood for the Winter; would a stranger who has seen this Country believe this? If I was well, I would look after these things myself. I am without a servant, &

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

cannot hire a man for any price. wishing you health, remain

Y<sup>r</sup> Se

Octo 20 1804

R Pollard

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sen<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sen<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Endorsed:* Oct<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 1804 the Rev<sup>d</sup> Richard Pollard to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> & Imediately Answ<sup>d</sup>

DEBTS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Nov<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> 1804

Dear sir Hearing that the Judge & M<sup>r</sup> Jones<sup>67</sup> are to set off to morrow & not having learnt that any thing has yet been concluded between the latter & M<sup>r</sup> William Mackintosh Either relative to The Miamis C<sup>o</sup> matters or my private Acc<sup>t</sup> with Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe I'm apprehensive there may be some personal misunderstand[ing] between these Gentlemen if such should be the case, I beg you will this day E[n]quire of M<sup>r</sup> Jones & let me know for it would be a great hardship on all the parties concerned whilst they Appear so disposed to settle on fair terms that it should not be done & if such is the case I'm sure they will have no Objections to meet M<sup>r</sup> Jones & prove to him they mean nothing but what is fair & reasonable. I'm not just Authorised by them to say yet I'm pretty certain they have now no Objections to taking what M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe proposed to give them (I think two years Ago) & give him a full Acquittance & that the property so recv<sup>d</sup> being Lands Houses &<sup>ca</sup> should

<sup>67</sup> John Rice Jones was born in Marionethshire, Wales, Feb. 10, 1759. He was educated at Oxford, practiced law in London, and in 1784 migrated to Philadelphia. A year later he was in Kentucky serving with George Rogers Clark's expedition of that year against the Indians of the Wabash region. On withdrawing from Indiana, Clark left a garrison in Vincennes, and Jones remained in the capacity of commissary. He later became a friend and political ally of Governor Harrison, and held numerous offices of public trust. About the year 1809, he removed to Missouri, establishing his home in Ste. Genevieve. He was a member of the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1819, and one of the first judges of the Missouri Supreme Court, holding this office until his death in 1824. His legal practice was extensive and his scholarship profound. He has been characterized as the most learned member of the Missouri Constitutional Convention, and "the greatest lawyer west of Ohio if not west of the Allegheny Mountains," in the decades 1790-1810. One of his sons, George Wallace Jones, was one of the first U.S. senators from Iowa; another son, John Rice Jones, was postmaster-general of the Texan Republic. Information adapted from Jacob P. Dunn, *Indiana and Indianians* (Chicago, 1919), I, *passim*; Houck, *History of Missouri*, III, 256-57; and Floyd C. Shoemaker, *Missouri's Struggle for Statehood, 1804-1821* (Jefferson City, 1916), 138-39, *et passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

be divided between M<sup>r</sup> Jones & M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Intosh as Attornies to the two Parties in proportion to the Share the Executors of the late M<sup>r</sup> James Abbott holds to that of the late Miamis C<sup>o</sup> This C<sup>o</sup> have no Objections to M<sup>r</sup> Mackin[t]osh settling their dividind in the Houses Lands &<sup>ca</sup> to be recv<sup>d</sup> of Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe Agreeable to his Offer & I should suppose the Executors can have none to their Attorney M<sup>r</sup> Jones recving their share. As to my private Affairs with Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe if M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh and M<sup>r</sup> Jones cannot settle them Agreeable to my Wishes from any misunderstandings between them, you or me can do it I'm willing to Admit all Errors & Omissions that may have taken place to the prejudice to [of] M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe on M<sup>r</sup> Jones Admitting the like where in the last settlem<sup>t</sup> I may be a looser from Omissions & I have Every reason to suppose this proposition is so consistent with honor & honesty that he can have no Objection. I hope & will Expect your Answer to Morrow Morning on the Subject of this Letter & dont loose this Letter as I have no Copy of it.

I'm in great haste truly Yours

John Askin

*Addressed:* E. Brush Esquire at Detroit

*Endorsed:* Nov<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> 1804 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to E. Brush this Letter was Shown to M<sup>r</sup> Jones Attorney for M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe

DEBTS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Detroit 6 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1804

Dear Sir Agreeable to your desire I waited on M<sup>r</sup> Jones this morning and gave him the perusal of your letter. he then told me that your ideas of a Settlement between the miamis Comp<sup>y</sup> and Vigo perfectly corresponded with what he and M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh had agreed<sup>d</sup> on before they left the post and that nothing was wanting to effect that Settlement but the return of James Abbott but that he could wait no longer than to day for him but in case he did not come in this ev[e]ning he would leave with me those terms addressed to M<sup>r</sup> Abbott and his advice for him to Settle the Business with the Comp<sup>y</sup> conformable thereto but that he himself was not Authoresed [to] make any

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Settlement of any kind. Relative to your individual Business with M<sup>r</sup> Vigo he also observed that both before and after the [suit] had been commenced he proposed to M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh to Arbitrate the Business and told him he would Submit it to men of his own election but that he refus<sup>d</sup> he says he is yet willing and desirous of Settling it this way but Seems inclined to hav[e] the arbitration at Vincennes where he Says you may elect the men Of this how[e]ver I will Speak to him again I think its but right the Arbitration Should be had here as the Business was transacted here. his whole defence I believe consists in the loss you have put on Vigo of what his peltries full Short of the estimated Sum of £1343 I think as you Showed me or thereabouts. Altho he and Mackintosh are by no means friends yet they will I believe do Business together.

In a distracted hurry I am Sir yours &

E Brush

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Endorsed:* Nov<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> 1804 E. Brush Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin relative to Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe recv<sup>d</sup> same day

### WRECK OF THE *SPEEDY*

Dear Sir Tis now some time since I had the Pleasure of Addressing you. I should be sorry however to Allow the last Vessel of the Season, to Sail with[out] carrying to you the offer of my best wishes, and best respects.

The late very heavy Misfortune that has befallen our Society, has filled us with much Greif, & has sent Mourning into every district of the Province. The *Speedy* as you probably have heard, left York to go to Newcastle, formerly the Presque Isle of the Bay Kenti [Quinte], with not less than 17 or 18 persons on Board.<sup>68</sup> Amongst these were the following, M<sup>r</sup> Justice Cochrane, M<sup>r</sup> Sol. Gen. Gray, Mess<sup>rs</sup> Angus M<sup>c</sup>Donnel Jacob Herkemer M<sup>rs</sup> Hamiltons Brother [George] Cowan the Interpreter at Matchetas, with seven other Passengers.<sup>69</sup> She was seen off the Harbour of Presque

<sup>68</sup> The *Speedy* left York on October 7 and was wrecked on or soon after the night of Oct. 8, 1804. For a contemporary newspaper account of the disaster, see Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 528-29.

<sup>69</sup> Thomas Cochrane was justice of the Court of King's Bench in Toronto. Macdonell

Isle on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct, in the Evening, & has not since been heard of. A very violent Storm prevailed on that Night & the following day, & there can be no doubt but that she foundered in it. Some small portion[s] of the Wreck have be[en] found on the South shore of this Lake, but nothing of much Consequence, nor any of the Dead Bodies.

Such Men as we have on this Occasion lost, will not soon be replaced; and it makes a sad Blank in the Society, particularly at York. The Absence of the Cheif Justice<sup>70</sup> also, who is gone this Season on a Visit to England, will render this more sincerly felt, And will most probably prevent much Bussiness of any kind, being done there this winter.

In other respects we have but little new here. A very wett Season has hindred much, the Sowing of wheat; And we fear the Crop of next Season, will be short in Proportion. Colds have prevailed very generally, but to other Intempers we are in general Strangers.

In the Article of public News, Your papers will shew you that the war in Europe has the Appearance of Bursting out with fresh Vigour. The Northern Powers seem determined to try again their Fortune against this Corsican Usurper, & surely the other Continental Powers will not supinely submit to his exorbitant Exactions, when they see a Prospect of being so well supported. All I fear for is, that these Combinations formed of such Various Materials, like the Idol mentioned in the Bible, with Arms of Brass, & feet of Clay, cannot support themselves long enough to be of use effectually. Still however the threatned Invasion is held out to employ & to agitate the Minds of our Country men; And this Buonoparte is such an extraordinary fellow, there is no saying What he may, or what he may not do. How fortunate are we in [illegible] detached Corner of the Globe, enjoying Peace in the greatest Plenty, and only listening to the Sound of the Storm, at such a distance.

M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton requests me of [to] make an offer of her best

was sheriff of York. Together with other officials they were proceeding to Newcastle for the purpose of trying Ogetonicut, a Chippewa Indian, for the murder of a trader, John Sharp, it having been determined that the spot where the offense was committed lay within the District of Newcastle. The culprit and practically all of the court officers were consigned to the same watery grave.

<sup>70</sup> Henry Allcock, for whom see *ante*, 260.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, & best wishes for you & all yours,  
Await you from me and all mine. I am D<sup>r</sup> sir

Yours most Sincerly

R. Hamilton

Queenston Nov. 8, 1804

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Nov<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> 1804 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin. recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup>

CONDITION OF WINDMILL

Petit Cote, 8 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1804

John Askin sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir I duly rece<sup>d</sup> yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> inclosing your order, on M<sup>r</sup> Weaver for all the Utencils bellonging to the Wind Mill I went immediately with it myself in order not to Rely upon the Report of a Messenger.

You may beleive, I was never so Surprized when I was deliver'd only the Stove, one of the Plates, broke, a Beam & a few weights, all of the quantity under 7<sup>ds</sup> a wanting. I made the Necessary enquiries about all the other matters, but was told, that was all, he took into Care, and all he found in the Mill when You desired him to take charge of it.

Respecting the sails, he said that the Miller had cut them up & made Cloathes for His Children. Now there are yet wanting all the Hammers to pick the Stones, an Iron Crow Bar, for Raising the stones, the small Weights & many other Articles which assuredly is Comprehended in the Sale, a List of which I inclose. It is M<sup>r</sup> Lapage who I suppose Should acco<sup>t</sup> for them as he was the Last Possessor. I therefore hope you will make the Necessary enquiry, as he is about Melloches Mill oposite to your Place.

This Bad weather has prevented me from going to Sandwich and I am Anxious to Learn the fate of Vigo's Business. Are there nothing on foot, respecting the Peoples titles to Lands in & about Detroit, the Time is Very Nigh when the Door will be Shut.

I am Dear Sir Yours truly

William Park

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

P. S. I will want also your deed of sale for the for Acres of Land, Yet I would rather that you could Put it of to the Person whom you sold the adjoining Lot.

*Endorsed:* Petite Cote Nov<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> 1804 from M<sup>r</sup> Park Answ<sup>d</sup>

PROPERTY OF NORTH WEST COMPANY

Montreal 8<sup>th</sup> Decem<sup>r</sup> 1804

William Park }  
John Askin } Esquires  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Harrow }

Gentlemen A Coalition being effected between the N. W. Companies,<sup>71</sup> it becomes necessary that a valuation should be made of the *Nancy*, *Caledonia* and *Charlotte*, with their respective Rigging and Materials whether in use or spare. The Transfers will be made the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. The Parties interested have here jointly agreed, to nominate you to make the Valuations, and we hope that you will be good enough to undertake the Charge. Previous to your fixing said Valuations, it is meant that a Survey should be held upon each of the Vessels by three Carpenters, viz<sup>t</sup> Mess<sup>rs</sup> Connolly Bates and Nelson, and a Report made by them to you thereon. In confiding this business to you, we are satisfied that the object of the Interested will be attained, without favor affection or prejudice to either. There is a Store House, House, and Wharff belonging to the Owners of the *Nancy* of which we wish for a separate Valuation from the Vessel and her Materials, according to what you may think the fair present worth of said Houses and Wharff.

Excuse the Trouble we hereby give you, and believe us with much esteem Gentlemen

Your very Humble Servants

Frosyth Richardson & C<sup>o</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Duff & Cap<sup>t</sup> Mills will represent the Interested in the

<sup>71</sup> Dissension among the partners of the North West Company had culminated, in 1795, in the withdrawal of certain of them and the promotion of a rival organization. Thenceforward until the death of Simon McTavish in July, 1804, competition was strenuous between the two groups of erstwhile associates. His death cleared the way for a reunion of the rivals, which was formally accomplished in Montreal on Nov. 5, 1804. See Davidson, *North West Company, passim*, especially 83 ff.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Nancy, and Mr Ja<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh those in the other Vessels.

*Addressed:* William Park Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Letter F. Richardson & C<sup>o</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 8, 1804.  
answ<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1805 post Paid Respecting the N W C<sup>o</sup>

CHARTER OF THE *SAGUINAH*

Niagara Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1804

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir I yesterday at this place received your letters of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>h</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. I shall in the Course of the day See William Dickson on the business mentioned in your letter. it is not at all unusual for Cyder to come down in bad order. the working of the Vessels increases the fermentation of the Cyder, & very often not only lessens the Quantity but injures the Quality. Not being at home I cannot now Say how much I have Credited you with it will however Appear in Account Current It will I am afraid be a bad Spec, not a Barrel being yet Sold. With respect to the *Saguinah* I have to Make you an Offer which if you Accept let me hear from you by the very first Opportunity

I will give for the Charter of the *Saguinah* from Fort Erie to Mackina & back, with the allowance of Twenty One lay days, in all, Five Hundred Pounds New York Currency, payable at F. Erie on the first of October, the vessel to be at Fort Erie on the Twentieth of May, & to proceed with all dispatch So soon as loaded, for Mackina, & not to be detained on any Account, by the Owners or Capt<sup>n</sup> at Detroit. should she be detained by me beyond the 21 days, demurrage at the rate of Twenty Dollars P. day to be allowed I have been Offered the Charter of a vessel on terms Equal to these, but, wishing on all occasions where I Can with propriety do it to give you a preference I have declind accepting the Offer untill I hear from you.

I shall add what I have to Say in answer from William Dickson in a Postscript, & am in the Mean time with best Compliments & wishes to the Family Dear Sir

Your Friend & Faithful Serv<sup>t</sup>

Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol



Mr Dickson has promised to write Per the Post

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Niagara Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1804 Mr Rob<sup>t</sup> Nichol to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1805 Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

HARDSHIPS OF BALDOON SETTLERS

Dear Sir I have by this post your seperate favors of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, and it gave us sincere satisfaction to learn that you & yours were well. We thank God for the same Blessing conferred on us as with the exception of some slight Colds we have all enjoyed uninterrupted good health.

The reports we hear of the Melancholy condition of Lord Selkirks Settlers is distressing to humanity.<sup>72</sup> The i[n]discreet Choice of a Situation so unpleasant so unhealthy seems completely of a peice with the other parts of the Speculation entered into with rashness & conducted without Consideration. It is said here that 20,000 £ have allready been expended. As much more may be thrown away with equal Success, for when is one Shilling to be expected back? Say that remuneration or Profit were only secondary Considerations with his Lordship, how much has Benevolence been Counteracted by the unfortunate Choice of the Situation. We have not heard a Word of his Lordship since he left us. Some hundred more Sheep & 10 or 12 Brood mares winter in this Vicinity, on their way upward.

In a Conversation with our freind Dickson who has lately been at York, I learn that he has procured a considerable portion of your deeds, which are now in the hands of his Brother Thomas D. for the payment of the fees, amounting to about forty pounds Pro Cur<sup>y</sup>. I am very glad to understand that you have lodged money for the payment of this, as Dickson thinks his honor interested for the performance of his promise of punctual payment, And so scarce is Cash here, at this time, that was we all joining together, your freinds could hardly raise that sum among them. Dickson has I beleive done every thing in his power in your behalf.

<sup>72</sup> The allusion is to Selkirk's Baldoon settlement at Wallaceburg on the St. Clair River, established in the summer of 1804. Forty-two of the original settlers (numbering about 110 in all) died during the first year. For an account of the settlement, see Kent Hist. Soc., *Papers and Addresses*, I, 13-21.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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You yourself know the trouble & the vexation of Attending the public offices at York; this by some new regulations is very greatly encreased, And I would sooner undertake almost any other bussiness, than go thro the process, on my own Account, and how much worse for another, in whose Circumstances you are perhaps but ill informd, & of course must be often at a loss.

I have understood that a New Commission is intended this Session in Matters of Land, but how to operate I have not learnt. As far as my poor endeavours can go, it shall be extensive enough to meet the Cases you Mention, & I shall not fail to take your letter to York for the perusal of our freind Cartwright.

You will do as you think best about the lott of land you Mention. Fortunately the balance between us has not been very much wanted for some time past.

Of Public News we have very little this Season You will hear by M<sup>r</sup> Williams who passed this a few days ago the Reports of New York. I did not see him in passing. We enjoy in common with you Peace & plenty. Our Wh[eat] Crops are I beleive nearly equal to those of last year; but the Demand from below has raised flour to 20/- and wheat to 6/ p<sup>r</sup> bush. Pork is good, tho in less quantity than last year. I have now in my Cellar upwards of two hundred Hogs. We also made an forty Barrels of Cyder; & what I beleive you have not yet thought of, 250 Gallons peach Brandy from my own Orchard.

M<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton joins me in best respects for M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, & in best wishes for you & all your good family. I am Dear Sir

Yours very Sincerely

R. Hamilton

Queenston Dec<sup>r</sup> 16, 1804.

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Merchant near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Dec<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>h</sup> 1804 M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1805 Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

SALE OF LAND AT SPRING WELLS

I do hereby Certify that in the Year One thousand seven hundred & ninety three as far as I can recollect I sold John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> a Certain Lot of Land at or near the spring Well below the Town of Detroit being two Acres in front by One hundred & twenty Deep, bounded in front by the Detroit river, in rear by unlocated Lands & on both sides by Land then belonging to the said John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Which Tract of Land I purchased of Issidor Chesne,<sup>73</sup> Father in Law to Colonel Chabert & with the full Consent & approbation of the Latter. And as the said Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> has lost or mislaid the Deed of Sale for the said Lot or Tract, I now give this Certificate as evidence of the reallity & fairness of the transaction & will furnish further Proof if required.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal at Sandwich this thirty first day of December Anno Domini 1804.

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup> (L. S.)

Witness Charles Askin

*Endorsed:* Recorded in the Land Office at Detroit in Liber E folio 109. teste G<sup>o</sup> Hoffman N<sup>o</sup> 14 Voucher for Claim N<sup>o</sup> 19 by John Askin

POTAWATOMI GRANT AT RAISIN RIVER

I do hereby certify that the Indian Chiefs of the Potawatomie Nation gave & executed a certain Deed bearing date at the River au Resin on the second of June One thousand Seven hundred & Eighty eight for a certain Tract of Land containing Six Acres of Land in front on each side of the

<sup>73</sup> For the Chêne family of Detroit, see *B. H. R.*, I, 410. Isidore Chêne, one of the younger sons of Charles Chêne and Catherine Sauvage, was born in Detroit on Jan. 6, 1737, and was buried there on July 1, 1793. He was an interpreter in the Indian Department. On Nov. 28, 1758, he married Therese Becquet of Detroit, daughter of Pierre Becquet and Mary Geneveva Vanier. They had two children, one of whom died in childhood. The other, Mary Joseph Chêne, born Feb. 7, 1762, married on April 10, 1780, Francis de Joncaire de Chabert, whose career is noted *ante*, 113. Chêne was a member of Governor Hamilton's Vincennes expedition of 1778. At the time of Clark's appearance before Vincennes, he chanced to be outside the fort. He concealed himself in the adjoining forest during the battle, and on its termination, made his way to Detroit with the news of Hamilton's surrender. See Denissen, *op. cit.*, and *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, I, 424-26, and VIII, 281 and 308.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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River Resin by One hundred in Depth bounded by Guemon Robert,<sup>74</sup> Reume<sup>75</sup> & others which will fully appear by the said Deed & I do further certify that Six Acres of said Land in front on the south side of the said River Resin, then were intended for Charles & James Askin & for them they were given tho the Deed was executed in my name & the other six Acres in front by one hundred in Depth on the North side of the said River Resin I gave them in exchange to John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> in or about the Year One thousand Seven hundred & Ninety One, for a Lot on the said River Resin formerly the property of Widow Martin. Should further Proof be required in order to make this transaction Clearer I will at any time hereafter give it.

In Witness whereof I have to these Present Set my Hand & Seal at Sandwich this thirty first day of December Anno Domini 1804.

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup> (L. S.)

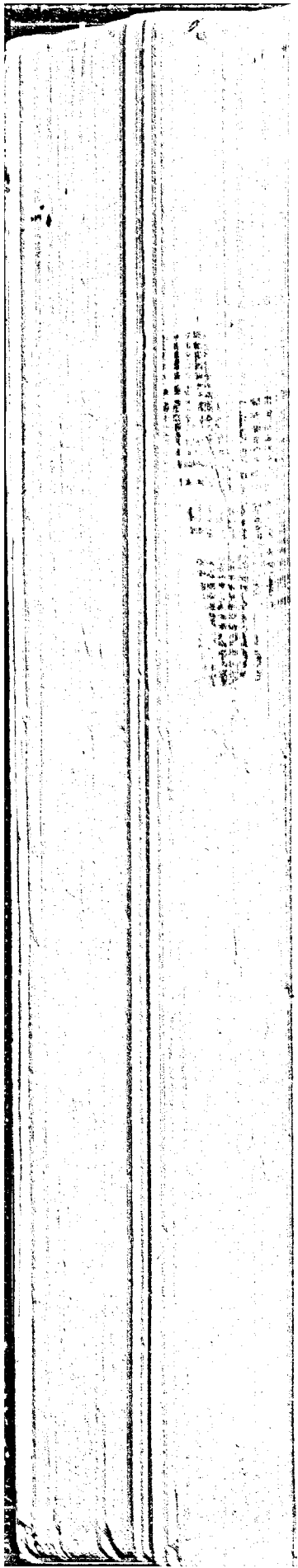
Witness John Daine

*Endorsed:* Recorded Liber B. folio 311 G<sup>o</sup> Hoffman R. J. A & C & J<sup>o</sup> A A N<sup>o</sup> 12 13

Evidence for Claim N<sup>o</sup> 21 by John Askin

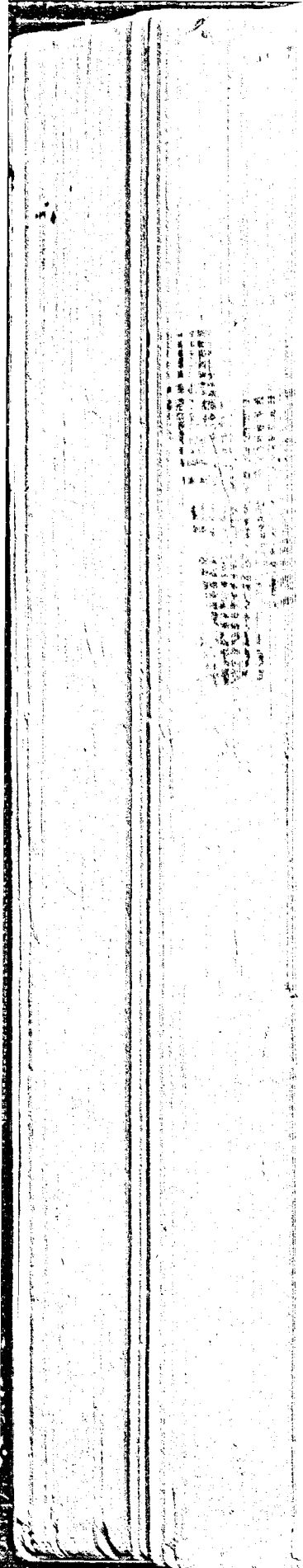
<sup>74</sup> For the Robert line of Detroit and Raisin River, see *ante*, 197-98. Probably the person alluded to here was Isidore Robert.

<sup>75</sup> Probably Jean Baptiste Réaume, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 170.



SECTION VI

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1805-1806



## THE CUYAHOGA DREAM

Near Sandwich, Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1805

Dear Henry, Being fearfull that I would not have time to write you by this opportunity I requested of M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>c</sup>Gill to mention a matter to you relative to your Claim to an Indian Tract jointly with me & others but as I see my Letter will be ready for the Post, I will now explain the matter to you.

The Inhabitants of New London having suffered much by fire in the late troubles, the United States has given the preëmption right to 500,000 Acres of Land near Cayahoga<sup>1</sup> and a M<sup>r</sup> Dean one of the Commissioners is arrived at Detroit sometime ago in Order to Assemble the Indians and purchase the native right but he finds it has been sold to you I and several others he therefore told M<sup>r</sup> Brush that if we will Assemble the Nations to whom these Lands did belong and get them to give a Deed of Sale for the Tract he will give 10,000 Dollars as doing this would be attended with much expense and the offer being only two Cents an Acre the Lawyers think we would be much to blame in accepting of it. of Course they will prevail on the Indians to sell them over again and this we must oppose with all our Interest for if they cannot accomplish this they must come up to our price we therefore mean to endeavour to get Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee's Interest who has more influence with the Indians than any man in this Country and for this purpose in Order to recompence him I think we should admit him as an equal Partner in this Tract without his paying anything therefore it will be necessary for Mess<sup>rs</sup> Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup> Gill with yourself for they have half my original Share) to send me a very full power to Act. my plan would be this and what I think fair that we should receive from the people of New London 10,000 Dollars a

<sup>1</sup> This grant, made May 11, 1792, by the Connecticut Legislature, is the origin of the tract known in Ohio history as "The Firelands." It included modern Huron and Erie counties.



year for Nine Years, one of which and the first to be employed or the greater part of it to purchase for Indians Presents and be given them at the ratifying or Confirming their Sale to us and the Trans[fer] from us to to the said New London C<sup>o</sup> in geting them to give a fresh Deed in their name. there would then remain 10,000 Dollars for each of the partners and a like sum for Captain M<sup>o</sup> Kee. This is a good Dream if it becomes a true one.

All here well may health and happiness attend you and yours is my Dear Old Friend always the Sincere wishes of

*Addressed:* Alexander Henry Esquire at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> 1805 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON

E Brush Esq<sup>r</sup>

D<sup>r</sup> Sir. I have at last completed my probation at this place, and shall leave it in the morning. A law has this day passed both houses of Congress upon the subject of our land in all respects similar to the bill, I have sometime past forwarded to the County of Wayne. If it meets the signature of the Pres<sup>d</sup>, of which I have no doubt, it becomes a law, such as it is, it must be received I could get no better. Judge Chases trial,<sup>2</sup> which closed yesterday by his acquittal, has operated much against us. It became impossible that it could be debated for want of time and to press an amendment, would have lost the bill. As it now stands equitable claims arising under possession and improvement will be brought fairly before congress for their consideration. I expect that where they are proved bona fide & free of speculation they will be confirmed to a reasonable extent But where predicated upon speculation they will meet a formidable opposition in the House of Representatives. I am of opinion that the remarks of the Commissioners will have great weight in the final decision.

<sup>2</sup> The impeachment of Judge Samuel Chase of Maryland, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and an associate justice of the U. S. Supreme Court, was the initial step in a general Republican assault upon the Supreme Court judges. The failure to convict

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I have learnt to day that the respective officers of the Territory of Michigan have been appointed.<sup>3</sup> Genl. Hull,<sup>4</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Stanley Griswold<sup>5</sup> of New Hampshire, Secretary.

Chase, here alluded to, caused the abandonment of the remainder of the program. See Edward Channing, *History of the United States* (New York, 1917), IV, 286-89.

<sup>3</sup> On Oct. 13, 1804, a mass meeting in Detroit adopted a resolution to petition Congress for the erection of a new territory, and James May and Robert Abbott were chosen to prepare the petition. It was presented to Congress on December 4 following, and on Jan. 11, 1805, President Jefferson approved the act creating the Territory of Michigan. It was to take effect on June 30, 1805, and on March 1 the President appointed the territorial officers here mentioned. Huntington, however, declined the office, and the vacancy thus created was filled by the appointment of John Griffin of Indiana. See Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 137.

<sup>4</sup> William Hull was born in Derby, Conn., June 24, 1753. He was graduated from Yale College in 1772 and having studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1775. He was shortly elected captain of a militia company of his native town and he served throughout the Revolution with much credit, winning the confidence of such leaders as Wayne, Steuben, and Washington, and taking a prominent part in such enterprises as the capture of Stony Point. Upon the reduction of the army at the close of the war, he was selected by Washington as lieutenant colonel of the one regiment retained in service and stationed at West Point. In 1781 he had married Sarah Fuller of Newton, Mass., and in 1786 he retired from the army and began the practice of law in that place. He subsequently served as judge of the Court of Common Pleas, as state senator for many years, and as major general of the Massachusetts militia. Upon the organization of Michigan Territory in 1805, Hull was appointed governor by President Jefferson and his service continued until the surrender of Detroit by him to General Brock in August, 1812. For this surrender he was overwhelmingly condemned by public opinion and was court-martialed and sentenced to death by the government. The vexed issue of the merits of Hull's conduct at Detroit we have no space to discuss. It seems clear, however, that to considerable extent he was made a scapegoat to bear the sins of folly and inefficiency of others. He spent his later years on his wife's ancestral farm in Newton. Not until 1824 was he permitted access to documents in the War Department necessary to a vindication of his conduct of the campaign of 1812. He then published (in 1825) his *Memoirs of the Campaign of 1812*, which together with the softening influences of the passage of time, worked a considerable revision of public opinion in his favor. A critical and impartial account of the campaign of 1812 at Detroit still awaits writing. He died at his home in Newton, Nov. 29, 1825. He had eight children, born in the years 1783-99. His only son, Abraham Hull, perished in the forefront of the desperately waged conflict at Lundy's Lane in July, 1814. His nephew and adopted son, Isaac Hull, is one of America's most renowned naval heroes. One of Governor Hull's daughters, Ann, married Capt. H. H. Hickman of the U. S. army. Another daughter, Rebecca, married Dr. Samuel Clarke and became the mother of Rev. James Freeman Clarke. Another daughter, Julia, married Joseph Wheeler of Augusta, Ga., and became the mother of General Joseph Wheeler. Information adapted from Charles H. Weygant (comp.), *The Hull Family in America* [Pittsfield, Mass., 1913], *passim*, and other published sources.

<sup>5</sup> Stanley Griswold was born in Torrington, Conn., Nov. 14, 1763. He served in the Revolution and in consequence of injuries received, exchanged his prospective patrimony for a college education. He was graduated from Yale in 1786, and having studied theology, began his ministerial career in 1789. In time he developed both religious and political views which were condemned by the contemporary public opinion of Connecticut. In 1802 he withdrew from the pulpit, and the following year became editor of a Democratic newspaper in Walpole, New Hampshire. His service as Secretary of Michigan Territory, here noted, lasted until 1808, when, having incurred the hostility of Governor Hull, he was compelled to resign his office. On leaving Detroit, he located in Ohio, where Samuel Huntington, a graduate of Yale in 1785, was governor. In March, 1809, U. S. Senator Edward Tiffin of Ohio resigned his office, and Huntington appointed Griswold to the vacancy thus created. This same spring the government of Illinois Territory was organ-

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Huntington<sup>6</sup> Bates and Woodward<sup>7</sup> Judges.

ized, and one of the three judges appointed by the President was Obediah Jones. For some reason he did not assume the office, and in March, 1810, President Madison appointed Griswold to the position. He held this office until his death in Shawneetown, Aug. 21, 1815. On Aug. 5, 1789, Griswold married Elizabeth Flagg of East Hartford, Conn., who outlived him several years, dying on Aug. 15, 1822. They were the parents of several children. Information adapted from Franklin B. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College* . . . (New York, 1907), IV, 476-81, and references there cited; Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit, passim*; and Alvord, *The Illinois Country*, 430.

6 Samuel Huntington was born in Coventry, Conn., Oct. 4, 1765. He was graduated from Yale College in 1785, studied law, and in 1793 was admitted to the bar. In the spring of 1801 he removed to Ohio, locating shortly in Cleveland and subsequently (1805) in Painesville. He was a member of the Ohio Constitutional Convention of 1802, and of the first Ohio State Legislature the following year. By this body he was appointed in April, 1803, one of the three judges of the Supreme Court of the state. In 1804, he was made chief justice, retaining the office until 1808, when he was elected governor. During the War of 1812 he served as paymaster in the army with the rank of colonel. He died in Painesville on June 8, 1817, "leaving behind him a reputation for accomplished scholarship, pronounced executive ability, and acknowledged integrity." By President Jefferson he was tendered the office of receiver of public moneys in Steubenville, and that of judge of Michigan Territory, both of which he declined. See Dexter, *op. cit.*, IV, 419-20; Randall and Ryan, *History of Ohio, passim*; and William T. Utter, "Judicial Review in Early Ohio," *Miss. Val. Hist. Rev.*, XIV, 3 ff.

7 Augustus Elias Brevoort Woodward was baptized in New York City, Nov. 6, 1774, his father being a shopkeeper of that place. He attended Columbia College for a time, leaving without graduating, and in 1792 was employed in the U. S. Treasury Department in Philadelphia. Three years later he was in Rockbridge County, Va., where he soon made the acquaintance of Thomas Jefferson and for him developed an intense and life-long friendship. About the year 1797 he located in Washington, where he speculated actively in real estate, practiced law, served in the first council of the city and in the local militia, and published articles on the nature of the sun and of the government of the District of Columbia.

On March 1, 1805, Woodward was appointed one of the judges of Michigan Territory, then newly constituted. It is significant of his masterful personality that, arriving in Detroit on June 29 and finding the city in ashes, he immediately assumed command of the situation without awaiting the arrival of Governor Hull who reached Detroit two days later. Familiar with the plan of Washington City and possessed of an expansive intellect and fertile imagination, Judge Woodward conceived and imposed upon the stricken frontier settlement a new and scientific city plan designed to accommodate the needs of a metropolis of whatever size. This was perhaps his most significant service to Detroit. Although others succeeded later in largely wrecking his plan, to it we owe the existing fragments of Grand Circus and Capitol parks and of Cadillac Square, and the street plan of much of the downtown business section.

As one of the Board of Judges, Woodward arrogated to himself the title of chief justice (a distinction which had no legal existence), and throughout his long career here was at all times the dominating factor on the board, and in many respects in the community as well. Quite naturally, he frequently aroused violent opposition and made many enemies; but after the lapse of a century he looms head and shoulders above all his contemporaries, save Lewis Cass, in the later period of Woodward's career here. Judge Woodward was one of the most original and interesting individuals in all Michigan history; the word, "genius," fitly characterizes him. The best account of his career is by William L. Jenks in the *Mich. Hist. Mag.*, IX, 515-46.

The original scheme of territorial government having become outgrown and inadequate, in 1823 Congress enacted a law materially modifying it, and in this connection the terms of the sitting judges (hitherto conditioned on good behavior) were made to terminate on Feb. 1, 1824. Woodward's enemies sought to have him displaced, and by a false accusation of intemperance, at the last moment prevailed upon President Monroe not to reappoint him. Woodward thereupon severed his Detroit connections and returned to Washington,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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I have just received the melancholy news of the death of Col Sproat.<sup>8</sup> He died on the 3<sup>d</sup> Ultimo very suddenly, supposed of the apoplexy. How far this distressing accident may retard my return to Detroit, or what effect it may have on my future residence is uncertain. I hope to see you in the course of May next at farthest when it will be in my power to relate more particularly the occurrences that have come under my observation. I have been somewhat surprised that I have not received a single letter from Detroit since I left it. Party runs high and the Democrats on several questions have split amongst themselves which did not fail to draw forth gross abuse and mutual recrimination. The federalist keep aloft in silence. The crisis is arrived & the moderate republicans call a halt.

Present my best respects to your lady & friends

I am Sir, your friend

Sol Sibley

P.S. Please hand the inclosed to Some one of the Gen<sup>t</sup> to whom addressed and oblige yours &<sup>c</sup> S S

City of Washington March 2<sup>d</sup> 1805

*Addressed:* Elijah Brush Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit (Michigan Territory)

*Endorsed:* City of Washington March 2<sup>d</sup> 1805 Solomon Sibley Esq<sup>r</sup> to E. Brush.

where in August of the same year the President appointed him to a federal judgeship in Florida Territory. He died in Tallahassee, June 12, 1827. Woodward Avenue, Detroit's most important street, fittingly commemorates his name; and in many ways aside from this, the print of his genius is indelibly stamped upon the city and the state.

<sup>8</sup> Ebenezer Sproat, father-in-law of Solomon Sibley, was born in Middleboro, Mass., in 1752. He served throughout the Revolution with considerable distinction, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1777, and to that of colonel in 1783. After the war, he became a resident of Providence, R. I., where he married Catherine Whipple, whose father, Abraham, was a prominent actor in the infant American navy during the Revolution. Sproat became a member of the famous Ohio Company, organized by Manasseh Cutler, and he led the second division of the colonists who founded Marietta in 1788. He served as surveyor of the company from 1787-91, and as sheriff of Washington County from 1788-1802. In the latter capacity he bore a prominent part in the ceremonial which attended the inauguration of the first American court in the Old Northwest. Sproat was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. Sproat Street in Detroit was named for him. Data chiefly derived from Thomas Weston, *History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts* (Boston and New York, 1906), 322-25; Randall and Ryan, *Hist. of Ohio, passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

SALE OF CUYAHOGA GRANT

Montreal 4 March 1805

My dear Askin I received your favour mentioning the proposal for the lands. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Gill is at Quebec. M<sup>r</sup> Todd has wrote to you on the subject when M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Gill returns which will be the 15<sup>th</sup> Ist. we will forward you a regular power of attorney. in the mean time this shall serve you as authority from me to act and so in any respect in the sale and distribution of shares for the benefit of the concerned the same as you do for yourself provided there is no expense to us. I should think your demands should not be too high for fear of your missing this opportunity which may be the last—and if brought to bear would serve as a president for the remainder. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Kee could with little expense call the chiefs who signed their right to these Lands, as there would be no occation to call the nation, in my opionion, as it would only be as their acknowledgment of having sold their Lands as by their deeds. I would not recommend to risk breaking of a Treaty for a sale for wishing to get much you may get nothing.

I hope M<sup>r</sup> Br. will have done somthing in Williams affairs and that he will let me know as soon as he can.

There is a woman who was seperated from a James Fraser at Detroit came to me with papers on her seppiration and says there is a sum due her for money in hands of M<sup>r</sup> James Henry who it appears is the agent and is to pay her the money to her—also that she posseses a House at Detroit. this woman is a stranger to me, but seems in the greatest distress & starving. it would be an act of Humanity in any one to inquire if there is any money in Mr. Henrys hands, and get him to send it to her. your feeling for women will I am sure induce you to ask M<sup>r</sup> Henry whether it is so or no and let me know.<sup>9</sup> best wishes for all the family & remain your old friend

A. Henry

<sup>9</sup> In a letter of May 8, 1805, to Henry, responding to this inquiry, Askin wrote: "The poor unfortunate Woman who address'd herself to you is realy M<sup>r</sup> Fraser[s] Wife or was before he obtained a Divorce. she is frequently Mad or nearly so and was sent from this for attempting to burn M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh's house in day light. I tho doubt that she has money in M<sup>r</sup> Henry's hands but if she has I'm sure he will not keep it from her. I will make inquiry. All with me well, may God grant you & yours the like happiness."

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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a sale of Detroit bears sold last fall much higher than the year before A H

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal March 4<sup>h</sup> 1805 Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> April Answ<sup>d</sup> May 8<sup>h</sup>

SALE OF BRUSH FARM

March 22<sup>d</sup>, 1805

Dear Sir I send over Dain to bring me some tar from Cap<sup>t</sup> Fearson and three of your empty barrels if you can send so many as I cannot get one from my cooper to put whisky in.

He takes a little suppon meal<sup>10</sup> over for Alice we did not think of geting it ground before now is the reason there's so little. Please let Alex go with Dain in order to persuade Barthelth the Shoemaker to let him have a pair of shoes now & if he has more [none] to make him a pair soon. I send a dollar for some common Suger I wish Alex<sup>r</sup> to get if of this year & good from Campeau.

I find M<sup>r</sup> Barthe has 400 oak pickets of mine they are at your service, but when you send the boat it will take them one day to bring them down the River as the Water is low untill they get into the lake. I think your men will not get back before the third day, therefore choose good weather.

I cannot agree to your making so many repairs on the farm at your expence. It realy costs more than if you paid rent. I wish it was possible for you to purchase the place for I fear unless something fortunate turns up in spite of all I can do I will have to sell it at last to pay Mess<sup>rs</sup> James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup> Gill £2000 nearly Hf<sup>x</sup> Cur<sup>cy</sup> I owe them I have been able as yet to pay the interest nearly £200 N Y Cu<sup>r</sup> yearly and they desire no better but I wish to get rid of the debt & I know of no other way, (unless I was more fortunate in land matters) than selling the farm and giving some lots of land on this side, If they will take them. were my circumstances different from what they are, I

<sup>10</sup> Suppon (supon, sepon, etc.) is a word supposedly of Algonquin origin, signifying Indian meal or mush. See Hodge, *Handbook of Am. Inds.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

would make the purchase very easy to you but unless I get £1000 Hf<sup>x</sup> for the place where you are and for which I expected £2000 NY Cur<sup>v</sup> I cannot make out, unless I strip myself entirely of my lands here & that would be such an Injury to those who come after me that I wish to avoid it all I can

It would hurt my feelings much that a place which belonged to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin's father and has allways been in the Family would fall into other hands. I wish your affairs would permit you to buy it. I dare say the Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Gill on geting the interest which would be but £60 Hf<sup>x</sup> yearly would give [you] what time I might choose to pay the principal. Cap<sup>t</sup> Fearson & M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum are just arrived which stops Dains Voyage.

I am Dear sir Yours truly

J A

E. Brush Esq<sup>r</sup> at Detroit

*Endorsed:* March 22<sup>d</sup> 1805 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to E Brush Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Coppv

SALE OF BRUSH FARM

March 22, 1805

Dear Sir, I have this moment returned from the river rouge and find Dean in waiting for me I have given him 3 Bonds and also all your papers relative to Vigo. Relative to the repairs you speak of it is absolutely necessary some should be made otherwise this place except the house would be of no use to any person.

About purchasing I have always had Some Serious ideas of removeing into the Ohio Country which is the reason I have never attempted a purchase before this time, and am Still under the impression that before long I shall leave this place. however if I could take Such a proportion of the debt from off yours Shoulders to Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill in this place is reasonably [torn] by paying them the annual interest for the Same for 3 or four years untill I could Turn my property at the Miamis (in case I determin not to go there) I would readily do it, and they Shall have the best security for their principal. I would myself go greater length to purchase this

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

place on account of Alice than I otherwise would if left to my own individual consideration She has the same desire of being perpetuated in it that Mrs Askin has on account of the family tradition it has already passed through, and I am extremely desirous that Something should be definitely settled in the business. if we could agree on a price to be given payable to Todd & McGill in some future time say 4 or 5 years with the annual interest if that would suit them I do not know that I should be averse to closing the business, but if not you have only to say the word and I shall be prepared to [torn] the place at any time but I would wish to know it soon.

If you can let me have a boat I [torn] send for them pickets the latter ind of the next week whether I use them or not. I was thinking of putting cedar pickets around the garden in front of the house, and also of making four new gates for the big gate as well as all the rest are intirely broken down but I will wait to be athe[r]ised by you.

If I should conclude to purchase here and also to sell my property in the Ohio Country I should not want credit a single day, but as yet I am opposed to selling that property.

I have Spoken to Cap<sup>t</sup> Ernest relative to the Suit ag<sup>t</sup> Hembro he Says if Elliott had mentioned the circumstances of the Case to him he would never have directed the Suit to have been commen[c]ed, but that he will now direct Woods to discontinue it Seeing that you are likely to be involved.

I am Dear sir very Sincerely Yours

E Brush

John Askin

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* Detroit March 22<sup>d</sup> 1805 Mr Brush to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup>.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ALEXANDER HENRY

Strabane Near Sandwich April the 4<sup>th</sup> 1805

Dear Henry, The long and short of the present Story is this, me and mine Thank God are well and you and yours will be glad to hear it.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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The last time I spoke to M<sup>r</sup> Brush on your business he said he would use his best endeavours to prevent M<sup>r</sup> Williams from getting out letters of Administration and if he succeeded he would send you what Money he had belonging to the Estate.

You are one or two letters in my debt. I wrote you to hire a Man for M<sup>r</sup> Brush and described him I also request you will get one for me used to the common farmers' work. if he could Bake a little so much the better but not hired for that purpose only. a brass sieve you must also send me good for sifting flour for Pan Cakes for the Boys I wrote you for a pair of Suwarrow Boots My Friend M<sup>r</sup> Dean one of the new London Commissioners is trying to get the Indians to sell our Lands to him & I'm trying to get them not to do so unless he pays us. Who will succeed I know not.

Health & Happiness attend you all are our sincere wishes

Yours Dear Henry always

*Endorsed:* Strabane April 4<sup>h</sup> 1805 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal (Corry)

SALE OF CUYAHOGA GRANT

Montreal 19<sup>th</sup> April 1805

My dear old friend I send you a power of attorney which I thing [think] such a one as you would wish to have for giving a share of the Lands to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gee [McKee] what M<sup>r</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill, and my self thinks and what we agree upon that no expense whatever is to be made for any arrangements with Indians or otherwise, without your having money in hand from the sale thereof, and then as little as possible. also that in the sale of this part of our land we think it would be best not to be to[o] particular in the price as it will be an inducement to them to do the same in making purchases. I hope you will induce Williams to settle his business it is the best for him as he will recover from Vigo double the amount of what he gives us. as there are no other creditors of any consequence, he will also recover of John Casety['s] property. the sooner you can settle this the better. M<sup>r</sup> Short is making your Swarrow

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Boots which shall be sent by the first opportunity nothing more but what you will have from the States with every wish for your good & the happiness of your family from me and mine [I] remain affectionately

Your old friend

Alexander Henry

NB. I recommend not to refuse the offer of the Americans get as much as you can but dont neglect to sell as times will change the Indians and others so that we are not sure of any thing in this world. A H

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit Fav<sup>d</sup> By Mr. William M<sup>c</sup>Coy

*Endorsed:* Montreal April 19<sup>th</sup> 1805 Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> July 15<sup>th</sup>

LAND TITLES AT ST. CLAIR RIVER

Near Sandwich April 15<sup>th</sup> 1805

Sir I was favoured with yours of the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant a few days ago and it gives me much pleasure to find that the Son of an old Friend is as little disposed I find, to hurt my Interest as his late Father was for the present its needless to explain by what title I hold the land your said to be on, as I hope it may not be inconvenient for you to call over here the first time you come to Detroit. you will then be satisfied that my claim is equal to any sellers that even live near Detroit who have not had a Deed from the french Government. I hold it of the third person from the original grantors & have paid a considerable sum for the Lot next above Belle River four others adjoining it I purchased of Cap<sup>t</sup> Cornwall<sup>11</sup> the old Kings ship builder who obtained it of the Indians prior to the year 1780 and a confirmation of the Cheifs afterwards. the four Lots next above where you are of 5 acres in front Each I have sold to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill some years ago and I will thank you not to let any one settle on them without informing me two other Lots next above these I mentioned also belonged to Cap<sup>t</sup> Cornwall who I believe sold them to a Smith, a

<sup>11</sup> Richard Cornwall, for sketch of whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 178.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Tavernkeeper who many years ago lived near where your mother does & afterwards settled at River Trenche.

If the Law will assist me I mean to punish M<sup>r</sup> Jean Babtist Creaty<sup>12</sup> for ever having meddled with Lands belonging to me to which I'm sure he never had the smallest right nor did I ever hear untill very lately by Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrow that any person had been on these Lands since I took Brian from there who lived in a house the Indians made me & for which I paid them.

I am Sir with good wishes &<sup>ca</sup>

J. A.

M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Niff<sup>13</sup> at River Sinclair

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich April 15<sup>th</sup> 1805 John Askin to M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Niff at River Sinclair care of E. Brush Esq<sup>r</sup> Coppy

LAND TITLES IN WASHINGTON AND YORK

Near Sandwich May the 6<sup>th</sup> 1805

My Dear Sir, Your kind letter bearing date the 1<sup>st</sup> of March reached me on the 28 Instant and it gave me

<sup>12</sup> Probably Jean Baptiste Créti, whose surname was more commonly spelled Créqui. The Detroit Créquis were descended from Jean Aide *dit* Créqui, who was born in the parish of St. Sorler, in the diocese of La Rochelle, in 1661. He migrated to Canada and on Nov. 3, 1689, married at Pointe-aux-Trembles, Que., Catherine Delisle, daughter of Louis Delisle and Louisa Des Granges. For three generations the family resided in Lower Canada, its first Detroit representative being a grandson of the original immigrant, who was also named Jean Baptiste Aide *dit* Créqui. He was born in Pointe-aux-Trembles on Feb. 18, 1729, and on Jan. 11, 1762, he married in Detroit, Magdelene Gastinon *dit* Duchêne, who resided at Grosse Pointe. Créqui secured a farm from the government which later became a part of P. C. 261 in modern Grosse Pointe Farms. He was buried in Detroit, Sept. 26, 1795; his wife was buried here, Dec. 30, 1824.

They reared a family of eleven children, all of whom were born on the Grosse Pointe farm in the period 1764-83. One daughter, Cecilia, married George Cottrell, for whom see *ibid.*, 195. The eldest son, born, Nov. 17, 1767, was the Jean Baptiste Créqui (Creaty) of the present document. He married, Feb. 4, 1793, Cecilia Meny, who was born in Grosse Pointe, May 2, 1776, the daughter of Antoine Meny and Catherine Brilliant *dit* Beaulieu. She was buried, May 5, 1804; the date of his death has not been learned. They had six children, born in the years 1793-1802. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>13</sup> Robert McNiff was a son of Patrick McNiff, for whom see *B. H.*, I, 424. Robert was born in 1784 and died a bachelor on April 16, 1844. Apparently he was a man of somewhat strenuous habits. In February, 1802, James May lodged a complaint with James Henry, justice of the peace, affirming that he was in fear for his life or some personal injury at the hands of McNiff. Robert was for some years a clerk in the employ of Joseph Campau. C. C. Trowbridge in later years related that he was in the habit of going on periodical sprees, when he would sell his clothes for rum and dash naked through the streets. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 177.

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JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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much pain to learn you had suffered so much. however Thank God you have got clear of your danger, and I hope will soon of the uneasiness you must have endured.

The sale of the Mortgaged property to screen the Debt due to your late Nephew shall not be put off[f] if payment is not made in June as promised.

You or M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill most certainly have had from me a List of the Lots on this side made over by me to Each of you. I sent it on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1803 however as you also want a Copy from the Register it shall likewise be done.

The inclosed papers or rather under cover with this, One of which for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and the other for you I believe will give you all the information you require respecting your property at and about Detroit.

No doubt I expect and mean to remit you and M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill as soon as received whats due by M<sup>r</sup> Brush Park and Harvey.<sup>14</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Sibly who we sent to congress has not yet returned nor do we justly know what he has done. The Expenses of his Voyage a Thousand Dollars was a voluntary business some was not able to give anything and others contributed largely otherwise no person could have been sent. in Order to make up the sum, I was obliged to give the sum [of] 100 Dollars for you M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Robertson and myself a third of which M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and you are charged with.

Your observation respecting the shares of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and you hold in all the Indian Tract as well as that I purchased of Huneau is just. This latter is situated near Sandusky but not as I hear where the New London people have got the right of Preëmption. A Major Dean who said he was a Commissioner in conversation said he would give 10,000 Dollars if he would [could] have the Tract confirmed to them by all the Indians but he never came forward with such an offer to me & as I supposed he only wanted to amuse me untill he could settle the matter with the Indians I took care through Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee to request of the

<sup>14</sup> John Harvey, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 233, and *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, IV, 1-16. The latter reference gives an account of the long legal contest which was waged over the title to the Reeder farm.

Indians Chiefs not to meet him untill the proprietors to whom they sold were satisfied. I now learn he Major Dean has neither money nor Letters of Credit and its even doubted that he is one of the Commissioners. had he come forward and even given One Thousand Dollars to each of the proprietors and required no more than making over our right in the Indian Deed and promising not to oppose his purchase of 500,000 Acres I would have accepted of it and less was not worth while but to undertake the confirmation of the Deed to us by all the Indians is another matter as being attended with much expense which sum exclusive of what I asked for our right must first be laid down by the commissioners in Order to enable us to call the Indians together. Or if they would give 6<sup>d</sup> p<sup>r</sup> acre in payment 10,000 Dollars yearly and lay the first payment by giving this sum to the Indians no doubt every one of them could be got by us to sign any manner of Deeds of conveyance that the Commissioners would choose to have made out.

You are the best Judge how far a Voyage to England might or might not benefit your health however as a friend I recommend it strongly to you to endeavour to promote your health in preference to every other consideration.

All business to be done at York requires patience and time and though mine is not yet completed nor do I know of any other ones that is, I'm going through as well as I can and hope soon to be done. It must be an older and much keener person who is modest who can get the Officers at York to advance the business. Im sorry to observe that but too true, that I have not had strict justice done me respecting my just Claims to lands in Upper Canada and that in order to avoid condoning fraudulent Claims, the just and unjust not located at a certain period, by order of Council were all registered the mode is short and Effective though not perfectly agreeable to the English Constitution which would rather suffer many criminals to Escape than make one innocent person suffer.

I mean my Son Charles shall soon go to Michilimacinac not with anything to dispose off but to see if he can agree with some Merchant of Montreall to furnish £500 Halifax

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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worth and take payment in Whisky, Corn flour & Freight these are payments can be made [by him] and his Brother for a certainty and I'm determined whilst I live so far as in my power lies to keep them clear of all Debt and that rather than run the risk of making payments in Cash or Furs which they cannot get but in small quantities, I will employ their time even at Farming.

Poor Robertson I'm sorry for you. Good God, [to] what a deplorable state does the immoderate use of liquor reduce a Man. From Sobriety and care of myself I realy thanks to God, enjoy health better and better, See, Hear, Eat, Drink & Sleep well. I most sincerly wish my dear friend and Im sure its also the wish of M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & all the Family who have had the pleasure of knowing you, that you had the like Happiness.

I'm hard drove and kept low in Order to pay the Interest I owe yearly on the Ballance due my Friends the Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills of nearly £2000 Halifax and this I will not be able to continue to do unless I can at times sell a Lot of land for Cash I'm ashamed after the loss you and M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>c</sup>Gill has suffered by me to propose lands to them and yet if they took my House on the other side for £1000 Hallifax & 10 Lots of 200 Acres each here for £1000 more I cant think in the end they would be losers, for the lot[s] I would give like many of yours are so situated that they must soon sell for money. M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson gave me [for] one by no means good Land 400 Dollars and he sold it for 500 or if they prefered 10 more Lots in lieu of the House, I could get them from my Children in exchange for other property. oh how happy would I be to get clear of this almost last debt but I fear to make the offer though I think I once wrote M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill something to this effect.

I have only to add may health and happiness attend you and yours are the invariable wishes of my Family as well as those of my Dear Sir,

Y<sup>r</sup> ever obliged Friend

Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreall

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

MERCHANDISING PROJECT OF CHARLES ASKIN

Proche de Sandwich 24 de Mai 1805

Monsieur Geasson & Barthollott

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Le Porteur de ceci Mon Fils Charles Askin va faire un tour a Michilimacinac pour voir le paie et au meme temps tacher sarranger avec quelque Commercent de Montreal que fournerent des merchandize et que prandront randue a Michilimacinac dans le Moi de Mai ou Juin Lanne D'ensuite leur payment en farine, Whisky, ou Bled Lassive et des port dans le *Saguinah* quand sa ce trouvera. Car ici on ne peut pas prommeter Largent ni Peltrie tout les deux etant trop rar. Mais comme vous avez un commerce tres Considerable, Je lui ici dit de vous donner la preference et je crrois que sa cera plus Aisse pour vous D'acheter voter farine, Bled et Whisky pour des Marchandize que de payer D'argent la Quantite dont il ora besoin pour cette Anne ne passera pas La Valeur de £500 Halifax et je suppose que 40 par Cent sur le prix de Londer sera un prix just a vous donner a Montreal et les merchandize a ses fraix et risque, pour ce que vous recevrez en payment vous sera chargai le prix Courant ici avec le droix et port et pas davantage D'abord que vous couvrez les risque. Si ses proposition vous accomode il vous livrera un Memoire et vous aurez la Bonte de la fair remplir et L'ordanner de eter envoye de Montreal le plutot que vous pourez Car cette un avantage d'avoir les Marchandize de bon heur. Si au cas que cette proposition ne vous convient pas, Je vous serai Obligai de le fair connoiter a quelque un que vous croyez voudra le fair car tout mes ancien connoissance sont partis de Michilimacinac. Je vous a ecrit le 29 du Moi passe au Sujet de nos Vieux Comp cette Letter et encore ici et il vous sera livrez par mon Fils que sarrangera avec vous pour la Ballance

J'ai L'honneur D'Eter Messieurs

voter tres humble, Serviteur

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Geasson et Bartholott, negot. Michilimacinac

*Translation*

Near Sandwich, May 24, 1805

Messrs. Giasson & Berthelet<sup>15</sup>

Gentlemen: The bearer of this, my son, Charles Askin, is leaving for a journey to Mackinac to see the country and at the same time to arrange with some Montreal merchant to furnish merchandise and to take in payment flour, whiskey, or lye hominy to be delivered at Mackinac the following year in May or June by the *Saguinah* on its regular trips. For one cannot promise either money or peltry from this place. Both are too scarce. Now, as you have a fairly large trade, I am telling him to give you the preference, and I believe that it will be easier for you to buy your flour, wheat, and whiskey in exchange for merchandise than to pay out the cash. The quantity he will need for this year will not exceed £500 Halifax in value, and I should think that 40 per cent advance on the cost in London would be a fair price to give you in Montreal for the goods, including expenses and risk. For what you will receive in payment you will be charged the prices current here, with duties and freight and no more, since they go at your risk.

If his proposition is agreeable to you, he will hand you a memorandum which you will have the goodness to have filled and ordered from Montreal as soon as possible. It is an advantage to have the merchandise up early. If, however, it is inconvenient for you to make this arrangement, I would be obliged if you would introduce him to some one who you think would be willing to do it, since all my old acquaintances have left Mackinac.

I wrote you on the 29th ulto. on the subject of our old account. This letter is still here and will be delivered by my son who will arrange with you for the balance.

I have the honor to remain, Sirs,

Your very humble servant,

Messrs. Giasson & Berthelet, Merchants, Michilamackinac

<sup>15</sup> Jean Baptiste Berthelet (Berthelot, Berthellet, Bertholott) was engaged in the fur trade of the Mackinac and upper Mississippi regions from the beginning of the century until the close of the War of 1812. In 1813, he signed an appeal to Captain Roberts as



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

THE CUYAHOGA DREAM

Near Sandwich June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1805

Dear Friend The Principal intent of this is to send the enclosed Paragraph by which you will see that Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Kee unless he gets General Hunters Certificate cannot draw back pay as a Cap<sup>t</sup> which M<sup>r</sup> Pattenson [says] amounts to nearly £300 Ster. & without which Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Kee must very soon be totally ruined.

I am sure if an[y] man in the two Provinces can obtain such certificate, it is you & I have reason to think that Governor Hunters Humanity and recollection of the service rendered Government by Col. M<sup>c</sup>Kee (notwithstanding any displeasure he may have against Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee) when urged by you may have the desired Effect. If it is possible to be done with Propriety.

I have and still shall defer writing M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and you on the subject of our Indian Claim until I know the event. with unremitting Exertion and some expenses I managed so as to keep the principal Chief from going to the Treaty at Cayahoga so that the Land Purchasers have been obliged to come in and hold now the [conference at] Swan Creek. I with others have got some of the Principal Chiefs to make M<sup>r</sup> Brush their agent & he yesterday is gone off[f] with them in their behalf to Bargain for their Lands. they have promised most faithfully that they will not of themselves make any Bargain or agreement but refer all to him & sign any Sale he may make & no other. If they keep their promise them & us will get a considerable sum for I have agreed to share as one nation and there are four more so that a fi[f]th of the whole Expences paid will be ours. If nothing [is] got I will sustain the loss, as M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill M<sup>r</sup> Henry and you forbid any Expences on your account the prospect was so fair that by entering into some expence I

a resident of Prairie du Chien, but if not a resident of Mackinac in this period his trade relations there were frequent. After the war, he withdrew, along with other British traders and partisans to Drummond Island, where in 1816, he was granted a lot. In September, 1817, he had a suit for debt collection before the Michigan Supreme Court, in connection with which he is described as the surviving partner of the firm of Giasson and Berthelet. Letters of Robert Stuart in 1824 in the American Fur Company letterbook, owned by P. W. A. Fitzsimmons of Detroit, disclose that Berthelet was still engaged in trade at Drummond Island. No further record of his activities has been found. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*, especially XIX, 304; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

might get something Hand[so]me for myself and others that I could not think that I was doing my Duty [to] those who confided in me to let such an opportunity slip in particular as two of the concerned are burnt out & have not of their own a loaf of bread. I thank God I want nothing but property to do as I could wish My Health and spirits are as good as ever. Yesterday 33 years married all which time I thank my God I have lived in Peace with my family and on my childrens account never had an unhappy day. When I go (according to the present prospect) After my Debt<sup>16</sup> paid I fear little will remain for the family I could have wished it otherwise, but at same time it does not grieve me. I think their Characters will make them friends which last when money is gone. That has been my case and the same providence which has carried me through I rely on will watch over them so long as their actions will bear the Test & I hope that ever will be the case and that envy itself will not be able to say that my family live at their ease at the expence of others. When I began this Letter I meant only to say a few words. I find I have been preaching. Old people are fond of talking when it is to [a] steady friend. May all the happinsses of this life & that to come attend you and yours are the sincere wishes & Prayers of M<sup>rs</sup> Askin as well as

Your unchangeable Friend

John Askin

Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Sandwich June 22<sup>d</sup> 1805 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup>

OUTCOME OF THE CUAYHOGA DREAM

Detroit 8<sup>th</sup> July 1805

Dear sir I arrived here last evening exhausted with fatigue from the dis[a]greeable voige to Sandwich, the particulars of which I have not time now to relate but the first Leisure moment I shall go over and see you. I have not however succeeded in so well as I had reason some

<sup>16</sup> The words, "Mr. McGill and Robe[rt]son," are interlined at this point in the manuscript.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

days before I left this to expect owing entirely to the invincible opposition I met with from Jouett<sup>17</sup> who behaved more like a Savage than a christain. I have however brought 600 Dollars which is all that could be had.

I Send Joe over on purpose to beg Some Cellery plants from M<sup>rs</sup> Askin as many as She can well Spare which I will Set out this evening.

Adeu God Bless you

E Brush

John Askin Esq

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Straban

*Endorsed:* Detroit July 8<sup>h</sup> 1805 E. Brush Esquire to John Askin

LAND TITLES AT DETROIT

Near Sandwich July the 22<sup>d</sup> 1805

Dear Friends, I have now to address you on a Subject which appears to me of a more serious nature respecting your Interest and mine than any I have heretofore wrote you on.

I formerly transmitted you an Act of Congress relative to Lands Claimed by persons at or near Detroit and what

<sup>17</sup> Charles Jouett, Indian agent at Detroit from 1802 to 1805. He was born in Louisa County, Va., in 1772, the youngest of a family of nine children. Before coming to Detroit he had studied law and had practiced some years in Charlottesville, where he enjoyed the acquaintance and friendship of Presidents Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe. In 1803, in response to instructions from the President, Jouett made a careful report upon the settlement of Detroit and vicinity, with particular reference to occupants of lands and their titles. See *Am. State Papers, Ind. Aff.*, I, 757-60. Two years later he negotiated, on behalf of the government, two treaties at Fort Industry with the Chippewa, Potawatomi, and other bands. The original copy of one of these is in the B. H. Coll. In 1805 Jouett was transferred to Chicago, where Fort Dearborn had been established two years before. He was the first Indian agent there, serving until 1811, when he resigned and located in Mercer County, Ky., thereby escaping, for himself and family, the massacre which overwhelmed Chicago in 1812. At the close of the war, Jouett was reappointed to the Chicago agency, which he held about two years, when he returned to Mercer County, Ky. Soon after this he was appointed by the President to a judgeship in Arkansas Territory, but ill health caused him to resign the position after a few months. In 1820, he located in Trigg County, Ky.; he died, May 28, 1834.

On Jan. 21, 1803, Peter Audrain issued a marriage license to Jouett and Elizabeth Dode-mead of Detroit; the permit recited that "they may consider themselves licenced, as I will furnish a regular licence as soon as I receive it from the Governor of the Territory." Elizabeth Dodemead having died a few years later, about the beginning of 1809 Jouett married Susan Randolph Allen of Clark County, Ky. Children were born of both unions. Data derived from Henry H. Hurlbut, *Chicago Antiquities . . .* (Chicago, 1881), 102 ff.; Quafe, *Chicago and the Old Northwest, passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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sort of Titles were or would be considered as good. Of all in this Quarter whether French or English the two Commissioners have pronounced only two Valid so that even my Grant from the French Government in the year 1746, The Copy of which is under cover they consider as otherwise its true their Decision is not final untill Congress gives their approbation & though I hope for the best and would think no Govern[ment] would ruin an old Settlement long improved yet I'm warned by a Friend and a good Judge how the Government of the United States Act, to prepare all the proof & support I can to my Claim and that even then perhaps I may fail. from the records of Lower Canada and those of Detroit which were ordered there by the Late General Haldemand something might be collected to strengthen our Claim to those you can have easy access & not only so but are perfect Judges what Documents are most requisite for me to produce in support of my Claims I send you herewith the Act of Congress made after the representation of the Gentleman we sent from this to Congress last fall<sup>18</sup> Its true this Act seems to give us a better chance of succeeding but yet I'm warned to take care. for my own part I'm long since determined what steps to take if your better Judgment does not point out any other, The best title I know for all Lands possessed prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1760 when the capitulation was signed by the Marquis De Vaudreill & General Amherst is the 37<sup>th</sup> Article of that Capitulation which seems to require no other Title than possession and since that period fair honest purchases from Canadians with undisturbed possession on the part of the British Government during the whole time of their Government at Detroit the step as I before mentioned I meant to take was that If all mild means failed to have recourse to a trial in the Highest Court of the United States and if Cast [lost] there contrary to Treaty, I should suppose on a proper Memorial to our Government it would be looked into for as all the people residing or possessed of property in the limits of Detroit did not quit the English Government but the English Government quit them they were undoubtedly intitled to

<sup>18</sup> The allusion is to the Washington mission of Solomon Sibley, for which see *ante*, 454-57.

protection whilst they behaved well under that Government, & when given over to another their property should be secured in as ample a manner at least as that of the French people were by Capitulation between The Marquis De Vaudreill & the late Lord Amherst if necessity should require it. the Inhabitants on the other side formerly British Subjects will on Memorial expect such relief to support their Claims when just as is reasonable to expect, however not extending to any serious misunderstanding, only such explanations of the Treaty with the Indians as has already taken place where the Late General Waynes Treaty with the Indians in some Articles contradicted that subsisting between the King of Great Britain & the United States.

I have not as yet had the Honor of calling on the Governor of Detroit<sup>19</sup> but intend it soon he bears a good Character and if he has much influence with the President and Congress may render much service. He is now laying out the Town of Detroit in a very diferent manner from formerly & much more in favor of the place, but as its a doubt with many that he can do so untill there is an Act of Congress to authorize him, some dont like to relinquish their old Claims on a promise of geting new ones and some of his Judges having said they could make such changes without the concurrence of the proprietors has been displeasing to some. For my own part I have little doubt but Congress will give the disposal of the Commons and such part of the Burnt Town not private property to the Governor to dispose of as he thinks fit or rather for the purpose of laying it out Agreeable to a plan now drawing but that he has now such Authority I doubt much. Its true the Territory may adopt a Law of some of the States which Authorizes taking private property for Public roads paying for the same and the like may hold good respecting Towns &<sup>ca</sup>

J. A

Isaac Todd & James M<sup>e</sup> Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal

<sup>19</sup> Governor William Hull. The Michigan territorial act provided that the new government should become operative on June 30, 1805, and Governor Hull arrived in Detroit on July 1.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ELIJAH BRUSH

Aug<sup>t</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> 1805

Dear sir Please send Alex<sup>r</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> Audrain for a fair Copy of an Obligation from Gabriel Hunot to me I think in 1796 for £1455 or nearly that Sum. I think it was registered that year or perhaps the Next M<sup>r</sup> Audrain will soon find Out. W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh has the Original & I want a true Copy as I mean to take some step with the Debtor.

I wish I could possibly see the Laws on which you now Act at Detroit

I am Dear sir Yours

John Askin

PS. You know how much we are distressed for want of a good Table please have One made for me as soon as you can let it be an Oval figure like yours with two leaves to let down, but it must be much stouter in Every respect & measure 4½ feet in the longest part. the feet should be of Stuff 2 Inches Square & the Plank of the leaves not less than a full Inch thick. The Wood Cherry-tree like yours but perfectly plain.

*Addressed:* E. Brush Esquire at Detroit

TITLE TO REEDER FARM

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1805

M<sup>r</sup> Askin

Sir You will recolect some time ago I wrote you on my dissatisfaction of the deed you gave me to Springwell, M<sup>r</sup> Brush then inform'd me that you where ready to give every just explanation and to do away all obstickles that might tend to cause future troubles, I do Sir again request you to a compliance of this thing, the time is advancing when the Office of records will be shut & it will be necessary to enter my claim immideatly, I wish you could make it convenient to come over for that purpose as I think your presence requisit and necessary, my Original Deed I gave into M<sup>r</sup> Brush's hands to be conveyed to you, therefore I can not make any progress in this business without your assistance.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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You will see the necessity of my demand and plan to Act according.

I remain Sir your's Respectfully

John Harvey

*Addressed:* John Askins Esq<sup>r</sup> Sen<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich With speed

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> 1805 M<sup>r</sup> Jn<sup>o</sup> Harvey to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> same day and Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>h</sup>

TITLE TO REEDER FARM

Near Sandwich August the 14<sup>th</sup> 1805

M<sup>r</sup> John Harvey:

Sir, I was favoured with your Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> some days ago same day and as you never have met with any molestation in the enjoyment of the Lands I sold you and I firmly believe never will it's now unnecessary to say anything further on the Subject except that it was & is your Duty to comply with the Law and have my Deed of Sale to you Registered in due time & It's now mine to bring forward (& what I shall not omit doing) as Respectable proof as any at Detroit of the long time the Lands I sold you as well as those I sold others have been Cultivated and improved and the different proprietors from the first untill Sold you. With such documents I feel no doubt of the Government of the United States' relinquishing all claim to your Tract among other[s] in Similar Situation, I do not recollect your having wrote me formerly on this Subject. As I generally answer all Letters yet it may be the Case, that M<sup>r</sup> Brush spoke to me on [it] and requested me in your behalf that the payment of your last Note might lie over for some time which I have done, I remain Sir

Your most Obedient very humble Servant

*Addressed:* Mr. John Harvey at Detroit

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich August the 14<sup>th</sup> 1805 John Askin Senior to M<sup>r</sup> John Harvey (Copy)

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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COLLECTION OF DEBTS IN INDIANA

Vincennes 24 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1805

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

D<sup>r</sup> Sir: On Saturday last I had the pleasure of addressing you by the Mail, which I renew this morning by the opportunity of M<sup>r</sup> Conner who travels across the Country. In my last I acquainted you, for the information of the Miamis C<sup>o</sup> that my colleague John R. Jones who is a member of our Council now in Session had introduced and passed in the Council, a Bill which if it became a Law would deeply wound the Interests of the C<sup>o</sup>, That it was intended to save Vigo, By declaring that creditors must receive lands in payment at two Thirds of the value which a Jury shou'd find; and that Personal Property should not be liable. I added that I would interest my Friends in the other House where the Gentleman I employed for the C<sup>o</sup> is a member, to defeat the object of the Bill, or effect such an amendment as would exclude the Case of the C<sup>o</sup>. All that could be effected was a Section or two subjecting Personal as well as real Estate to be sold if they would bring two-thirds of the valuation; and if not to remain four m<sup>os</sup> in the Hands of the Sherif who would advertise them. But we could not succeed in passing that then the goods should be sold for what they would bring. They are therefore to remain until they shall be accepted by the auditor or sold for two-thirds We then were able to carry a Section declaring that nothing in the law should extend to Contracts before made or to have an ex post facto, or retrospective effect. This leaves cases to the decision of the Judges, but in the opinion of some will not avail the C<sup>o</sup> I am preparing a Petition to the Gov<sup>r</sup> to request of him to withhold his signature from the law, altho' I am convinced he will not grant the Prayer of the Pet<sup>n</sup>.

I hope M<sup>r</sup> Abbott will be persuaded of the necessity of repealing the Power given to M<sup>r</sup> Jones and me jointly; and vesting it in me alone or in as many as he pleases provided that none of those who are now known to be unjustly Friends of Vigos or Enemies to him and the rest of the C<sup>o</sup>. I have the satisfaction to observe that almost all the People in Town are against the passage of the law: But I am clear[ly] of opinion it will be approved of by the Gov<sup>r</sup>. In which case



I would advise not to sue Vigo until the next year when the Sense of the Country upon the law will have been taken, and the Legislature be intreated and petitioned to repeal the Law, which will be found to be so prejudicial to the Prosperity of the Country: and the reputation of the Territory. But I shall act as you shall direct and authorise, and shall wait with anxiety your Orders, which I think you ought to transmit by Post if no private opp<sup>y</sup> should offer immediately. A few preliminary steps only have been taken by M<sup>r</sup> Jones and me. I could never prevail on him to act with intention of succeeding. He always alledging a hope of receiving fuller and more discretionary Powers; and denying having ever been retained by M<sup>r</sup> Abbott to sue Vigo. I expect to hear from you in course and remain very respectfully D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Will M<sup>c</sup>Intosh

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO COLONEL DE PEYSTER

Near Sandwich Augu<sup>st</sup> 30, 1805

Dear good Sir, Your much esteemed favour of the 11<sup>th</sup> March 1804, reached me in June of that year and though I was on the Watch for a good opportunity to Answer it & keep up a Correspondence I so much esteem, I let M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh my next English Neighbour go to Scotland last year and at the time never recollected what I so much wished to do. The Compliment you pay me is due you and your good Lady, for I'm sure few Situated as you & her are would spend their thoughts on such Obscene [obscure] Acquaintances. this attention is an Additional proof to the many you and M<sup>rs</sup> Depyster have given of me & my Family of the Unw[e]arried Friendship you ever had for us. We often thought that perhaps we should have the Happiness of seeing you Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, Were it the Views of Government & they knew you as well as I do no person could be fitter. the task is not so difficult as what I have seen you perform with ease, without assistance & have spare time to Amuse yourself with your Friends, this is more than Our great men of the present times can do with houses full of Secretaries Clark's & C<sup>ca</sup>.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Poor Detroit was lately reduced to Ashes on the 11 June no lives lost & of those You know the Widow M<sup>rs</sup> William M<sup>c</sup>Comb Meldrum & Park Widow Abbott, Dode-mead, Forsyth's Sons & M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh were the only persons who had Houses not disposed off. The Commodore & Family are still at Gross Point & in tolerable Health. I shewed him your Letter, which pleased him much & read to Maisonville what you said of him. he poor Fellow is something reduced in Circumstances. though [he] still has his Farm yet [he] is much cast down. he who never has had Education cant support Misfortunes. For my own part though I do not see 20 or thirty people at my Table as formerly, my Spirrits have not decreased in the smallest degree or why should they. To those who call I can give a Glass of Wine, my Health thank God is very good, all my Children thank [God] continue to behave as I could wish And I think M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and I have lived so long at peace with each other that I do not dread any rupture will take place in future. I dislike no Man on Earth, though perhaps some deserve it & I know no House where the Door would be shut against me. On[c]e a Year I put on my best Cloths & as Colonel Commands the Militia on the 4<sup>th</sup> June<sup>20</sup> and make them Fire in Honor to the best of Kings. If we dont all Fire at once thats no matter a Drink generally closes the Scene. M<sup>rs</sup> Askin joins with me in Every wish that can tend to the Happiness of M<sup>rs</sup> Depyster here & hereafter & suffer me to assure you, my Dear Good Sir, that I am with great haste, Your ever Obliged Friend. The Old Indian Chiefs you mentioned in your letter are all no more. P. S. Your old Lieu<sup>t</sup> Robert M<sup>c</sup>Dougal<sup>21</sup> has a large Family lives well and works hard on a Farm.

Aran Schuyler Depyster Esquire Commanding a Reg of Volunfeers at Dumfries.

<sup>20</sup> The birthday of George III.

<sup>21</sup> John Robert McDougall was a son of Lieut. George McDougall and Mary Frances Navarre, and a brother of George McDougall, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 374. John Robert, the elder brother, was born in Detroit on June 30, 1764. He was commissioned ensign in the Eighth Regiment of Foot, May 6, 1777, and lieutenant on Dec. 12, 1781. In a deed to Alexander and William Macomb of his half interest in Belle Isle, Aug. 15, 1788, McDougall describes himself as "half pay lieutenant" in the Eighth Regiment. See Colonial Records of Detroit (mss.), Vol. D, 288. On Jan. 26, 1786, he married, in Detroit, Mary Archange Campau, daughter of Simon Campau and Veronica Bordeau. Mary

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ELIJAH BRUSH

Sep<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1805

Dear sir I'm sorry your Attendance at Court prevented your meeting M<sup>r</sup> Wicks<sup>22</sup> at my House at Dinner some time Ago. He was very Severe on Judge Selby in Court in a case where M<sup>r</sup> Selby was Plaintiff & he Attorney for the Defendand.

You some time Ago said you would want a pair of my Oxen to help to Plow. you Afterwards wrote me you had Purchased Cap<sup>t</sup> Ernests & Only wanted a Yoke. Now Charles or Alex<sup>r</sup> say, you want the Plow & some Oxen. If the weather proves good I will finish Plowing this week After which you may have as many Oxen & the Plow as you choose.

When the Court is Over, I wish you and Alice with the Children [would] come Over & passed the whole day. I have Often much to say to you but cannot recollect it when you are in a hurry or [I have] any Other Company which takes of[f] my Attention.

In the Order I sent you for things, I believe you wrote me that you had a stock of Hysen Tea & from that would let me have the Quantity I put in my Order. If so send it by first good Oppertunity.

As your now Bussy I shant say more Except that I am Dear Sir

truly Yours

John Askin

*Addressed:* E. Brush Esquire at Detroit

Archange was buried in Sandwich, Dec. 4, 1821, and on Aug. 15, 1836, McDougall married (second) Geneveva Meny, daughter of Antoine Meny and Catherine Brilliant *dit* Beaulieu and widow of Lambert Thibault. In 1787 McDougall procured the farm lying on either side of modern McDougall Avenue, later confirmed to him as P. C. 9 and 454, and still known as the McDougall Farm. McDougall was buried in Sandwich, July 24, 1846; Geneveva Meny was buried in Detroit, Oct. 5, 1866. Thirteen children were born to McDougall by his first marriage, and his descendants are still represented in Detroit and vicinity. Data compiled from Burton, George McDougall and Descendants (ms.); British army lists; Denissen, *op. cit.*; and scattering ms. references in B. H. Coll.

<sup>22</sup> Probably William Weekes, a native of Ireland, who migrated to the United States and in 1798 to Upper Canada. He is said to have studied law in the office of Aaron Burr. In Canada he engaged in politics and became a vigorous critic of the faction in control of the government. On Oct. 6, 1806, in the course of an address before the court at Niagara,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

COMMERCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN DETROIT

Near Sandwich Oct<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1805

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 19 August reached me yesterday and Im sorry to observe that nothing has as yet been done by the Government of the United States to relieve the distresses of the sufferers of Detroit. they are endeavouring to erect some buildings at a great disadvantage. they are to pay pretty dear for the Lots & I understand are prohibited from cutting Pine as us[u]al and what timber and boards [are] purchased On this side pays a Duty. a Raft or two have been seized and confiscated. however I dont attribute any of these grievances to be the present Governor who I believe to be a very good Man and perhaps when Congress meet some favorable change for the Inhabitants of Detroit may take place. at present all on the other side seems to be hurry, distress and some confusion so that no payments can be got nor are the new Laws yet promulgated so as to find out by what means Compulsive measures can be used. I think M<sup>r</sup> Brush told me the first Courts are to be held in May next. I'm sorry to say that [is] very contrary to my inclination's I do not at present know of any means by which I will be able this year to discharge the Interest on what I owe you. To a man not in business its very strange how many disappointments I have this year met with some of them I shall mention. The *Saguinah* was chartered for £500, to take a load from Fort Erie to Michilimacinac & return this she performed, after which she remained at Fort Erie for a very long time without being able to then get or a prospect of getting if she was to stay untill fall a single Packett of freight she therefore returned we discharged the men & she now remains here what she e[ar]ned I fear will not pay expences & some trifling charges of repairs last Spring. many Vessells have this Summer returned Empty & I fear much Except those connected directly or indirectly with the Houses who have a share in

he made a bitter attack upon the administration. William Dickson, the opposing counsel, responded with a violent attack upon Weekes. A day or two later the latter challenged Dickson to a duel, which was fought near a bastion of Fort Niagara, on the American side of the river early on October 10. Weekes was mortally wounded, and died the same day. See Niagara Hist. Soc., pubs., No. 30, pp. 23-24; *Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology*, VI, 167-68; and Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 254-55 et passim.

the North West Company will [not] be able to Sail in future without sinking Money. If I with the other proprietors though[t] she would fetch half her Value we would set her up, but the great want of Money gives us no hopes. yet its a pitty that so good a Vessell which with about £300 worth of repairs in the Spring would be perfectly sound should be laid up I wish M<sup>r</sup> Robert Dickson would purchase her his Trade is so extensive he would want a Vessell for himself & as he deals with you and I owe You the mode of payment would be very easy. I sent my Son to Michilimacinac with some Whisky & High Wines he returned without being able to sell a single Gallon though he Offered them for the price of this place & sink Duty & Freight. he left them in care of a M<sup>r</sup> Gee with directions not to part with them except for re[a]dy payment. Sometime after Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dumas Parentt & C<sup>o</sup> had agreed to take them but when they produced my Order at Michilimacinac for the delivery to M<sup>r</sup> Gees Clark (as he was gone a Wintering) he said M<sup>r</sup> Gees had changed them for Suger payable next year which I do not believe having no such directions. This caused a disappointment of nearly £200. M<sup>r</sup> William Mackintosh my agent at Post Vincents received of a Man named Hunot on account of a very large Sum due me 500 Deer Skins in ten Packs he marked them in my name and very thoughtlessly sent them by the same Man who was equiped & owed M<sup>r</sup> Gouie. finding Detroit burnt where he was to have left them he carried them with his other Peltries to M<sup>r</sup> Gouie who persuaded him to lodge them in his Store, and then kept them. I have commenced a Suit which will not end untill the Judges goes the Circuit next year. From the Post where I have legal Demands I have not got one pen[n]y I believe that to be the most rasscally place in any Country and dare not risk a Suit there let the demands be ever so fair. They are now making Laws to support roguery. I'm sure every honest man will think them such. I am fearfull that I have tired you with my misfortunes, your patience with my misfortunes but its to show you that when I promised £200 yearly to keep down the Interest, I had reason to suppose I would be able to command it.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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I heard with sorrow the Death of the late M<sup>r</sup> Andrew M<sup>c</sup> Gill<sup>23</sup> and wrote his Brother on that melancholy occasion

I remain with Esteem D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your most Obedient very humble Servant

Mess<sup>rs</sup> James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup> Gill & C<sup>o</sup> Merchants Montreal

P. S. Much paines have been taken for these three years past by persons from Interested Views to make the *Saguinah* pass for a rotten Vessell its false and shamefull she never sailed yet without being in a situation to meet any weather and always had the necessary repairs so that a single package has not been damaged in her and now when repaired will be as safe & good as any Vessell of her size on the Lakes & will be reduced 5 Tons so as not to have to pay Tonnage in the Ports of the United States; there is not any Vessell has lasted so long & people from her age are easy persuaded to believe she is rotton but the contrary has been demonstrated each time that she has been strip'd for repairs and her timber examined & there is but one Vessell on this Lake that can go to windward of her. I wish some Mercantile House that has much freight for Michilimacinac would take my share in her they like on their own terms and then the present Owners would have her thoroughly repaired, for not having any sure freight we dare hardly commence repairs if you could take a fourth or more share in her you would not have Money to lay out but give me Credit and You shall have the preferance in furnishing Stores to be deducted from your freight. Its certain that though not kept half her time she last Year and the year before made so much that at Settlement last may she owed each of us three Owners only £98-11-6, New York Currency each.

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich Oct<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1805. October John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> To Mess<sup>rs</sup> James & Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Gill, Merchants Montreal. (Copy)

<sup>23</sup> For the career of Andrew McGill, see *B. H. R.*, I, 402.

HIGH TAXES IN DETROIT

Near Sandwich Oct<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1805

Dear Sir, Having wrote both you and the house very fully a few days ago I have only now to say that two days ago I had a Visit from an old acquaintance of mine a Farmer on the other side, who says its the intentions of several to sell their Farms and come over here and as they know I have a good many Lots between River a Trench and those situated on the borders of the Lake or Rivers, for they suppose those I once had still belonging to me. I have no doubt If they put their intentions in execution they will be very desirous to purchase of me. I therefore wish to know if you are disposed to sell any of your own or any of M<sup>r</sup> Todds Lots payable immediately or at least half down for as those people have good Farms on the other side if they dispose of them they will be possessed of money for less than 20/ NY Currency per acre. I would not advise you to sell and though Government, I dare say would give such people Land its now so far back that the Canadians would prefer purchasing on the borders of Rivers or Lakes near other inhabitants to getting Lands for nothing back they like society so much They complain of the Taxes upon the American side, A Dollar for each Dog, twenty shillings for each Carriole and twenty for each Horse with several others, besides being subject to Militia Duty so frequently as to prevent their necessary labour

I have only to add that I am Dear Sir with much esteem

Your most obedient Humble Servant

James M<sup>c</sup> Gill Esquire Merchant at Montreal

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane<sup>24</sup>

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich October the 7<sup>th</sup> 1805. John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to James M<sup>c</sup> Gill Esquire, Montreal, Copy.

<sup>24</sup> The address evidently represents a bit of absent-mindedness on the part of the copyist, who was one of Askin's sons.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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INDEBTEDNESS OF ROBERT DICKSON

Montreal 14 October 1805

My dear Sir I address you on a Subject which involves almost my all. Mess Robert Dickson & C<sup>o</sup> of Mackinaw owe my House a very large Sum of money indeed and they owe also 20 others who may not be disposed to act candidly & fairly but endeavour to get all they can. I wish therefore to know whether an attachment on Goods or other property can be obtained from the Courts on the American Side, on an open Account proven before one of our Judges or if any other formality is necessary.

I may have occasion for your Son in Laws Services, possibly I may request your own personally, all which you will keep to yourself, except inquiring by what process debts can be come at in the Government of Detroit & how far it extends. My mind has been greatly agitated & must continue so for a length of time, if you can alleviate it I know you will do it. I again recommend the greatest secrecy in this business and request you to believe me My Dear Sir

Your sincere Friend & Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill

P. S. Is there a Bankrupt Law in the Detroit Government, and if so, what is necessary to be done to get out a Statute of Bankruptcy? J. M<sup>c</sup>G

Do not omit writing by every opportunity under cover to a Friend at Queenston or Kingston or York.

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montcal Oct<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1805 James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> About the 26<sup>h</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> about 28<sup>h</sup>  
Nov<sup>r</sup>

COMMODORE GRANT ASSUMES GOVERNORSHIP

I wrote you My dear Sir two letters one of which I fear you Never get, From M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Dickson trusting a poor silly drunken body I brought here as a servant with all my western letters for you Mr<sup>s</sup> Grant Duff &c &c. The wretch



got drunk on his way to Fort Erie no word of him nor letters. When I got first in office,<sup>25</sup> I felt uneasy, but now thank god I begin to see clearer, with the assistance of two very honourable men perfectly know'n the intention and secrets of our worthy late Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor, regarding the business of this province, The attorney General<sup>26</sup> & Capt<sup>n</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill,<sup>27</sup> I mentioned in one of my former letters that Effort were made by a gentleman former[ly] in office, to get hold of the helm after he himself was the principle in Establishing me at first. This I have heard was by an advice of a new Comer, and a Country Gentleman of yours high in the law Department here, You know will how ready some of your natives are to create Disturbances and fond of it, but that gentleman formerly in office and my Colleagues were very stanch in what they understood to be the intention of His Majestys instruction regarding the Death of a Lieu Governor. I beg to lay my injunction on you to have the Goodness, that if the Agents of M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Robertson do's not Come forward and pay the Interest on his account—That [you] would be pleased to instruct M<sup>r</sup> Brush to sell his W<sup>m</sup> Robertson[']s house on the Common and lots in Town so as to defray my acc<sup>t</sup> and the Expençe of the attachment. Also I request of you to require Doctor Brown's account And get settlement made between him & M<sup>rs</sup> Grant I have wrote M<sup>rs</sup> G. on the subject, do not my dear Sir thumpen [?] out my real and sincere Regard to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Brush, Charles, James, & Nelly, not forgetting Alick. tell him I had a letter by M<sup>r</sup> Baby from Aleck Grant, but do not find he thrives fast in his learning he promises pushing on. C<sup>ol</sup> Shaw<sup>28</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Jarvis &c &c have been Enquiring after you Miss Crookshanks is not married yet remember me to Ernest, the Governor & family Henry & all those of our well wisher's —youl be plagued reading this scrol. I have wrote Mercer,

<sup>25</sup> Lieutenant-Governor Hunter died in Quebec on Aug. 21, 1805. During his term of office he had been frequently absent from York on duties pertaining to his position as commander-in-chief of the army in Canada, and during these intervals the government of Upper Canada devolved upon a committee of executive councilors. Upon the death of Hunter, Grant, as president of the Executive Council, became acting governor, serving in this capacity until the appointment of Governor Gore in 1806.

<sup>26</sup> Thomas Scott (1746-1824), attorney-general of Upper Canada, 1801-1806, and chief justice, 1806-16. For his career, see Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XX, 126 ff.

<sup>27</sup> John McGill, for whom see *ante*, 234.

<sup>28</sup> Aeneas Shaw, for whom see *ante*, 241-42.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Merideth, Burnett,<sup>29</sup> & David Smith from who I had a letter (by his Successor) all despondency. one sentence, says, I was everything when with you but here no body, or hardly known he tells me he is married again I was glad by your letter to find that John's lady was better & that the Doctor was st[ir]ring about. it is very sickly about here, but I am thank God in perfect health and spirits I must & I cannot help it—obliged to see Company and entertain what I am to have yet I cannot tell L<sup>t</sup> Co<sup>l</sup> Proctor<sup>30</sup> & the gentlemen of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regt are pleasant men.

I am Dear Sir Sincerely your friend

A. Grant

October 24<sup>th</sup> 1805

John Askin Senior Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire at Strabane

*Endorsed:* York Oct<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1805 President Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>

FROM ALEXANDER GRANT TO JOHN ASKIN

York 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1805

This is the fourth Epistle from me to you my dear friend since I have been administering this Government the first of which is intirely lost, with [the] poor silly body that was carr[y]ing it from M<sup>r</sup> Dickson to Fort Erie from drunk[en]-

<sup>29</sup> Probably Lieut. John Burnet of the Eighth Regiment, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 284.

<sup>30</sup> Henry Procter, who subsequently figured prominently in the War of 1812 in the Northwest. Information concerning his parentage and date of birth is lacking. He became an ensign in the Forty-third Regiment, April 5, 1781, and major in the same regiment, May 13, 1795. On Oct. 9, 1800, he became lieutenant colonel of the Forty-first Regiment; colonel, July 25, 1810; and on June 4, 1813, was commissioned major general. He served in Canada for many years prior to the War of 1812. After Hull's surrender of Detroit in August, 1812, Procter was left in local command, his rule continuing until his retreat before the army of General Harrison in the autumn of 1813. For his conduct of this retreat, and the loss of the battle of the Thames, he was subsequently court-martialed and suspended from rank and pay for six months. Thereafter, he remained on the Unattached List of the army until his death in Bath, England, Oct. 31, 1822.

On May 19, 1792, he married Elizabeth Cockburn, daughter of Archdeacon Cockburn, in St. Mary's Kilkenny. They had three daughters (Sarah Anne, baptised in Leominster, Nov. 18, 1794; Frances Sarah, born in Canada, July 15, 1803; Augusta Margaret Firth, born in Canada, Nov. 19, 1808); there was also a son, Henry, who was born about the year 1795. Information supplied by Public Record Office, London, Jan. 30, 1929. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1822, in reporting Procter's death, gave his age as fifty-nine years; the *Royal Military Calendar* (London, 1920), states that he was sixteen when he entered the army in 1781.

ness & losing the letters for all you good floks [folks] above. I'm tempt now to write from the good oppertunity of a Captain Muir<sup>31</sup> of this Garrison ordered to Join the Garrison of S<sup>t</sup> Joseph, L<sup>t</sup> Colonel Proctor, Comd<sup>t</sup> at this Garrison & the rest of the Gentlemen of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> are pleasant men. them, & I, are on very good footing as I endeavour to be with everybody. As I told you before I live at M<sup>r</sup> Allans. the Military has positive orders not to interfer with the Government house to be left intirely for the L<sup>t</sup> Governor or the person administering the Government, so it rest[s] quite Empty. The August packet is come in, by which I have received many dispatches. The Earl of Camden who was minister of State for the Colonial & war Department is now Succeeded by your Countryman Lord Castlereagh There is some reports which god grant may be true that Lord Gardener has had a battle with the Brest fleet,<sup>32</sup> has taken 6 and sunk three. The hundereth Regim<sup>t</sup> is come 800 strong & the 6 Reg<sup>t</sup> gos home Remember me to my dear friend M<sup>rs</sup> Askin the young Gentlemen & Nelly M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Bush who I hope will be able to make out of some part of Robertson's property what will pay the interest of his account & what will indemnify himself for his trouble

When the Post begins to go, I expect to hear from you by every one to know how both familys are.

Sincerely Yours

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>

Alex Grant

<sup>31</sup> Adam C. Muir was commissioned adjutant of the Forty-first Regiment on Sept. 30, 1793, and may have come to Canada in 1800, when the first battalion of the regiment was sent to America. In 1805 he was stationed at Amherstburg, and in December precipitated an affray at Detroit by his attempt to apprehend here a deserter from the Amherstburg garrison. For this he was sentenced by Judge Woodward to be fined and imprisoned but the latter part of the sentence was not inflicted. Shortly prior to this affair Muir had been appointed to the command of Fort St. Joseph, but he seems not to have reached his station until the spring of 1806. In September, 1811, he assumed the command of Fort Amherstburg, where he remained until the opening of war the following summer. He participated in most of the battles in the Detroit area; commanded the British force at Brownstown; and following Hull's surrender was in command of Detroit for a brief period. In September, 1812, he led a combined British-Indian expedition against Fort Wayne, but the advance of General Winchester to the Maumee compelled him to beat a hasty retreat to Amherstburg. His service on the western front was terminated by the defeat of General Procter at the battle of the Thames in October, 1813, when Muir (now a major by brevet) was captured and conveyed to an American prison. No record has been found of his subsequent career. Data derived from British army lists and documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; and Casselman, *op. cit., passim*.

<sup>32</sup> Napoleon had long been devoting his energies to his grand project for invading Eng-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esqr Strabane

*Endorsed:* York Nov<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1805 Commodore Grant as  
administrator to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>: Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>

DEBTS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Sandwich November 1<sup>st</sup> 1805

William Mackintosh Esquire

Sir, M<sup>r</sup> Askin has shewn us the different Letters you wrote him respecting the situation of the Debt due by Monsieur Francois Vigoe to us, which letters point out to us the little probability there is of ever bringing that matter to a close whilst M<sup>r</sup> Jones and you were our joint Attorneys and as you may well suppose that we now are & for many and for many years past have been much disgusted at the delays and obstacles thrown in the way to prevent our getting our rights and deminish the value we are fairly intitled to and as we find the longer we wait the less we shall have, we therefore a few days ago came to a resolution to make you our sole Attorney in this Business which we have done and at same time revoked our former Power of Attor[ney] to M<sup>r</sup> Jones and you. There being now no Check to your proceedings unless such as the Law directs we intertain hopes that you will without loss of time wind up the matter, the Business you have to do for us being very clear and is as follows. you will get into your possession without loss of time all the property which was mortgaged to us without any regard to whom M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe unlawfully Sold it and for the remainder of the Debt with Interest to the last penny you will sue and take Land in payment as the Law directs since no better can be done. And please observe our Power of Attorney to you does not authorize you to compound or make any other arrangement whatever with Monsieur Vigoe except that of receiving our full payment with Interest. If M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe will impartially examine his own conduct towards us he will find that he is not intitled to the least indulgence from us nor shall he meet

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land. The most considerable French fleet was in the harbor of Brest. The battle here reported never occurred, but the complete downfall of Napoleon's project was registered in Lord Nelson's victory of Trafalgar, Oct. 21, 1805.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

with any by our consent. Please observe we forgot to make an exception in saying all the mortgaged property should be taken by you. The sale from M<sup>r</sup> James Abbott to Governor Harrison is good and we have received each of us our proportion of the monies arising therefrom. Mr. Brush in drawing out the Power of Attorney from us to you seems to have forgotten to authorize you to make other Attorneys under you if you should think it necessary, therefore if you find it so please let me know and we will send you Authority for that purpose. We need hardly tell you to be much on your guard in your proceedings against Monsieur Vigoe for as he will now find that he has no mercy to expect, and none he deserves he no doubt will employ the Ablest Attorneys he can get to defeat any measure you may take against him, therefore it perhaps would be prudent in you to be before hand with him in that respect before he knows what the concerned intend

Not recollecting anything further necessary to say at present as we expect to hear from you frequently We remain  
Sir,

your most Obedient very humble Servant

Signed { John Askin  
Angus Mackintosh for himself as well  
as for the Estate of the [late] W<sup>m</sup>  
Macomb &<sup>ac</sup>  
William Park & for those he represents  
James Abbott C[?] & Ca

N. B. By the Earliest conveyance you will please advise What length of time it will take to forclose the Mortgage your communications so as would be best Duplicates for fear of Miscarriage

Signed { James Abbott  
John Askin

P. S. This N. B. was suggested by M<sup>r</sup> Park its needless to send it to have it signed by him and M<sup>r</sup> Angus Mackintosh

*Endorsed:* Sandwich November the 1<sup>st</sup> 1805 The Members of the Miamis Company to William Mackintosh Esq<sup>r</sup>  
(Copy)

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Portsmouth 5<sup>th</sup> November 1805

My beloved Father, The arrival of the Quebec Fleet was most wellcome intelligence to me as I had flattered myself I should have rec<sup>d</sup> packets of letters from my dear friends in Canada but I am sorry to say I have not had one however I trust to be more fortunate another time and impute such disappointment [to] the letters having miscarried as I doubt not many were written to come by that opportunity.

From the rumour of expected augmentation to our Corps I had imagined that we should have been removed to Woolwich long e're this as My dear Meredith wants but two vacancies to give him the next step in the Reg<sup>t</sup> however we have heard nothing more on the subject lately and were it not for the sake of promotion I should prefer remaining here as we find this a very pleasant quarter and a very lively one from the sucession of people to and fro from various parts of the World the weather is delightful for the time of year My dear M. myself and our youngest darling walk out every day to respire the sea Breeze exercise has been reccommended to me as I have been very unwell lately the medical men consulted on the occasion call it nervous. I take Bark every day and find myself much better and my strength greatly recruited and could the most endearing attentions of a truly affectionate husband restore me to health I should soon be quite well. The favorable reports I frequently receive of my dear children's progress at school cannot fail of inspiring me with much comfort they posses very proper ideas and I trust will do well. My dear Meredith is in tolerable health but quite thin to what you knew him you may always know his approach by hearing him sing he is merry and wise

My little Elizabeth is now learning to read and is really very entertaining by the shrewd remarks she often makes she is our daily companion in our rambles and whilst I am writing this is pretending to work I sometimes give her a pretty little pair of scissars to cut out with they belong to a tortoise shell case which my dearest Mother gave me she is fond of shewing them to people and says these scissars belong to My dear Grandmama. We this morning rec<sup>d</sup> a

charming letter from one of my Cousin Mercers I am happy to say that a little coolness which subsisted between the families is now entirely healed up and we have frequent correspondence with them Capt<sup>n</sup> Mercer complains that he has not heard from Canada for a very long time tho' he writes once a year regularly. they are all very well and still live at Uxbridge he has left the Militia as he was so much troubled with the gout that he could not with any pleasure perform his duty. The unfortunate W<sup>m</sup> Robertson is still in being and lives in the vicinity of Billingsgate in a miserable Ale house. It is now a very long time since I have [had] any passengers from Canada when we lived at Woolwich We sometimes were gratified with the sight of some one who had seen you I understand there are many Merchants from Quebec come to England this Autumn you will have the goodness my dear Father to excuse my not writing a very long letter by this opportunity but I was anxious that you should hear from us and I trust soon to send you a very full Epistle in the mean time I beg you will assure my beloved and ever dear Mother of my very sincere affection accept the same for yourself and have the goodness to assure my dear Brothers sisters Uncles Aunts and Cousins of my very affectionate regards My dear Meredith joins in the same with your Ever dutiful and affectionate Daughter

Archange Meredith<sup>33</sup>

*Addressed:* To John Askin Esq<sup>re</sup> at Detroit Upper Canada To The Care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd and M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merch<sup>ts</sup> at Montreal Canada

*Endorsed:* Portsmouth Nov<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1805 M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith & Major Meredith to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10 March 1806

Portsmouth 5<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1805 M<sup>rs</sup> & Major Meredith to John Askin

PROSECUTION OF LAND CLAIMS IN YORK

York 20<sup>th</sup> November 1805

My dear Sir I have before me now four letters of yours received by M<sup>r</sup> Woods whos appearance made me very

<sup>33</sup> Appended is a letter from David Meredith to John Askin.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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happy indeed, from my anxious wish to hear from Your quarter, & of my family & friends. Regarding your uneasiness that I was fearfull or rather in doubt, of taken upon myself the Administration of this Government, from the generous Manner (though agreeable to the Kings instruction) that the majority of the Executive Council indeed at first the whole of them, addressed me to administer the Government of this Country, I could not avoid falling into their wishes. my friends in & out of Council wished for me by all means to take upon me the management of the Government.

What alarmed me much & put me to an unpluse was mostly all the officers of Government being absent, and had no person to advise with or help me but that good man Captain M<sup>c</sup>Gill Colonel Shaw stays always at his farm only when soummonds to Council. Thank my god, now I am perfectly easy in my mind, which I was not at first, from real anxiety to do well, farr & near I learn yet all seems to be satisfied, with matters gone on queitly. Tho my late good worthy predesessor was Sensible & Clever, he latterly dealt very harse [harsh] with most of the people that had any business with him. thats answering mostly your's of the 1<sup>st</sup> oct<sup>r</sup>.

Your favour of the 27<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. There is [a] rule of the Executive Council & L<sup>t</sup> Governor, that since such a period [space] that no U. E or military or magistrates &c &c Claimants that pitioned for lands & granted by the Council but not located can have an acre now without paying the full fees, and that in hand before any Steps is taken. Several officers upon half pay had during Gener<sup>l</sup> Simcoes administration procured minutes of council for their lands, Neglected all the rest of the business till lately, but cannot get an acre without paying the full fees, as any Settler from the states of america. Mr. Woods will inform you more fully who takes great pains to inform himself through all the offices.

Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee, I think I mentioned to you before that I had mentioned to Gener<sup>l</sup> Hunter concerning his having a Troop of horse or Cavalry. his answer was he did not care how many troops they would have, but no expence to



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Government. I see nothing to prevent Capt<sup>n</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee getting the Commission.

Your favor of the 29<sup>th</sup> Oct regarding Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee's or any of his Childrens Claim on the indien Huron reserve. I have been sounding my Colleagues in Council they say nothing can be done in the matter till the Chief Justice arrives, and then they think it must be purchased from or delivered by the Indians I shall make all the Enquiries I can concerning it. And I fear the same objection will be [made] to the late Colonel M<sup>c</sup>Kees lands and his Children as to other Claimants, by not coming forward sooner and locating their right.

I am told Caldwell by his negligence will lose nearly 2000 acres of his Captaincy land I am also told that Several Gentlemen got recommodation [recommendations] for grants of certain tracts from home and after they past the Executive council our late good General kept them up, and [they did] not proceed further. My being here in the station I am in by mere chance, I cannot nor ind[eed] is [it] in my power to change or alter rules ad[opted] by the Executive Council & approved by the late L<sup>t</sup> Governor. The Chief Justice being absent who was at the head of the Council, and knew well the Governor Sentiments upon most matters, I miss much. And could bring things more forward with more propriety & Legality than can be done otherwise no word of his being on his way, or whether he go[es] to the lower Province, or remain[s] in this

I should be glad to see Charles it will be of Service to him to look & see how business go[es] on here. Remember my sincere affection to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and all the rest of your good family and beli[e]ve me dear Sir

Your Sincere Friend

Alex Grant

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sen<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Strabane Sandwich  
Favored by Ja<sup>s</sup> Woods Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* York Nov<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1805 Commodore Grant  
President to John Askin rec<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> the 2<sup>d</sup>  
Jan<sup>y</sup> 1806

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

PROPOSAL TO RENT THE *SAGUINAH*

Detroit 24<sup>th</sup> november 1805

Sir Being informed by Cap<sup>t</sup> Connelly<sup>34</sup> that your small Vessel has done little or nothing last summer & is now laid up at Fort Erie & that the man who had the charge of her could do nothing with her, if so & that you wish to use her the ensuing season if it would meet your approbation I would willingly take her in charge in the spring, or otherwise if you would wish I should take her in a certain share I would have no objection, otherwise perhaps you would wish to dispose of her, if either of the above will please you. I will wait on you at your house by a line from you. I would wish to have an answer from you soon as M<sup>r</sup> C. Clements<sup>35</sup> has been speaking to me to take charge of his Vessel now here but would prefer yours as I think I could make something of her that would be handsome.

I am Sir with respect your verry humble Servant

Tho<sup>s</sup> Nowlan

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>o</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Senior Esq<sup>o</sup> Strabane near Sand-  
wich

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1805 Tho<sup>s</sup> Nowlan to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin recv<sup>d</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Brush the 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1806 Answ<sup>d</sup>  
next day

<sup>34</sup> John Connelly was living in Detroit as early as Jan. 3, 1800, when a daughter, Catherine, was born to his wife, Dorothea Lalor. According to the compiler of the "Daniel Dobbins Papers," the Abbots of Detroit, in 1801, built an eighty-ton schooner which they named the *General Wilkinson* and of which Connelly was made master. It is certain that he was master of the *General Wilkinson* as early as 1803 and as late as 1810 (see Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, IX, 463, for the earlier date; a ms. in the B. H. Coll. supplies the later one). In the summer of 1814, he served as pilot of the schooner *Experiment* which conveyed provisions for Col. George Croghan on his expedition against Mackinac Island. In 1816 he was living at Rouge River, and on the occasion of the burning of a neighbor's barn, Connelly assisted in preventing the spread of the fire and shortly thereafter supplied an interesting affidavit which incidentally discloses that he had a son named Will, concerning whom no other mention has been found. Dorothea Lalor was buried in Detroit, March 24, 1819, aged thirty-eight years; John Connelly was buried here, July 31, 1822, aged fifty years. Data derived from entries in Ste. Anne's Church Register, and from mss. in B. H. Coll.

<sup>35</sup> Christian Clemens, founder and "father" of Mount Clemens, was of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, his ancestors having migrated from Holland to Philadelphia about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Garret Clemens, father of Christian, was a Mennonite, and during the Revolution was repeatedly fined for refusal to bear arms. He died, Jan. 5, 1799, and was interred in the Dunkard burial grounds in Germantown. Christian was born in Horsham, Montgomery County, Pa., Jan. 30, 1768. About the year 1795 he came to Detroit where he engaged in leather making. About the year 1803 he located on the

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

PROSECUTION OF LAND CLAIMS IN DETROIT

Near Sandwich November 26<sup>th</sup> 1805

Dear Sir I write you a few lines I think on Monday was a week just before I went to Detroit<sup>36</sup> to give evidence in support of the Claims I give in to Lands for you M<sup>r</sup> Todd some others and myself I returned on Saturday night and got through with most of them to my Satisfaction the business was tedious and very troublesome partly owing to the distance of time and irregular attendance of the Witnesses but by the good patience and good humour of the Commissioners I got mostly through and I must do them the justice to say they took down my proofs in the most favorable lights and I now think it not improbable that congress may confirm all of them except one which being the only Indian Title I claim under the quantity being very large and little improvements made on it perhaps has not their good wishes. I'm sure their oppinion are much altered in regard to my claim's and so will Congress when they see them. from the large quantity of my Claims and representations made that number[s]of the principal British subjects had obtained large tracts of Land for very inconsiderable value and sold it out in small Parcels at a high price to the poor inhabitants. having heard this, I in the presence of the Commissioners put the whole Country to defiance to prove their was a single man in it who ever had bought a foot of Land of me which I had purchased of Indians and that my Claims for large quantities was composed of small tracts of land purchased at high rates from poor people. I mean to have Affidavids of some respectable people here to the foregoing effects and

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present site of Mount Clemens, on land acquired from Richard Connor, for whom see *B. H. R.*, 1, 228-29. Here he died, Aug. 25, 1844. He platted the village in 1818, was instrumental in having it made the county seat of Macomb County, and provided sites for the court house, jail, cemetery, and one or more churches. He was the first probate judge of the county, and until his death, the foremost citizen of the town. He was one of the early trustees of the University of Michigan, and a colonel of the Michigan militia.

Clemens married Elizabeth Tallmadge Allen (1777-1824), widow of Deodat Allen, and four daughters were born to them. All married, and all of Clemens' sons-in-law made their homes in Mount Clemens, where for two generations the family influence was an important factor in the life of the community. A considerable group of Christian Clemens' private papers belongs to the B. H. Coll. Data chiefly derived from Rebecca L. Crittenden, Clemens genealogy (ms.)

<sup>36</sup> The numerous errors in the document are due to the fact that the manuscript is a copy of the original, in the hand of one of Askin's sons.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

sent by the Commissioners to Congress will not be so favorable in their Decissions to those who purchased of Indians and sold out in small parcells. The principal Claim on behalf of you and M<sup>r</sup> Todd not yet passed is for the old Moravian Town,<sup>37</sup> oweing to the people who lived on it for me being on this side & Affeared to go over to the other, but the Commissioners will give a protection for them from the minuet they Land. I therefore expect I will be able to prevail on them to go over. The Summoning of Witnesses and recording every paper relative to my Claims as no precaution should be omitted will be expensive but I'm determined nothing shall be wanting on my part to secure them. M<sup>r</sup> Baby came before the Commissioners in Order to give proofs of Possession Cultivation &<sup>e</sup> but could not be heard, as he entered no Claim prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of this month agreeable to Law. Therefore Congress will only see his Fathers Purchases from Indians they being recorded by which it will appear as if no improvement had been made though in one spott he laid out more than £3,000 in the purchase I would say in erecting two Griss Mills. The claims I gave in to the commissioners in behalf of M<sup>r</sup> Todd and you are conformable to the Sales I made you I would send you a Copy of them but think it would create unnecessary Postage.

Respecting money matters as I before mentioned in my last Letter the prospect is bad. M<sup>r</sup> Park tells me he desired Mess<sup>rs</sup> Forsyth & Richardson to pay your the £60 for the Mill when taxes are got and money paid into the Detroit Treasury I'm promised about £200, which when Received shall be sent you & you made acquainted how to Credit it M<sup>r</sup> Brush is employed about claims when this is over I will require payment for the Orchard with interest he deducting for the Deeds he may have drawn &<sup>ca</sup> untill this payment is made I shall not give him a Deed for it. I will likewise give him Deeds in behalf of You and M<sup>r</sup> Todd for the two different places belonging to you near the Commons taking security for payment of the same in the manner by you directed. I was much surprised to see the number of new Houses and them tolerable good ones already built at Detroit more seems now to be done in that way, notwith-

<sup>37</sup> The allusion is to the Moravian settlement near Mount Clemens, the site of which Askin and Major Ancrum had jointly purchased in 1786. See *B. H. R.*, I, 227 ff.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

standing they [the] great [loss] they sustained there [than] was done in several years past I fear Money that should go to other purposes in [is] now employed in Building.

Thank God my family and self enjoy good Health I sincerely hope the like blessing attend you and yours. If I can gather a little Money I mean to send my Son Charles soon to York to take up the few remaining Deeds I have not yet got as no doubt the Commodore will order them to be made out on my paying I will give him Deeds in my own name and take Security on M<sup>r</sup> Todd &, you by mortgage for payment. I have only to add That I am Dear Sir your much obliged very humble Servant

P. S. Since writing I have received an Order on the Treasury and two others for money which when I can collect shall be remitted

James M<sup>o</sup>Gill Esquire at Montreal.

FROM ALEXANDER GRANT TO JOHN ASKIN

York decem<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1805

My dear Sir Your long letter given me such faithfull and Just accounts of all that is dear to me in this world leaves me no Expression Sufficient to thank you I assure you that I am so Cherished with yours and other friends accounts of the reEstablishing of M<sup>rs</sup> Grant's health that I feel myself growing quite hearty and well danced fifteen couple down the other night.

I am happy you cleared up to the Commissioners Sitting on that head yours & mine pretention to the farm at Gross Point. And I hope the united states will not take the property from the poor devils on that side of the River.

M<sup>r</sup> Wood's leaving this place lately will shorten my letters as he will give all occurrences regarding this place and what is doing about lands &c. Remember me kindly to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin I am glad that you surmise bringing or geting M<sup>rs</sup> G. now and then to your house, as you and her talks now and then la la la, which makes the old lady shake her sides. I have found all my life time the more I have to do the more

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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good time I have Youl say that is a paradox when you think serious you'l Join me, an idle person has no time. laziness brings on langor, idleness Supposed sickness blues &c &c There is neither Post or Express yet arrived from lower Canada. I am realy sorry for the death of that good Young man poor Donovan poor old distressed Couple, the ffather & mother My Compliments to your nieghbours, M<sup>c</sup>Intosh and family. It will not do any hurt to Charles to come here should his health admit of it and look about him. I pass many a pleasant hour with Powel & family talking about our familys. I think his pivishness seems much for the better. I wrote to Richardson some time ago, had he wrote M<sup>c</sup>Gill regarding his lodging money he would have got it instead of Co<sup>l</sup> Shaw, Who the late Gener<sup>l</sup> took a dislike to also to a nother good man Doc<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Caully Would not see the Doct<sup>r</sup> at Quebec. forget not [to] remember me to Brush & lady Charles James, Nelly, And my fellow Alexander.

Your friend & humble Ser<sup>t</sup>

Alex Grant

John Askin Sen Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane.

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Strabane, near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* York 19<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1805 Commodore Grant to John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1806 Answ<sup>d</sup> the 4<sup>th</sup>

*Stamped:* YORK 23 Dec 1805

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAMPERS BRITISH TRADERS

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1806

Dear Sir I answered all your letters fully about a month ago since which M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson tells me he this fall seen a man named Bison<sup>38</sup> at S<sup>t</sup> Josephs of Lake Michigan who told him that General Wilkinson<sup>39</sup> had detained M<sup>r</sup> Dickson with all his men near six weeks at the entrance of the Missourie and before he would let him go in he was obliged to hire other engajes

<sup>38</sup> Probably Louis Buisson, for whom see *ante*, 292.

<sup>39</sup> General James Wilkinson was appointed governor of Louisiana Territory in 1805. The trade of the upper Mississippi region was at this time chiefly in the hands of a group

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I have not rec<sup>d</sup> a dollar in payment since I wrote you last. The Detroit treasury nor no other who [are] owing having any money It's with great difculty I scratch out these few lines owing to a sore finger that prevents my holding my pen as Usual

I remain Your ever obliged Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esquire at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Jan<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1806 John Askin to James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> (Copy)

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 18 January 1806

My dear old friend It is with much Pleasure I received a few lines from you yesterday dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, but at same time am sorry you lost your Boots I sent them by I think a M<sup>r</sup> Dubois the 10 of September, whose father lives in this Place and he has been for some time past a trader from this to Detroit. I received from M<sup>r</sup> Brush the bill for the amount of cash in his Hands. you say you have 32 dollars in Hand for money recoverd from the Indians for our Claim I hope you will be able to recover what you mentioned. let me know what the expectations are in recovering this. our friend Todd went Home and remains there very bad. I am afraid we will never see him more. we are all rejoicing for the victory gaind by Lord Nelson, but the News from the continent of Europe is very bad. am much afraid Bonapart will over run the old World, and then step over the water to pay us a Visit but I dont think it will be in our Time we have reports of the Indians Threatening the americans at Detroit, but I hope peace will continue with you. I wrote to you when I sent the Boots, whether the man has kept the boots or no [I] cannot say. you will enquire for him. his name is François Dubois a

of British traders, one of the foremost of the number being Robert Dickson. American efforts at westward expansion were being vigorously prosecuted, and one of Wilkinson's early measures was to dispatch Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, in the summer of 1805, to assert the authority of the American government over that region. To the opposition interposed by the government to the activities of British traders within the boundaries of the United States was largely due the growth and success of the American Fur Company.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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young man of about 25 years of age a Trader. dont be long before you write to me, and hope Mr. Brush will get something from Vigo. he has a quantity of Lands which in time may be valuable and if good deeds can be procured they may easily be disposed of in the States. the post is just going off therefor conclude this but will soon write you again with my family best wishes for your happiness & that of your family [I] remain sincerely your affectionate friend

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Jan<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1806 M<sup>r</sup> Alexander Henry to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10th March Answ<sup>d</sup> April 4<sup>th</sup>

OBLIGATIONS OF GABRIEL HUNOT

Near Sandwich Jan<sup>y</sup> 25, 1806

Dear Sir, I yesterday promised to give you further information respecting the grounds on which the suit which you are to commence against M<sup>r</sup> Robert Gouie is founded they are as follows viz<sup>t</sup>

Gabriel Hunot an Indian Trader many years ago fell in my Debt in a ballance of above £1400 N. Y. Currency for which he gave me his obligation wrote in the French manner to which there is a seal, since which I have from time to time given him a letter of Licence, without which perhaps he wouldn't have been trusted, but for these t[h]ree or four years last past he has had no letter of Licence from me. understanding that he has latterly been successfull I directed my Agent M<sup>r</sup> William Mackintosh at Post S<sup>t</sup> Vincent that as said Hunot passed that place, on his way to Detroit to insist on his paying him for me about £200 N. Y. Currency in part of his obligation otherwise to sue him. Hunot tells me that he readily complied with the demand knowing it perfectly just, and accordingly delivered said William M<sup>e</sup>Intosh ten packs of deer skins supposed to contain five hundred, which both thought would nearly make the sum demanded. These ten packs were then marked J A and numbered from 1 to 10 and M<sup>r</sup> Mackintosh not apprehending any risk by sending them to him and took his receipt a copy of which is here annexed, said Hunot was



directed to leave them at the house of Richard Donoven Merchant at Detroit, but on his arrival finding the town burnt, he proceeded to his Merchant on this side M<sup>r</sup> Robert Gouie with the whole of the Packs where delivering them in to M<sup>r</sup> Gouies store he said to M<sup>r</sup> Gouie *Voila dix paquets appartenant a Monsieur Askin.* M<sup>r</sup> Gouie replied its all the same, put them in here with the others, I will settle the matter with M<sup>r</sup> Askin. M<sup>r</sup> Hunot not supposing any intentions in M<sup>r</sup> Gouie to detain them put them into his Store, which packs M<sup>r</sup> Gouie has refused to deliver me. my proof is M<sup>r</sup> Hunot himself who I have and will keep here untill trial, there was another man in the Canoe with him whose testimony I will endeavour to obtain, but I am not sure I shall be able to have him at Court being a Voyager on the other side and often in the Indian Country Mr. Hunot tells me that M<sup>r</sup> Gouie has urged him frequently to run away.

From M<sup>r</sup> Baby or M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Gregor you will receive twenty dollars which please give M<sup>r</sup> Weeks in preferance to any other Attorney if he comes the Circuit, to assist you in the foregoing case.

Although I now write Captain Cowan, take care that he does not neglect retaining M<sup>r</sup> Weeks also as your assistant in the suit commenced against him and me, by M<sup>r</sup> Gouie, and likewise that he takes the Attorney generals oppinion respecting the sales of the late Doctor Harffy's lands, and do you get the deeds of them from M<sup>r</sup> Dickson also see satisfaction entered on the judgment for what has been received by M<sup>r</sup> Harsens Attorney in his suit against Captain Cowan and me as executors to the late Doctor Harffy, remark the whole sum sued for was £381.5.8 Hfx. Currency which must have been the penalty and not the real Debt please discover what is still due on this judgment so that I may know when satisfied. not recollecting anything more to be mentioned at present I remain Dear Sir

Your most obedient very humble servant

(Copy)

Received Vincenns 10<sup>th</sup> May 1805 in good Order and condition of M<sup>r</sup> William Mackintosh ten packs deer skins marked and numbered J A from N<sup>o</sup> 1 to 10 which I promise

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

to deliver to M<sup>r</sup> John Askin or order in like good order at Detroit, he paying or accounting with me for customary and reasonable carriage for the same Witness my hand the day and year above written

Witness Signed, Gabriel Hunot  
Signed Richard Donovan

P. S. As neither M<sup>r</sup> Baby or M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregor are going to York, I will endeavour to send you the twenty dollars by some other opportunity

William Elliott Esquire<sup>40</sup> York

DEBTS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Vincennes 9<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1806

Sir A sincere desire to serve a very honest & respectable man must be my appology for addressing a gentleman to whose person I am an entire stranger. I have understood that you have an interest in a bond & Mortgage given by Col<sup>o</sup> Vigo of this place to the late M<sup>r</sup> James Abbot of Detroit for a considerable Sum & which is now put in the Hands of M<sup>r</sup> William M<sup>c</sup>Intosh for Collection. This claim M<sup>r</sup> Dubois has lately made an offer of purchasing and has proposed to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh as a consideration to convey to the claimants thirty tracts of Donation lands near this place amounting to twelve thousand acres, a valuable House & lot, two other lots appending thereto and about 90 or 100 acres of improved land near to the town. This property altho' it would not perhaps bring two-thirds of the sum if exposed to public sale for cash is in my opinion at the lowest valuation worth at least 16 or 17,000 Dollars And I sincerely believe that after it shall be conveyed & the eight tracts which are offered for the debt due to Williams & C<sup>o</sup>

<sup>40</sup> William Elliott of Sandwich was one of five men admitted to the bar of Upper Canada in 1803 under the authority of an act of that year, who were subsequently characterized as "heaven-born" lawyers. On Sept. 19, 1806, he was married to Sophie Bouchette by Rev. Richard Pollard of St. John's Church, and a son, Robert, was born to them on Jan. 4, 1811. Elliott was long a leading citizen of Sandwich. He was a captain of the First Essex County militia in the War of 1812, serving at Detroit, Frenchtown, and Miami; he subsequently served in the Indian Department, and after the war was a member of the pension board for the Western District of Upper Canada. In the Patriots' War of 1837 (now colonel of militia), he denounced the summary execution of prisoners perpetrated by Colonel Prince, and for this conduct was dismissed from the militia. Data derived from St. John's Church Register; Middleton, *Municipality of Toronto*, 667; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, especially XII, 618-21; and Irving, *op. cit.*

that there will be left to the Colonel scarcely enough to procure the necessaries of life for his declining age. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Intosh in his answer to M<sup>r</sup> Dubois which I understand is to be forwarded by this conveyance declares that he is prohibited by his instructions from making any compromise but seems to think that the offer is such as might be accepted by his principals provided some conditions were made to it which have been made agreeably to his suggestion. The rapid population of this part of the Territory induces me to believe that none of the Gentlemen who are interested in the debt would be ultimately losers by a Settlement Made in this way. At any rate I am persuaded that more Could not be offered without exposing the old Gentleman to absolute penury. I have heard that some part of Col<sup>o</sup> Vigo's Conduct towards yourself & some other of the claimants had excited great indignation against him & was the cause of the severity Manifested in the late instructions to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Intosh. Of the precise nature of the offence I am ignorant. I confidently believe however that there has been some mistake in the representation of his Conduct. The peculiar circumstances of his situation ought certainly to be taken into Consideration. you must be sensible Sir that an ignorant and unlettered man must in an affair of this nature give himself entirely to the guidance of others. How far his agents may have conducted themselves properly or otherwise I can not determine, but I am certain that nothing unfair unjust or indecent was ever contemplated by him towards his creditors.

I am with great Respect & Consideration Sir

Your Hum<sup>o</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Will<sup>m</sup> Henry Harrison

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Sandwich Upper Canada

*Endorsed:* Vincent Feb<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>h</sup> 1806 W<sup>m</sup> Henry Harrison to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>h</sup> March answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>h</sup>

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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DEBTS OF ROBERT DICKSON AND COMPANY

*Private*

Montreal 10 February 1806

My dear Sir I was favoured on the 19 ult<sup>o</sup> with your friendly Letters of 28 & 29 November and am much obliged by the attention you have shown to the unfortunate business of my House with Mess<sup>s</sup> Robert Dickson & C<sup>o</sup> as well as the kind concern you take in what relates to me personally.

In the inquiries I made as to legal remedies in the Detroit Government, or Michigan Territory, I had in view what others might do & If necessary what we might be able to do, and I [illegible] that attachment in that Territory cannot precede Judgement, tho it may in the Indiana & Mississippi Territories. My wish is not to contest but to have a fair honest share with other Creditors, and this I am afraid is not intended; in such Case my loss will be very heavy, yet there will apparently remain something to go on with in business and I hope enough to enable us to fulfill any engagements we may enter into. we have no share as Partners, nor any other consideration from Mess Dickson & C<sup>o</sup> but the profit on Goods or Commissions such as you know are usually charged on Peltry or money transactions; on that score therefore you & all the Friends of the House may be perfectly easy. I do not think it necessary to write Mess<sup>rs</sup> Macgregor on this Subject, but in conversation you can assure him that you know perfectly well that such is the case. One of the House will go to Mackinac this Spring, in hopes of obtaining our due by fair & temperate means, but if these should fail, Justice to ourselves will require recourse being had to legal measures. when it was your misfortune to be largely debtors to Todd & M<sup>o</sup>Gill, both of us were young & active & the loss we sustained made no deep or lasting impression; at my present time of life, the Case is different and I feel it, perhaps more than I should do, but it will not do to despair but hope for a more favourable issue than I can at this moment foresee or expect.

I have heard from our good Friend Todd up to 6 November when he was still very poorly, I hope his next will inform me that he was better and I now daily look for it—

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I am Dear Sir, with undisguised regard

Your's most sincerely

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill

*Addressed:* Private John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Recv<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> April 1806 Montreal Feb<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>h</sup>  
1806 James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rev<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> &  
Answ<sup>d</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> April

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS IN YORK

York February 24<sup>th</sup> 1806

My dear Askin I opened the Session on the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst and as yet the house of Commons do's nothing but vomiting grievance and Complaints Against the Administration of General Hunter and plaguing me, and his favoured. They will do nothing for the the good of the Country tho there is very little wanted so that in few days, I will be under the necessity of proroguing of them.<sup>41</sup> The only act wanted is the renewing of the still duty & Liencens. They keep that back till their Complaints are redressed so that nothing will be done. The October & November mials are arrived at Quebec & Expected hourly here. a letter from Quebec says that General Burton Son of General Christie has got all General Hunters appointments in this Country,<sup>42</sup> that M<sup>r</sup> Alcock go's Chief Justice to lower Canada & our attorney General<sup>43</sup> Chief Justice here, our late puisne Judge<sup>44</sup> with that other Country man of yours M<sup>r</sup> Weeks, are the fomentors of all the disorder amongst the Commons. My real affection to your good wife & Children No news of any kind [We are] waiting with great anxiety for some favourable accounts from the Contenent of Europe

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

<sup>41</sup> For an account of the popular opposition to the administration here alluded to, see D. B. Read, *The Lieutenant Governors of Upper Canada and Ontario, 1792-1799* (Toronto, 1900), 55 ff.

<sup>42</sup> This report proved incorrect; Francis Gore succeeded Hunter as lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada.

<sup>43</sup> Thomas Scott, for whom see *ante*, 486.

<sup>44</sup> Robert Thorpe, puisne judge of the Court of King's Bench of Upper Canada, 1805-1807. He was a principal leader of the opposition to the administration and through Governor Gore's influence his judgeship was taken away from him in 1807. For sketch of

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sen<sup>r</sup> Strabane near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* York Feb<sup>ry</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1806 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> the 18<sup>th</sup> March.

PROPOSAL FOR SALE OF THE *SAGUINAH*

Strabane February 26<sup>th</sup> 1806

Dear Robert I wrote you a few lines by the Post towards the beginning of this Month my finger was too sore to write more but is now better. I have not as yet looked at your account deeming it unnecessary untill Captain Fearson and M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum comes over to settle about the *Saguinah* the former knowing much better than me what he took up on account of the *Saguinah*. We are as yet undetermined whether we will repair her or not, at all events if we do I prefer the long days to the short for that purpose altho we may loose a trip or more by it indeed not being sure of freight we know not what we would losse or gain. Captain Fearson assures me with a good repair the Vessell would be a good one for many years but this repair would cost about £500. N.Y. Currency and perhaps not so much. Now any person who would have her repaired and fitted out should have my consent (and I dare say that of the other owners) to a half share in her and that when she is in good order must be worth nearly £1000 for she would not then be dear of £2000. I think your purpose continuing a Trade to this Quarter you would do well to take the offer, it will save you much freight money and in the repairs you would not have much money to lay out as a great part of the materials as well as provissions would be always furnished by you besides by droping the Decks a very little she could go into the American Ports without charges and when not better employed could carry salt to Presquil you had better consider this matter seriously and if you find the undertaking too great for yourself alone I dare say there are some in your Quarter who will readily join you. you know jealousy has made many say that the *Saguinah*

his career, see Riddell, *Life of William Dummer Powell*, 218-19; D. B. Read, *Lives of the Judges of Upper Canada and Ontario from 1791 to the Present Time* (Toronto, 1888), 77 ff.

was rotten its really false, there are parts of her as sound as ever. I can depend on what Captain Fearson says. If you wish to hold, with any other that has freight a greater share in the Vessell I dare say you may and that M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum for a trifle [will] go out. Hagtaway tells me a man offered 100 or 90 Barrells Salt for the *Surprise* I wish you would take that if no more can be got, or if you will give me equal to it in Pork and take her yourself, I would prefer it, or give me credit for her if she will answer you of the 8 Barrells of Pork remaining at Michilimacinac 5 have been sold payable next year, therefore 3 remained last fall.

I wish you to send me by very first opportunity which I dare say will be early 3 Barrells of Pork provided you can wait some time for your payment for really since Detroit has been burnt money is scarcer than I ever have known it. You never say anything about Norton. I would even rather take the £77 odd he offered you than let the matter lie over longer. You need not send me any Tea in the Spring, as I have some with other Stores at Niagara that will soon be up.

Nothing new in this quarter. My Family Thank God well, and assure you of their best wishes as does Dear Robert your real Friend

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nichol Merchant Fort Erie

P. S. Let me know the N<sup>o</sup> of my Lottery Ticketts as well as that of M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee so that if either draws a prize we may know to whom it belongs. I wish you could change Voltair for Pork, Even 3 Barrells.<sup>45</sup>

*Endorsed:* Strabane Feb<sup>y</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1806 John Askin Senior to M<sup>r</sup> Robert Nichol Merchant Fort Erie (Copy)  
Mr. Robert Nichol Merchant Fort Erie

LAND VALUES IN DETROIT

Strabane March the 6<sup>th</sup> 1806

My Dear Friend The principal intent of this Letter is to inform you not to sell the Lot I got from M<sup>r</sup> Smith &

<sup>45</sup> The concluding sentence is in Askin's hand; the remainder of the letter, in that of one of his sons.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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conveyed to you without refering to me for its value. several persons want to purchase, & some I know from its situation will buy it even if more was asked for it than its value. M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson has made several Offers, among others £100 in Cash & an other £100 next year or five hundred Acres of Land in the lower part of this Province. I said I would take upon me to let him have it for £300 and not a penny less. I dare say he will try to get it for less by applying to you and its for this reason I give you this warning M<sup>r</sup> Smith I think said if he would have taken Lumber which sells well he could have got £500 for it. I dont think M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson wants it for himself but I think I know for whom. several who have endeavoured to bargain with me about Lands belonging to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & yourself have told me they could get them much cheaper from Yourselves. I know the land to be worth what I ask for them if you can do without what could now be got for them they must soon bring double for the best of the settlement between this & the River Thames, and as there is now a good land & Water communication from them to either the River Thames or here and all other Lands so situated being taken up they are more desirable for situation than others nor is the soil inferior. I must wait for more favourable weather to go to Detroit, after which M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & you shall have a clear Amount [account] of what of your claims are confirmed & what not brought forward or rejected. I expect soon to hear of Your safe arrival from the United States. please tell M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill that after I have been at Detroit I will answer his favour of the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> which came to hand the 20<sup>th</sup> of last Month

My Family all well and assure you of their best wishes  
Adieu My Dear Friend

Yours always

Isaac Todd Esquire Montreal

P. S. I beg you will endeavour to procure me a Frenchman pretty old and without a Family to do the Work about the House. he should be carefull honest & sober, which I would prefer to hard Work. care of Cattle and small Jobs about the House, & Thrashing when he has nothing else to do, is all will be required of him You or my Good Friend



Mr Henry I think must know of some one of that description he shall be well used & paid. however as he will not be put to hard Work I suppose he cannot ask very high Wages. If he was married and had no Children I would have both him & his Wife. I will speak to Mr Pattinson to give [him] a passage in his Boats when they come, & the earlier the better.

*Endorsed:* Strabane May the 6<sup>th</sup> 1806 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Isaac Todd Esquire (Copy)

- GOSSIP FROM YORK<sup>46</sup>

My dear Sir I cannot let this oppertunity of Mr Baby go without informing you and my dear Sister in law of my keeping my health. And that we have most glorious news of the Russians and French in one of the most fatal battles<sup>47</sup> that history can relate cut one & other down without given or taken Quarters; And after four or five days of that buse-ness Boneparte with all his intrepidy obliged to gave way at last—to my namesake at the head of the Brave russians—Alexander is styled the Hero of heros. Baby will relate the whole. during the parliament I have not been able to stir out of the house. two or three of your Countrymen kept me in hot water, by their naturel propensity to disturbence; I do not remember if I informed you of poor David Burnes<sup>48</sup> having killed himself—with that; that you nor I never will die of. Mr Hamilton tells me he had a short letter from W<sup>m</sup> Robertson only saying there was a deal of Moneys due to him in both Canadas of which he wanted some of. Cap- tain Tho<sup>s</sup> Robison<sup>49</sup> our old acquaintance came here with Mr Cartwright on purpose to see me he has in all Proba-

<sup>46</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>47</sup> Austerlitz, Napoleon's classic victory, was won, Dec. 2, 1805. The report of a Russian victory which came to Canada may reflect merely a prior expectation of disaster to Napo- leon.

<sup>48</sup> David Burns was commissioned surgeon in the Queen's Rangers upon Governor Simcoe's recommendation, Sept. 1, 1791, and the British army lists show that he was serv- ing in this capacity as late as 1795. In addition, in July, 1792, he was made clerk of the Crown and Common Pleas of Upper Canada, with a salary of £100. He died in Toronto prior to Feb. 15, 1806, leaving among other property, a considerable library. Information adapted from *Simcoe Papers, passim*; British army lists; Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Re- cords*, XXI, 169; and Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 365-66.

<sup>49</sup> Thomas Robison was buried in Kingston, March 29, 1806. In Buffalo Hist. Soc. *Pubs.*, VI, 75, he is mentioned as a successor in trade at Niagara of Edward Pollard, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 107. A letter of Alexander Grant to John Askin, April 28,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

bility fixt himself all the rest of his days at Kingston. I am told he is worth one hunder thousand dollars—and connected with one or two of his sons in law. The ocean is the field for industry. John Grant of Lachine came up here to see me, who says he sees my Alexander often and has him out at his house—which your dear Alexander will be glad to hear his namsake is well. Remember me kindly to them all. No account officially of my appointments to this province yet. With gods blessing to you and yours

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

16<sup>th</sup> march 1806.

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane favored by the Honorable James Baby

*Endorsed:* York March 16<sup>h</sup> 1806 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> April.

FRENCH AND ENGLISH LAND SURVEYS

March 23<sup>d</sup> 1806

Dear Charles You will lay off[f] for M<sup>r</sup> Livernois<sup>50</sup> in Front 4 french Acres Equal to 11 Chains 94 links as near as I can make it being Only 6/66 part of a link too much, for I find M<sup>r</sup> [M<sup>e</sup>]Gills Chain Measures 60 feet 3 Inches French

1806 (ms. in B. H. Coll.) gives this account of Robison's death: "Poor dear fellow Captn Thomas Robison that was here [in York] during the session and looked better than ever I saw him died suddenly within few steps of his own door fell down in a fit and never spoke. he has left one hundred thousand dollars to his family." One of the sons of Richard Cartwright was named Thomas Robison.

so Joseph Livernois Sr. and Joseph Livernois Jr., his son, were awarded by the Land Board respectively Private Claims 574 and 171 lying in the vicinity of modern Fort Wayne. Joseph Jr's. tract fronted the rear of P. C. 39, belonging to John Harvey; and Joseph Sr's. adjoined his son's tract on the west. The Detroit line of Livernois is descended from Paul Benoit *dit* Livernois, who was born in France in 1626. On Sept. 16, 1658, he married in Montreal, Elizabeth Gobinet, a native of Gonest, France. One of their sons, Étienne Benoit *dit* Livernois, married Jane Campau of Montreal and lived and died in Longueuil. A grandson of this couple, also named Étienne, was the first of the line to come to Detroit. He married here, Jan. 24, 1760, Mary Ann Angelica Peltier, daughter of Jean Francis Peltier and Mary Louisa Robert and widow of Anthony Campau. Benoit was a mason by trade. In 1762, he resided on a farm at the Coast of the Potawatomi on the Southwest Coast of Detroit. Mary Ann Angelica Peltier died in August, 1762, leaving an infant daughter who shortly followed her in death and a son, Joseph, who was born within the stockade on Sept. 10, 1760. He married, Sept. 2, 1780, Mary Therese Meloche, who was born at the Northeast Coast of Detroit, Jan. 7, 1761, daughter of Francis Meloche and Mary Frances Lauzon. Joseph Livernois was buried in Detroit on Sept. 2, 1834; Therese Meloche was buried, Feb. 27, 1810. They had eleven children, the eldest of whom, also named Joseph, was born on Sept. 17, 1781. He was killed by the Indians near the Potawatomi village on Clinton River on June 7, 1814. Genealogical data adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

and that the proportion between French and English Measure is that 241 feet, Yards, or Arpents French Measure as you like, would make 264 English. The side of a French Arpent is 180 feet French Measure. by the Line Benac<sup>51</sup> run in the rear of Cap<sup>t</sup> Ernests Acre or what Ewing run in the rear of Harveys, this line continued will form the Front of the Land I sold Livernois & LeDuc also LeFranc to whom I sold sometime ago. the direction of their lines runing back must be the same course as that of Cap<sup>t</sup> Ernests. Even should it not be at right Angles with their Fronts. the back line, or rather side line, you need not lay Out to any distance. Once the Course is laid Out, they may do the rest, or have it done as they clear their Land. M<sup>r</sup> Livernois will show you the side line now Existing between his Land & what I sold him. from this you will lay off[f] towards the river rouge in width 4 Arpents for him, next 2 for Dubois, next 3 Vacant & last 3 for LeFranc who is On it, or near the place, this will Extend to the real boundary of Lands claimed by M<sup>r</sup> Baby, if there are any line drawn by them, diferent from where the last reaches, it must be rong, for the Lands in Front & rear have the same width. I dont know any think more necessary to mention.

Your tender Father

John Askin

*Appended:*<sup>52</sup> The front of Livernois lands is to be 11 Chains 95 links being 4 Arpents & the front of Laducks 5 Chains 97½ links or 98—being 2 Arpents then next to Laduck a vacant lot 8 chains 96 links being 3 arpents & then for Le Franck 8 chains 96 links more—being 3 Arpents

A french arpent is 3 English chains less 9 Inches<sup>53</sup>—french—4 acres—is

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin at Detroit

<sup>51</sup> Apparently Joseph S. Porlier *dit* Benalque (Benac), for whom see *ante*, 28.

<sup>52</sup> The body of the document is in John Askin's handwriting, the portion appended is in another hand.

<sup>53</sup> The statement is inaccurate; the French arpent was slightly less than 192 feet, 3 inches, English measure. For a discussion of the subject of French and English land measures, see letter of Judge Woodward, Jan. 4, 1806, in *Am. St. Papers, Pub. Lands*, I, 264.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ALEXANDER HENRY

Strabane April 4<sup>th</sup> 1806

Blessed Henry I received a Letter from you on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March I need not tell you, but I will, that me and mine are always pleased to hear that you and yours are well I wrote you I had received the Boots. No word about Indian Claims as yet for Lands from Congress they seem to have matters of more consequence to them to deliberate on. M<sup>r</sup> William M<sup>c</sup>Intosh has obtained a Judgment in favour of the late Thomas Williams & C<sup>o</sup> of Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe for a considerable sum & payment has been offered in Land, but Brush will not take it, Though our Late Miamis C<sup>o</sup> have for what was due them by Vigoe. Indeed there is a Law of the Post Vincent Terretory which compells people to take Land in payment but Brush says he will find out one to make them pay the Debt coming to you in Money I believe there is now an appeal to the Federal Court. that was not the case formarly. Buonaparte had got to the top of his Wheel and when once that's the Case he like all mankind must come down whether by the run or not as is sometimes the case we will soon know

There is no indian War nor likelihood of it in this quarter except what may be in the Heads of those who do not know the indians This is an unpleasant but Healthy Spring we thank God are well and wish you the like happiness. Adieu My Dear Henry may God Bless you and yours are our sincere wishes.

Alexander Henry Esquire at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Strabane April 4<sup>h</sup> 1806 John Askin Senior to Alexander Henry Esquire, Merchant (Copy)

RELATIONS OF JAMES MCGILL AND JOHN ASKIN

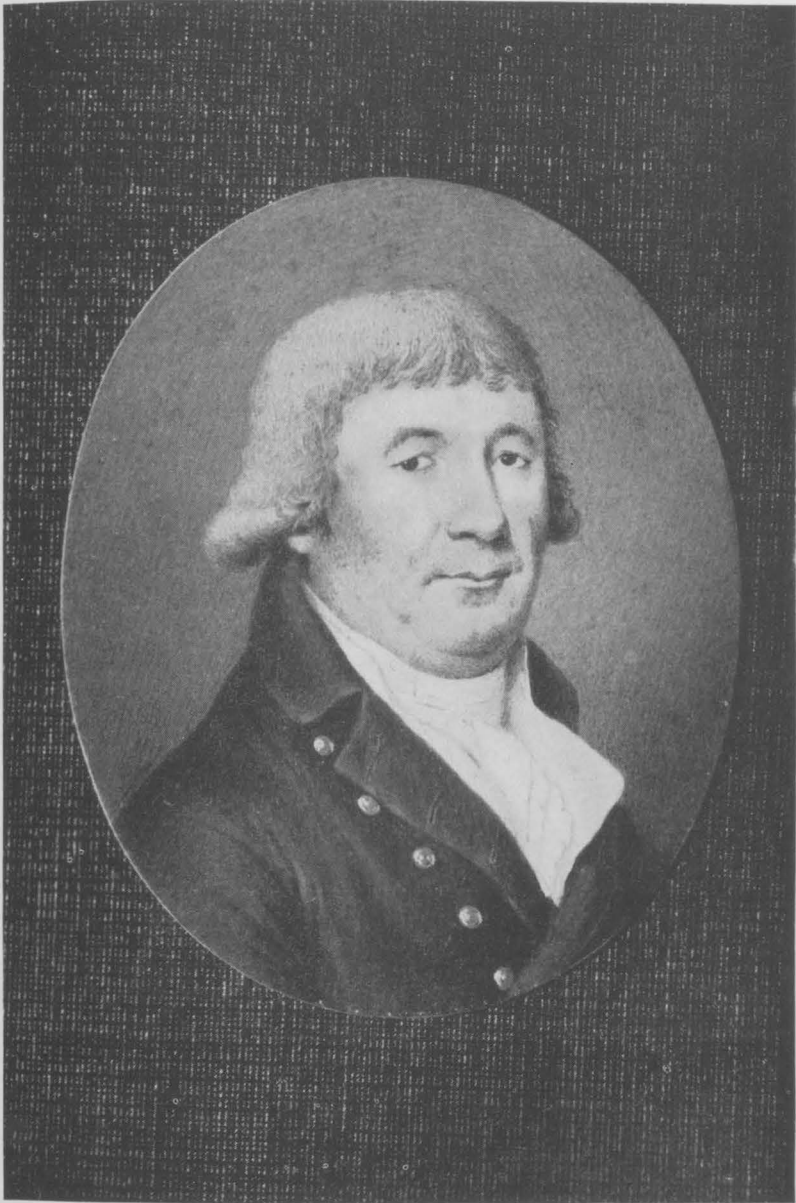
(Private)

Near Sandwich April 23<sup>d</sup> 1806

My Dear sir Your most fri[e]ndly private Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> February reached me on the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst; Surely I must be the most ungratefull of men if I did not feel for your Person & Interest all the concern due by a person to his greatest Benefactor. was it not for your, & Our most worthy Fri[e]nd M<sup>r</sup> Todds lenity & generosity formerly and yours laterly,

I must long since have seen Myself & Family in real want, nor have you been sparing in Action only not to hurt my Character & feelings but also in words, and I have often declared Publicly and will whilst I live, that in all my Transactions with M<sup>r</sup> Todd & you formerly, nor your House laterly, did I Ever receive a harsh nor Unfriend[l]y line from you, even when I owed you such large Sums, as you knew never could be discharged; Indeed had you wrote me in the Stile, Other Houses have to their Debtors, I have every reason in the world to believe, from what I know of my too tender feelings, that I would many years Ago have been out of the reach of Corrisponding with any one this side of the Grave. This is verry weak I know, but man did not make himself. I have courage & Philosophy in many cases, but the loss of old Fri[e]nds or their Fri[e]ndship Overcomes me. Well must M<sup>r</sup> Todd & you have known my Natural disposition, to have treated me with the tenderness you have done; I hope & believe you will have your reward in a better world. I fear in a long Letter I wrote you some time Ago, that I bore to hard on your Friendship in Urging you to take 20 Lots and discharge me from the Debt due your present House. I now think I was doing rong considering the Apparent heavy loss you may sustain. In Excuse I have only to say, that I did not know of any means of giving you more, or I would not have done it. Whatever you wish I will do, give mortgages or Otherwise as you like. Where [were] I sure you would live After me, I would feel no Uneasiness respecting your final settlement with my Family, but my Dear sir of whom can I Expect were you gone, or both of us, that feelings for my Family which I know you Possess.

Since the receipt of your Letter I have not seen the Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregors, but will not fail bringing on a conversation when I do, to make them Acquainted with what you wish them to know, and what gives me much pleasure to hear Viz<sup>t</sup> That you are no Partner in the House of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Dickson & C<sup>o</sup>. Were the Intentions of these other Creditors as liberal as yours, I should still hope that the loss to each would not be very heavy, but when there are many, this can hardly be expected; therefore you will do well to prepare for the worst, & take precautions accordingly. M<sup>r</sup> Brush purposes



JAMES MCGILL

*Reproduced from a miniature owned by George F. Macdonald of Windsor*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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being at Mich. in June, and as a Fri[e]nd (knowing what you have done for me & mine) I'm sure will give every Assistance in his power, to whoever may go from your House there

I'm sorry to learn that M<sup>r</sup> Todd is not in good Health. I fear for his situation. yet I hope for the best, such Fri[e]nds are rarely to be met with, & an old one is worth Ten new. Indeed I make few of the latter.

May Health of Body & Peace of mind be your Portion, are the Sincere wishes of My Dear sir

Your Ever Obliged Fri[e]nd

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> Merch<sup>t</sup> Montreal

*Endorsed:* Private Near Sandwich April 23<sup>d</sup> 1806 John Askin To James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal Coppy

TROUBLES OF MONTREAL MERCHANTS

Montreal 25 April 1806

My dear Askin It is a long time since I received any of your letters, you have not informed me whether you received your Boots. I find you have received the first dividend for the Lands. I hope they will not neglect to fulfill their agreements. as you have regular Communication with the States, you know all the European News, which is very bad for us. that rogue Bonapart is not only playing the Devil, but in reality is the Devil Come to Torment the inhabitants of the Earth, and when his reign will end no one knows. I am afraid not until he gets into England, and we are going to have war with America. I have wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Brush. have not received a line from him since he remitted me the amount in his Hands. I hope he has got something from Fagos estate. I observe in his letter he mentions only the debts due to the Estate of Thomas William & C<sup>o</sup> he must observe that equaly the debts due to the estate of John Casity must be look<sup>d</sup> into as he is most indebted to Williams estate than any other. the goods seised at S<sup>t</sup> Marys by the American Commessary belonging to the Northwest C<sup>o</sup> is orderd to be given up, and the seizing officer dismisd [from] the service. Todd is much

better and cannot live in England. he is coming out in the first ships. Beaver sold high in England Deer bad, Bears suposed would do well. Money very scarce here. Trade bad. the most of the Merchants will in two years be Bankrupt. unless it should rain a Shower of half Joes. it must be a general one otherwise [it] will not do. nothing can save them else. James M<sup>c</sup>Gill is going to Michilimack<sup>e</sup> to settle with Dixon who owes him near £40,000 currency and he is much affraid of loosing the greatest part. my dear old friend I am happy in all my old acquaintance, to find you live with less Trouble than any of them. may you long continue to do so. for my part I am growing old and suspect life will not hold [me] long. however you shall be amongst the last I think of. may you and your good family enjoy every good thing this world can give is the prayers of me and my famely.

from your affectionate fr[i]end

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Sandwich Detroit favour'd by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Donald

*Endorsed:* Montreal April the 25<sup>h</sup> 1806 M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

FROM ALEXANDER GRANT TO JOHN ASKIN

York May 9<sup>th</sup> 1806

My dear Friend I have your letter which promises that you will not write a blue letter in a hurry again. god knows they multiply fast enough in my breast, all there is we must wide [wade] through as long as we Can.

Regarding the land business particular[l]y all old Claims That through neglect or other Causes that has not been pushed forward at the time are hardly to be brought on now. From the following reason many rules has been made in Council during the Chief Justice & General Hunters time proclamation have been issued to Come forward again such a period, otherwise they should have no attention paid to their affairs. And one of them is that no womman or Lady are to have lands Except the daughters or wives of U. E The Council at present Consists only of M<sup>r</sup> Russell,



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

who [is] full of business as receiver General M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & M<sup>r</sup> attorney General both who has no fee or reward being temporary members, also full of their own business. And hardly can be prevaild on to get through the rottin [routine] and plain business in Council instead of looking and Search-in[g] into matters neglected or not brought properly forward for many years

I was made happy the other day with the arival of M<sup>r</sup> T. Dickson from Queenston with your letter & others from M<sup>rs</sup> Grant & family learning all of you being well. There is letters here dated The 26<sup>th</sup> of February last, then no appointment of L<sup>t</sup> Governor [and] Chief Justice to this Country. The attorney General had a letter from David Smith dated the 3<sup>d</sup> Febr<sup>y</sup> he was very well in high spirits with beneficial Sumptuous appointments from the Duck of northumberland. [He] desires that M<sup>r</sup> Sibley may be acquainted that his daughter is at his house and coming over to this Country with a Capt<sup>n</sup> Paterson. Tell your nelly that Captn Johnston is coming to niagara or so reported in the Quarter master Gener<sup>l</sup> line being not married yet he will fly to Strabane. Remember me kindly to Brush & D<sup>r</sup> Brown. no news of any kind The States papers are full of Congress business when Governor Hull returns let me know Regarding the premises on that Side of the River, and what are to be expected. M<sup>rs</sup> Grant I find has leased the Gross Point farm to Johnny I think the term long. poor dear womman I am sure she has don for the best. I am glad she has reserved the house & Ketchen & Garden which I have wrote her to be put in the best repair The house wants new shingleing and the upper storey wants Clapboarding the Ketchen wants a new Chimny. if it happens luckly that the Gentleman that comes L<sup>t</sup> Governor, has the Command of the Troops And that my health admits of [it], I shall make a trip to Montreal to see my dear boy before I return to the westward my affection to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin the young gentlemen, M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee M<sup>rs</sup> Brush & Nelly

It is so dull here that I intend by & by to take a trip to niagara & Queenston for few days

I remain your sincere well wisher  
Alex Grant

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esqr Strabane near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* York May 9<sup>h</sup> 1806 President Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>.

DEBTS OF FRANCIS VIGO

Grouseland (Near Vincennes)

21<sup>st</sup> May 1806

Sir I beg you to accept of my thanks for the flattering attention that you were pleased to shew to the requests contained in a former letter upon the subject of the debt due from Col<sup>o</sup> Vigo to certain Gentlemen of your vicinity. the affair has I believe been completely Settled & I have indirectly understood that the agent of the claimants was agreeably disappointed as to the value & quality of the land which has been taken a considerable part of which he has lately seen. Will you pardon me for recommending to you to keep for a short time at least such part of the land as may be allotted to you or if you do sell that you direct your agent to allow a credit of 18 Months or two years by which means it will sell for at least 50 per cent more than if sold for cash. the title may be withheld until payment is Made. As soon as I received your letter I lost no time in communicating to Col<sup>o</sup> Vigo that part of it which relates to his debt to yourself individually. his reply was to this effect. "It was never my intention to wrong M<sup>r</sup> Askin. our accounts were settled during my illness & my notes given for a ballance which appeared to be due to him. One of these had been payed. And an arrangement made with M<sup>r</sup> Dubois to discharge the other upon his return to Detroit when M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Intosh the agent of M<sup>r</sup> A. applied to me for the Money, he was informed that M<sup>r</sup> Dubois had undertaken to pay it to yourself, but nothing but the Money would satisfy M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Intosh. the money was not to be had & a writ was served upon me, the first (or perhaps the second) in my life. irritated at the adoption of a measure which could only be intended to put me to cost & trouble (for Mr. Askin would have certainly received the amount of my note in a few Months) I naturally began to investigate

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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the origin of my debt & for this purpose I put my papers in the hands of an Attorney by whom I was informed & am still informed that An error was made in the Settlement & that I Justly and legally owed M<sup>r</sup> Askin nothing" I am no lawyer but I cannot conceive that any Court of Justice will allow Col<sup>o</sup> Vigo to adduce any proof to set aside a note of hand upon the ground of a mistake being made in the settlement this objection I urged upon him, but he said that he had been differently informed by his lawyers. However I believe that the affair May still be settled to your satisfaction without a judicial decision. at present he is I believe absolutely unable to raise more money than that which he has engaged to pay on account of the late arrangement (& even this M<sup>r</sup> Dubois advances) but after the two heavy debts of Abbot & Cassady are settled he will still have some property that will command money in the course of 8 or 12 months & I hope & believe that he will immediately settle your affair to your satisfaction. If you know the ground of his objection to the Settlement formerly made between you (for I do not) if you can convince M<sup>r</sup> Dubois of its futility M<sup>r</sup> Vigo will I am sure abandon it immediately, & I beg you to command Me fully on this & on every other occasion where you may suppose I can be of the smallest service to you

I am with much Respect, Sir your Hum<sup>o</sup> Servant  
Will<sup>m</sup> Henry Harrison

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Grousland near Vincennes May 21<sup>st</sup> 1806  
Governor Harrison to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> June & Answ<sup>d</sup>  
y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ALEXANDER GRANT

Strabane May 28<sup>th</sup> 1806

My Dear Sir. Your very friendly letters of the 28<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May reached me three days ago and gave us all much satisfaction to learn you were well. The next day I had the pleasure of seeing M<sup>rs</sup> Grant here. M<sup>rs</sup> Askin had been over and as the afternoon was uncommonly Calm she ventured over. she next day went to Sandwich and is

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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now going the rounds to see her children after which [she] promises to come here. I think she looks nearly as usual but not in [good] spirits. what you are making for the Family must be pleasing to her but yet, I'm sure though she did not say so, she would give up all the profit rather than you should be another season absent. however she approves much of your going to see poor Alexander before you return

We find in the papers a L<sup>t</sup> Governor appointed for Upper Canada at which I'm not sorry for now you must have got a little to help the Family, I think you would rather be with them than siting in state. Your not one of those men who prefers honors to Family comforts. I'm sorry indeed for the sudden Death of poor Thomas Robertson and it must have effected you. nothing will save us when the time comes. most certainly nothing can be expected by John unless such vacancy also lately took place or was in your gift, or you could give with propriety a recommendation for

I'm sorry I throubled you about my former claims that were not countenanced, for as I never brought them forward during the reign of [word omitted] when I thought, it cannot be well said that they were I hope the regulalation about Women not geting Lands has nothing to do with Nelly her 600 Acres which has been located for many years ago at least 400 of them M<sup>r</sup> Allen can prove having had a [torn] of Money in his Hands some years ago to take up Deeds as fast as signed and consequently would have taken up Nellys as well as Allices had it been then ready lately he has not had Money ready yet when Deeds are I have always sent to relieve them David Smiths prosperity will always give me pleasure. I ever found him frien[d]ly.

I have the pleasure of acquainting you that I yesterday seen the Cobby of a Bill sent M<sup>r</sup> Brush relative to the Claims [torn] the other side. your anxiety respecting Gross Point may now be at an end. I have got Alexander to promise to Cobby it off. If he does I will send it to you with this and you must immediately after transmit it to M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>c</sup>Gill at Montreal

All your connections in this quarter are well and I shall remember you to those you desire when I see them. I'm

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

sorry to say that Captain Ernest<sup>54</sup> seems to be missing no account where he is or whats become of him. The repairs of your House at Gross Point I believe M<sup>r</sup> Grant will put off untill you return

Not recollecting anything further necessary to mention at present I shall conclude with our best wishes for all your Health & happiness and assurance that I am always My Dear Sir

yours most Sincerely

P. S. We had a Letter from Mr<sup>s</sup> Meredith dated the 31<sup>st</sup> December all well as well as also M<sup>r</sup> Mercers Family.

Should a new Commission [be] Issued I once before recommended Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee M<sup>r</sup> Barsto and M<sup>r</sup> George Jacobs<sup>55</sup> as fit people for Magistrates now M<sup>r</sup> Iredells Dead River Thames has very few.

The Honorable Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant Esquire. Administering the Government at York

*Endorsed:* Strabane May 28, 1806. John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to The Honorable Al<sup>r</sup> Grant York

UNIFORMS FOR ESSEX MILITIA

Amherstburg 7<sup>th</sup> June 1806

Dear Sir I have the pleasure to acknowledge, the receipt of your very kind letter, on the subject of my expected Promotion in the Infantry of your Regiment of Militia which I look forward to with infinite satisfaction; and in consequence lost no time in getting your letter (To His Honor the President) on Board of the *Caledonia*, which is by this well on to Fort Erie.

I am excessively happy to inform you, that my Uniform on the 4<sup>th</sup> gave very general satisfaction so much, that, immediately after the Battalion were dismissed, I got several Recruits, of people of that Class which I am sure will meet your approbation, in fact being of the first.

I can with great propriety, say that the Dress is very handsome, and indeed Elegant, without being dear or extravagant; To tell the truth, the officers of Colonel Elliotts

<sup>54</sup> Matthew Ernest, for whom see *ante*, 114.

<sup>55</sup> For the career of George Jacob, see *B. H. R.*, I, 307.

Battalion, as well as himself, were so much eclipsed, that they appeared perfectly ashamed of themselves.

Johnny & I intend going up to pay our respects to you, as soon as he can get his Uniform made, which is his Coat only, having the rest of the Dress already; several others are making their Preparations, with a degree of emulation. among the rest of my Recruits, is the Count Bobby Reynolds,<sup>56</sup> who conceives himself a great Equestrian We are all well here, & beg to be remembered to you M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, & the rest of the Family, in terms of the Profoundest respect & affection,

Dear Sir most respectfully & truly Your obedient Humble Servant

T. M<sup>c</sup>Kee

John Askin Esquire

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane M<sup>r</sup> Woods is requested to forward this as soon as possible

*Endorsed:* June 7<sup>h</sup> 1806 Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 15<sup>th</sup> June 1806

My dear Askin I got here on thursday after my arrival in England I was 4 Months confined to my Room and from Pain & Sickness much reduced After I began to recover it

<sup>56</sup> Robert Reynolds was a son of Thomas Reynolds of Detroit and (later) Amherstburg for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 308. Robert was born in Detroit in 1781, and was still living at his home near Amherstburg as late as 1864. On Nov. 6, 1803, he married Therese Bouchette DesRivières, who was a daughter of Jean Baptiste Bouchette, a captain in the British naval establishment on Lake Ontario. Prior to her union with Reynolds she had married Thomas Hypolite DesRivières, youngest son of Mrs. James McGill by her first marriage (with Joseph Amable Trotier *dit* DesRivières), who was a captain in the Sixtieth Regiment. In 1801, or shortly prior thereto, he was killed in a duel with a fellow-officer, leaving, besides his widow, a son, James McGill DesRivières. It is this child who is mentioned in James McGill's will as the stepson of Robert Reynolds. See *post*, 777.

The St. John's Church Register records the birth of four sons and one daughter to Robert Reynolds and his wife in the years 1805-17. The daughter, born, April 4, 1809, was named Jean Charlotte McGill Reynolds, and the names of Charlotte and James McGill (evidently signed by someone else) appear as sponsors.

Reynolds, like his father, was commissary in the British military establishment. The fine home he built facing the river road, a short distance below Amherstburg, is still standing. An interesting old-age narrative of his military experiences is given in Coffin, *op. cit.*, 195 ff. See also Casselman, *op. cit.*, 133; entries in St. John's Church Register; and *Bull. Recherches Hist.*, XXIX, 86-88.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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was rapid & thank God for 5 Months past I have enjoyed as good health as I can expect but the Pain & swelling in my knee & thigh continues in a small degree & occasions walking painfull. from Quebec I forwarded Letters for you from Maj<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith she is the same affectionate Good little Woman she ever was & she is happy in a fond Good Husband. she has a Daughter almost as big as herself but you will from them hear the particulars. Cap<sup>t</sup> Mercer I saw several Times he is troubled with the Gout M<sup>rs</sup> Mercer & Daughters are well. I have wrote the President telling him how to act to recover payment for the Time he may act as such which will I believe be at the rate of £1000 Ster<sup>s</sup> p<sup>r</sup> Annum. William Robertson is not only a Sot & blackguard but infamous as a Liar & Rogue. Among other of his bad conduct his poor Bro<sup>r</sup> is Starving. He will not pay him what he owes. indeed my friend I begin to think we were all deceived in him & that he never was an honest Man. I have not had time to learn much about my property in your care but M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill tells me he has recev<sup>d</sup> nothing since my departure I was in expectation And<sup>w</sup> Todds money would have been paid & what of our Joint property had been sold, for when I have time to tell you the situation I am in with W<sup>m</sup> Todd you will see I have occasion for all I can get even to live comfortably I hope soon to hear from you. Rememb<sup>r</sup> me kindly to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee. could not the President do something for you or your Sons? if he can he ought and if he does not he will not be thanked by his successor. Adieue God Bless you I am in heast My D<sup>r</sup> friend

Yours Sincerely  
Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Montreal June 15<sup>th</sup> 1806 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> July.

GOODS OF CHARLES ASKIN AT MACKINAC

Makinack Le 26 Juin 1806

Monsieur Vous recevré cette présente par le Capt Mills en réponse d'une de vos lettre que Jai reçu dernièrement abord de la *thames* dans laquelle vous me demandé soi de l'argent ou de bonne trêtte pour Les cinqs derniers Cave de Lard que Mons<sup>r</sup> Charles Askine votre fils ma lessé icit Leté derniere Comme Mons<sup>r</sup> Solomon mon Comie a suivit les Directions de M<sup>r</sup> votre fils de sorte que ne pouvant poin trouver d'argent pour Le lard il a préféré de le vendre a printent pour du sucre comme il etoit mentionné dans la Lettre de M<sup>r</sup> votre fils, Jai trouvé parmi mes papiers La lettre de M<sup>r</sup> votre fils ainsi que la Direction Soyez persuadé que Si Je nusse pas oublies ces papier L'automne derniere quand Je fut au Detroit que Je ne vous aurois certennemens pas passé mon billet payable en argent mais ne me rapelent pas beaucoup des directions que M<sup>r</sup> votre fils mavois donné et nément point a proceder, voila la raison pour laquelle Je vous ai passé mon billet et quil seras tres bien payez M<sup>r</sup> Pothier me la presente voila deux Jours, de sorte que vous n'avez rien a craindre a de sujet, a legard des cinq derniers Caves de lard M<sup>r</sup> Solomont Les a vendue pour du sucre suivent le prix mentionné par la lettre de M<sup>r</sup> votre fils et Je vais Lui envoyer par le Capt<sup>n</sup> Mills de sorte que cette exemple icit me serviras pour bien D'autre Cas. Je m'apersoit plus L'on veut obligé unne personne et plus L'on a de Dêfigulté Jose dire ceci Car Je ne l'es pas fette par motife D'interest vue que Jai prèvenus M<sup>r</sup> votre fils en prenent ces effets et quayent de la place dans mon engare quil pouvois Les mettres et que Je ne lui demendois point un seul sols de Commission.

Je suis Mons<sup>r</sup> Votre tres obeissen serviteur

Joseph Guy

*Addressed:* Mons<sup>r</sup> John Askin Pere Proche de Sandwish  
Detroit Faveur M<sup>r</sup> Domq Lacroi

*Endorsed:* Mich. June 26<sup>th</sup> 1806 Mons<sup>r</sup> Joseph Guy to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> July



*Translation*

Mackinac, June 26, 1806

Sir: This will be handed to you by Captain Mills in reply to one of yours received lately by the *Thames* in which you demand either the money or good merchandise for the remaining five casks of pork that your son, Charles Askin, left here with me last summer. Mr. Solomon,<sup>57</sup> my clerk, only carried out your son's instructions that, if not able to sell the pork for money, he was to sell it in the spring for sugar as directed in your son's letter. Now I have found that letter among my papers, together with his instructions. Be assured that if I had not forgotten these papers when in Detroit last fall, I never would have given you my note payable in cash, but not remembering about them, and having no desire to be sued, are the reasons why I gave you my note. And it will be paid all right, never fear. Mr. Pothier presented it to me two days ago.

With respect to the remaining five casks of pork, Mr. Solomon has sold them for sugar at the price your son directed in his letter, and I shall send it by Captain Mills.

This experience will stand me in good stead another time. I have learned that the more one wishes to oblige another, the more trouble he has. I can say this because I had no motive of personal interest, seeing that I told your son when I took his things and gave them room in my storehouse that he might put them there and that I would never ask him for a single penny's commission. I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,  
Joseph Guy<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> William Solomon was long an interpreter in the British Indian Department. His father, Ezekiel Solomon, was a German Jew from Berlin who found his way to Canada and upon the conquest of that country was one of the earliest English traders to engage in the northwest trade. He was at Mackinac as early as 1761, was captured at the massacre of 1763, and subsequently ransomed and sent down to Montreal. He continued in the western fur trade for many years, although we have few definite details of his career.

His son, William, our present subject, is said to have spent fifty-six years in the government service. He was at Mackinac during the War of 1812 and at various times was stationed at St. Joseph, Drummond Island, and Penetanguishene. He married a daughter of George Johnston of Sault Ste. Marie. Her mother was a Chippewa woman; one of her sisters married Henry R. Schoolcraft, and another became the wife of Rev. Mr. McMurray. Solomon's later years were passed at Penetanguishene. He reared a family of ten children. The narrative of one of them, Lewis Solomon, is in the Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, III, 126-37. See also *Mich. Pio. Coll.*, *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

REAL ESTATE CONDITIONS IN DETROIT

July 5<sup>th</sup> 1806

My Dear Sir The day before yesterday the *Nancy* passed from Michilimacinac & I yesterday went to Sandwich when with the greatest satisfaction on your and your Houses account I learn that M<sup>r</sup> Dickson had done very well & much more so than any other Trader in that Quarter I think you have had a lucky escape, & let his success be what it may this last Winter I dread his Trade being much too extensive to wind up well if continued.

My Son Charles is gone to York to endeavour to take up still more of my Deeds there which has been detained more on Account of the want of Money to pay for the Deeds than any other Cause for money is more scarce now on both sides of the River than I have ever known it.

I hear the Fleet is arrived & I hope in it Our Worthy Friend M<sup>r</sup> Todd in better Health than when he left this.

The Four Houses belonging separately to M<sup>r</sup> Todd & you are in a Street according to the New Plann of the Town. those who purchased have not nor are not able to pay a penny one excepted. I believe they are willing to give them up & the governor also [is] willing to give larger Lotts in good situations & put up the Buildings again in lieu thereof, so as to remove them out of the Street.

M<sup>r</sup> Brush is gone some time ago into the States in Order to sell some Lands he has there on his return if he succeeds, or he thinks now if he does not he will make payment for the Orchard.

I was mistaken respecting what I wrote you of a Law having passed so favorable to Claimants of Land on the other side it had only passed the Lower House and would (as the governor says) [have passed] the Senate had the Commissioners at Detroit made their report before Congress broke up. The Governor who I believe a very Worthy

<sup>58</sup> The Guys were long prominent merchants of Montreal and active in the western fur trade. Pierre Guy (1738-1812) was colonel of the Second Battalion, Montreal militia, and a member of the grand jury which indicted Governor Henry Hamilton and Philip Dejean of Detroit in 1778. He had a son, Joseph, born, March 25, 1775, who may have been the individual here noted. Data supplied by Pierre-Georges Roy, archivist of Quebec, in letter of Sept. 5, 1928. See also, Tanguay, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Man One of the present Commissioners told was [said] without being asked, that he did not see how any Claim of a British Subject could be rejected that would have been admitted had we continued to keep the Country. The Commissioners I believe wish to Copy what ours have done & the Governor has examined our Law Respecting Claimants to Land & I believe wishes much that Congress may pass a similar one.

From the great scarcity of Money. I fear Harvy will not pay his Note this Fall. but the Money is sure & the Note bears Interest, Though he suffered by the Fire he has built a good new House and carries his Business (which is that of a Baker to good advantage.

Our fall wheat here is good and owing to the dry season will be ready to cut in a Week but I fear the Indian Corn & Oats and most grain sown this Spring

Though much pinched for Money we enjoy good Health Peace & Appearance of Plenty of Bread. Mrs Askin joins me in best Compliments to Mrs McGill & I remain My Dear Sir, yr ever obliged very humble Servant

P. S. I formerly mentioned that I was carrying on a suit to recover the Money due Mr Todd on a mortgage

James McGill Esquire.

*Endorsed:* (Copy) July 5<sup>th</sup> 1806 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to James McGill Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal.

NEWS FROM YORK

York the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1806

Dear James Yesterday the *Earl of Moira* arrived here from Niagara and in her, my Cousins Archange Phillis & Nancy<sup>59</sup> Miss Wright & W<sup>m</sup> Duff<sup>60</sup> on a visit to my Uncle. I was very much disappointed in not receiving a line from my Father or any of the Family by them. I think now that his letters to my Uncle and myself are lost on the road

<sup>59</sup> Daughters of Alexander Grant; Archange was the wife of Thomas Dickson, and Phillis the wife of Alexander Duff; Nancy (or Ann) later married Simon Maillet of Detroit.

<sup>60</sup> William Duff was a son of Rev. William Duff of Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and a brother of Alexander, for whom see *ante*, 338. On Jan. 25, 1810, he married in Sandwich, Susanne McGregor, daughter of Gregor McGregor and Regina Susanne Robert, for whom

as none have yet come to hand. my Uncle has not yet got the one inclosing the returns of the Militia, which must have left home before I did. By the *Earl of Moira* my Uncle has English letters, from Cap<sup>t</sup> Mercer & two Miss Mercers and also from Major Meredith who has now the pay of a Major, before he had only the rank. I suppose my Father has or will soon have letters from Archange, who no doubt mentions it.

There is a report which I am afeard is too true, that a vessel coming with a detachment of the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment to Canada was lost, & that a Major and four or five more officers were on board.

By a late army list of my Uncles to the 1<sup>st</sup> April last it appears as if Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kees resignation was accepted of, as his name is not in it. It appears also by it that the two young Baby's who it was said were superceded have got in the army again. It's reported that the 99<sup>th</sup> are coming out to Canada, and if they do, that the 41<sup>st</sup> will be relieved by the 49<sup>th</sup>. Major Bleamire<sup>61</sup> it's said is out of the Regiment, and also Cap<sup>t</sup> Johnston who is now appointed Secretary to the Indian Department in the place of M<sup>r</sup> Chew<sup>62</sup> who died insane at Montreal. he lost his senses after being out as a second to an Officer of the 6<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> who was killed in a duel.

Poor Judge Powell had the melancholy news of his Son Jerry's<sup>63</sup> death, who was one of the unfortunate number who were lately masacred at S<sup>t</sup> Domingo by the blacks.

see *B. H. R.*, I, 292-93. James and Robert, twins, were born to the couple on Oct. 21, 1817, and a son, Alexander, on Sept. 21, 1819. William Duff was for some years barrack master at Amherstburg. During the War of 1812, he was adjutant of the First Essex County militia, which served in most of the battles on the western front. He died, July 12, 1861, and was buried in Christ Church yard in Amherstburg. Data derived from St. John's Church Register; Irving, *op. cit.*; and headstone inscription in Christ Church yard, Amherstburg.

<sup>61</sup> William Bird Bleamire was commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-ninth Regiment, April 22, 1796, and major on Aug. 6, 1803. See British Army lists. A report of an Indian council at Amherstburg, June 8, 1805, represents him as commandant of the garrison. *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 39.

<sup>62</sup> John Chew became secretary of the Indian Department upon the death of his father, Joseph Chew, in 1799, and continued in office until his own death, here noted, in 1806. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, 693-94 for sketch of Chew family.

<sup>63</sup> Jeremiah, fourth son of Judge William Dummer Powell, was born in Boston in 1784. In early manhood he engaged in trade in Haiti, and incurring the hostility of Emperor

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I shall send up a copy of such a petition as Themus should send down to get his patent for his land. he will be able to get the three concessions as easy as one I think, and without the fees on the deed being any thing higher. I have already spoke to the Attorney General who is now Chief [Jus]tice to my Uncle the President: and to Judge Powell respecting the situation of Themus and his neighbours with regard to their farms and I am certain they will do what they can to get them their patents. you may assure him I will do any thing in my power for him.

I wish poor Dedine could get money enough to pay for his deed also; (if Themus gets his.) I suppose his Father could lend him that much. I have spoke to my Uncle who will endeavour to get a two hundred acre lot of land a piece for Pisinack and Charlo if the latter is of age and they can pay the new regulation fees which will be ab<sup>t</sup> 40 doll<sup>s</sup> for each Lot. If Bellett and Badon could pay the fees I would speak to my Uncle & try to get them lands also.

As I have seen part of the light Infantry of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> & some of the Grenadiers I will be able to tell you how their coats are made and their uniform.

Let me know when you write me if my Mill has yet made any flour, and if the *Orphan* colt is alive

As I wrote my father by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Donnell a few days ago and will soon write him again, I shall not by this opportunity. Please to give my kind love to him & my dear Mother to Nelly Alice & Alex. and Believe me to be

Your affectionate Brother

Charles A[skin]

N. B. Present my Compliments if you please to M<sup>rs</sup> & the Mi<sup>ss</sup> Dedines. & Remember me to Dedine, to Robins, and the rest of my young friends. also to Themus & Family

M<sup>r</sup> James Askin Strabane Near Sandwich

Dessalines, was induced by force of circumstances to join Miranda's filibustering expedition to Venezuela in the spring of 1806. The undertaking failed miserably, and those captured were either executed or condemned to long terms of imprisonment. Jeremiah Powell was sentenced to a ten-year term, but eventually, through the efforts and influence of his father, was released. For a full account of the entire affair, see Riddell, *Life of William Dummer Powell*, 96 ff.

*Addressed:* Mr James Askin. To the care of Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Endorsed:* York July 18 1806 Charles Askin to James Askin recv<sup>d</sup> 5 Aug<sup>t</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup>

SALE OF BRUSH FARM

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting. Be it known that I John Askin of Sandwich in the Province of Upper Canada for and in consideration of the sum of six thousand dollars lawful money of the United States to me in hand before the ensealing hereof well and truly paid by Elijah Brush Esquire of Detroit in the Michigan Territory of the United States the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge and my self therewith am fully satisfied contented and paid and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof do exonerate acquit and forever discharge him the said Elijah Brush his heirs Executors and Administrators by these presents, Have given, granted, bargained, sold, alien'd, conveyd and confirmed; and by these presents do freely fully and absolutely, give grant bargain and sell alien convey and confirm unto him the said Elijah Brush his heirs and assigns forever, All that capital Messuage and tenement or farm and farming Lands Situate lying and being on the Detroit or Streights of Lake Erie, lying mostly in what is now called the New Town of Detroit Containing two arpents or French acres in front upon the said Streights or River Detroit by Eighty in depth (Except as is herein after excepted) being the same tract of land that is to say forty in depth by two in bredth on the Said River or Streights of Lake Erie that was ceded and granted by Charles Marquis-De-Beauharnois knight of the Royal and Military order of St Louis &c &c and Gilles Hocquart knight and member of the kings privy council &c &c on the first day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty Seven to Eustache Gamelin<sup>64</sup> his heirs and assigns &c and afterwards towit on the fifteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty Nine other forty arpents or french acres in depth by two in

<sup>64</sup> For the document conveying this grant, see *B. H. R.*, I, 25 ff.

bredth directly in rear of the forty first aforesaid that was ceded and Granted by Piquotee Belestre Military and Civil Commandant for the king at Detroit unto Jacques Pelet<sup>65</sup> his heirs and Assigns &c making in all Eighty arpents or French acres in depth by two in bredth and bounded on all Sides as is perticularly Set forth and explained in the original grants or concessions.

To have and to hold the said granted and bargained premises with all the appurtenances, privalages and Commodities to the same belonging or in any way appurtenant to him the Said Elijah Brush his heirs and assigns forever; To his and their own proper use benefit and behoof forever. And I the said John Askin for my self my heirs Executors and Administrators, do covenant promis and grant to and with the Said Elijah Brush his heirs and assigns that before the ensealing and delivery hereof I am the true sole and lawful owner of the above bargained premises, and am lawfully seised and possessed of the same in my own proper right as a good perfect and absolute estate of Inheritance in fee simple and have in myself good right, full power and lawful Authority to grant bargain, Sell convey and confirm said bargained premises in manner as aforesaid. And that the said Elijah Brush his heirs and assigns shall and may from time to time and at all times forever hereafter by force and Vertue of these presents lawfully peaceably and quietly have hold use occupy possess and enjoy the said demised and bargained premises with the appurtenances free and Clear and freely and Clearly acquitted exonerated and discharged of, from all, and all manner of former or other gifts grants, bargains, Sales, Leases, mortgages, wills, entails, Jointures, douries, Judgments, Executions, or incumbrances of what name or nature soever that might in any measure or digree, obstruct or make void this present deed. This grant is however made subject to the following exceptions towit the Lot of one arpent or French acre in front upon the said River Detroit extending back to the distance of two hundred and Sixty feet from the water edge and which is now owned and possessed by Henry

<sup>65</sup> For this grant to Jacques Pilet, see *ibid.*, 30.

Berthelett,<sup>66</sup> as also the lots adjoining on what was formerly called the Common, and which now lie on the North Side of the Governors house on the main Street in the new Town of Detroit being all of them one arpent or French acre in depth to the extremity of Baptiste Lapiere's<sup>67</sup> Claim and which have heretofore been sold off and conveyed by the said John Askin are exceptions to the foregoing conveyance, and are not conveyed or intended to be conveyed by the Said John Askin unto the Said Elijah Brush.

Furthermore I the said John Askin for myself my heirs Executors and Administrators do covenant and engage the above demised premises (with the exceptions as aforesaid) unto him the Said Elijah Brush his heirs and assigns against the lawful claims or demand of any person or persons whatsoever, forever hereafter to warrant Secure and

66 Francis Berthelet married Frances Ravier and lived in Geneva, Switzerland. Their son, Antoine, born in 1676, came to Canada and lived and died in Montreal. On July 26, 1701, he married Jane Chartier, who was born in Quebec, July 15, 1675, daughter of René Chartier and Margaret Delorme. Antoine Berthelet was buried in Montreal, April 16, 1755; Jane Chartier was buried there, Feb. 5, 1730.

Francis Berthelet *dit* Savoyard, eldest child of Antoine Berthelet and Jane Chartier, was born in Montreal, Feb. 7, 1703. In 1738 he married Jane Boullard, also of Montreal. Several of their children came to Detroit to live, including Pierre, the second son, a physician, who was born in Montreal, April 16, 1746, and married in Detroit, July 24, 1775, Mary Frances Meloche, daughter of Francis Meloche and Mary Frances Lauzon. Mary Frances Meloche was buried here, July 4, 1776, leaving one son, Henry Berthelet *dit* Savoyard, born, April 29, 1776, the subject of our present note. On Nov. 9, 1802, he married in Sandwich, Mary Joseph Bouchette, who was born in Detroit, March 19, 1782, daughter of Jean Baptiste Bouchette and Mary Angelica Duhamel. They were the parents of twelve children, born in the period 1803-25. Henry Berthelet seems to have spent his entire life in Detroit, and there are numerous references to him among the manuscripts in the B. H. Coll., yet no clear account of his career has been formulated. Apparently he was a farmer, who also engaged in trade, and, possibly, in building activities. In 1819 he was granted permission to build a wharf at the foot of Randolph Street. He was elected a trustee of the town in 1804, and in 1807 was a trustee of Ste. Anne's Church. A claim to land in Spring Wells was rejected by the Land Board in 1807, but together with an additional tract, was confirmed to Berthelet in 1823 as (new) Private Claim 32. Berthelet was buried in Detroit, Nov. 16, 1846; Mary Joseph Bouchette was buried on Feb. 6, 1855. Pierre seems to have returned to Montreal after the death of his wife. On Feb. 2, 1779, he married (second) in Boucherville, Margaret Viger. A son of this marriage, Antoine Olivier Berthelet, was wealthy and noted as a philanthropist. See *Bull. Recherches Hist.*, XXII, 183. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*; Farmer, *op. cit.*, *passim*; *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 223.

67 Jean Baptiste Aloire (Alloir, Aloir, etc.) *dit* Lapiere was in Detroit as early as February, 1794, when he stood godfather for a baptism in Ste. Anne's Church. On April 10, 1798, a daughter, Marie Magdelene, was born to him and Magdelene Tremblay, his wife. The names of other children, born to the couple, are found in Ste. Anne's Church Register. Jean Baptiste Aloire died, Dec. 30, 1810, aged about forty years. On Oct. 24, 1811, his widow married (second) Hyacinthe Desjardins. Private Claim 120 in Grosse Pointe was confirmed to Aloire in 1808. The present document shows that he also owned a lot in the town, and entries in James Henry's ledger seem to imply that he followed the trade of shoemaker.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

defend by these presents. In witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and affixed my seal at Sandwich aforesaid this thirty first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred six.

John Askin

Signed Sealed & Delivered

In presence of  
Louis Barthy<sup>68</sup>

Alexander Askin

the name *adjoining* between the second and third line, and also the words *Governors house on the* between the 4 and 5 lines of this page being first interlined before signing.

*Endorsed:* Deed of Conveyance John Askin to Elijah Brush In fee.

PROPERTY OF ISAAC TODD AND JAMES MCGILL

Montreal 20<sup>th</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1806

My dear Friend I receivd your favour of the 14<sup>th</sup> Octb<sup>r</sup> & I have seen one of the 11<sup>th</sup> same month to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & me. I was in hopes the whole of the property sold by you to M<sup>c</sup>Gill & me on the American side (the Indian Grants excepted) had been confirmed by the Commissioners. I find there is still a part not so. I hope it will be settled next year it is surely wrong to leave property in this doubtfull way. I have no doubt you do for the best in making the exchange. I see you have taken 5 Lots in the square where the French Church is going to be erected in Lieu of two Lots of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills & one of mine on the Common. the other of Mine I see sold to Jas. Beagam for £110—which I suppose is good. as you know M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & I have divided our property it may be well to divide the 5 Lots taken by my getting two & he three as near the proportions of what we gave as possible

<sup>68</sup> Louis Theophile Barthe, noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 77. He was the eighth child of Charles Andrew Barthe and Mary Therese Campau, for whom see *ibid.*, 34. He was born in Detroit, March 31, 1760. On Nov. 15, 1802, he married Mary Magdelene Trotier *dit* Bellecour, daughter of François Xavier Trotier *dit* Bellecour and Mary Magdelene de Lusignan, and widow of François Xavier Moreau *dit* Duplessy, for whom see *ibid.*, 401. The bride was born at the mouth of Pine River (modern St. Clair, Mich.), March 18, 1774, and Barthe was employed in the pinery there for a considerable period of time. She was buried in Detroit, Sept. 11, 1803; he was buried in Sandwich, May 16, 1825. Denissen, *op. cit.*

and have the Lots described & Numbered so that they may be known if the whole could be sold it would be better I see you have got security for M<sup>r</sup> B[r]ush to me and I hope next year Rulands [debt] will be settled I think it probable the Bank<sup>69</sup> &<sup>ca</sup> may make land more valuable as Money gets plenty. pray what have you done with Park about the Mill? his conduct is shamefull. As S<sup>t</sup> Josiph is now going to be the place of Depot & residence of the British Traders it will be more comfortable & better for Johnny if he gets the appointments of M<sup>r</sup> Chaboillez and I think he ought to apply immediatly to Gov<sup>r</sup> Gore<sup>70</sup> & he may state that he can assure his Excell<sup>y</sup> of the recommendation of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill M<sup>r</sup> Richardson, M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gillivray & me the others I am sure of. M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton has informed me of his intentions respecting Charles which I am glad of but he thinks he delays too long at Detroit I now write the Commod<sup>o</sup> with best wishes for you M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & family, health & Happiness believe me My D friend

Yours Sinc[e]rely  
Isaac Todd

P S if any of my property could be realised & paid Next Year it will be verry usefull to me perticularly what is owing me being by your Acc<sup>t</sup> £905 York I am told M<sup>r</sup> Chaboillez has resigned & as M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill corresponds with Gov<sup>r</sup> Gore he now requests his appointing Johnny to succed M<sup>r</sup> Chaboillez

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich Detroit

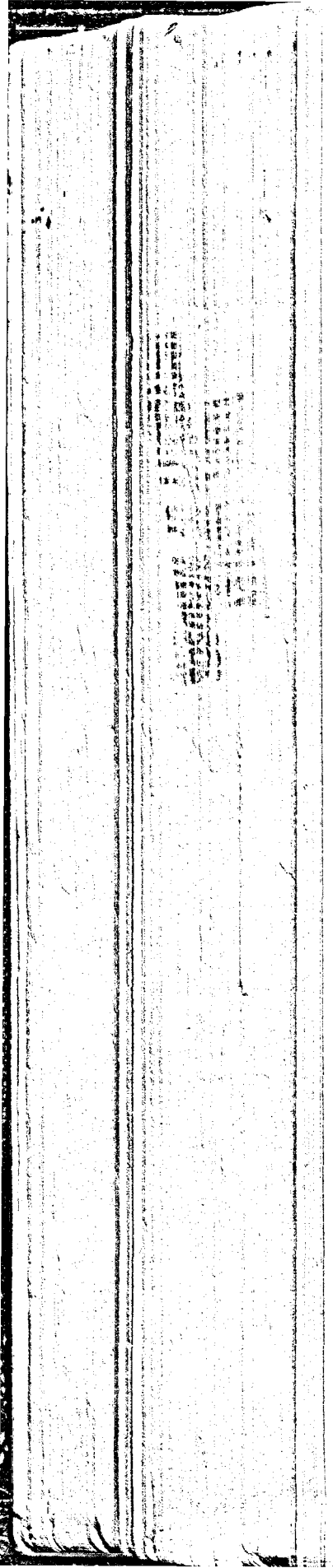
*Endorsed:* Montreal Dec<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 1806 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y 26 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1807 Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>h</sup>

<sup>69</sup> The Bank of Detroit, authorized by act of the governor and judges on Sept. 19, 1806, was the first banking institution in Michigan and the only one until after the War of 1812. Its charter was annulled by Congress in 1807, and after a stormy career the institution went out of existence in 1808. See Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 622-27.

<sup>70</sup> Francis Gore, lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, June, 1806 to 1817, was born in Blackheath, Kent, England, in 1769. He served as an officer in the army from 1787 to 1802, retiring with the rank of major. He was absent from Canada from 1811 to 1815, and his rule, when present, was stormy. After retiring to England, he served as deputy teller of the Exchequer from 1818 until 1832. He died in Brighton, Nov. 3, 1852. See Read, *Lt. Gouv. U. Can.*, 67 ff.

SECTION VII

LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1807-1808



## SOCIAL LIFE IN DETROIT<sup>1</sup>

January the 7<sup>th</sup> 1807

Dear Brother, We arrived safe from Moravian Town the Sunday after we left you, & have been Dancing almost [constantly] since. Having been at a famous Dance last Evening at Cap<sup>t</sup> Burbanks<sup>2</sup> where M<sup>r</sup> Mackintoshs Family, Nelly, and a party from the other side were, I am not in as good Order to write as at any other time.

There is nothing new here worth mentioning several of the French Ladies on the other side are invited to the Detroit Assemblies however not one went to the last which has been the only one since you are gone. Nelly Grant's being unwell has prevented our Sister Nelly from going

M<sup>r</sup> Eastman<sup>3</sup> & Denham,<sup>4</sup> are not yet gone perhaps waiting for M<sup>r</sup> Hanks's<sup>5</sup> Wedding. he was Married to Miss

<sup>1</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>2</sup> Jesse Burbank was a lake sailor, being mate of the *Charlotte* in 1797. From 1789 to December, 1800, he and Mary Sutton cohabited as man and wife and five children were born to them. Contention arising, they submitted the matter to James May, Jacob Visger, and Charles Curry as arbitrators, and on separating Jesse kept two of the children and Mary the remaining three. On June 6, 1803, Burbank was married at Fort Erie to Sarah Hickley by John Warren, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 584. At the time of his death, which occurred prior to Aug. 3, 1814, Burbank was living in Buffalo, but his will was probated in Wayne County, where he owned a farm on the Rouge River. His widow survived him, and was still living at the time of taking the census of 1827. Data chiefly adapted from ms. notes by C. M. Burton in *B. H. Coll.*

<sup>3</sup> Presumably Jonathan Eastman, who married Eleanor McNiff, daughter of Patrick and Catherine McNiff, on Oct. 16, 1808. For the career of Patrick McNiff, see *B. H. R.*, I, 424. Eastman became an ensign in the First Infantry, July 14, 1803. He later served as lieutenant in the First Artillery, and was honorably discharged, June 1, 1814. On Dec. 11, 1818, Thomas Rowland, acting as agent for Eastman, filed a protest with the Governor and Judges of the Territory which indicates that Eastman was then living, and that both in January and in August, 1812, he had been present in Detroit. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit, passim.*

<sup>4</sup> Probably Captain Josiah Dunham, who was stationed at Detroit as early as 1802. He became captain in the Sixteenth Infantry, Jan. 8, 1799, and was honorably discharged on June 15, 1800. On Feb. 16, 1801, he became captain in the Second Artillerists and Engineers; he resigned, April 30, 1808.

<sup>5</sup> Porter Hanks, who became a second lieutenant in the artillery, Jan. 17, 1805, and first lieutenant, Dec. 31, 1806. In November of this same year, he was proceeding to Chicago with a detachment of troops on the schooner *Tracy*, when in Lake Huron the captain turned back to Detroit. Richard Pattinson of Sandwich had contracted to carry the troops to Chicago, and Captain Dyson, the commandant here, formally protested his failure to

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Peggy McNiff yesterday. I am glad of it particularly on M<sup>rs</sup> McNiff's account as she has a large Family to maintain.

Many of your Friends beg to be remembered to you, Dedine's Family among the number. I have nothing more to add.

I remain Dear Charles

Your Affectionate Brother  
James Askin

P. S. M<sup>r</sup> Barthe begs you will try and procure an Elk Skin for him.

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin at Niagara

*Endorsed:* Jan<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1807 James Askin to Ch<sup>s</sup> Askin  
rec<sup>d</sup> the 17<sup>th</sup> & ans<sup>w</sup><sup>d</sup> the 18<sup>th</sup>

SOCIAL LIFE IN DETROIT<sup>6</sup>

Near Sandwich Jan<sup>y</sup> 31 1807

Dear Brother M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson's leaving this for New York furnishes us with an opportunity of writing you. it afforded us a great deal of pleasure to hear that you were well, when Langlois left Niagara he is highly pleased with the reception he met with from you. Big Knife<sup>7</sup> is in good Order considering such a Voyage as he has made. Robins was much pleased with your Letter I delivered it to him the same Evening at M<sup>r</sup> McIntoshes where O'Keeffe and several more of your Friends were Dancing, after having Danced

fulfill his contract, which seems to have been occasioned by the unseaworthiness of the *Tracy*. For both Lieutenant Hanks and Margaret McNiff (daughter of Patrick and Catherine McNiff) the ending of the *Tracy's* voyage at Detroit instead of Chicago proved fatal, their marriage following, as here recorded, two months after Hanks's arrival here. In 1811, he was stationed at Mackinac, when the sudden death of Captain Howard, the commandant, brought about his assumption of that position. See *post*, 672-73. In July, 1812, he surrendered his post to the British-Indian force which Captain Charles Roberts led from St. Joseph Island against the place. Hanks was paroled and allowed to proceed to Detroit, where on August 16, shortly before the surrender, he was undergoing court-martial for his action at Mackinac when a cannon ball fired from across the river penetrated the room and killed him instantly. His widow died, Dec. 14, 1869, at the age of eighty-three. For many years she had resided on the north side of Jefferson Avenue between Bates and Randolph streets. Data derived from sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 177 and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

<sup>6</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>7</sup> Big Knife was Charles Askin's horse.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

two nights at Amherstburg. Duncan is offended with you for writing Robins preferably to him, altho I try'd to excuse you by saying Robins wrote you first. I will pay the small Debts you mention in your last, and take as much care of your Horses as I can. Robins was at a Dance at the Cote des Poux, last Week where your old Flame rendered herself ridiculous by being too fond of Oliver. they were to be Married last Thursday but [it] is put off for a Day or two longer. Captain Dyson<sup>8</sup> was Married to Miss Dodemead last Week.

Poor Nancy M<sup>c</sup>Kee<sup>9</sup> and Charles Brush<sup>10</sup> were much burnt, the former by her Cloaths taking fire & latter falling in a kettle of Scalding Water. however there is no danger for their Lives. M<sup>r</sup> Louis Barthe begs you will try & procure for him two Elk Skins, as a cure for his Leg. Dedines Family begs to be remembered to you. having nothing more to add I must conclude by assuring you that I am Dear Charles your Affexionate Brother

James Askin

<sup>8</sup> Samuel T. Dyson was commissioned lieutenant in the First Artillerists and Engineers, Dec. 19, 1796. The date of his coming to Detroit has not been learned, but he was commandant here from August, 1805, to April, 1807, and was again stationed here as captain of artillery when Hull arrived with his army from Ohio in July, 1812. Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit, passim*. On Jan. 25, 1807, he married Ann Dodemead, daughter of John and Jane Murray Dodemead, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 304. Ann Dodemead was born, Jan. 5, 1789, and died in 1850. During the War of 1812, Captain Dyson was in command of one of the forts in the vicinity of Washington, which he abandoned by reason of some mistake in instructions, thereby facilitating the capture of the city by the British. For this he was court-martialed and dismissed from the army, Nov. 17, 1814. He returned to Detroit to live and subsequently died here, leaving, besides his widow, two children, Samuel T. and Jane Dyson. Ann Dodemead married (second) Charles Jackson, and a daughter, Ann, was born to this couple. See sketch in *Proc. of Land Board*, 188, and mss. in B. H. Coll.

<sup>9</sup> Marie Anne McKee (familiarily known as Nancy), natural daughter of Captain Thomas McKee, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 376. Nancy was baptized in Sandwich, on March 4, 1800, and the record states that she was then three and one-half years old. A year later (July 28, 1801) Thomas made his will, but for some reason refrained from mentioning Nancy in the document. In the spring of 1815, Mrs. McKee was with the family of George Hamilton in modern Hamilton, Ont., for a time, and in a letter home gave as a reason for delaying her return to Detroit the prospects of Nancy's marriage to a "fine young man," which obligated Mrs. McKee "more than ever to pay her a proper attention which commands respect from others." Apparently the marriage did not take place, since in October, 1815, Mrs. McKee expressed worry over Nancy's financial future. Data compiled from letters in the John Askin papers and other mss. in the B. H. Coll.

<sup>10</sup> Charles Brush was a son of Elijah Brush and Adelaide Askin, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 207. He was born, Dec. 6, 1804, and died, Feb. 7, 1807, presumably from the effects of the accident here noted. On April 25, 1807, another Brush child was born, to whom the name Charles Reuben was given. He was later a prominent citizen of Detroit. Data derived from ms. notes by C. M. Burton on Brush genealogy in B. H. Coll.

P. S. Alex<sup>r</sup> being on the other side does not know off this opportunity otherwise would write.

Mr. Charles Askin at Queenston

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin at Queenston favoured by Rich<sup>d</sup> Pattinson Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Cezar is dead his disorder the Bots.

REMOVAL OF MR. AND MRS. MEREDITH TO HALIFAX

Woolwich Feb<sup>y</sup> 1 1807

My dear Sir We were made vastly happy by your kind letter [which] arrived with the Fall ships and sincerely rejoice at the excellent account it affords of your Health and that of all The Family. We have upon the whole been toss'd a good deal about since you saw us, and I had expectations that our future days would be somewhat more stationary but a soldiers life is never certain, therefore we Must be content with it's lot. since My Promotion to Liu<sup>t</sup> Colonel in the Regiment I have had hints Not to look upon myself as a fixture, and it has so turned out that My Lord Moira<sup>11</sup> has ordred me to proceed to Halifax and take Command of the Royal Artillery in Nova Scotia—a situation certainly desirable being a Healthy Climate and some allowances that may assist our circumstances. the Command in Canada had been long applied for by a Senior officer whose Mother resides at Quebec a L<sup>t</sup> Colonel Cox. therefore altho I interested myself to obtain it, the priority of right and a promise long made precluded the possibility of my succeeding (for the present) in my wishes. however we are coming much nearer to you than in England and I hope with Gods blessing we shall do well. it is a nice and very Ostensible Command and a cheap Country, matters not to be let pass, for really every thing in England is so enormously dear that with a Family it is almost impossible to live in the requisite line we

<sup>11</sup> Francis Rawdon Hastings, first Marquis of Hastings and second Earl of Moira, was born, Dec. 9, 1754. He entered the army as ensign in August, 1771, and two years later was sent to America, where he served for several years. On June 15, 1778, he became lieutenant colonel and adjutant general of the army in America. In 1781, he defeated General Greene at Hobkirk's Hill, and sailed for home that summer. His further career was long and distinguished. In 1803, he became a general, and in 1812, Governor-General of Bengal and Commander-in-Chief in India. He died at sea, Nov. 26, 1826, in the vicinity of Naples. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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must appear. My Son David I hope to see in the Royal Military Academy, before our departure or nearly so. Lord Moira has been very civil to me about him, and when he has attained his Commission he will be sent out [as] an officer under my Command. our Two daughters accompany us to Halifax. I should think (by way of the States) we might hear often from you and perhaps be able to take a trip and see you. we just learn that the Russians & Prussians have given Bonapatre a very sound drubbing but we wait the officiality of the News. I think it will prove true, and then depend upon it things will take another turn with him. Respecting the Politicks of this Country, [there is] nothing, very interesting. the minister speaks of our Finances being in a very flourishing state, but as to Peace there is not the smallest idea of [it]. Beunos Ayres retaken by the Spaniard and Sir Horne Popham in disgrace for having undertaken the Expedition against it without orders. I have nothing to add, worth observing and My dear Archange has demanded the residue of the Paper. I therefore cheerfully obey her orders, and with best regards to the worthy Commodore M<sup>rs</sup> Grant and all the Family united I remain always, My dear Sir,

Truly & faithfully yours

David Meredith L<sup>t</sup>Colonel R Ay[?]

J Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> &c

My dear Father, You may conceive the happiness I experienced on the receipt of your and my dear M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee's letters mentioning the good health of all my beloved Family I have also had a confirmation of the same thro one of my Cousin Mercers who had rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from you they are I am pleased to say in good health and tolerable spirits but my poor Aunt feels her loss very keenly<sup>12</sup> and we much lament that our want of room and pecuniary circumstances prevent us the pleasure of haveing them with us as [torn] Sea stock we shall be compelled to provide an [torn] a variety of other matters indispensable on a voyage with a suitable assortment of wearing apparel to take out with us will

<sup>12</sup> The allusion is to Mrs. Mercer (née Phyllis Barthe) whose husband, Captain Daniel Mercer, had recently died.

necessarily sink a certain portion of Cash it therefore behoves one to consider the most economical plan to pursue and to avoid any unnecessary expence whilst we remain in England. I am much gratified at the prospect of going to Halifax as it will bring me so much nearer my esteemed Parents and please God we may probably contrive some means of seeing Each other during the time of our stay there. My principal regret at quitting this Country will be at leaving our dear David who is however extremely well disposed and has made us solemn assurances of steadiness of conduct and attention to his studies during our absence I therefore trust he will by that means obtain his comission in the space of two or three years and join us at Halifax I am happy to say we have some sincere friends who have promised to befriend him I therefore trust he will do well.

I have had much conversation lately with Col<sup>l</sup> Howard Douglass<sup>13</sup> who was Capt<sup>n</sup> in the Artillery and some time in Canada he quitted the corps about five years ago and obtained a situation in a military Academy at a place called Wickham in Buckinghamshire he has espoused a very accomplished Woman and appears himself a worthy man he mentioned you all frequently with kindness and thinks my Daughter Anne very like my sister M<sup>rs</sup> Brush Capt<sup>n</sup> Adye<sup>14</sup> used to say the same Little Elizabeth delights in the idea of our intended Expedition Children are fond of novelty. She is always sick in a Carriage and I fear she will be so in a ship. you will I trust excuse this uninteresting

<sup>13</sup> Sir Howard Douglas was born in Gosport, England, in 1776. He attended the Royal Military Academy, and in 1795 was sent on an expedition to Quebec. The transport was wrecked, the survivors escaping to the Labrador coast, and Douglas remained four years in Canada. We have no knowledge of his presence in Detroit, save the evidence contained in the present letter. He commanded the Royal Military Academy from 1804 to 1808 and again from 1812 to 1822. From 1823 to 1829, he was Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, being recalled to assist his government in preparing the British case for the arbitration by the King of the Netherlands of the disputed Maine-New Brunswick boundary. He spent most of the remainder of his life in England, where he died, Nov. 9, 1861. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>14</sup> Ralph Willet Adye became a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery Regiment, Jan. 1, 1781, first lieutenant on Nov. 26, 1790, and captain lieutenant on March 6, 1795. He was in Canada as early as 1792, when he was engaged in engineer work at Detroit. Thereafter he served in the anti-American operations on the Detroit-Maumee frontier, assisting Lieutenant Pilkington in fortifying Fort Miamis and Turtle Island in Maumee Bay. In October, 1794, he was ordered to supervise the building of a blockhouse at Chatham. He later attained the rank of major. He died in 1831. See *Simcoe Papers, passim*; British army lists, *passim*; and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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letter and remain assured my dearest Father of the unalterable affection (towards yourself My beloved Mother and all the dear Family) of your ever loving Daughter

A Meredith

*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>t</sup> at Montreal Lower Canada Via New York

*Endorsed:* Wool[w]ich Feb<sup>y</sup> 1 1807 L<sup>t</sup> Col Meredith to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5 October.

COMMERCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN MONTREAL<sup>15</sup>

Montreal 24 March 1807

My dear Askin I received your letter a few days ago. I am sorry to hear of M<sup>r</sup> Brush's Misfortune in losing his Boy. I have wrote two letters to him since I had any from him. Lawyers you know dont like to write without being paid for their trouble. I am much afeard your courts are very slow in desiding Causes, but hope M<sup>r</sup> Brush will not neglect the Needfull, for the sooner this business is settl'd the better. I have not wrote to him for some time. you give but little incouragement respecting our Land buseness. this country is all going to destruction. Lester & Managh are bankrupts, Ten thousand pound of their Bills coming back, which will fall heavily on Individuals, many of my friends involved. that scoundrel Bonepart has seized all all the British property in Europe, amongst which is fifty thousand pound, due to this Country for furs purchased last Winter in London and not paid for, nor ever will. by letter, I received of the 10 January from London they say all the deer, Bears, Raccoons, Martins, which went home last fall, cannot be sold at any price, therefore they have put them in the Kings stores & Bonded them, to save paying the dutys untill Bonepart makes peace or dies. I like many more fools speculated in Bears, but fortunately not many. accounts say Congress has refusd to ratify a Treaty which has been made between the Americans & England. Todd is gone to the States to seek amusement and get rid of the

<sup>15</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

vapours. you are happy in being a farmer. I wish I was one. was I not so old I would be one yet. I see a storm gathering which will exceed 84, and nothing can save us except a general shour of half Joes. the Yankees takes all our money out of the Country. the Indian Traders, all except the Nort[h]west, unless a speedy change [comes] must all go to the right about all trad[e] here seeme to be at a stand. no money, and you cannot say who you can Trust. up to day & down tomorrow. John Lees,<sup>16</sup> one of the King Council, director of the Indian store for which he received of Government near £500 p<sup>r</sup> Annum, died a few days past considerably in my debt for sundries this winter which he bought, and it is said he will never pay anything. James M<sup>c</sup>Gill is just arrived from Quebec where he has been at the assembly & Council doing nothing. Frobisher is well, but Lesters business falls hard on him. M<sup>rs</sup> Henry has been unwell most of the Winter, my daughter in Health and me, old & Tough. I cant complain for want of health, eat & Sleep well, think of you somtimes. wish you would come down and see us. a voyage would do you good, I am sure it would me. I dont know but I may go to see you yet before I die. If I could make business enough to pay expences. you say you cannot speake to M<sup>r</sup> Brush on business surely if you asked him whether he had recoverd any thing he would say yes or no. you will be tired before you get half through this letter. all my family desires to be rememberd to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & every branch of yours, and so does your old freind

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal March 24<sup>h</sup> 1807 Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> April Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>h</sup> May.

<sup>16</sup> John Lees Jr. was the son of John Lees who was a merchant of Quebec as early as 1764 and a prominent citizen of the place for ten years thereafter. His *Journal of J. L. of Quebec, Merchant*, edited by M. Agnes Burton, was published in Detroit in 1911. His son, our present subject, served as a captain of British militia during the Revolution. He later engaged in trade, in 1791 became a member of the Legislative Assembly, and in 1796 of the Executive Council. In April, 1795, he was appointed storekeeper of the Indian Department, holding this office until his death, when he left his accounts in much confusion. See *Journal of J. L.*, 7 and 31.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ISAAC TODD AND JAMES MCGILL

Near Sandwich March 25<sup>th</sup> 1807

My Dear Friends, Thanks to God & you I enjoy both Health of Body & Peace of mind which has not been the Case for many Years I have not had any disorders yet the mind has great influence on the Body.

I have wrote one or both of you almost every Post. I got a Letter yesterday from M<sup>r</sup> Brush saying that he would now get Deeds from the American Government for the Lots gave in Exchange for those you held in the Town of Detroit. The misunderstandings between the Governor, Chief Justice, &<sup>ca</sup> who are Commissioners for Granting Lands has retarded that Business at Detroit very much but I'm now in hopes things will change for the better. I believe Congress has heretofore not decided on Claims in & about DEtroit untill they heard whither or no their misunderstandings with the British Government would be settled to their likeing and as that has now taken place I should hope that their Government would Act with liberality in their decissions on Claims belonging to British Subjects. I'ts to be lamented much that our Government at Home has not been made acquainted with the situation of British Subjects who resided at Detroit. I dare say it would have been an easy matter to have inserted in the new Treaty that all British Subjects Claiming Lands at DEtroit prior to the Evacuation of that Post would be confirmed in their Claims. it would not have been an Object worth the American Minister at London contending for.

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Gore has been pleased to say that as soon as Mons<sup>r</sup> Chabouillez gives in his resignation Johny shall have his Appointment of Interpreter and Store Keeper at the Island of S<sup>t</sup> Josephs. to Your Recommendation I have little doubt this is oweing principally.

Though the Commodore & M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton both were so kind as to recommend him, His Excellency has also been pleased to Appoint me Trustee of a Public School to be Errected in the District & likewise sent a Commission for me to Administer Oaths throughout the Whole of the Province of Upper Canada. As I have not yet seen the

Commission I cant well say of what Nature it is, but I understand its giving me an Authority to do some act that could only be done by the Judges of the Court of Kings Bench. To you my Dear Friends, I must be indebted for this preference given by the Governor, for of me he could not know much. I by this opportunity send his Secretary a list of the Names of those who made their Election to continue British Subjects at Detroit prior to the first of June 1797. Agreeable to our Treaty with the United States. my [reason for] doing so is that in his Proclamation he seems very desirous to know those who adhered to the British Government.

There is one situation in this Quarter by which I might make something & I believe the Duties of which I could fullfill, but on account of my Health I would not dare risk and that is District Judge. the present One is going away I hear, & if the place is not promised, Im sure I would obtain it, indeed I'm sure I could many Years ago. I mention this, least you who I know [are] always, on the Watch to serve me might without saying anything to me apply for it on hearing of its being vacant.

I was for two Reasons induced to put my Son Alex<sup>r</sup> at M<sup>r</sup> Brush's to learn the Profession of a Lawyer rather than to anyone in the Province the first was that I believe M<sup>r</sup> Brush's professional knowledge at least equal to any Lawyer we have, but there seems to be an Act that whoever does not serve his time in this Province is excluded from pleading in it. This However I should hope would not extend to my Son who is an Officer in the British Militia and does his Duty as such & does all others as if residing on this Side & who has constantly refused several Offers made him by the Governor on the other side if he would become a Citizen. I'm very desirous to know Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Gores Sentiments on this subject & for that purpose requested M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton to mention the matter. if either of You should meet His Excellency I wish You would broach the Subject to him.

Whatever May be my Intentions when I begin my Letter, I never can write you a Short one. I must always trouble you with my wants and wishes, Which probably may con-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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tinue to be the Case, untill there is an End of,  
Your Gratefull Friend  
Isaac Todd & James McGill, Esquires Merchants at  
Montreal

DEATH OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Queenston March 28<sup>th</sup> 1807

Dear Father I take the earliest opportunity of acquainting you with M<sup>r</sup> William Robertson's death, who it appears by John's letter to William ended his days in London some time in December. he had been persuaded not to drink, & for some time did not; but he was very much harassed by his credittors. There is some dispute about the wills he left, but which was to be decided a few days after John wrote. it's thought by him that William & himself would be the agents of the Executors, to settle the bussiness in America. I would wish to get the papers which are in the small box I left with you, as well as the books belonging to the deceased which are in it, but the patents had better remain with you untill I go up, which this circumstance will make it necessary for me to do, some time in the summer. I beg you will send the papers down the first safe opportunity, as I will be able to prepare them for the Agent before I go up, although I do not intend to deliver them un[till] I see you, or have your Advice.

William's discharge to you, for the debt due his Uncle, has been in M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton's hands, since some time before I came down. I do not know why he has not sent it up to you.

John mentions in his letter having seen the Meredith & Mercer family's Cap<sup>t</sup> Mercer had then been dead about a month and the family talked of coming out to Canada.

M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton has been unwell most all winter & is obliged to alter his diet, and not live so high, he and M<sup>rs</sup> H. intend visiting the Ballstown springs next summer.

I have nothing more to add but to beg, you will give my kind love to my Dear Mother, my Brothers & Sisters And Believe me to be Dear Father

Your dutifull & affectionate Son  
Charles Askin

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Askin Senior Esquire Strabane Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Senior Esquire. Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston March 28<sup>h</sup> 1807 M<sup>r</sup> Charles  
Askin to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> April Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup>

SENIORITY IN MILITIA SERVICE

Strabane April 27<sup>h</sup> 1807

Dear Sir I was favoured with a Letter from you the day before yesterday covering the Copy of one you wrote Commodore Grant on the 16 Ins<sup>t</sup> Relative to his giving you a Company in the Militia. You request of me jointly with him to say if there is Impropriety in the Letter you wrote him. I say, and I dare say he would the same, That there is not, as what you Ask for you do not wish he would Grant, if there was Impropriety in him in doing so. from the late L<sup>t</sup> Governor Hunters Orders to him he is positively directed not to put a Junior Officer Over a Senior but that promotion should go On regularly. This Order he had left at my House but took back yesterday & will shew it to you if you wish. by this you will see, that he has it not in his power to give the highest Rank to the fittest persons to serve as Officers in the Militia and once when he Intended (by my Advance) to make Cap<sup>t</sup> Harrow L<sup>t</sup> Col. over Major Parent<sup>17</sup> (a Most Illiterate good Man that could not speak a word of English) it so offended, even the officers that did not belong to the same Battallion, that they wrote a joint Letter as a Complaint to the Commodore which Letter he laid before his Excellency and I suppose produced the Order I Aluded to. As to matters of Right & Agreeable to Law so far as I Understand it If you were a Lieu<sup>t</sup> in the Regular Service and taken into the Militia, there you would ranck as oldest Lieu<sup>t</sup> & if a Company fell Vacant the next day you should get it in the same manner as Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kee became Major, he by right came in Oldest Cap<sup>t</sup> There was no L<sup>t</sup> Col. Bap<sup>t</sup> Baby was Major & therefore made L<sup>t</sup> Col. & Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kee as Oldest Cap<sup>t</sup> Major. For my own part I do not think in Order to carry On the Service well that in all cases

<sup>17</sup> For the several Parent lines in Detroit, see *B. H. R.*, I, 418. The individual here noted has not been identified.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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the Senior Officer should be promoted; Otherwise had major Parent not resigned (from his Own knowledge of his Inabilities.) My L<sup>t</sup> Col would be a good Man that can Neither read write nor speak English or had any wish to be a Militia Officer, yet this man must have Commanded when I was not present. I do not hesitate to say that I am persuaded the Commodore would prefer you to several of his Captains, but was he to do so & the Law not suport him he would subject himself to further complaint. and I'm sorry to Observe that many of the Militia officers are One day for not puting any one Over an Others head (as I sometimes found) and at Others wish to Exclude Inability Drunkness &<sup>ca</sup> however the late Governors directions on this Head I suppose will be the rule by which the L<sup>t</sup> of the County will go Unless the present L<sup>t</sup> Governor may think proper to Order Otherwise

I am Dear Sir truly yours

J A

Doc<sup>r</sup> Richardson at Amherstburgh

*Endorsed:* Strabane April 27<sup>h</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Doc<sup>r</sup> Richardson at Amherstburgh (Copp)

PAYMENT OF CHURCH SUBSCRIPTION

June 1<sup>st</sup> 1807

Dear Sir: I could not have thought that a Gentleman could have pressed an other as you have done me for 40/ which I did not contract. My Son said he would pay. if he does not I will perhaps be able to collect so much some place. I acted very different with you last year when you wrote me for forbearance of what you owed M<sup>r</sup> Robertson

I am Y. Humble Servant

P.S. Moran the mason owes me £14 odd & put me off saying he could not get payment from you.

*Endorsed:* June 1<sup>st</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to the Reverand Rich<sup>rd</sup> Pollard at Sandwich Copp

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

PAYMENT OF CHURCH SUBSCRIPTION

Sandwich June 1 1807

Sir I am sorry to have given you so much trouble about the 40/ please to pass it to my Credit, in my Acct. with M<sup>r</sup> Robertson my Rent was passed on by Morin to M<sup>r</sup> Woods, which I paid, & I do not owe M<sup>r</sup> Morin one farthing.

I am S<sup>r</sup> your most obed serv<sup>t</sup>

R Pollard

J Askin Esq

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* June 1<sup>t</sup> 1807 Rev R. Pollard to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin.

REMOVAL OF JOHN ASKIN JR. TO ST. JOSEPH

River S<sup>t</sup> Clair 19<sup>h</sup> June 1807

My Dear Father We arrived here at 5 oClock & passed over the Bar without unloading or any difficulty the *Wilkinson* was behind us across the lake Captain Mills on approaching the Bar shortened sail & let the *W.* pass in ab<sup>t</sup> 5 minutes after she passed us she struck which gave Cap<sup>t</sup> M an opportunity of finding a passage immediately, the *W* is now behind us as well as the *Tracy*. Inclosed you have Letters for J.S. which I request you'll forward after you have enclosed the draft that M<sup>r</sup> H. M<sup>o</sup>Kay is to deliver you. I think it [illegible] adviseable to send one of them to Queenston to the Care of Tho<sup>s</sup> Clark he will forward [torn] delay Madelaine is in tolerable good spirits Considering her parting with the friends who have always afforded her relief when in sorrow & distress. I will write you again from Harrows remember me to my D<sup>r</sup> M[other], sister & Brothers

I remain D<sup>r</sup> Father y<sup>r</sup> dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Endorsed:* River S<sup>t</sup> Clair June y<sup>e</sup> 19 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior. Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>h</sup>

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

APPOINTMENT TO CLERKSHIP AT ST. JOSEPH

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 22<sup>d</sup> June 1807

My Dear Father, This goes by Le Gros Fusil an Ottawa Chief & his Band who are on their way to Amherstburg, This man is well acquainted with you he says. his Son wintered with Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee last winter & knows James & Alexander having mentioned their names several times since his return to this. No doubt but they will request a Drink (if so) please let them have a Gallon of Whisky & I'll make it good to you again, & a few Loaves of bread should they be in want, I mean two or three Loaves. As the Governor is with you I beg that you'll have the Goodness to employ those who are his favorites to endeavour to obtain the Clerkship for me, as an Interpreter is on his way to this, which will reduce my pay to 4/8 H per day & not sufficient to support me much less to pay my debts. As your the best Judge of what is to be done I shall wait, impatiently for an answer on that subject by the first Vessel. I wrote you on the 17<sup>th</sup> which will go by the *Nancy* Now on her return from S<sup>t</sup> Marys.

If Sam is as desirous now of coming to see me, as he was last Winter, he can take a passage with these Indians when they return.

Madelaine joins me in best wishes for Your & my Dear Mothers Health & prosperity. our Love to My Brothers & Sisters

I remain My Dear Father Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane Upper Canada By the Great Gun an Ottawa Chief

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph 22<sup>d</sup> June 1807 John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to John Askin Recv<sup>d</sup> the 7<sup>h</sup> July answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

LAND TITLES AND MILITIA ACTIVITIES

Strabane June 27 1807

Dear Sir, About the time I wrote you last, I had a Letter from you dated the 24<sup>th</sup> of May with much News which I thank you for. I hear Captain Gilkinson is like to get a

handsome situation. I'm glad of it he takes good care of his Family.

I saw Woods on his way down from Gross Point the day before yesterday. he had been up to bring down M<sup>rs</sup> Woods who was there on a Visit: he says they are all tolerable well and by him I find that Captain Dyson has not yet paid M<sup>rs</sup> Grant. I therefore now write M<sup>r</sup> Brush on the subject. Nothing further has yet been done about Robertson's Debt to you. the last Plann was to seize money in M<sup>r</sup> May's hands as I wrote you also the Lots when the Deeds comes out. they have not yet Issued. M<sup>r</sup> William Robertson of Queenston declines going [doing] anything further relative to his Late Uncle, as I suppose the Lawyers have told him it would not be lawfull now the Death of his Uncle is Public & I believe that to be the Case.

There seems to be nothing but difficulties to prevent a man from geting his dues, and I think more on the other side than this. however with a Vast Quantity of Patience all may yet come right. The money due You cannot be lost because the Debt is clear, and the late M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Robertson left a good deal of Property yet it may be some time before you get it. all I fear is rong on the other side. I would not be surprised if the Governor who I have always liked should loose his place and the Secretary get it.

I have sent the return for the 4<sup>th</sup> June to the Deputy Lieu<sup>t</sup> of the County only yesterday. John going away and our Adjutant being Young in Office threw us something back. the Militia behaved remarkably well and fired like regular Troops (when they Fire well) M<sup>r</sup> Park complimented us by bringing a small Piece with some men he mustered on a Hill and fired 21 Rounds. I think he has for many Years past sorely lamented the Letter he wrote you and got others to Sign. If You thought proper to restore him and and make him a Captain of Artillery still belonging to my Corps I would spare him some men. as the late Governor you told me always assented to having one of the companies Mounted I can now do it without any Additional expence and as they will be mostly Canadians should the Service require sending a party to some distance by means of their going on Hor[s]e Back it could be soon effected.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

for this purpose I have chosen young LaButte's Company under the Command of Major M<sup>c</sup>Kee I do not from this mean that either them or the Artillery should be separate Corps but all still belong to my Regiment or rather Legion I suppose it would then be called. I have chosen a sett of fine young Men for Captain Pattinson's light Infantry and he is [to] let them have their Clothes for first Cost and expences. Maisonville and Woods means to do the same we therefore hope soon to make a pretty appearance should the Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Honor us with a Visit. I cannot get Scarlett but M<sup>rs</sup> Grant having gave her Cloak to Mother [illegible], I will get that which is better than such Scarlett as is now imported. When you find his Excellency at leasure you can mention these Planns respecting the Militia to him

By a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton I expected to have seen Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant before this. what Joy his mother will experience on his arrival.

Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson has been very unwell and [is] still weak. The rest of our Family [are] in tolerable health which Blessing may you long enjoy is the sincere wish of

My Dear Sir Your sincere Friend

The Honorable Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant Esq<sup>r</sup> at York

*Endorsed:* Strabane June 27, 1807 John Askin Sen to The Honorable Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant Esq<sup>r</sup> at York (Copy)

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 4<sup>th</sup> July 1807

My Dear Father I will not undertake to give you a detail of our Voyage to this as my Dear Madelaine has done it fully I believe to my Dear Mother, nor will I distress you nor my relations in detailing the horrid Ideas I have of the Island. I may reconcile myself to it in time, but the Moment that I have accumulated a Sufficiency to Pay my debts & purchase a good Situation near you I shall depart unless some unforeseen accident should happen in the interim.

Old Chaboiller Seems to be very happy of my relieving him. he says that he will go to lower Canada in One Month. I have not as yet taken charge of the Store but a Survey is

to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> for that Purpose I'm told the Poor Old man will be in arrears & will not be able to account for the deficiency however as that part does not concern me it will only involve him in difficulties & he can easily get over them as no Security has been taken of him for the due performance of that Office.

Doct<sup>r</sup> Geddis has been very attentive to us & M<sup>rs</sup> G has enquired repeatedly of Nellys welfare. The Makina Gentlemen<sup>18</sup> have not made their appearance as yet Their Agents have Obtained a large spot of Ground for a town. a number of their men are at work in Clearing & rafting timber to build in time it may become a decent place but the Garrison never will I'm afraid I mean the fort as Its on a spot surrounded by Rocks only. The gentlemen of the Garrison appear to be decent & well inclined to be sociable.

No Kind of fruit is got on this Island or the adjacent shore but Wrasberries, therefore please tell Brush that I expect he will send me Apples & Cyder in abundanc[e] & I will send him in return white fish. I have not obtained any sugar yet, my Stores being left behind. If I had brought w<sup>th</sup> me the Coin of this Country call<sup>d</sup> Whisky I might have exchanged enough to supply myself & friends with a Sufficient Store, tho the Price of it at wholesale is 8/& 9/ P<sup>r</sup> Gallon & by Smaller quantities 12/& 14/ Spirits 4<sup>o</sup>/ P<sup>r</sup> D<sup>o</sup> —Sugar rec<sup>d</sup> in payment at 7½ H<sup>x</sup> C<sup>y</sup>. Should the price increase & that I find something handsome may be made in the Spring, I will advise you timely that James may take a Trip to this with a few Barrels.

A few good Bills on Montreal can be got at times but all Adventurers must take advantage of the times of the Season. I'm fully persuaded that if any person had arrived at [the right] time with a small assortment of Groceries he would have made exceedingly well as no Store is at present erected. I should have recommended a tryal if the South West C<sup>o</sup><sup>19</sup> were not abuilding. they seem to be all about Makina &

<sup>18</sup> For the manner in which the South West Company evolved from the older Michilimackinac Company, see *B. H. R.*, I, 278. See, also, Wayne E. Stevens, "Fur-Trading Companies in the Northwest, 1760-1816" *M. V. H. A., Proc.*, 1916-17, p. 287 ff.

<sup>19</sup> The South West Company is commonly said to have been organized by John Jacob Astor in 1811. The present document seems to indicate that an organization employing this name was operating in the Northwest as early as 1807.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

pay little or no attention to this place. its probable they may be here after they have Celebrated the independancy of the U S. Young Badishon was to have given me a Yew & Lamb for a note of hand I had of his but he went away before I left Amherstburg for River Thames. I inclosed his note to Johnney (Query, if he has paid him if he has not I beg that James may use his influence if he thinks the N. W C<sup>o</sup> Vessel will take them.

Madelaine embraces you & my Dear Mother with all her heart & joins me in prayers for your preservation & all the family

I remain My Dear Father Y<sup>r</sup> Dutiful Son  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

P. S. Madelaine informs me that you labour'd under a difficulty to discharge a small debt that if it was not liquidated & as Capt<sup>n</sup> Mills offered to purchase the Lot he got of you, You'll be pleased to give me immediate notice & I will have the Money ready at your Command.

Madelaine begs of my D<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup> to send her some prickley Ash seed as none can be procured near this.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane P<sup>r</sup> Capt<sup>n</sup> Mills

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephes July 4<sup>h</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Juno<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> and answ<sup>d</sup> the 18<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

DIFFICULTIES OF WILLIAM MONFORTON

Sandwich 24 Julliet 1807

Monsieur vous êtes le Seul qui Sensible à mon infortune, ayant voulu me visiter Dans la prison, m'a témoigne y prendre part. je Sai que cette marque de votre Generosité part d'un bon Coeur, aussi ma Reconnaissance ést 'elle veritable

Les hommes dites vous ne Sont pas aujourdhuy Ce qu'ils éstait hier, Et ne seront pas demain Ce qu'ils Sont aujourdhuy, que par consequant il faut Essuiyer Souvant pour Rencontrer le jour favorable et je dis qu'on avu en Europe des ours et des lions aussi tractables que les animaux Domestiques mais on n'a Jamais vu apprivoiser des tigres.

Comme tels je regarde Ceux qui Sacrifiant tout, meme leur propre interest à la vengeance; violent les Loix Sacrées de L'humanité et du Christianisme

vous ajoutés que C'est facheux pour un Chretien de vivre Comme je fais, Si miserablement, et si longtems. je suis Chretien, et je sai que Jesus Christ, mourant pour moi Sur la croix a pardonné et prié pour ses Bourreaux; pourquoi ne pardonnerais je pas aux miéns et ne prierais je pas pour Eux. puisse Le Dieu des vengences les pardonner, et Leur Rendre autant de Biens et de joië, qu'ils ont fait du tort, et Causé du Chagrin a ma famille— Une Epouse qu'ils ont renduë veuve du vivant de son Epoux et qui trop souvant arrosant de ses larmes le chemin de ches Elle à la Prison, disons mieux du Lieu ou elle fait sa Residence (car un Des deux qui pretendait Droit Sur la terre et maison S'en ést Emparé le premiér;) n'apporte a Son triste Epoux que des pleurs, que le long Espace de deux ans n'a pu tarir, et qui Sont pour lui autant des reproches d'avoir Signé la ruine de sa famille avec la perte de sa Liberté. Cette Epouse dis je n'est a leurs yeux qu'un Nouveau et agreable Sacrifice a leur vengeance.

C'est ainsi Monsieur que voulant Eviter un Ecueil je Suis tombe dans un autre-la peur de la prison m'y a Conduit, et la mort m'en sortira

Eternal Createur Dieu puissant et supreme!  
 temoin de ma Languer, de ma douleur Extreme!  
 Arbitre de mes jours sois touché de mon sort,  
 Brise vite mes Chaines, ou donne moi la Mort!  
 Que me sert en Effet, Cet air, Cette lumière,  
 Qui Eclaire De mes maux la funeste Carrière!  
 Pardonne . . . O Dieu puissant! . . . ma douleur de trahit!  
 J'adhore tes decrets, et mon Coeur y souscrit.  
 Augmente si tu veus L'horreur de ma misere,  
 A tes ordres, Envain je voudrais me soustraire  
 Quel horrible tourment Ébranlerait la foi  
 D'un Coeur qui de t'aimer fait son unique Loi.

Mais ou memporte LEcces de mon chargin! pour quoi abuser de votre complaisance en vous fatiguant par un Long Ecrit, encore ose je vous adresser un papier pour demander votre avis. vous priant, si vous juges utile d'en



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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faire usage, de rayer Ce que vous trouveres hors de propos

Continuant mes voeux pour votre Santé et la prosperité  
de votre famille j'ai L'honneur d'Être avec Respect

Monsieur votre tres humble et ob<sup>st</sup> Serviteur

G<sup>l</sup><sup>m</sup> Monforton

Colonel Askin E<sup>qr</sup> Sandwich

*Addressed:* Colonel John Askin Es<sup>qr</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Sandwich 24<sup>th</sup> July 1807 Mons<sup>r</sup> Monforton  
to John Askin.

*Translation*

Sandwich, July 24, 1807

Sir: You alone feel for me in my distress and your visit to me in prison proves your solicitude for my fate.<sup>20</sup> Such kindness can proceed only from a generous heart and of this I have had sincere evidence.

Men, you say, are not the same today as yesterday, nor will tomorrow find them as they are today. One must, therefore, meet each day as best one can. In Europe bears and lions have been tamed and made tractable as domestic animals, but never has a tiger been so tamed. As tigers I regard these people who sacrifice everything, even personal interest, to their revenge, violating the sacred laws of humanity and of Christian charity. You think it deplorable for a Christian to live thus wretchedly for so long a time. I am a Christian and I know that Jesus Christ, when dying for me upon the cross, pardoned and prayed for his executioners; why, then, should I not pardon and pray for mine? May the God of Vengeance pardon them and render them good and happiness in proportion to the injury and pain they have inflicted upon me and mine.

<sup>20</sup> Askin had undertaken to befriend the writer, whose misfortunes were occasioned by a dispute over real estate. In a letter of June 29, 1807, preserved among the Askin papers, Monforton explains that Jacques Bezer Jr. had sold to Monforton's son a tract of land Monforton had formerly purchased of Bezer's father, and had mortgaged to Gregor McGregor. Monforton claimed that he had been intimidated into signing the mortgage by the threats of McGregor, and that the latter by unjust measures had secured possession of Monforton's home and property "up to the very bed of my wife." Whatever legal justification there may have been for McGregor's course, the present correspondence discloses some of the ill effects which flowed from laws permitting imprisonment for debt.

A wife whom they have deprived of a living husband, and who often waters with her tears the road to the prison from her home—let us say rather from the place of her abode, since one of those two who claim a right to the land and house has possession of the first—brings to her sad husband only tears which the long interval of two years cannot dry and which are just so many reproaches to him for having signed the ruin of his family with the loss of his liberty. Her distress is to them a constant and pleasing tribute to their malignant purpose.

Thus have I fallen upon one rock while seeking to avoid another. The fear of prison has brought me to it and only death can give me release.

Eternal God, most powerful and supreme,  
 Be witness of my pain, my misery extreme!  
 Arbiter of my days, in pity for my fate,  
 Break quickly now my chains or give me death.  
 What serves me thus the air, the light of sun,  
 Shining but to reveal the wrongs that I have borne?  
 Pardon, O, God Supreme! Misfortune maddens me!  
 I worship Thy decrees and bow submissively.  
 Augment then, if Thou wilt, the anguish of my days,  
 Nor would I ask nor wish for one day less.  
 What torment of despair to shatter thus a faith  
 That knew but Love for Thee with every breath.

But whither is my excess of grief leading me! Thus to impose upon your kindness and weary you by many words! Yet I venture to send you an address and to ask your advice about it, begging you, if you judge it worth using, to cancel anything you may find improper.

With renewed prayers for your welfare and for the happiness of your family, I have the honor to remain

With respect, dear sir,

Your very humble and obedient servant,

William Monforton

Colonel Askin, Esq., Sandwich.

DIFFICULTIES OF WILLIAM MONFORTON

A L honorable francois Gore Ecuyer  
Gouverneur de la Province du haut Canada  
plaise a votre honeur

Cedidit in sillam volens Evitare Caribdim Guillaume Monforton Ecuyer Major du Bataillon du Sud E. M. languit depuis deux ans dans la prison de Sandwich Le Conseil Legislatif n ayant prévu ni passe aucune act pour remedier ceux inconvenients que le defaut d une cour d Equité pourroit occasioné surtout dans ce district, qui composé la majeure partie d un pays le peu au fait des Loix peut se trouver Exposé a L'injustice et Linnocence opprimée

Le Suppliant s etant trouvé pressé en 1805 par deux Creanciérs pour dettes contractées depuis vingt et six ans, et les aurait satisfait tous les deux si par le Delai que Lun lui donnait pour Contanter Lautre, cet autre eut été d humeur d attendre quoique les deux eussent laiss triblé le Capital en laissant accumuler interest Sur interest mais le dernier sacrifiant Son interest lui disant quil le Loyerait pour le reste de sa vie, il le mit en prison, ou en depit L'un de L'autre ils se repaissent l'un et lautre du Barbare plaisir de le faire mourir en Langeur Sans aucun Egard ni Compassion pour Sa famille

Un viéllard de 70 ans dont 28 passés au Service du Roi a—il pu— meriter un tel traitement!

Il faut donc qu'il attende Son Elargissement de Son innocence qui ne peut se manifester, que remontant au premier tems, un examen de ses anciennes affaires les fasse paraitre dans leur veritable lumiere mais la cour d'Equite ne peut S'Etablir dans cette province il faut donc qu il se determine a Subir L'horrible sentence que Ce Creancie a prononcé en le metant en prison a moins que Son honneur le Gouverneur de cette Province en Conseil; de sa Grace, Credit, et autorité ne trouve quelque Expediant pour faire changer ou du moin temperé une Loi qui donne Droit de mors a un Creancier Souvant injuste.

plaise a votre honneur prendre en pitié une veuve du vivant de son Epoux et Les Enfants orphelins du vivant de leur pere et qui avec Ce pere trop infortune joignant leur

faibles accents a la voix Generall du peuple nombreux qui ne peut que se flater du plus heureux avenir sous votre Gouvernement; ne Cesseront &° N. B. Le porteur est extremement inquiet et en quelque façon deconcerte Surtout dans Lidee ou le doute qu il a, Si Lavocat Allet m'ayant si mal servi la premiere fois fera mieux a Cette dernière action je vous prie de le rassurer et le flattir dune bonne reussite

M<sup>r</sup> Allan est venu me sonder et paraissant prendre a coeur l'interet pour mon fils ma dit que ne faisant pas son Comparution a Loffice du Depute Clerk il pardrait et qu'il etoit surpris que Lauyer Allet ne leut pas faite pour lui. dites lui la raison pourqoi Lawyer Allet a preferé denvoyer a York

Ne Serait-il pas prudant de prendre un autre avocat pour le joindre a Lavocat Allet.

*Translation*

To the Honorable Francis Gore, Esq.,  
Governor of the Province of Upper Canada  
May it please Your Honor:

William Monforton, Esq., major in a battalion of South Essex Militia, having fallen upon Scylla in his effort to avoid Charybdis, has languished in prison in Sandwich for the past two years.

The Legislative Council, not having provided for nor passed any act to meet the exigencies occasioned by the lack of a Court of Equity, especially in this district where the people, having very little knowledge of the law for the most part, are exposed to injustice and oppression even when innocent, your petitioner, in 1805, found himself pressed by two creditors for debts contracted twenty-six years ago. He would have satisfied both if, by one giving way to the other, that other had been willing to wait, and although both might have trebled their principal by accumulated interest, this last, to his own detriment, declared he would sue for the rest of his life, and had your petitioner put in prison, where, spitefully opposing each other, these two nourish their barbarous pleasure by causing him to die a languishing death with no regard nor pity for his family.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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An old man of seventy years, twenty-eight of them passed in the service of the King, does he deserve such treatment?

He must, however, await the release due to his innocence and this could only be effected by an examination of these affairs from their inception, setting them forth in their true light, but since no Court of Equity is possible in this province he must submit to the revolting sentence of that creditor who had him imprisoned unless His Honor, the Governor of this Province, in Council, by his kindness, consideration, and authority, finds some reason to change, or at least to modify, a law which gives a creditor power unto death, often unjustly.

May Your Honor mercifully pity the widow of a living husband and children orphaned of a father in his lifetime, who, with that too unfortunate father, unite their feeble prayers to those of the public generally, hopefull of a happier future under your government, and who will ever pray, etc.

N. B. The bearer is extremely troubled and in some measure discouraged, especially by the idea of the doubt he has, lest Lawyer Allet,<sup>21</sup> having given such poor service the first time, may do no better in this last suit. I beg you to reassure him and to give him hopes of success.

Mr. Allan came to find out about things from me. He seemed to have my son's interest at heart and told me his non-appearance at the office of the deputy clerk would be fatal to his suit. Mr. Allan was surprised Lawyer Allet had not done it for him. You tell him the reason why Lawyer Allet preferred to send to York.

Would it not be well to engage another lawyer to work with Lawyer Allet?

RECOVERY OF FUGITIVE SLAVE

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1807

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

D<sup>r</sup> sir, My Daughter informs me that yesterday she found my Negro Nobbin at Pikes Creek and bro<sup>t</sup> him with her as far as your House and there left him, (he being appre-

<sup>21</sup> Probably William Elliott of Sandwich, who is noted *ante*, 503.

hensive that I would whip him on his arrival) I have sent Mr Maclosky<sup>22</sup> for him, and have to request that you will have the goodness to use your influence in persuading him to return to his duty and to behave himself better in future in that case I will pledge myself not to lay the wait of my finger on him.

I have one particular piece of advice to give you but must request you will not make it known we have a bad set of people about us and as I have been informed means of [have]

<sup>22</sup> James McCloskey (McClosky) is listed among the residents of Detroit in 1806, in which year he appears to have been acting as deputy marshall of Michigan Territory. He was a surveyor, and in November, 1808, at the instance of Governor Hull and Judge Witherevell, he drafted a new plan for the city, which the officials noted vainly sought to have adopted. Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit*, 29. On Sept. 14, 1810, an act was passed providing for the election in each district of the territory of a council of five members in which varied and extensive powers over poor relief, taxation, road maintenance, etc., were vested. McCloskey was one of the five councilors elected for the Detroit district in October, 1810, and he was still serving in this capacity in 1812. *Ibid.*, 95.

Whether the James McCloskey thus far noted was identical with the later prominent Detroitier of the same name whose record follows herewith, we are inclined to doubt. James McCloskey of Maryland was commissioned captain and assistant deputy quartermaster general in the U. S. army on June 24, 1813, and honorably discharged on June 15, 1815. Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.* Most of his service was evidently performed in the Detroit area, for numerous manuscripts in the B. H. Coll. disclose his presence and activities here during much of the years 1814 and 1815. He remained in Detroit, and as late as Feb. 19, 1816, signed as A. D. Q. M. G. a letter to Solomon Sibley directing suit to be instituted for the recovery of property belonging to the U. S. government. This same year (on July 30) James May chose McCloskey as an arbitrator in a suit to which he was a party, although in a letter of Sept. 10, 1810, May had described McCloskey as a dishonest debtor who was totally indifferent to meeting his obligations. From 1815 on, McCloskey held numerous offices of local public trust. In 1817, he was made superintendent of buildings (there was only one) of the University of Michigan; in August, 1818, he was appointed quartermaster general of the territory; in 1819 and 1820, he was elected to the board of trustees of Detroit (created by act of Oct. 24, 1815), serving as chairman of the board the first year. In 1821, he was defeated by Solomon Sibley in the election for delegate to Congress; and in 1823, he was one of half a dozen candidates in the election which was won by Father Gabriel Richard. In 1818, the Bank of Michigan was organized by a group of prominent citizens of Detroit, and McCloskey was made cashier. This office he held until 1825, when he was found to have defaulted in the sum of over \$10,000, and was summarily dismissed. An interesting account of his banking career, by Friend Palmer, is in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXX, 411 ff. Even before his appointment to the bank, the Comptroller General of the Treasury had caused McCloskey to be sued for a shortage of several thousand dollars in his accounts as deputy quartermaster general, but for some reason now unknown the prosecution was dropped.

On Sept. 11, 1815, McCloskey was married by James May to Susanne Godfroy, daughter of Gabriel Godfroy and Mary Therese Bondy, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 347. Six children were born to them in the years 1816-25; one daughter married Senator Isaac P. Christaincy, and another married John Alexander Askin, a grandson of John Askin. A letter of James May to his daughter, Ann Audrain, Jan. 11, 1829, states that McCloskey "died at Zanesville, State of Ohio, on his way home with the Winnebago Indians from Washington." Copy in ms. report of interview between C. M. Burton and Samuel W. May (son of James May), Nov. 25, 1926. Data derived from references cited; mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*; and Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit*, *passim*. Brief sketches of McCloskey's life are in Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, II, 1386, and in *Proc. of Land Board*, 161.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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been used to persuade your Boy, George to leave you. my information derives from his Mother, whom he consulted on that subject. the old Woman appeared very Angry with him, and reprimanded [him] very severely, for proposing such an Idea to her, and ordered him imediately to go home and never again to entertain such a thought, if he did she would inform you of his intention. I merely give you this information, in order that you may keep a good look out after him and prevent him if possible from crossing over on this side the River.

I will thank you at your Leasure to drop me a line in answer to what I wrote you last spring relative to the proposition I made concerning my Affair with the late W<sup>m</sup> Robertson, and at Same time to inclose James M<sup>c</sup>Gills Letter to me which I sent for your perusal. M<sup>r</sup> Brush, has repeatedly told me he expected you over. I should be very happy of the opportunity of seeing you here as I wish much to have about one hours conversation with you. M<sup>rs</sup> May joins me in our best respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and family and believe me to be D<sup>r</sup> Sir

Your friend & well wisher

James May

*Addressed:* John Askin, Esquire near Sandwich P<sup>r</sup> favor M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Closky.

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1807 James May Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

JOHN ASKIN REBUKED

To J Askin, Esquire,  
Col<sup>l</sup>, Command<sup>t</sup> of the Essex Militia,

Sir, As a Minister of the Gospel, and as Curate of this Parish, I cannot help observing to you, my extreame surprise to find, an order for the meeting of the Militia, at the hour appointed for divine service! To whom should we look up to for support but to the supreme ruler of the Universe after offering up our prayers at the public service of the Church then it would be proper to call in human aid, and concert such meassures as Wisdom & prudence dictate. Could not this have been done at any other hour than the One allotted to the Service of God?

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

the Solomn engagements I entered into at my Ordination, the solomne passage addressed to the ministers of the Gospel 3<sup>rd</sup> Chap of the Prophet Ezekiel is so awfully striking! (17 Verse to the 21<sup>st</sup>) as to need no Comment.

I hope therefore, attention will be paid, to this letter, & that in any future call of the Militia, the time may be so fixed as not to interfere with Divine Service.

I am Sir Y<sup>r</sup>s &c

*Endorsed:* Aug<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1807 The Reverend Richard Pollard to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> same day

REV. RICHARD POLLARD REBUKED

August 10<sup>th</sup> 1807

Reverend Sir I have just received Your Letter by James I suppose wrote to day. All mankind by Your own Doctrine is Subject to error so is John Askin on several occasions on the present it falls to the Lot of the Reverend Richard Pollard of which I will endeavour to convince him when we meet and if I should fail I will at least convince any Man of clear understanding. for the present I have only time to say I respect all religion where the Serving of God is the intention and as all old acquaintances I have a Friendship for M<sup>r</sup> Pollard though he feels warmer in his Expressions than some others of the Gown would on such an occasion

I am Dear Sir Yours truly

*Endorsed:* August 10<sup>th</sup> 1807 John Askin Senior to Reverend Richard Pollard at Sandwich (Copy)

LIVING CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 10<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1807

Dear Father, I wrote you per Cap<sup>t</sup> Cowan & sent per him two Patents one belonging to you, the other thro a Mistake for I intended sending the present patent of Lands sold Pattinson & by no means my Patent of the Toun Lot in Sandwich. Youll please deliver the patent to Pattinson for his 600 Acres of Land & keep my Lot patent untill Madelaine goes down which will be next year to visit you all Cap<sup>tn</sup> Burbank promisses to bring up my Hogs which were left at Amherstburg they Consist of Seven in Number



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

provided M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Intoshe's leave can be Obtained for the same Burbank ought to have his leave before he goes to Fort Erie so that he might ship them *en passant*, returng from F. Erie its probable he or Fearson would bring up the Yew & lamb which Johnney left behind. As I can not write Richardson owing to Burbanks short stay, if you see him tell him & William Duff that I expect they will send me all my things. I have no working Horse, Chairs to sit, Bedsteads, Cart Wheels, Flour, Hogs, slays or Carriole tho my store House is furnished with all those things I really wish that my Blk mare may be sent in preferance to the Pacing Horse she will be of service to me in Hawling Wood & answer extreamely well as a breeding Mare. Madelaine informs me that she Can not write by this Vessel to her Mother as Burbank is in waiting, but will be fully prepared for the next & at the same time send Pine & spruce plants, likewise sand Cherry plants. I have not heard from James since my departure I hope he is well employed which will make up any neglect or difficiency in Corresponding Madelaine & the Children join me in fervent prayers for Your & my dear Mother's hea[l]th (Our Love to my Brothers Sisters & Relations & Respects to all Acquaintances) in Haste I remain My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane P<sup>r</sup> Capt<sup>a</sup> Burbank w<sup>h</sup> a Parcel

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Aug<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>h</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> 18<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

ORDER FOR MILITIA MUSTER

Sandwich 12<sup>th</sup> August 1807

You will be pleased to order your Battalion out on Sunday next at 12 oclock before the Church of L'Assumption to be reviewed & Exercised, as you could not do it last Sunday being too bad a day for that purpose

I have the honor to be Sir Your Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

F. Baby

Depy L<sup>t</sup> Cy of Essex

Col Askin

*Addressed:* H. M. S. Col. Askin Com<sup>dt</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Sandwich Aug<sup>t</sup> 12 1807 Franc<sup>is</sup> Baby Esq<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> from William Doughty [illegible] 8 oClock  
[illegible] night

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR IN DETROIT<sup>23</sup>

Strabane August 18<sup>h</sup> 1807

Dear Charles, The *Camden* just going past furnishes me with an opportunity of writing You, the only one I have had for a long time past. for that reason I will begin by assuring you that all the Family are well, which Im sure will be pleasing to You. From the appearance of War between Great Britain & the Americans,<sup>24</sup> Alice is determined to go to Vermont, where she will stay untill the difference is made up which now subsists. At Detroit they are making great preparations. The Town of Detroit is Picketed in from the Water Side untill it joins Fort Lernoult A Company of Negroes mounting Guard, The Cavalry Patrolling every night, Batries Erecting along the Settlement, and the Militia called out frequently.

We are very Busy about Militia Duty, although in very bad Order If there are not some Alterations made in the Militia Laws, I entertain little hopes of seeing them better Diciplined even in the course of Twenty Years. Many of the most respectable Gentlemen here, are very anxious that part of the Militia should be Embodied.

Duncan, Robins & Dedines Family beg to be remembered to You. Doctor Richardson begs to assure you of his Sincere wishes for your prosperity. I have to finish & I remain  
Dear Charles

Your Affectinate Brother

James Askin

<sup>23</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>24</sup> The attack of the *Leopard* upon the U. S. ship *Chesapeake*, June 22, 1807, had intensified the ill-feeling of the Americans toward Great Britain.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Mr Charles Askin at Queenston.

*Addressed:* Mr Charles Askin at Queenston.

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh 18<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1807 Mr James Askin to Ch<sup>a</sup> Askin.

FEAR OF WAR WITH UNITED STATES

Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> the 24<sup>th</sup> 1807

Dear Father, I duly received your kind favours of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> which I beg you will excuse me for not answering sooner. The paper you required of Mr W<sup>m</sup> Dickson I am told was sent to you some time since; He is now in Lower Canada but before he left this he wrote to you, he told me.

Mr Todd got down to Montreal in four days from this. since his arrival there, he has wrote to Mr Dickson. he appears to be very apprehensive of a War, as they seem all to be there. I have been favoured with a letter from him also, dated at Kingston in which he offers to do any thing he can to serve me.

Mr Ogelvie has appointed W<sup>m</sup> & Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Clark his attorneys for the late Mr Robertson's bussiness. W<sup>m</sup> was so pressed by him when he was down to give him some statement of the debts, lands &<sup>ca</sup> that we made one out after his return here, from memory partly as W<sup>m</sup> mentioned to him.

I thank you kindly for the company you have given me I believe it a pretty good one. I would like to have my Commission as Cap<sup>t</sup> if you can conveniently send it; as it may be of use to me here, in case of the Militia being called out: which there is not the least appearance of yet. the people about this seem to be much easier about the War than at Detroit or in Lower Canada, either; although some small depredations have been committed between this and Niagara by some vagabonds not known, from the other side, who came over and killed a bull & some sheep at night, belonging to some farmers. Vessels from Oswego still come here, there is one now lyeing at the Wharf; they kept away a short time as the Cap<sup>ts</sup> of them had been told they would be seized.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I shall send this by a Military express which goes by land to Amherstburgh and will leave this to day, and with it I will also send a letter to you from Halifax which appears to be from Colonel Meredith.

M<sup>rs</sup> Powell has lately heard from Judge Powell; his letters are from Madrid where he had gone to endeavour to get his son liberated, which he was then in great hopes of succeeding in.

We expect M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton home in ten days. his last letter was dated at Schenectady on his way home. M<sup>r</sup> Clark's returned; he took a large quantity of flour down most of which he sold; and that at seven & a half dollars, barrel.

Please to give my kind love to my Dear Mother, my Brothers & Sisters. that you may all enjoy health, Dear Father are the constant prayers of

Your dutifull & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Senior Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Senior Esquire Strabane Sandwich.

*Endorsed:* Queenston Aug<sup>t</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> 1807 Charles Askin to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 16<sup>h</sup>

INFLUENCE OF SHAWNEE PROPHECY

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1807

My Dear Father, I avail myself of the opportunity of M<sup>r</sup> Boucherville<sup>25</sup> who leaves this tomorrow for Makina in order to embark on board of the *Adams* for Detroit. We are continually on the look out for the *Gen' Hunter* in hopes of hearing from you & all our friends in your Quarter. This place is destitute of News since the Montreal Canoes have done plying. All the Ottawas from L'arbe au Croche adhere strickly to the Shawney Prophets advice they do not wear Hats Drink or Conjure. they intend all to Visit him this Autumn, which will occasion a great scarcity of corn at this post & Makina. The Merchants will suffer by it as they have not provided themselves with that Article Whisky &

<sup>25</sup> Probably Pierre Amable de Boucherville, for whom see *post*, 762.

Rum is a Drug. the Indians do not purchase One Gall<sup>n</sup> per month. I saw upwards of 60 of them at one time together spirits, rum & whisky was offered for nothing to them if they would drink but they refused it with disdain. The Chief's reply to the officer Commanding when he offered them some of his Milk was that when they were young & had no teeth to Eat they could not get any of their Fathers milk & used to beg constantly for to suck but now that they were grown up & had good teeth they did not see why their Father should be so generous with offers of giving them some, especially as they could eat all the provissions he might give them. A number of Old men who knew you at Makina address me by [as] the Commissarys son. One of the Chimneys of the House you built at Old Makina<sup>26</sup> fell down only last Summer. Several large trees have grown upwards of a fathom in Cercumferance about the Garden I'm led to believe that they are Pickets which you planted for enclosure, which have taken root as they are populars they could not have grown to that Size Since you left it.

The following persons arrived this day from Makina on their way to Montreal v<sup>z</sup> Tous<sup>t</sup> Pothier, Campbell,<sup>27</sup> Giasson, Dav<sup>d</sup> Mitchel J<sup>r</sup><sup>28</sup> Pothier & that Poor simple man J Bleakly<sup>29</sup> all Members or Partners in the South West C<sup>o</sup>

I intend to send down as much Cedar Bark as will Cover my Farm House & Barn as soon as I can [have] them embarked I'm told they make verry good Covering far superior to any other bark. I have not seen half a Doz<sup>n</sup> of white fish since my arrival. this is [the] most barren place I believe in the whole Western Country, Doct. Richardson praised

<sup>26</sup> On the outskirts of present-day Mackinaw City, where the fort and garrison were located during the period of Askin's residence there.

<sup>27</sup> John Campbell of Prairie du Chien, for whom see *post*, 608.

<sup>28</sup> One of the sons of Dr. David Mitchell, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 85.

<sup>29</sup> Josiah Bleakley was located at Mackinac as early as 1783, when he was serving as government Indian storekeeper and clerk. A letter of June 22, 1799 (ms. in *B. H. Coll.*), shows that he was then involved as a creditor in the tagled affairs of Clamorgan, Loisel and Co. of St. Louis. In 1805 he signed a petition of Montreal merchants protesting against restrictions upon British subjects trading within the territory of the United States; and in 1808 he was a member of the fur-trade brigade belonging to the Mackinac Company which was seized by the American government at Fort Niagara. In 1814 he signed an invoice in Montreal. Further record of his career has not been found. Data derived from documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, and sketch in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 275-76.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

this place on Account of Ducks Rabbits Hares & pheasants but they must have all been eat by him, for I have not cast my eyes on any yet.

Madelaine and the Children are well. She presents her love to you & my Dear Mother. Please assure M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Barthe of our best wishes for their welfare & family & hope they have not been visited by the fever this year. Accept my sincere wishes for your & my Dear Mothers Health My love to my Brothers & Sisters

I remain Dear Father Y<sup>r</sup> Dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup> [Senior] Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane Near Sandwich Hon<sup>d</sup> by M<sup>r</sup> Boucherville

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephes Sep<sup>t</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR IN DETROIT

Strabane Sep<sup>t</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> 1807

My Dear Friend. Your mighty kind Letter dated at Queenston 25<sup>th</sup> July last came to hand on the 21 of last Month and I do assure you it was a great Mortification to me not being able to attend to your Friendly Appointment and taking so good and Worthy a Man as M<sup>r</sup> Frobisher by the Hand, but as Voyages agrees with You and not with me, why my Dear Sir, not come this length next Summer if the Country should get into a settled state which I hope and believe will be the Case at present preparations are still making for War, though nothing offensive committed as yet against us however our run Away Negroes have had Arms given them & Mount Guard I was for a certain time also kept busy endeavouring to get the Militia into some Order, but our Laws gives so little power [to call] them out on certain occasions that not much has been done and they now do no more Duty. Our Neighbours on the Contrary have their Militia constantly out, I think not less in General than once a Week and sometimes oftener. they are realy well disciplined and you must think it grieves me much who is Colonel not to have it in my Power to do as much as I

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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believe our Men as good and probably as numerous I have not been on the other side for these five or Six Weeks past or hardly any of the Merchants all intercourse between us is at a stand therefore untill the present disturbance is at blows Over. I cannot get anything done at Detro[it] Towards its commencement I wrote M<sup>r</sup> Brush two or three times relative to Your and M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill matters but I got no Answer, Oweing as I believe to his being Taxed with a Correspondence relative to the Public, if he wrote me, and as there is great Party Work on the other Side, I believe some of them Stick at nothing in Order to injure the opposite party and there are Daily representations going forward from one to the other to the President of the United States, So far as I can learn. I hope a favourable change may soon take place.

The present Law relative to Claims to the Confirmation of Lands on the other Side, thus, if you or even a Citizen of the United States claimed one hundred Tracts only [one] would be confirmed and that provided it does not exceed 650 Acres but if its only 10 its all the same you may make your Choice however the Law does not say that you will or willnot loose the other Lands you may or rather have claimed. the Law seems intended to settle some old French Inhabitants who have only a Farm each. The lands out of the Boundaries of those purchased by the Americans from the Indians are not in a worse situation than those within. Commodore Grant's place at Gross Point is of the former, but whats meant is that The American Government cannot give Deeds for Lands they never purchased of the Indians. they have lately endeavoured to make these purchases and more, but the Indians say they have cheated them out of their Lands and payment also, and that they will not sell them any more.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>30</sup> The manuscript is a rough copy in the hand of Askin's son, of a letter by Askin to Isaac Todd. The latter portion of it, dealing with various unrelated subjects, is not printed here.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>31</sup>

St Joseph's 8<sup>h</sup> Sept 1807

My Dear Father Your favours of the 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of Aug<sup>t</sup> came to hand. after looking over my Desk I found the Patent of my Town Lot. therefore am sorry to have given you any trouble about it. I'm rather reconsiled to my situation I have a Number of Cabbage plants that are verry promising & two large Turnip Patches in the Woods which will be verry serviceable or agreeable with some of the Kings Own this Winter. my Sellery will do very well & Potatoes I will have an abundant Crop being a Purchase from a Soldier who left this on my arrival.

The appearance of Rupture with America will blow over I hope shortly. the Americans generally make great noise & stick at trifles. they are constantly in Alarm either by an Indian War or at the least shadow of Bands of Indians they imagine their heads in danger of being scalped No wonder poor Devils they have reason to fear the Indians in particular from the latters Cruelty to them. We entertain hopes that all differances will be amicably settled at home before the Winter is over. Its Certain that the Indians in this quarter are verry quiet & are prep[aring] to visit the Shawnee prophet & by no means inclined to Hostilities. I do assure you that Johnney has not directly or indirectly sold a shillings worth except two Kegs of H[igh] Wines which belonged to Duff. in short its well known that I had no goods whatever except my stores of Flour & 4 Barr<sup>ls</sup> of Pork two of the latter entirely Tainted and good for Nothing the Whole of my flour is in the Kings Store except a Barr<sup>l</sup> I gave to get my House plastered. As to Johnney he brought up his Trunck with his wear<sup>s</sup> apparel only therefore those who have endeavoured to spread that report must have done it thro malice. So far from Trading M<sup>r</sup> R<sup>t</sup> Dickson was to have taken him as a Clerk to keep the S. W. C<sup>o</sup> shop if the C<sup>o</sup> had not been already provided with one. Col. Claus came in the same Vessel with him & M<sup>r</sup> Selby & knows verry well that he had not a shillings worth. I spoke to Col. Claus to intercede in getting him appointed Commissary. his answer was that he would have been verry

<sup>31</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



happy to have Served me on that head but that the appointment came from the Commander in Chief of the forces in lower Canada & not thro the Governor & stated it would be proper for me to apply thro friends below for it. It was never my Intentions that he should commence Trade pennyles & especially when under my Roof. As the Regiment is to be relieved if application was made by persons well acquainted With the Commander in Chief of the forces I'm persuaded he would be appointed, but it certainly [is] being troublesome to worthy persons who have done already a great deal for me. I will leave you to judge of the propriety of applying. I return you thanks for your kind attention respecting the Nails & sugar I rec<sup>d</sup> my own in good time Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson has been verry attentive & obliging & thro him W<sup>m</sup> Duff & Cap<sup>t</sup> Hall I have got almost all my little property up. The Mare is the only thing I want to hawl my wood this winter. the Horse Johnny bro<sup>t</sup> is too young to render any service. Cap<sup>t</sup> Burbank promised to bring the Mare or Horse provided My Friends could obtain M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intoshes leave before the Vessel would be ready to return to this. B. stated that there was some risk in bringing live stock on Deck at the Autumn season, but I'm willing to run the Risk for should he bring [the horse to] me it will save me £18 or 20 H<sup>x</sup> C<sup>y</sup> It would have afforded Madelaine & myself pleasure had you accepted her Offer We dont want money It [is] our wish to pay our debts & be serviceable to those who are so Dear to Us. Should it happen at any time that you want money for any Purpose apply to Cap<sup>t</sup> Mills & he will give you what you may require. I entertain hopes of being able to do something as soon as I have paid off the People below. Madelaine & myself Returns thanks to my Dear Mother for the plants which came to hand in good order. She sends per the *Hunter* a Pine Tree & spruce Tree in kegs they seem to have taken root. Its fortunate that M<sup>r</sup> Badishon<sup>32</sup> has not sent the Geese for I should have been Necssitated to have paid him in Money having been able only to purchase a Sufficiency of sugar for ourselves to Wit a C<sup>w<sup>t</sup></sup> Since the cold winds have set in we fare

<sup>32</sup> Anthony Labadie dit Badichon, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 46.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

much better we get Ducks & pheasants twice a Week on an average I cannot complain & will do exceeding well in the eating way. I should be highly pleased to get some of Brushes Cyder especially the Barr<sup>l</sup> of Old Cyder he gave me previous to my departure. I find he never sent it to Pattensons as he promised. M<sup>r</sup> Tallman is to send me Onions & a few Apples but having no Barr<sup>ls</sup> my Friend M<sup>c</sup>Kay promised to send two or three empty flour Casks over to them I should be happy If he was reminded of it as I'm afraid I will not be able to write him by this Opportunity. Madalaine & Johnny Joins me in fervant prayers for your Hea[ll]th & prosperity Love to my Sisters & Brothers I remain D<sup>r</sup> Father

Y<sup>r</sup> Dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

Madelaine was writing to Madelaine Richardson & says that she intends writing to my Dear Mother by this Vessel. I entertain hopes of being able to send you down good white fish having engaged all I may want from the Sault fishermen. They will not be caught or taken by them before the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct. should the *Hunter* return to this before that time Its probable the *Caledonea* will be able to take what I may be able to procure whilst she remains at S<sup>t</sup> Marys.

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Sep<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> the 14<sup>th</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

FRENCH AND INDIANS' DISLIKE OF AMERICANS

Montreal 1<sup>st</sup> Octb<sup>r</sup> 1807

My dear Sir I had the pleasure of writing You from Queenstown, and since My Return here I Lately reci'd your favor of the 13<sup>th</sup> Augs<sup>t</sup>. we are Still in doubt about the event of peace or Warr with our Neighbours I sincerely hope for peace among other evils I dread the consequences of the Indians distroying the Defensles Inhabitants on the Frontiers, but the Americans has themselves to blaim that neither Indians nor the Inhabitants of Detroit St Lewis &<sup>ca</sup> like them as they unjustly want to deprive them of lands that the Latter have been in possession for Many Years and sanctioned by French English & Spaniards, and

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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the Lands they want to take from us has paid great Rent to French & English & even taxes to themselves. I see a Letter to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill (who is now at Quebec) saying you might be able to sell part of the Lots on your side but no Money, in which case he thinks with me its better to keep them. I hope soon to hear you have secured And<sup>w</sup> Todds Debt & if you can send me any thing it will be very Acceptable

God Bless You & believe me D<sup>r</sup> Askin

Yours Sincerely  
Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Oct<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1807 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1808

FROM MADELAINE ASKIN TO MRS. JOHN ASKIN

St. Joseph octobre 13 1807

Ma tres Cher mere Jai seulement le temp de vous dire que nous nous partons tous bien et en meme temp je vous prie dencepter un petti macaque de sucre que je vous envoy Je suis mortifié que sa n'est pas a mon pouvoir de vous envoyer un plus gros. mes jesper que jaurai le plesir de me revenger a praintemp prochain je vous envoy aussi une chale c'est le seul grand que jai put acheter icite. Je suis mortifié que je nait pas de voisseau pour vous envoyer plus datocas peutêtre dicite a ce que les autres barque arrive jen trouveré un et pour lors jaurait le plésir de vous envoyez davantage. Je vous envoy trois ou quatre pome dans un petti macaque se sont de votre semenee au vieux fort de Mackinac et ont etté transplanté au nouveau fort chez Docteur Mitchel et il mont etté presente par sa fille M<sup>d</sup> Crawford qui est resident icite aprésent elle paroît faire une tres aimable Dame elle est pres daccouché Je me propose danavoir bien soins afin de repeyez les Intentions que sont pere a heu pour Johny le temp quil a étté prisonné il est seulement revenu que de cette Nuit il se porte bien et vous présent ses amitié ainssi qua son grand pere les enfant se joigne amoi pour vous assurer de leur tendres amitié.

Adieu ma cher mere présenté mes tendres amitié a mon cher pere et Nelly James et Allexandre présenté sil vous plait mes respect aux M<sup>r</sup> Barthe et Madame jesper quil jouise du'une du'une senté. Adieu encore une fois votres tendres et affectionné fille

Madelaine Askin

P. S. Jenvoye un petti macaque de sucre a ma cher Nelly Je suis mortifié que je n'est pas le ten de lui ecrire car la barque part dans l'enstant M. Askin

*Addressed:* M<sup>rs</sup> Askin Strabane P<sup>r</sup> Capt. Burbank

*Translation*

St. Joseph, October 13, 1807

My dearest Mother: I have only time to tell you that we are all well and at the same time beg your acceptance of a little mocock of sugar that I am sending you. I am sorry I could not send a bigger one, but hope to have the pleasure of making up for it this next spring. I am also sending you a shawl, the only large one I could buy here. I am sorry I have no vessel in which to send you some more cranberries. Perhaps between now and the time when the other boats come I shall find one and by then I shall have the pleasure of sending you more. I send you three or four apples in a small mocock. They are from trees of which you planted the seeds at old Fort Mackinac, transplanted at the new fort on Dr. Mitchell's place and were given to me by his daughter, Mrs. Crawford,<sup>33</sup> who lives here now. She seems to be a lovable woman. She will soon be confined. I intend to take every means possible to repay what her father did for Johnny the time he was imprisoned. He only happened to come tonight. He is well and sends his love to you and to his grandfather. The children join me

<sup>33</sup> Lewis Crawford was a prominent trader in the Northwest in the decade prior to the War of 1812. He seems to have remained at St. Joseph until the summer of 1812, when he led the contingent of Canadian volunteers in the expedition against Mackinac which resulted in the surrender of that place to the British. Thereafter, until the end of the war, Mackinac seems to have been Crawford's center of operations. He held the rank of major in the volunteer company, and in this capacity assisted in the defeat of the American attack on Mackinac, Aug. 4, 1814. A letter of John Askin Jr. from Drummond Island, Feb. 8, 1816, speaks of Crawford as having "left the country." In 1806, he married Jessie, daughter of Dr. David Mitchell, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 85. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and Irving, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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in assuring you of their loving remembrance. Adieu, my dear Mother. Give my love to my dear Father and to Nelly, James, and Alexander. Please give my regards to Mr. and Mrs. Barthe. I hope that they enjoy good health. Again adieu.

Your fond and affectionate daughter,  
Madelaine Askin

P. S. I am sending a little mocock of sugar to my dear Nelly, and am sorry that I have no time to write to her. The boat is just leaving. M. Askin

WARLIKE MEASURES AT MACKINAC

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 13<sup>th</sup> Oct 1807

My Dear Father, The *Caledonia* is just hove in sight & affords me only time to acquaint you that Johnny is a prisoner at M<sup>c</sup>Kina the [he] left this on the 4<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> with M<sup>r</sup> Chiquy the Collector to visit L'arbe au Croche & on his return stopt'd at Makina & there was arrested by the Commandant Lieu<sup>t</sup> Cross<sup>34</sup> [h]is reasons for Arresting them was that he suspected they went to that place to Tamper with the Indians in Order to have them in readiness in Case War declared by Great Britain. I Certainly do not believe he means to detain them long it appears that Hoffman & an Interpreter went to get information & they are expected back therefore as they are [not] Culpable of any unlawful Act, must be released Johnny does not seem uneasy therefore I expect him back shortly. If [t]he Commandant had *de quoy* I Certainly would have advised M<sup>r</sup> Brush to prosecute him for false imprisonment, but the Information I rec<sup>d</sup> is that he spends his pay before it becomes due I consequently must put up with it & Johnny look out better another time The men I sent up to the Sault S<sup>t</sup> Marys had not reached it before the *Caledonia* left it. therefore you'll be deprived of white fish till the *Hunter* or *Nancy* arrives. Madelaine sends a shawl to my

<sup>34</sup> Joseph Cross of Massachusetts was commissioned lieutenant in the First Artillerists and Engineers, Feb. 16, 1801. He became captain, Nov. 7, 1808, and was cashiered, May 20, 1813. The length of his service at Mackinac has not been learned. See Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Dear Mother & a Moccock of Cramberries. I send you a Couple of Quires of writing paper.

I addressed several small Moccocks of sugar to your care to be sent to Madelaines Relations. If the *Hunter* has not left your place let me know if the Salmon I sent were good I'm rather apprehensive they will not keep from what I experienced with some I kept. The Indians bring in vast Quantities but all speared. Great appearances of a plentiful Crop of Potatoes on this Island, but no Onions beats, parsnip sellery or Carrots. these Vegetables we can not do without verry well. great abundance of Duck at present & verry fine Weather apparently (the Indian Summer [so] call'd at Detroit) Madelain is in good Health & the Children, she is sorry that she cannot write to my Dear Mother by this Vessel but will be ready for the next In the mean time joins me in presenting our Dutiful wishes for your & my Dear Mothers Welfare & Love to Brothers & Sisters

I remain My Dear Father Your Dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

I send a Moccock of Cramberries for M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Intosh<sup>35</sup> a<sup>s</sup> Comp<sup>ts</sup> to him & her & the family.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane p<sup>r</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Jesse Burbank

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephes Oct<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

LAND TITLES OF BRITISH SUBJECTS<sup>36</sup>

Detroit le 22. Octobre 1807

Monsieur John Askin

Monsieur Vous me rendez une parfaite justice en croyant qu'une guerre imaginaire ne changera pas l'estime et l'amitié qui a existé entre nous depuis que nous nous Connoissance. Je dirai plus; une guerre r'elle ne devrait jamais produire aucun changement entre deux hommes qui

<sup>35</sup> Mrs. Angus McIntosh, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 293-94.

<sup>36</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

S'estiment e véritablement. Cen'est ny votre faute ny la mienne Si le gouvernement d'Angleterre et Celui de l'Amérique Sont en dispute; tôt ou tard ils S'accorderont; Si la guerre nous privait du plaisir de nous voir et de nous Visiter, ce Serait un malheur politique, et qui ne peut durer long tems, et le retour de la paix nous ferait goûter le plaisir de nous revoir après un court interval. J'ose prédire qu'il n'y aura point de guerre, malgré que les apparences Soient un peu orageuses; telle chose qui arrive votre propriété et celles de vos amis dans ce territoire ne courent aucun risque;

Vous avez sans doute lû l'acte du Congrès de la session derniere relativement aux titres des terres dans ce territoire. nos pouvoirs (comme Commissaires) sont extremement circonscrits. Par cet acte nous ne pouvons prendre Connoissance d'aucun titre, qui n'a pas été enregistré par les anciens Commissaires et qui n'était pas Cultivé et Occupé avant et depuis le premier de Juillet 1796 jusqu'au 3 Mars dernier.

Nous ne pouvons accorder cest a dire approuver qu'une Seule terre à la même personne, et le nombre d'acres ne peut en aucun Cas excéder 640.

Nous (en notre qualité de Commissaires) avons écrit au Ministre des finances et avons Soumis à Sa Consideration les trois points Suivants. Savoir—

1<sup>er</sup> Que toute personne puisse obtenir une patente pour chaque terre qu'il possède, S'il peut justifier Son titre a chaque terre en conformité à l'acte du Congrès.

2<sup>e</sup> Que toutes les fermes Sur la riviere du Detroit Soient toutes étendües à la profondeur de 80. arpents.

3<sup>e</sup> Qu'il Soit accordé un an de plus aux propriétaires pour entrer leurs titres au bureau des terres.

Nous avons de tres fortes raisons de croire que la Congrès accordera ces trois points que nous considerons comme essentiels à la prospérité de ce territoire, et sans lesquels la moitié de nos Habitants Seraient ruinés.

Dans quelque' autre moment J'aurai le plaisir de vous donner quelque' autre information; dans cet instant la cour Supreme Siége et prend tout mon tems.

permettez moi de vous renouveler les Sentiments d'estime,  
d'amitié et de respect avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être  
Monsieur

Votre très humble Serviteur  
Peter Audrain

Veillez présenter mes respects à Mad<sup>e</sup> Askin.

*Addressed:* John Askin, Esquire Straban

*Endorsed:* Detroit Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1807 Peter Audrain Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> same day Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>

*Translation*

Detroit, October 22, 1807

Mr. John Askin

Sir: You understand my sentiments perfectly in thinking that an imaginary war will not change the esteem and friendship that has existed between us from our first acquaintance. I would say further, real war should never make any difference to men who truly respect each other. It is not your fault, nor mine, if the governments of England and America are at variance. Sooner or later they will come to an amicable agreement. If war should deprive us of the pleasure of seeing each other and of social intercourse, it would be a political misfortune, of brief duration, and the return of peace would renew our mutual pleasure in seeing each other, after such an interruption. I venture to predict that there will be no war, in spite of the present somewhat stormy outlook. Whatever happens, you and your friends in this territory are secure with respect to your property.

You have doubtless read the act of Congress of last session relative to land titles in this territory. Our power, as commissioners, is extremely limited. By that act we may not confirm a title that has not been recorded by the former board of commissioners, nor in the case of land not having been under cultivation and occupied before and since July 1, 1796, up to March 3 last.

We may not grant, that is to say, sanction, the grant of more than one tract to an individual, and the number of acres must not exceed 640.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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We, as the Board of Commissioners, have written to the Secretary of the Treasury, submitting to his consideration the three points following, viz:

1st That all persons may obtain patents for each tract owned providing the title to each tract can be proved in conformity with the act of Congress.

2nd That all farms fronting on the Detroit River may be extended to a depth of 80 arpents.

3rd That a further extension of one year may be allowed to landholders in which to enter their titles at the Land Office.

We have every reason to believe that Congress will accede to these three points as we think them essential to the prosperity of this territory and without which one-half of the inhabitants will be ruined.

Some other time I shall give myself the pleasure of further information for you. At this moment the Supreme Court is in session and takes all my time.

Permit me to express anew the sentiments of esteem, friendship, and respect with which I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your most humble servant,  
Peter Audrain

Kindly present my compliments to Mrs. Askin.

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Nov<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1807

Dear sir I was favoured with Your Letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> last Month the same day. Had I not been disappointed in one payment of Near 1100 Dollars, and many Others for less Sums, I would most Asuredly have paid you my Note with Interest before this, but at present I have neither Money nor Bills. I proposed and still do selling my Negro nam<sup>d</sup> Ben in Order to pay you, & for that purpose offered him to M<sup>r</sup> May, or if you will purchase him I will give him at a low Rate.

I have not seen M<sup>r</sup> Brush for Above these three months, nor heard from him but seldom. Alise said he talked of coming Over Yesterday. I therefore Expect to see him some

day this Week and will then do all I can to procure payment for you, though I fear he cannot spare Money from himself. I will not neglect any Means in my power to make your payment.

In the mean time I remain Dear Sir &<sup>ca</sup>  
M<sup>r</sup> James Fraser at Detroit

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> &c &c &c near Sandwich<sup>37</sup>  
W. Halton

*Endorsed:* Nov<sup>r</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1807 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to M<sup>r</sup> Jm<sup>s</sup> Fraser at  
Detroit Copy

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Detroit 10<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1807

Dear Sir I have had the pleasure of receiving your kind favour of the 3<sup>d</sup> Instant & am sorry to find it is not in your power at present to settle the matter you assumed for Cap<sup>t</sup> Currey in 1805. however in order to accommodate you, I will wait with pleasure untill next Spring if you choose.

With regard to the business of the sale of your Negro Man Ben, I wish with all my heart you may succeed in the sale, but I am afraid the times are too critical to risk much in that way; & as the question is not yet known by the general Court, I believe the Ideas of the Government of the United States are not much in favour of Slavery. If you was coming over yourself, or perhaps if you was to gett M<sup>r</sup> Brush to speak to M<sup>r</sup> May probably he might purchase Ben I sent you, % your Son M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Two or Three English News papers of the latest date for June of this year in hopes to afford you a little amusement. when you have done with them please send them back & I will send you a few more for May % Alex<sup>r</sup>

I am Dear Sir With Great Esteem Yours Sincerely

Ja<sup>s</sup> Fraser

P.S. I will be happy of a line from you when at leisure,  
J. F.

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>

<sup>37</sup> The address is evidently an error of the copyist.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Detroit Nov<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1807 M<sup>r</sup> James Fraser to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12 & Answ<sup>d</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>

AFFAIRS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>38</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 11<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1807

My Dear Father, The *Nancy* has just made her appearance which is rather unexpected. thats to say I entertained hopes of having time to write you a long letter before she reached this having a great deal to write you, but unfortunately my Office of St. Keeper has kept me constantly occupied day & night the latter in making out the necessary Requisitions & [the] former in issueing. I have Cloathed 300 persons within these three days past. I have hardly time to take my meals in comfort. Per Capt Mills you'll receive a Barr<sup>1</sup> of white fish for yourself One for M<sup>r</sup> Peltiers & one for M<sup>r</sup> Brush I entertain hopes you'll find them good You'll please Pick out the largest Barr<sup>1</sup> for yourself I understand that Cap<sup>t</sup> Mills is to unload part of his fish at M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intoshes if so M<sup>r</sup> Brush & M<sup>r</sup> Peltier may be put in store untill they send for them, should you find it inconvenient to have them taken to your place. Madelaine has been occupied in attending M<sup>rs</sup> Crawford Daughter to Doct Mitchel who has been delivered of twins & the Infants died a few days after they were born & M<sup>rs</sup> Crawford still verry unwell, which prevented her from finishing a Doz<sup>n</sup> of *Torchons*<sup>39</sup> for your kitchen wrappers &c but they will be sent early in the spring. should the Kings Vessel pass near your place & that you have Notice I should be happy to get a Doz<sup>n</sup> or less of Apple Tree plants the size of half an inch in diameter or more. The Roots may be put in a small keg pressed together & filled w<sup>h</sup> earth & the limbs twisted in straw to prevent their receiving any injury. I would rather have few but good stout plants. They can be taken from those that My D<sup>r</sup> Brother Charles gave me. I dare say Cap<sup>t</sup> Fearson or Burbank will take a few astern of their Vessel, the roots well tied or wrapt in Course linnen

<sup>38</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>39</sup> Dish cloths.

& some earth in it to prevent them going to decay or getting dried. We unfortunately lost all our plant[s] of the tree onion. they were all pulled up by Capt Derenzies<sup>40</sup> men after Capt True<sup>41</sup> left this by mistake & left out in a frosty night by which means there were all frozen & un-serviceable a few Echallots & Garlic would be very acceptable. you'll undoubtedly think I'm a great beggar No wonder I have so many Indians about me Continually who are in the same habit, that I'm become a perfect Indian in that way. I'm afraid Madelaine will not be able to write my Dear Mother for Capt M. finds the season so far advanced that he will give us hardly time to write. I send an Indian sack full of Cramberry for Alice which is all I could procure for the present.

Madelaine & the Children joins me prayers for your & My Dear Mothers Health & welfare. Our Love to my Brothers & sisters. Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Barthe & Louison

I remain My Dear Father Your Dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

If you have any influence with the Members of Parliament or any other at York to Recommend M<sup>r</sup> Louis Crawford who is one of the partners of South West C<sup>o</sup> & a residenter at this place to Act with me in cases unavoidable I should be happy I do assure you he is a well informed man & well educated and as good a Character as ever Trodd Terra ferma M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton is well acquainted with him from the acquaintance I have of him I know of no better person & well inclined to do good to all his fellow Creatures.

N. B. two Barr<sup>ls</sup> are headed & two unheaded Take the largest of those headed & other headed for Brush & other unheaded for M<sup>r</sup> Pelter the fourth goes to Malden for Capt Hall I'm sorry that I could not get an other Barr<sup>l</sup> for Richardson however I believe that Capt Mills will

<sup>40</sup> William Derenzy, commissioned captain in the Forty-first Regiment, June 25, 1803. In November, 1805, he was at Amherstburg, where he served on a board of inquiry into the loss of the schooner *Hope*. He was still in Canada as late as the summer of 1813, being commended by General Sheaffe for his conduct in the battle of Queenston, Oct. 13, 1812. See British army list for 1804; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*.

<sup>41</sup> Apparently Arthur True, who was commissioned a lieutenant in the Forty-first Regiment, Feb. 2, 1796. On Aug. 6, 1809, he stood sponsor at the baptism of a child in Sandwich. See British army lists and St. John's Church Register.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

be generous w<sup>h</sup> his friends below as he has a number of Barrels. Johnny is on a fishing party but not yet ret<sup>d</sup>.

If M<sup>c</sup>Kay<sup>42</sup> can collect me the newspapers for the opening of the Navigation I will be thankfull M<sup>r</sup> Woods of Sandwich was to have paid whatever duties were due to Government to the Receiver General at my departure. it was the am<sup>t</sup> of the Duties he Collected that was in arrears I'm afraid he has not fulfilled his promise I'll thank you to speak to him on the subject & if unpaid hope he will discharge the same without [loss] of time & should you have any doubt of his non compliance write to M<sup>r</sup> Allan to discharge it & let me know the amo<sup>t</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> June last. I will send a draft on my agent at Montreal to repay him, tho at the same [time] it would be an extreame hardship for me to pay & M<sup>r</sup> Woods has benefitted the whole. I have not re<sup>d</sup> a Line from him since I left Amherstburg on any subject whatever.

Capt Cowan or Capt Elliott may be of service on the Occasion. & any advice they may deem proper to give me on that head can be left w<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Allan untill our Winters Courier arrives & will bring their Letter to me

Tell my Friend M<sup>c</sup>Kay that I'm afraid I will not have time to write him. I'm thankful to M<sup>rs</sup> Badishon for the Apples & hope I will be able to send her something in the spring.

### ESSEX MILITIA MUSTERED

Sandwich 7<sup>th</sup> Decb<sup>r</sup> 1807

Sir Having received instructions from His Excellency the Governor, enjoining me to have the Militia under my command in readiness at the shortest notice, you will therefore be pleased to order your Battalion out on friday next the 11<sup>th</sup> instant at eleven Oclock to parade before the Church of L'Assumption which I purpose to review Muster &c &c

<sup>42</sup> Probably Alexander McKay (Mackay), one of three brothers who were active in the Northwest fur trade. Alexander entered the service of the North West Company soon after its formation, and in 1804 became a partner. In 1793, he accompanied Sir Alexander MacKenzie on his famous journey of exploration across the continent to the Pacific. In 1810, he joined Astor's Pacific Fur Company. He was one of the victims of the Tonquin massacre on the Northwest Coast the following year. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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I am Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant  
F. Baby

Lieut of the County of Essex

Colonel Askin

*Addressed:* H. M. S. Colonel Askin Commanding the  
Southern Battalion of the Essex Militia

*Endorsed:* Sandwich Dec<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1807 The L<sup>t</sup> of the  
County to Col Askin delivered by Andri La Balaine After  
12 Oclock the 8<sup>th</sup>

ABSENCE FROM MILITIA MUSTER

To John Askin Esquire, Colonel Commanding the  
Northern Reg<sup>t</sup> of Essex Militia

Sir, Impressed with the Idea of our being highly cen-  
sured for not appearing in time on Parade last Friday, Yet,  
conscious of our loyalty, and with a strong wish to appear  
on that day at the Muster; We sett off from this at 9 o'Clock  
that Morning on good Horses, but the preceding Night it  
having rain'd and froze towards day made the Roads so  
very bad, that we were nearly four hours going to Sandwich,  
which at other times can easily be done in two; This being  
the true statement of the case, We request that no wrong  
Impression be entertained in consequence of our not appear-  
ing at the appointed hour that day. We have also a hope  
that from our having done our utmost to arrive in time,  
You will not put us on a footing with delinquents, and  
exempt us from the Fine.

We remain with great regard & consideration, Sir

Your most humble Servants

A. Maisenville

Amherstburgh 14 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1807

Capt. N.R.E.M

W<sup>m</sup> Smith

L<sup>t</sup> & Adj<sup>t</sup> N R E M

*Addressed:* To Colonel John Askin Commanding the  
Northern Reg<sup>t</sup> of Essex Militia Strabane

*Endorsed:* Amhurstburgh Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1807 Cap<sup>t</sup> Maison-  
ville & L<sup>t</sup> Smith to Col Askin

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

COUNTY LIEUTENANCY RESTORED TO COMMODORE GRANT

Amherstburg 4<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1808

Dear Sir My being re[e]stablished in the Lieutenancy of this County was very unexpected & of which I never dreamed, with a very friendly letter from the Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor expressing his Concern from being missinformed and had ordered a new Commission to be made out for me to Supersede M<sup>r</sup> Baby.

I received a nother letter from the Chief Justice making also an apologie for the Governors Misstake and Says there is no man in the Province Sorryer for the Misstake than the Governor himself. The Governor says in his letter I must insist your accting the Lieutenancy. I received your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>mo</sup> I will not be in a hurry in nominating any deputy for some time. You Colonels I think can carry on the Duty Many thanks to you & M<sup>rs</sup> Askin for your kind wishes for me, have no account of M<sup>r</sup> Charles returning. I am told that the late Lieut had a certain portion of Militia Men assembled every Sunday after the French Church come out & during the time of Service of the English Church Exerc[is]ing<sup>43</sup> You must point out Some other day than Sunday. I have the pleasure also of telling you & M<sup>rs</sup> Askin that my Salary while President is received with a very Satisfactory letter from our old friend M<sup>r</sup> Todd—but my dear Sir, the deduction of property Tax—6 per cent for geting the money by bill to this Country has almost run away with [an] astonishing portion of the Sum, but it's being an accedental God Send I must be Content

M<sup>rs</sup> Grant was so glad at my being Superseded in the Lieu<sup>tey</sup> that I suppose she will be displeased now Remember me Sincerely to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & family.

God bless you and them

A Grant

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

P. S. I am thanks be to my maker geting very hearty &

<sup>43</sup> On this subject, see the correspondence between Askin and Richard Pollard printed *ante*, 563-64.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

strong my kind letters from M<sup>r</sup> Todd and from [my] Wife enlivens me A. G.

*Addressed:* John Asking Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh Jan<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1808 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>.

ARTILLERY SALUTE ON QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Petit Cote 9<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1808

Dear Sir I cannot account how I neglected the princpal cause of my calling upon You Yesterday, which was to learn if Your Regiment were to Parade in Sandwich on the Queens Birthday, as you did on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June last. If so I will bring up my field peice with 21 Rounds of Powder, & according to Custom fire 7 Rounds first, then a Volley from Your Regiment & then seven more Rounds from Me &ca. By which Your Regiment will give the last fire.

I am D<sup>r</sup> Sir Yours truly

W Park

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* Petite Cote Jan<sup>y</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1808 W<sup>m</sup> Park Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>44</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 13<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1808

My Dear Brother Tho you have not thought proper to Answer my sundry favours yet I'm determined not to discontinue writing in expectation that at some time or other you will recollect that I'm your Brother & then deign to answer my Epistle's. For my part I cannot think you can make a reasonable apology for not writing. the Vessels ply continually during the summer Months & every Winter an Express leaves this in Jan<sup>y</sup> for York & returns from York thats to say leaves York about the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb<sup>y</sup> for this. Should you condescend to write After this Winter (this being to late for you) you can address your Letters

<sup>44</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

to the Care of M<sup>r</sup> D<sup>n</sup> Cameron<sup>45</sup> or Capt Givens<sup>46</sup> & they will see them forwarded.

If necessary to give you some Idea of this place first its an Island Abounding W<sup>h</sup> Rocks & not a Deer Bear, Wolf, Racoon, Moose Cariboux or Muskrat about it. a few Hares is caught & pheasants the Indians live entirely on fish. they even make their Mokasins with the skins of sturgeon & Lace their Snow shoes with the same skin & Skin the Maskelonge for the same purpose. They have Sold to the Merch<sup>ts</sup> only 5 Beaver skins 20 Martins & 8 Fox skins which is the whole Amo<sup>t</sup> of the Hunt of upwards of 120 men since the 24<sup>th</sup> of Sept last from this statement which is perfectly correct you may Judge what would become of those Poor Miserable Objects if our Generous Government was not to afford them relief.

No doubt you're all verry merry at these times as your

<sup>45</sup> Duncan Cameron, a native of Scotland, came to America with his parents in 1767 and located in Schenectady. During the Revolution, he sought refuge in Canada, where he soon entered the employ of the North West Company, becoming a partner in 1799. In 1785 and for many years thereafter, he was the company's agent in charge of the Nipigon district. In 1814, he was sent to Red River to checkmate the colonizing project of Lord Selkirk in that region. Much violence followed, and in 1816, the adherents of Selkirk captured Fort Gibraltar, taking Cameron prisoner and sending him to England for trial. There, however, he was released and secured damages from the Hudson's Bay Company for false imprisonment. He returned to Canada several years later and located in Williams-town, Glengarry, where, in 1824, he was elected to represent his district in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. In 1820, he married Margaret McLeod. The date of his death is unknown. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited:

<sup>46</sup> Prior to 1791, when he enlisted in the Queen's Rangers, James Givens had acquired a knowledge of the Chippewa and Huron tongues. Upon the organization of the government of Upper Canada, he was commended by Henry Dundas, Secretary of State for Home Affairs, to Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe. From November, 1791, to November, 1802, he was a lieutenant in the Queen's Rangers, serving during the earlier portion of this period as aide to Governor Simcoe, who seems to have entertained a high estimate of his ability. Givens accompanied Simcoe on the latter's tour to Detroit in the winter of 1793, and during the following year, when Wayne's campaign was being waged, served at Detroit and on the Maumee. He was in Fort Miamis when Wayne reconnoitered that post after the Battle of Fallen Timbers, and a few weeks later expressed to Simcoe the conviction that he could have killed Wayne with his pistol.

Givens was made captain in the Rangers on Nov. 19, 1803. On Feb. 28, 1805, he was commissioned in the Fifth Regiment, and his name last appears in the army list for 1806. From the beginning of his army service, the government had utilized his knowledge of the Indians, and about the beginning of the nineteenth century, he was appointed interpreter and agent in the Indian Department. In 1816, he appears as superintendent in York, and in 1830 as superintendent, interpreter, and senior officer of the department in Upper Canada. This post he held until June, 1837, when he retired on full pay. He was with Brock at the capture of Detroit in 1812, and served throughout the war with the rank of major of Upper Canada militia. He died in Toronto in 1846. Data derived from *Simcoe Papers, passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; and information supplied by Francis J. Audet, Chief of Information, Public Archives of Canada, Feb. 13, 1929.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Assemblies & other mode of Amusement has commenced. Our Society is very small being composed of Cap<sup>t</sup> Derenzy, Capt & M<sup>rs</sup> Muir M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Crawford, L<sup>t</sup> Craddock<sup>47</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> Davis & our Family. Thanks to *God* no set of people are more sociable & united than we are, & want no medical Assistance to make us eat our Rations. The Winter has set in very early & extremely severe. We have from 5 to 6 feet of snow in some places, but generally 4 feet in the woods, which has prevented the hawling of fuel. The Makina C<sup>o</sup> are making great improvements at this place. they have erected a large store House 80 by 40 feet, besides Timber for two others of the same dimentions & a dwelling House to be 120 feet by 50 & 16 feet post. M<sup>r</sup> Louis Crawford is the agent & partner at this [place]. Madelaine Joins me in Requesting you'll present our sincere wishes to M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Dickson for their Welfare. My Respects to M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton & my Love to Robert & his Brothers. Madelaine John & Therese joins me in praying the Master for your Health & prosperity

I remain My Dear Brother Most Affectionately  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

M<sup>r</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup> Askin Queenston

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin Queenston

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 13<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1808 From John Askin  
Jun<sup>r</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> F<sup>'</sup>eb<sup>y</sup>.

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 14<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1808

My Dear Father, This goes by our Express to York & [I] hope it will reach you some time in [the] next Month As this Courier returns immediately to this It will be impossible for me to hear from you before the opening of the Navigation.

In my last per the *Nancy*, I gave you advice of Madelaines sending Towels of course linen to my Dear Mother. I'm sorry I deceived you, thro the Negligence of Sam the Vagabond who had taken them to the Beach with a Keg

<sup>47</sup> Hedges Craddock, commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-first Regiment, June 25, 1803. No record of his service in Canada has been found.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

of Fish addressed to Capt<sup>n</sup> Whipple<sup>48</sup> & there left them. The keg & Bundle was brought home a few days ago by a Soldier who had taken them to the Block House not knowing to whom they appertained at that time but on enquiry found they belonged to me You'll be pleased to write to Capt<sup>n</sup> Whipple & inform him of the Circumstance; for he no doubt must have been verry pressing on insisting Mills to find his Fish.

The Winter set in verry early & has been verry hard We have 5 feet of snow about our houses & elsewhere about 4 feet regular from the severity of the Weather the Indians do not bring us any Rabbits pheasants or Partridges. they [the] only supply we receive from them is Trout, Maske-longe & Pickrel. I can assure you I never knew any set of poor devils so wretched & miserable as the Savages of this place. They are so far put to the Test of EO Economy that they make Mokasins of the Sturgeon & Maskelonge Skin Their Snow shoes are All laced with those skins & nothing else The Sturgeon skin appears to me to be nearly as strong as Calf skin I'm persuaded great improvement may be made on it by Tanning it properly. From the Great Scarsity of Indian Corn & other grain the Inhabitants of this place have been under the Necessity of killing all their Poultry. All the Hogs are starved to Death & it will be with great difficulty to prevent the Horned Cattle from the same fate owing to the Hay of the country which is verry bad & appears to have no substance thro [though] cut & cured in the proper season. I'm confident that 500 B<sup>ls</sup> of Corn would have been sold & at any price thats to say from 14/ to 16/ P<sup>r</sup> Bush<sup>l</sup>. Indeed I have been offered 48/ for a Bush<sup>l</sup>. It was verry fortunate that M<sup>r</sup> Duff shipt a few Bush<sup>ls</sup> in the *Nancy* for me, which will keep my mare, three Turkies

<sup>48</sup> John Whipple was a native of Manchester, Mass., who became an ensign in the Second U. S. Infantry, July 2, 1797, and came to Detroit in the capacity of an army officer. He became a captain, April 11, 1803, and resigned from the army, Jan. 31, 1807. He was a friend of Governor Hull, and through his influence was appointed associate judge of the Territorial District Court in 1809. He was proprietor of the Mansion House from 1818 to 1824, and register of deeds from 1826 to 1830, when he was appointed keeper of the light-house at La Plaisance Bay.

On Jan. 11, 1800, Whipple married Archange Peltier, daughter of Jacques Amable Peltier and Magdelene Levasseur, who was born in Detroit, Nov. 14, 1782. They had a family of fifteen children. Data adapted from *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 211-12; Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*; and Denissen, *op. cit.*

2 Ducks & a D<sup>a</sup> of fowls alive & I'm certainly better off than any one here. I'm confident that this place will be overstocked next year w<sup>t</sup> corn. The South West C<sup>o</sup> have ordered a large Supply & I hope the poor Devils of Indians will be more industrious in their cultivation of their Corn fields & not neglect them as they did last year.

A fine fishery has been found out lately 21 Miles from this. The White fish much larger than [at] S<sup>t</sup> Marys. 45 fills a Barr<sup>l</sup> but unfortunately that they do not pass untill the 15<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> or thereabouts. Ill endeavour next fall to get people who understand curing them as Cod fish [are] in Order to send a Parcel down on trial.

Potatoes & fish is a good & Wholesome food for my part I eat bread at Breakfast only, & fish & potatoes at Dinner & all the family follow my example (Madelaine excepted). We are all well & hearty & have been so Since we began to feed on fish & potatoes. The latter have not been in such abundance as usual. They now sell at 3/9 H<sup>x</sup> P<sup>r</sup> bush<sup>l</sup>. My Servants Eat Potatoes & fish for their Dinners for Bread is not to be seen but in the Mornings only. they prefer the same to any other food.

The South West C<sup>o</sup> are making great improvements & I understand from M<sup>r</sup> Crawford who is one of the Partners & an intimate friend of mine, that there will be upwards of 1500 of their men at this place next spring. It will induce Adventurers to visit this I hope tho I could not with propriety recommend any one to try the experment untill the 15<sup>th</sup> of June or later.

No doubt but you have seen Chennequy for he is like the Wandering Jew, but a greater scoundrel never was on earth. In short it is not in my Power to write you a full detail of the Rascals Conduct it would require a full quire of Paper. All I can assume you is that he is an Enemy to all Mankind. previous to his departure he Sowed discord amongst the Military & the Merch<sup>ts</sup> & attempted to do the same between the Merch<sup>ts</sup> & me but on being called to Account he appol[o]giz[ed] & swore Never to be guilty of the same. then he immediately went to the Command<sup>r</sup> Officer & endeavoured to persuade him to write to the Governor

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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against me. fortunately for the Vagabond it was not discovered untill his departure. No Set of People are more Sociable & friendly than we are all. We generally Dine, Drink Tea & sup together Once a Week & Once in each Week all meet together & play at Cards.

Should Cap<sup>t</sup> Trew [True] Visit you as he promised tell him We are all well & only want him to enliven our Society. The Children intend to write him at the opening of the Navigation agreeable to their promise.

I cannot recollect if you got a Power of Attorney from me for the purpose of preventing My Tenant from making away with my little Property If I have neglected it let me know & at the same time what opinion you have of his honesty &<sup>c</sup>.

Pray has M<sup>r</sup> Woods paid the Receiver Gen<sup>l</sup> or not I'm anxious to know as it may injure me. I intended last summer to have sent a Quantity of Cedar Bark in the spring for the purpose of Covering a Barn on my Lot, but from the experience I made of it here I do not intend sending any therefore Edwards must peel Elm Bark for that purpose. I found that Cedar Bark wants continual repairing it rends much more than the Elm.

Have the goodness to write me at the opening of the Navigation what you think respecting a War w<sup>h</sup> our Neighbours, or if there is any proba[bility] of Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kee being superseded by Elliott. I should be happy to know these as they concern me first on Acc<sup>t</sup> of Madelaines friend[s] & the other[s] apprehending want of fortitude on his part to sustain the shock without having recourse to—as to my own friends I know about Amherstburg I cannot trust them on this head.

Madelaine intended to write My Dear Mother but I have persuaded her to the contrary untill the water communication is open (postage of Letters being enormous). The Children are in good health & Join Madelaine & me in praying for your, My Dear Mother, Brother & Sisters health & Happiness

I remain My Dear Father y<sup>r</sup> dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

My most respectful Comp<sup>ts</sup> to the Com<sup>o</sup> & family & Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee, Woods, M<sup>o</sup>Intosh & all those who wish me well to wit. Duff, Richardson, Mills, M<sup>o</sup>Kay & Gilkinson

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Sandwich

*Endorsed:* St Josephs Jan<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1808 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Rec<sup>d</sup> the 24<sup>h</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> April 18<sup>th</sup> 1808

MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN AMHERSTBURG

Amherstburg Feb<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1808

My dear Sir I arrived here yesterday at 4 oClock P.M. Received my letters. That of the Governors approves mostly of what has been done—has no objection Stationing a detachment of Militia at Sandwich if necessary, but will not admit taken utencials from the Merchants. he hopes the barrack Store at Amherstburg will provide. he dos not confirm the nomination of Richardson, from his stay here being Local, but the matter is that the Militia law are now revising and it seems L<sup>t</sup> & deputy of countys are left out of which I am glad so that You Colonels and Adjutants will have the business upon hand. M<sup>r</sup> Gilkinson is approved of being Ensign & Adjutant in Your Reg<sup>t</sup>. nothing breaths from all letters but that the americans are to go to war with France & Spain God Grant it. Poor Cap<sup>t</sup> Hall. I am to order him immediately to Join his vessel at Fort Erie from his coming without his having a regular leave. few or no letters from Niagara. I am with very Sincere Wish for M<sup>rs</sup> Askin You &<sup>c</sup> &<sup>c</sup>

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

P. S. The Judicature bill has passed the lower house but its thought it will not the upper house. A. G.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane favord M<sup>r</sup> Bryce Wood

*Endorsed:* Amhurstburgh Feb<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1808 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> the 24<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

CULTIVATION OF HEMP PROPOSED

Queenston Feb<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1808

My Dear Father I was extremely happy to receive your affectionate letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> particularly as I had began to fear from having heard from you very seldom lately, that I had by some means or other incurred your displeasure.

I am not much surprised that that discontented selfish sett at Sandwich are jealous of my holding a Commission in the Militia there, while resident here. I should think it unfair myself, were they embodied and doing duty; but as that is not the case, I would think it very hard indeed if to retain my Commission, I must remain there against my interest, when I Know my Services are not required. So far from wishing to avoid doing my duty, I would be happy to have an opportunity; this I may perhaps soon have, if a report we have here, is true, that M<sup>r</sup> Rose<sup>49</sup> is gone home dissatisfied. Its very well known that many officers of the Army have leave of Absence from their Regiments for a very long time, sometimes years, and draw their pay, while those who remain with it are obliged to do their duty; yet this hardship is not prevented, although there must be great complaints made about it. I suspect one person particularly who would wish me out; because he thinks to get promotion by it, for which he would do anything almost; but I despise him; and in that I am not singular for few I believe who know him; but do. My Commission is dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 1807 as Cap<sup>t</sup>. If my services are required, I shall be ready to attend my duty, as soon as I am ordered; should they be needed you will please let me know; they cannot be I fancy but in case of a War with America, which I must know before you, as we get the News from New York much sooner than you can at Sandwich, therefore I shall be able if there should be a declaration to be up in time [to] receive my orders there.

<sup>49</sup> Sir George Henry Rose (1771-1855) was sent to Washington by his government in the latter part of 1807 charged with a commission to settle the difficulty growing out of the attack by the British ship *Leopard* upon the American war vessel *Chesapeake*, June 22, 1807. Rose's demands were deemed impossible by the U. S. government, and he shortly returned to England without achieving the object of his mission.

I am much afraid that flour or grain will never bear transporting from Detroit to Montreal; therefore the farmers will be obliged at last to turn their attention to something else; at present I know nothing which has any appearance of answering so well as hemp; but the preparation of it for manufacturing, requires so much labour that I believe it prevents people from cultivating it where labour is dear. The English farmers here do not seem to understand raising and curing of it, so well as I would have thought they did, and as the Canadians do not understand it at all, it will not be easy to get them to attempt it. Cap<sup>t</sup> Gilkinson has the Model of a Machine here for breaking & hackling it, which is very simple and would not cost more than £100, if that, to go with a horse. one to go with Water would be Still simpler for it would require but two wheels the water wheel & another small one and it would require a very small quantity of water to make it go.

The hemp of this Country is generally believed to be equal to that of Russia, but its always spoiled in curing. If we could supply the Mother Country with that article, what an advantage it would be to both it, & ourselves.

I am glad of James's coming down; tho sorry of the occasion. I hope he may do well here. I had a letter from him which reached me before yours tho of a later date.

I have more to say, but I am afraid that I will miss the opportunity I have of sending this, if I do; and as there is another opportunity in a few days I shall now conclude.

Mr. Hamilton and the family are well. that you and my Dear Mother may enjoy the same blessing are the prayers of Your Dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Feb<sup>r</sup> 25 1808 Charles Askin to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> the 18 March and Answ<sup>d</sup>



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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WAR CLOUD WANES IN DETROIT

Amherstburgh 21<sup>st</sup> March 1808

Sir from the favorable accounts from the States of America, that there is not at present nor for some months to Come; any appearance of actual hostility between them & Great Britain also that the Imbodied detachment of Militia at Detroit are dismissed for the present.

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Grant<sup>50</sup> referring for the present Calling, or requiring, any Militia into this Garrison to relieve the Detachment doing duty there; the Colonel dispenses after the 25<sup>h</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> having any Militia doing du[ty] till further orders. Youl pleas to dismiss the detachment lately ordered from Your Regiment, directing them to be in readiness at a short warning when called upon

I am Sir Your most Humble Servant

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

L<sup>t</sup> of the County [of] Essex

Co<sup>l</sup> John Askin Comding the N.E. regiment of Militia

P. S. I write this before hand, waiting for Co<sup>l</sup> Grants direction to me concerning his dispencing with requiring [any] body of Militia at present. but my dear Sir he is very tedious in all his undertaken tho a good officer A Grant

*Addressed:* Colonel John Askin Commanding the North East Regiment of Militia of the County of Essex A.G.

*Endorsed:* Orders The Lieu<sup>t</sup> of the County to Col Askin dated at Amherstburgh March y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1808. Rec<sup>d</sup> same night

INDEBTEDNESS OF ELIJAH BRUSH

Detroit 25 March 1808

Dear sir I send Horrace over with some grape vines and

<sup>50</sup> Jasper Grant was commissioned lieutenant in the Fourth (King's Own) Regiment, April 15, 1785, and in the Seventieth Regiment, May 1, 1788. He was made captain in the Forty-first Regiment on Dec. 31, 1793; major, Sept. 22, 1798; lieutenant colonel, Sept. 25, 1803. He was serving as commandant at Amherstburg in October, 1806, and was still there as late as Sept. 15, 1808. See British army lists.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

currant bushes for Mr<sup>s</sup> Askin. Alice desires her mother to send her a large basket that she says she has there. With respect to what Mr Todd has said it is true there is yet a ballance of 160 dollars due on the orchard with interest. I have always anticipated to pay off this debt with consider[able] further remittances with the money that I Expected to have got from Gov<sup>r</sup> Hull he yet stands indebted to me about 1420 dollars [If] I should not be able to get any money from him before I shall be able to discharge the 160 dollars in June next perhaps before. I have some months ago forwarded the final certificate of this place which entitles me to a patent to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the U. S. Treasury but there are some objections made to giving it at this time the Lord only knows what they are adieu

Yours truly

E Brush

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Straban

*Endorsed:* March 25 1808 E Brush to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin relative to a Ball. due Mess<sup>s</sup> T & McG Rec<sup>d</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> same day

FROM ROBERT HAMILTON TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir That I have not been a regular Correspondent of late dus not arise I assure you from Want of Respect. But the sad Evil which befell my family in the Course of this Winter, damped my Spirits & sett me at Adversion with every exertion that was not Called for by absolute duty.<sup>51</sup> Time with his Lenient powers weakens these unpleasant Sensations, And for most of the Evils of Life Patience is the only solid cure.

I am thankful to my freinds for the kind part they partook in my Affliction. My Young folks have suffered a sad Loss but still have we not Reason to be thankfull. God has given them good Constitutions & he has kindly enabled me to give them the opportunity of procuring [a] Good Education which I esteem the first Duty of a Parent. I hear regularly from my Boys in Schenectady They seem to do as I could wish. My Youngest is still with me, but

<sup>51</sup> The allusion is to the death of his wife, Mary Herkimer Hamilton, on Jan. 26, 1808. On the subject of Robert Hamilton's family relations, see *B. H. R.*, I, 188.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

goes to Niagara next Month where he has already two Brothers. My little Girl will go to Kingston to her Aunts for some time, till of fitt age to go to a publick School at Quebec.

I give you a most irregular Account of my family. I come now to the oldest of Whose Marriage you perhaps have heard. Finding his Attachment so firmly fixed that neither time nor Absence had effect on it, I ceased opposition & let him have his own Way. The Girl he has married<sup>52</sup> seems extremly well disposed to make him happy, & probably may be more succesful than one taken from a higher Grade. This is his Bussiness. I hope the way he is now put in, will enable him with Industry & Economy to live [live] Comfortably. Wh[ile he] Continues to Merit it, nothing in my power which can be done with Justice to myself & his Brethern Shall be Wanting to promote his Success. Charles now speaks for himself all others here Join in most affectionate Compliments to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & all your family & all our freinds

I remain D<sup>r</sup> Sir Yours most Sincerly

R Hamilton

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Queenston April 23 1808.

P. S. When either of the Witnesses to the Deed you gave for Land to Nathaniel Howell, John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> or Israel Rulland shall come to Detroit have the goodness to procure their signature to the Memorial sent up, & affidavit that they saw the Deed Executed. This is much wanted. R. H.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston April the 23<sup>d</sup> 1808 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> May Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> of Sep<sup>t</sup>

NEWS FROM DETROIT<sup>53</sup>

Sandwich 28<sup>th</sup> April 1808

Dear Brother, From a sense of Duty which I know is

<sup>52</sup> For the marriage of Robert, eldest son of Robert Hamilton and Catherine Askin, see *ibid.*, 541.

<sup>53</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

due, from me to you, and which I have heretofore been difficient in, I avail myself of this, opportunity of writing you, which though Late, I hope will be acceptable

\* \* \* \* 54

as I have no News just now, I may as well tell you how I have disposed of myself, as you must undoubtedly feel anxious for my welfare. From political reasons as well as private interests, I have left the other side and have been over here since Last Faul. As I never intended practising on the other Side, It would have been a folly to have continued there, And as our Law directs that a person shall study five years in the Province with an attorney, it would have been so much time lost. My Father has therefore bound me to M<sup>r</sup> Elliott, after having tried M<sup>r</sup> Dickson at Niagara, who had as many Clerks as he wanted. The terms of the Agreement are; that M<sup>r</sup> Elliott is to board, Lodge, and wash me, and my Father is to clothe me. he is a good man, and Im sure will Do, what he can for me. I have been here since the Month of February, and am now very busy writing. I find that there is a great deal more to be learnt here than on the other Side, as there is more formality observed in the practice. James has become very industrious. he goes up to the Point every Day with La Roche, and stays there all Day. James is the only one left of the family, as you have undoubtedly before this time heard of our Dear Sister Nellys being married<sup>55</sup> poor Nelly regretted very much that you was not here. she hopes it will meet with your approbation, as I suppose it undoubtedly will, it being, the best match in the country he being of an excellent character, and in a Good situation. he is a very good husband, and for my part, I can say he is a good Brother in Law. they both beg to be remembered to you. Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee is coming to live at [illegible] in a few days. Colonel Clause being ordered to stay here, has excited some apprehension to Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee's being ordered to [illegible] which I hope may not be the case. There still prevails some apprehensions of a war here, with America. They seem to carry

<sup>54</sup> The lines omitted pertain to family details not of interest to present-day readers.

<sup>55</sup> Nelly (Ellen Phyllis) Askin married Richard Pattinson. For their careers, see *B. H. R.*, I, 594.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

the Embargo act pretty far here for the people can't go over to the Mills. I have no more news, but that we are all well. Weddings, M<sup>r</sup> Godfroy & Miss May<sup>56</sup> were married yesterday, & M<sup>r</sup> Hickman & Miss Hull<sup>57</sup> are to be married today or tomorrow. I remain

Dear Brother in hopes of seeing you next month, as I understood you was coming.

Your forever affectionate Brother  
Alex<sup>r</sup> D. Askin

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin at Queenstown Favored per M<sup>r</sup> Jones.

*Endorsed:* April 28<sup>th</sup> 1808 From Alex<sup>r</sup> Askin.

FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES AND WAR CLOUDS

Amherstburg 6<sup>th</sup> May 1808

My dear Sir I was favoured with Yours [a] few days Ago by the Chairmaker and would certainly give him part of the money, but cannot get any for bills. So hard to get money here that the Sailors, which is a great shame, has had no pay this five months. Reynolds Says he cannot get money whos bills are immediately answered geting any thing from here to your place is very precarious. I therefore wrote Gilkinson to use his influence with my best respects with

<sup>56</sup> For the Godfroy family line, see *ibid.*, 63; for the line of James May, see *ibid.*, 307. Gabriel Godfroy, son of Gabriel Jacques Godfroy and Mary Couture and grandson of Jacques Godfroy and Louisa Clotilda Chapoton, was born in Detroit on July 3, 1783. He married Elizabeth Ann, daughter of James May and Rose St. Cosme, April 27, 1808. They were the parents of fourteen children, born in the period, 1808-32. He died in 1848. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>57</sup> Harris Hampden Hickman married Ann Binney Hull, daughter of Governor William Hull, April 28, 1808. Hickman was a lawyer who is said to have come to Detroit from Virginia. In 1807, he served as captain in a militia battalion which was mustered for service during the pending excitement over difficulties with Great Britain. In the spring of 1810, he was appointed by the President collector of customs at Mackinac, but the Senate refused to confirm the appointment; whether he actually entered upon the duties of the office, we have not learned. He was commissioned captain in the Nineteenth U. S. Infantry, March 12, 1812, and contemporary papers in the B. H. Coll. disclose that, in December, 1814, and January, 1815, he was commandant of Detroit. He was honorably discharged from the army on June 15, 1815. A letter of William Woodbridge, Jan. 12, 1822, states that Hickman had not been a resident of Detroit for several years past, while one written by Governor Hull to Solomon Sibley, May 6, 1820, discloses that Mrs. Hickman was then living in Hollowell, Me. They were the parents of two children, Anna, born in 1809, and Sarah, born, June 19, 1811. Data derived from mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*; and Weygant, *Hull Family*, *passim*.

the M<sup>c</sup>Intoshs to get [a few] pounds of paint and a gallon of oil for M<sup>r</sup> Barth to paint the Callash if its possible to Collect all the parts together. I have had answers to my application throu the Col<sup>o</sup> Burnet & Mathews to the Duke of York. They write me the most expedient way and best is for the recommendation Coming throu Sir J<sup>o</sup> Henry Craig<sup>58</sup> Colonel Burns desires his Compliments to you. all the letters from below dreads a war. large Forces coming out from England horse and foot six or eight field officers as inspectors of the Militia in Nova Scotia & the two Canadas.

You shall hear from me from below. My affection to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin.

Yours Sincerely

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant

John Askin, Esq

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh May 6 1808 Commodore Grant to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

LAND TITLES IN DETROIT

Montreal 1 June 1808

Dear Sir During M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills confinement by sickness & at the time when an agent, M<sup>r</sup> Gillespie,<sup>59</sup> was sent to Washington by the Mackinac Company, we wrote a Letter to M<sup>r</sup> Erskin[e] our minister Plenipotentiary,<sup>60</sup> complaining

<sup>58</sup> Sir James Henry Craig (1748-1812) was Governor-in-Chief of Canada from 1807 to 1811. For an account of his career, see Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.

<sup>59</sup> George Gillespie was engaged in the Northwest trade for two decades prior to the War of 1812. He is said to have had trading establishments at Mackinac and Green Bay as early as 1794; and in 1798 was reported as "preparing to build" near the new blockhouse on St. Joseph Island. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XII, 282. In 1805, he signed a memorial of Montreal merchants to the government complaining of American restrictions upon their trade within the borders of the United States (*ibid.*, XXV, 221); and the visit to Washington here mentioned was made when he went as their spokesman to protest against restrictions imposed by the Embargo and Non-Importation acts (*ibid.*, XXV, 241). The present letter indicates that this mission was successful. See also *post*, 604. He continued his trading activities as late as 1812, after which further knowledge of him is lacking. Data derived from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*. A few scattering Gillespie manuscripts are in the B. H. Coll.

<sup>60</sup> David Montague Erskine (1776-1855) was the eldest son of Thomas, first Lord Erskine. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford; was called to the bar in 1802; and in July, 1806, was appointed minister to the United States. In July, 1799, he had married a

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

[torn] of Congress, which allowed no more then 640 acres of Land, being granted or confirmed to Any Individual for prior Claims on the west Side of the Detroit River. a Copy of that letter has been forwarded to you by M<sup>r</sup> Todd, but owing to some misapprehensions, a copy of ours to you, was not kept, so that we do not recollect the date. It would seem however that our application to M<sup>r</sup> Erskin[e] has produced some Effect, for a new law has been passed on the subject, and a news paper containing it having come to our hands, we inclose it for your information.<sup>61</sup>

You will no doubt remark that by the first section all lands granted by the French Government prior to the treaty of Paris, which we think was in October 1762, and by the British prior to the treaty of G. Britain & America 3 Sept. 1783, may be claimed up to 1 January next & certain things are to be done for that purpose and by the 4 Sect. That part of a former law which allowed of one Tract or Parcel only being granted to any one Person, is done away, and by referring to this last Act you will find all the particulars, therefore we do not subscribe them but refer you thereto. of one thing we deem it proper to advise you that, on no account will we become Purchasers of any Lands whatsoever on the American side. this relaxation by the American Government arises in our opinion (perhaps in part from our representation) chiefly from knowing, that the old French Settlers on this Side & their dependents were & could not be otherwise than highly displeas'd over the original Grants to their ancesters being set at naught & at this [torn] willing to conciliate them, but be this as it may, we think it will give you an opportunity of serving yourself & us, and we are persuaded you will avail yourself of it

We are, Dear Sir Your very Ob<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill  
Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich Upper Canada

daughter of General John Cadwallader of Philadelphia; and as minister he was very friendly to America. Dissatisfaction with his conduct of negotiations over the Non-Intercourse Act led to his recall in 1809. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

<sup>61</sup> The allusion is to the Act of April 25, 1808, 10 Cong. 1 Sess., chap. 67.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Endorsed:* Montreal June 1<sup>st</sup> 1808 Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>o</sup> 16 & Answ<sup>d</sup> the 17<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>62</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 17<sup>th</sup> June 1808

My Dear Father Your sundry favours of the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> April last I rec<sup>d</sup> on the 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> which gave my little family universal joy to find that You, My Dear Mother & all our Relations & friends were well. May the Almighty grant a long continuance of the same to all is our Fervant Prayers.

Madelaine & myself are truly happy to find that Nelly is so well provided for I have every reason to believe that they will be a verry happy couple. Please present our Sincere wishes for their welfare & prosperity.

\* \* \* \* \*

In my Letters p<sup>r</sup> the Winters Express I mentioned the favourable prospects I had of this place improving & the flattering hopes of additional Society from the large Building that the South West C<sup>o</sup> were puting up to wit, Mess Houses, Dwelling Houses stores &c &c & the langu[a]ge held out that the Agents, Members & *commis* were to live at the post. The whole vanished at the arrival of the Agent of that C<sup>o</sup> from Montreal. It appears that they have settled their Business w<sup>h</sup> the President of the U. S which is that their Goods will be imported into Makina & their Furs exported to any place they please without any Molestation or interruption whatever on the part of the U. S. There is two fine stores & a Dwelling House remain at their Newly improved point: which is half a Mile distance from the Garrison There was a talk at M<sup>r</sup> Gillispies arrival from New York of demolishing the Stores & taking them to Makina but I believe they found it would be attended with a great deal of Expençe.

Rum sold at 4/ per Gallon all last winter at this place

<sup>62</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>63</sup> The paragraph omitted concerns the collection of certain debts due the writer.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Corn not to be had at 4/ p<sup>r</sup> Bushel— No Linen, thread Leather Cloth, Hats Shoes or smoked Deerskins, could be had at any price. Deerskins will be plenty in a short time. Whisky, High Wines Butter & Flour a Drug all winter Whisky could not sell for more than 10/yk H. Wines 14/ to 16/yk. Butter 2/yk. Flour could not be sold at 8½ the Barr<sup>l</sup> good Pork sells at this present time at 1/yk p<sup>r</sup> lb.

An assortment of Dry goods consisting of Shawls Linens printed Cottons, Teas, Coffee, Spirits, flannels, Hats Stockings Shoes Leather threads, Tapes, calico<sup>s</sup> Silk cot thread stript<sup>d</sup> Cottons Janes, fustians, & Second Cloths to the Am<sup>t</sup> of 5 or 600 Dollars would have sold verry well to the Soldiers, it appears that they have not spent their pay (so report says) I mention this to you (at the same time do not wish that it should be known that the Information came from me for Reasons) first that Im on a good footing w<sup>h</sup> the S. W. C<sup>o</sup> the 2<sup>d</sup> that it does not look well for a person in a Department such as I'm connected w<sup>h</sup> to have anything to say about commerce.

Since the Navigation is opened I have found out the Method of geting the Indians to kill Bears they have bro<sup>t</sup> me Bear meat several times which was uncommon before my arrival. I cannot complain as yet for want of provissions, the Indians have furnished me w<sup>h</sup> abundance of Ducks, fish, Beaver Meat, Hares & Pheasants. its true it has cost me a whole Barr<sup>l</sup> of Whisky & Numbers of Loaves of Bread. However I'll be better provided for next year, having planted plenty of Potatoes, a Garden well furnished w<sup>h</sup> Cabbage plants for the winter & great prospects of the onions I planted. I have a field of Oats which looks well & promising; Eight bushels were sowed & to tell you the truth my Horses & Cattle were nearly starved in order to save what I did for seed. Excluding of the field where the oats are another field for pasturage was fenced in by Johnny & [some] Indians it contains four Acres well inclosed w<sup>h</sup> Cedar poles w<sup>h</sup> posts & pins & clover & Timothy Sown in it for the Calves The Apple Tree plants have been planted out & have taken verry well. We have abundance of good Radishes every day and Spanish spinage Greens (Melons, cucumbers, carrots Beats

& Selery the grubs have entirely destroyed). I have been verry unsuccessful w<sup>h</sup> the two yews I brought w<sup>h</sup> me they had two lambs each, & after feeding the old ones well w<sup>h</sup> Turnips & paying great attention & attendance they all died I am again with my old stock to commence raising *De nouveaux*

Brush disappointed me. he was to have sent me a Barr<sup>l</sup> of Cyder if not two. he could as well Smuggle Cyder to our side as wine to his. If he had sent it to Makina addressed to Doc<sup>t</sup> Mitchel & wrote the Doc<sup>t</sup> that it was intended for me it would have been in my store House long ago. We have a method in this Quarter, unknown below how to import & export into the U. S. Per the *Nancy* youll receive a keg of Sugar marked in your Name which I send you & one keg mark'd P address'd to your Care which is intended for M<sup>rs</sup> Peltier & Several things which are intended as addressed in a Bundles marked in your Name

19<sup>th</sup> M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gilvery<sup>64</sup> & M<sup>c</sup>Kay accompany by Count Chabot arrived from Montreal yesterday M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kay informed me that J<sup>n</sup> B<sup>te</sup> Cadot<sup>65</sup> was appointed by S<sup>r</sup> John Johnson to be Interpreter in my stead & that M<sup>r</sup> Todd dined w<sup>h</sup> those Gentlemen at LaChine & was greatly displeased at S. J. J. for having taken that appointment from me. I once esteemed hopes that fortune would favour & enable me to pay my debt but Alas the Wheel is turn'd again & unless the Clerkship is added to Storekeeper I cannot live on a Dollar per day & will have to abandon this, which will be verry hard after going to such expence as I have in getting my little property. I cannot comprehend the meaning of appointing a Man in my stead without notifying to me the reason, Unless that S<sup>r</sup> John has been displeased at the L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> having appointed me instead of

64 For the career of William McGillivray, see *B. H. R.*, I, 533-34.

65 For the Cadotte line, see *ibid.*, 52. The precise family connection of Jean Baptiste, here mentioned, has not been determined. Evidently he is the individual whom Sir James Craig, on May 11, 1808, directed Lieutenant-Governor Gore to appoint as interpreter at St. Joseph in place of Askin, whom Sir James had been informed was "not well qualified." *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXV, 247. About the end of January, 1810, Captain Thomas Dawson, commanding at St. Joseph, summarily removed Askin as storekeeper and appointed Cadotte to replace him. This action was repudiated by Governor Gore, who characterized Cadotte as unfit for the place by reason of his habits of extreme intemperance. See *ibid.*, XXIII, 84, 86.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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its coming from him. No doubt you'll be able to get some Information on that head from Col Claus who is to reside below. Be pleased to get Richardson or those who are intimate w<sup>h</sup> him to ascertain the reason. M<sup>r</sup> Todd a well-wisher of the family show[ed] signs of his sorrow on my occasion. He, M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & Richardson perhaps may be able to get the Clerkship which is 2/4 [illegible] p<sup>r</sup> day. as the present clerk has not been here since November last & cannot subsist on that salary its probable he will not return. Madelaine joins me in fervant prayers, for Your, My dear Mother, Sisters & Brothers Health & prosperity I am My Dear Father

Y<sup>r</sup> Dutiful son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* recv<sup>d</sup> Ab<sup>t</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> July Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11th

INDENTURE OF CHARLOTTE MOSES

This Indenture made at Detroit in the Territory of Michigan this twenty-fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eight Between Charlotte Moses a mulatto or pawnee Girl of Detroit now of the one part and John Askin Esquire of Straben in upper Canada of the other part Witnessst that the said Charlotte for the consideration hereafter mentioned and which on the part and behalf of the said John Askin his Executors Administrators and assigns shall be observed fulfilled and Kept hath put placed and bound herselfe and by these presents Doth put place and bind herselfe to the said John Askin his Executors Administrators and assigns as his Covenant servant to serve for the Term of three years from the first Day of November next insueing the date hereof during all which time the said Charlotte her Said Master shall well and truly observe and obey. She shall not at any time absent herselfe from his said service. She Shall do him no injury or knowingly suffer any to be done by others but in all things shall behav herselfe as a good and faithfull servant ought and is obliged to do. In consideration whereof the

said John Askin for himselfe his Executors [and] Administrators Doth covnant promis and agree that at the Expiration of the said Term of three years upon condition that the said Charlotte shall behav herselfe as a good and faithfull servant ought and is obliged to Do he will liberate and discharge hir from bondage and from his said service giving unto hir hir freedom and liberty

the said John Askin will also find and provide the said Charlotte with good and sufficient diet and cloathing during the continuance of her Servitude In testimony whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeabl[y] Set their hand and affixed their seals at Detroit aforesaid the day month and year first above written

Signed sealed & Del<sup>d</sup> In presence of

her

Charlotte X Moses

*Endorsed:* Charlottes Indentures

mark

JOHN CAMPBELL SLAIN

St Josephs 17<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1808

My Dear Father, My Letter per the *General Hunter* was very short, owing to the Business I had on hand, which consisted of Report of Survey &c & my mind wholly taken up with the narrow escape I had of my being superseded without any reasons assigned for the same. I entertain hopes that my Enemees will let me alone after they have been so compleated frustrated in their operations. Count Chabot will I'm persuaded speak to the Governor in Chief in my behalf, thats to say he will give His Excellency an Account of my Character & abilities.

No doubt you have been informed of the unfortunate meeting between M<sup>r</sup> Redford Crawford<sup>66</sup> of the Mississipi & M<sup>r</sup> J Campbell<sup>67</sup> Agent of Indian Affairs for the United

<sup>66</sup> Redford Crawford was a brother of Lewis Crawford, for whom see *ante*, 576. Both were actively identified with the fur trade of the upper Mississipi region. For the death of Redford, see *post*, 688.

<sup>67</sup> John Campbell was engaged in trade on the upper Mississipi for several years prior to his appointment, in 1802, as U. S. Indian agent at Prairie du Chien. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 323.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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States of the Ouisconsin. it appears a misunderstanding took place over the Bottle, a Challenge took place, they met & were prevented from accomplishing their ends by the Makina Justice but agreed to meet some place along Lake Huron near or about the Detour (the place I cannot ascertain exactly) where poor Campbell received a Mortal Wound. he was brought to this [place] in a Canoe mann'd by American Soldiers, who put him ashore & immediatly returned to the American Side. the unfortunate man Died the Second day after his arrival & his Corps was taken back to Makina, agreeable to a wish he had expressed on his arrival. Redford Crawford & his second immediatly went back to Makina, from the place where the Duel took place w<sup>h</sup> his Second Robert Dickson. As its probable that M<sup>r</sup> Crawford & Dickson will return to the Country where this mans family resides, I'm apprehensive that they will meet with a great deal of difficulty & its the general Oppinion that they will loose what property they may take in [to] that Country.

I send M<sup>r</sup> J B<sup>t</sup> Barthe Sen<sup>r</sup> a Mocock of Sugar addressd to your Care One for M<sup>rs</sup> Badishon w<sup>t</sup> Madelain & my Compt<sup>ts</sup>. a Mocock marked IP for M<sup>r</sup> Peltier & a Bundle. you'll receive One Mocock Sugar a Bundle of Mats, & a Mocock of dried Huckleberrys which you'll please accept of. The sugar is very clean I believ[e] having recived it from a Clean woman. Madelaine & the Children are well & all join me in Sincere wishes for Your & My Dear Mother[']s Health & prosperity Our Love to Charles, James, Alx<sup>r</sup> Alice, Nelly, Brush & Pattenson. I remain My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

Comp<sup>ts</sup> to M<sup>r</sup> L. Barthe inform him I have not forgot him but I cannot procure at present what Stone he wants for pipes.

An Indian by the Name of Kayshaymekoquan from Saging a place where the *Weasel* was lost informs me that he found an Anchor at that place & that J<sup>n</sup> Marie Bobien claimed it as yours, & rec<sup>d</sup> it, but afterward told the Indian that it was not yours, but it had been lost by M<sup>r</sup> L. Barthe

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

when commanding a Kings vessel & that it was to be ret<sup>d</sup> to the King. this happened three years ago that Beaubien got the Anchor

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Aug<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1808 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> then.

AMERICAN RASCALITY DENOUNCED

Montreal 29<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1808

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

My dear friend By the bearer M M<sup>c</sup>Gregor you will recive my Letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> his being detained gives me the opportunity of acknolegi[n]g receipt<sup>t</sup> of your favor of the 3<sup>d</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> you may remember I predicted that Smiths answering for payment was only to deceive you, and tho I will always be glad to hear from you & to know you are well, yet I am so out of patiance with your Rascally Country, and seeing that every letter only makes me regret I Ever knew it, your writing must be painfull to you as it is to me to read, for I see there is no chance of ever getting any thing for all my property that cost so much and from various disappointments I realy want it. from what you say neither Rulund nor Smith owes the Money and there it ends, and tho you dont say so directly yet I suppose all our property on the American Side is gon[e], and M<sup>r</sup> Brush appears no better than the rest indeed I am so vexed altho I must feel the want of so much property, I never expect to hear any thing good from the Country. God Bless you

Isaac Todd

P S it realy exceeds any thing I Ever read of that a Mortgage for a Just debt, is of no use and that Lands bo<sup>t</sup> & Registred shall be given to others, it cant be. I will not be surprised if I live until 1<sup>st</sup> Octt<sup>r</sup> 1810 (the time M<sup>r</sup> Brush is to pay for the property he bo<sup>t</sup>) that he claims it as his without paying a penny principal or Interest such is my opinion from what I have experienced, that if a Man wanted my coat I would give it fearing if I went to Law he would get my shirt allso. indeed the American Govern<sup>t</sup> is a

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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rascally one and calculated to screen Rogues and it seems your side is little better.

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Montreal Sep<sup>r</sup> 29<sup>t</sup> 1808 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Answ<sup>d</sup>

DIFFICULTIES OVER LAND TITLES

Strabane October the 8<sup>th</sup> 1808

My Dear Friend, I have hardly courage to take up the pen to write you; Rascality and disappointments in what relates to your and my good friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills deb[t]s, & claims as well as my own, has nearly worn me out; and if it was not for poverty & old age; I think I would gladly leave a country where I had lived So Long, but [which] is so changed for the worst; £7 4s is all I received for you since I sent you my last accounts, so far as I can recollect; and though I accounted to you for £100 for a house I sold Doctor Brown, and though he is in as good circumstances as most people at Detroit, I have as yet recieved but £5 and his account will exceed £20, so that I still lye out of about £30. money at Detroit is very scarce; and what's got seems to be laid out in Buildings. The supreme Court, has been Long sitting there and not yet finished, no End to suits, and most of them rascally ones; I often put M<sup>r</sup> Brush in mind of what he owes you and M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill, and as often he promises soon to make payments, but when the time comes, he finds himself without the means; he like most others is too fond of improvements. the place he bought of me is now in great order and valuable, but he would have done much better to have made it Less so, and been more regular in his payments to you. He certainly in my opinion has more true value than he owes. The G—— I think is pretty deep in his Debt, for his practice Is worth a great deal of money; he is going to his Lands near the Ohio, after Court is over; I have often advised him to sell them and pay you off. I wish he would follow my advice. he has met with no purchasers as yet, for what he bought from M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and you; at the time I imagine he thought to sell it out in Lots being so near the Town, but he has not

as yet disposed of one. Mr Brush is certainly a regular, industrious, sober man, and except in improvements is by no means extravagant for a man who *earns so much by his profession.*

I am quite at a Loss what steps to take relative to Mr M<sup>c</sup>Gill's and your claims to Land in the Michigan Territory. I may add more expence and yet as the Law now stands not stren[g]then the claims; constant possession & cultivation on all the tracts from July 1796 to 1807 is what the commissioners require, otherwise they can not grant certificates; now though all were possessed before 1796 very few have been constantly occupied and improved since; surely unless congress means to rob people of property for which they paid a valuable consideration; they must alter this Law, and strong representations from Montreal, and this by the Interested should be made for that purpose.

In my Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September Last I mention the unpleasant issue of my suit with Mr Thomas Smith relative to the mortgage; neither my Law[y]er or self are yet determined, whether or no to apply for a new trial, the costs of this one will I suppose be £30 or £40 which with twenty pound, formerly for a non Suit is very provoking & expensive, when a man only seeks for what is clearly his right: Ruland does not deny that all that's done is only taking the security of the Land & making the Debt become his and which he is not able to pay; I have one redress yet, which is better than Israel Ruland alone; which is Ebenezer Allan<sup>68</sup> & Israel Rulands original note, for what was due you £128 with Interest from June 1800. Allan I believe able to pay and perhaps it would be better to sue him, for though he gave a mortgage on Lands to Ruland, & Ruland to me in order to secure that debt with something due me, Yet as he joined to invalidate the mortgage by the Testimony of his Brother; he should be made to suffer; Smith will in all probability get the Land, having bought it of Allan; dishonest men generally play tricks on each other; Smith made me some payments on Rulands Mortgage, but yet there is still due me £246 of which sum 190£ odd, should be yours; Smith & Ruland say they gave Mr Brush in part

68 Probably the individual whose career is sketched in *B. H. R.*, I, 559-60.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

payment of the Mortgage, a Saddlers *note* for £100; this he positively denies, and says it was given in part payment of a Judgment he obtained agn<sup>st</sup> Ruland for a M<sup>r</sup> Pell and granted a receipt to Ruland accordingly. however this may be I never received a penny of that £100; and M<sup>r</sup> Brush likewise says he can not give [it] to me, as he recieved it in payment for another. I have now explained to you in the best manner I can this dmnd complicated matter and have on this subject only to add that if in the end, you should fall Short of *your original sum, with Interest, I will account to you in the proportion your debt against Ruland bore to mine for what payment Smith or Ruland made on the mortgage.*

Under cover herewith I send you the copy of a Claim I gave in among many others in April 1803 agreeable to Law. of this Tract I have not got one foot, nor according to the present Law will I have one, and yet I hear that certificates are granted to sundry people on & near that Tract; how this is done I can not concieve, as no people Living (my people excepted), and a M<sup>r</sup> Connors family were at that place in 1796 which the Law requires or for Long after.<sup>69</sup> A Caveat I think should be entered and sent to the Secretary of the Treasury ag<sup>nt</sup> giving patents on such certificates: the fair Law would be to confirm Tracts of Land purchased honestly & improved before the Americans took possession of the posts, and this is what our Government should insist on so far as it *regards British subjects.*

I believe I forgot an exchange proposed by M<sup>r</sup> Park in May Last I now inclose it. The N<sup>o</sup> of the Lot he wants is I think 37 between Sandwich & Malden, it has no houses or fences on it now. May health and happiness attend you, are the most sincere wishes of me and mine.

Adieu my Dear Friend

(Signed) John Askin (L. S.)

Isaac Todd Esquire

*Endorsed:* Copy of a Letter from John Askin Senior, a[t] Strabane to Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal. Dated the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1808

<sup>69</sup> Apparently this was Askin's purchase from the Moravians near Mount Clemens, for which see *ante*, 496-97.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

APPEAL TO BRITISH MINISTER OVER LAND TITLES

Montreal 2<sup>d</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1808

Dear Sir The very friendly attention which you gave a letter I wrote you jointly with M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill on the 5<sup>th</sup> March last respecting our Claims to Lands on the Michigan Teretory of the United States induces me again to trouble you on this Subject. In consequence of the Law that was passed by Congress, extending the time for producing proofs to such Lands until the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1809 we addressed our Agent John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> of Sandwich, advesing him to aveil himself of it and to claim all the Lands we had in that Teretory & tho he has used every endeavour & produced proofs of the Lands having been granted by the French & confirmed, or granted by the British, as appears by the Regesters, was settled & improved, and the regular purchase & Transfere from the former Owner, yet he cannot obtain the necessary Certificates from the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> & writes as follows, "I am quite at a loss what steps to take relative to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills & your claim to Lands in the Michigan Teretory I may add more expence but (as the Commissioners Interpret the Law) not strengthen your claims. Constant possission & cultivation on all the Tracts from July 1796 to 1807 is what they require otherwise they say they cannot grant Certificates, and tho all were possessed before July 1796 few have been constantly occupied and improved since that time; but assuredly Congress means not to dispoil People of their Property for which they paid a Valuable Concoideration, the Law ought to be alt[e]red otherwise the most flagarent injustice will be done." As we were induced to make those Purchases agreeable to the inclosed State[ment], knowing that by Treaty the Property of British Subjects, were secured to them, and that they ought in Justice nor Law to be deprived of them, I should hope the Law may be alt[e]red so as to preserve the rights of Individuals & especially British Subjects by repealing so much of it, as requires, constant occupation and improvement since 1796, & by extending the period of Ulterior proof until January or June 1810 every person interested would then have time to bring such proof forward. if the Titles are fair & supportable, and that part had been improved,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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and I have reason to beli[e]ve the Commissioners appointed to grant Certificates do not act to British subjects, as they ought.

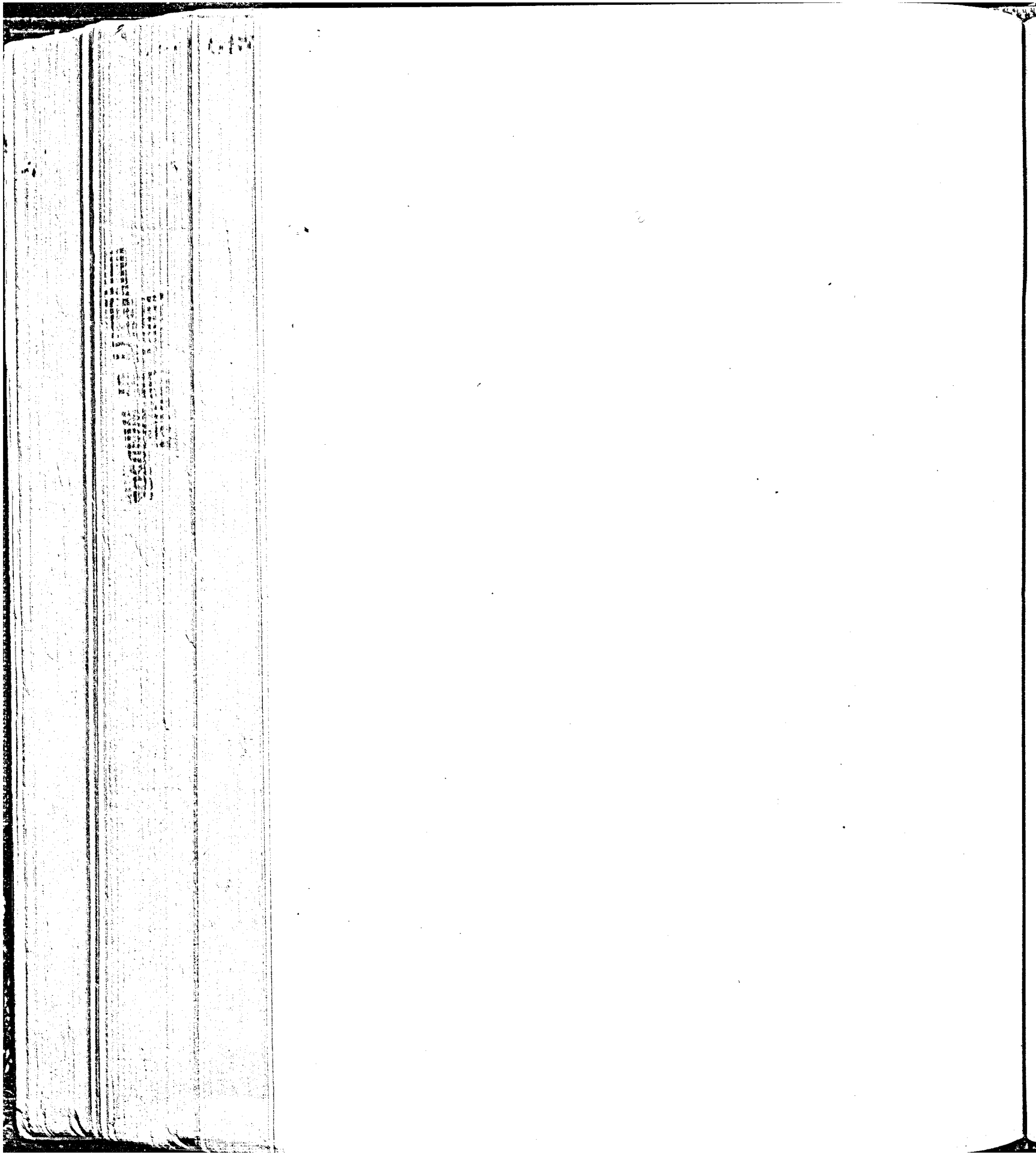
I had the Honor of receiving your very friendly letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> May also that by your Brother & M<sup>r</sup> Sterling to whome I paid every attention in my Power it will give me Pleasure to do so to any friend of yours. if your Brother is at Washington please present my best respects.

With Sentements of respect I have the Honor to be

Your Most Obed<sup>t</sup> Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

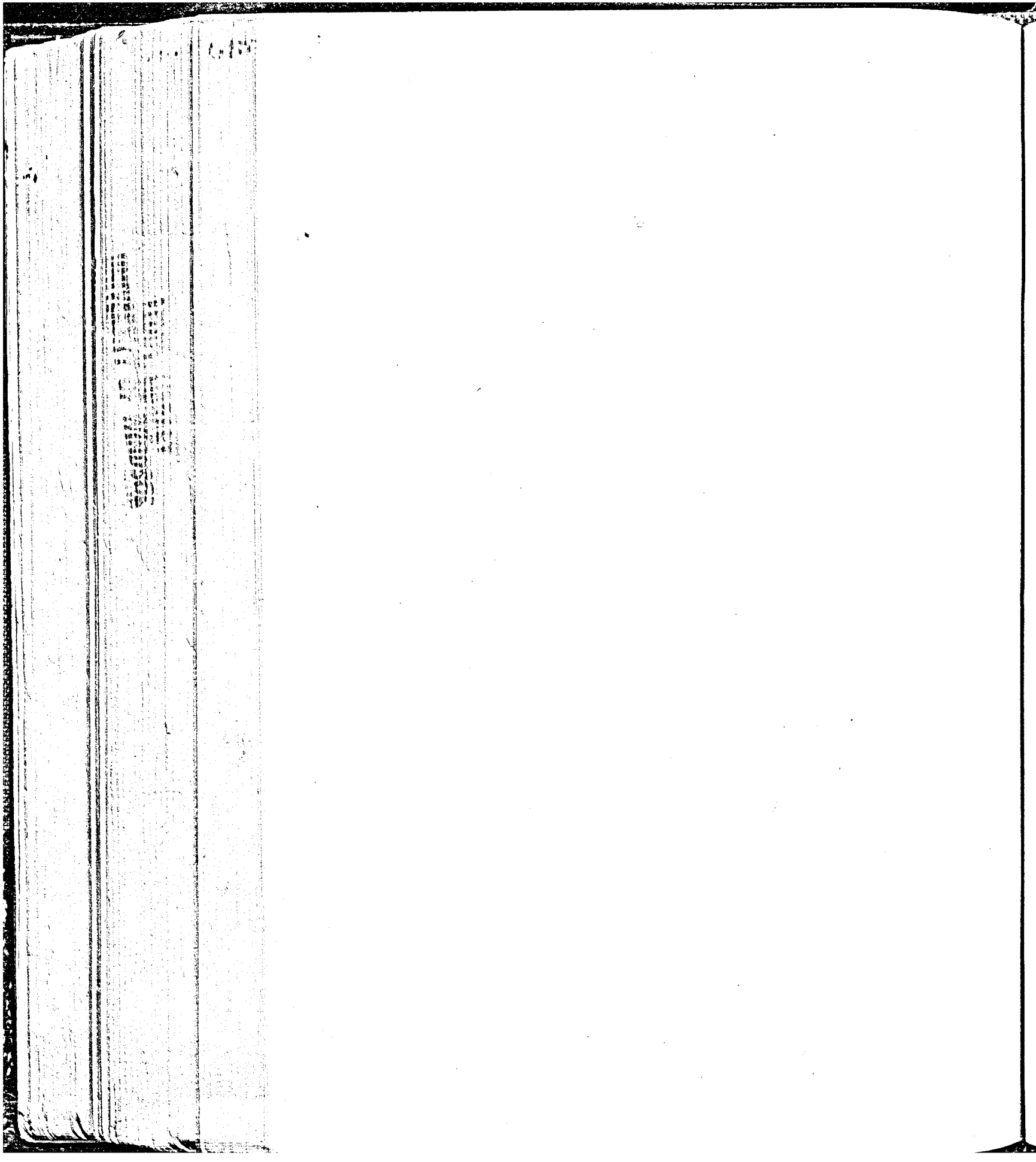
Isaac Todd

His Excellency The Hon<sup>bl</sup> D. M. Erskine His Brita<sup>e</sup> Majes-  
tys Minister Plenepotentiary Washington



SECTION VIII

LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1809-1811



DISMISSAL FROM MILITARY SERVICE

Lieutenant Governors Office  
York 10<sup>th</sup> March 1809

Sir, The Lieutenant Governor having Judged it necessary to issue new Commissions to the Officers of the Militia, throughout the Province, by virtue of an act passed in the fourth Session of the fourth Provincial Parliament I am commanded to inform you, that, in Consideration of your infirm State of health, which does not allow of such Exertions as the present times seem to require, he has felt himself called upon to place an Officer of more Personal activity at the head of the Corps you lately Commanded. And his Excellency trust[s] you will consider this change, in the same light he has viewed it.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your Most Obedient humble Servant

W<sup>m</sup> Hatton Secretary

John Askin Esquire Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Sandwich

*Endorsed:* York 10<sup>th</sup> March 1809 Major Hatton to  
John Askin recevd April 11<sup>h</sup> 1809

RIGHTS OF BRITISH SUBJECTS INFRINGED

Near Sandwich March 29<sup>th</sup> 1809

My Dear Friend, Its quite needless, to be troubling You & M<sup>r</sup> Todd with dayly Letters saying what I expect soon to get done. I will defer therefore as I have for some time past Answering your Letters untill I can positively say whats done. The intention of this is to let you know that I have hired out the Farm at the River Rouge of 7 Acres in Width by 50 deep for One Year to commence on the 20<sup>th</sup> of Next Month for £20 in Cash & £5 in grain or something to that Value, at the Current price. This Rent I am sure of, which has been very seldom the Case. my

reason for Renting it was that the place might not only be kept in good repair, but also give time for the Patent to come out & prevent some Rascal setting down on it, at these unsettled times when the American Government have no great wish to serve British Subjects. I need hardly say to You or M<sup>r</sup> Todd, that I at all times have & ever intend to serve Your interest so far as in my Power lies, though I have heretofore not been very successfull, however everything considered Mild Measures are the best to be pursued relative to obtaining a British Subjects rights in & about Detroit. Indeed whoever tries other measures I believe will be defeated but God knows the degree of patience should be very great in him who has business there, often has mine been put to trial and caused me Ten times more uneasiness than my Broken Arm I wait the warm weather (which I expect next Month) in Order to go over the River, for thoug[h] well, I dare not go from home at this Cold season. I think that I mentioned that 6 Lots say Town, was got in lieu of the little Houses belonging to You and M<sup>r</sup> Todd, on the Commons I find there are 7 Certificates 4 of which are for You & three for M<sup>r</sup> Todd this exceeds what You were both to get so that M<sup>r</sup> Todd will have to pay in perhaps 20 Dollars and some of his Lots are not as [large as ?] Yours. I made the Divission as Near as I could so that You might have double the Value he had for You had two Houses & he but One. may Health and happiness attend You both, are the constant prayers & wishes of me & mine.

Adieu my Dear Friend

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esquire

P. S. I most sincerely regret the loss of that worthy Man my Friend M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton, he is a great loss not only to his Family but to his Country.

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich March 29<sup>th</sup> 1809. John Askin Senior To James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esquire (Copy)



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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ARBITRATION OF CLAIM AGAINST FRANCIS VIGO

Vincennes 28 march 1809

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> I received your Favours of 10<sup>th</sup> October last with the enclosures, and would have replied long since but for some circumstances. The principal one was that M<sup>r</sup> DuBois acquainted me that he should return to Sandwich in the course of the Winter. another was that I had entered into an agreement for the Sale of one of your Tracts of land & another prevailing one was, that for your Interest I found it necessary to renew a disagreeable discussion with Vigo respecting his Note in your favor, with a view to draw him into an acknowledgment of the correctness of the adjustment I made with him; in the course of which, I have put the affair on a footing which I hope will be agreeable to you. It is agreed upon, if you concur, that M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum, M<sup>r</sup> Park, Jn<sup>o</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregor and my Brother, or in the absence of either, such person as you and M<sup>r</sup> DuBois shall agree, shall be examined respecting the custom of receiving and disposing of Peltry at the time Vigo's Parcel was in your management; and the Instructions you had. and that their certificate shall be laid before four men at this place, to be chosen by the Court, *who are to determine, according to the Statement or Certificate of those Gentlemen*, whether your claim is to be increased or lessened. As you have all the Documents that will be necessary, except such as M<sup>r</sup> DuBois will furnish from M<sup>r</sup> Vigo, who has all the Accounts you sent me, I am confident the result will be more favorable to you than the former.

You need not precipitate the measure on the supposition that our Statue of limitation will affect the Note, for I have taken such steps in our discussion as will preclude that, if even it was his Intention to avail himself of it. There is no necessity now of sending you the Note, as you have withdrawn the suit. Had you informed me that your Court would not authorise the examination of witnesses out of the Dominions, I would have attended altho it would have been extremely inconvenient for me. On every occasion as well as that, I have always had your pecuniary situation in mind, and exerted myself to relieve you as much as in my

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

power. At present I cannot assist you, but with advice. If I had money, I would accept of your land at the price you state. and I have written to my Brother to know if he can relieve you, and authorise me to take your land, provided I can be released from the promise I made to sell N<sup>o</sup> 73 in the Summer. Till this is determined I cannot send you the Deeds you requested. Your Rock Tract is a bad farm for an American farmer; and for that reason alone it has not been sold: I have always endeavored to buy that adjoining, and both would make an excellent Plantation. I now enclose you Hunots Obligation for which you have my Receipt which please return to me when you write next. I expect some money will be recovered from Barsaloux Estate, but when or how much I cannot yet inform you, as his Administrator is much embarrassed. Not having been able to sell any land, I have not the ability to remit you an account of what I received back from Vigo for the Company; and perhaps when I have made up my final Accounts with you, but little may be coming to you from that Source.

Present my Respects to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and your Family and be assured that I am most sincerely your most

Obed<sup>t</sup> and most humble Ser<sup>t</sup>  
Will. M<sup>c</sup>Intosh

P. S. It will occur to you that whether you refer the determination of your affair to men at this place who will be governed by the Certificates, or to a Jury, still it must be decided by men in this place as the Defend<sup>t</sup> lives here, as there is no probability of finding him in another Country.  
W. M<sup>c</sup>I.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire near Sandwich upper Canada Favor of M<sup>r</sup> DuBois.

*Endorsed:* recev<sup>d</sup> April 9<sup>th</sup>

OBLIGATIONS OF ELIJAH BRUSH<sup>1</sup>

April the 6<sup>th</sup> 1809

Dear Sir, I am just favoured with Yours of Yesterday's date, & think that the only answer for the present which is

<sup>1</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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necessary is, that you & I must settle what honor and strict justice requires, with as Little Loss to you as possible, at the same time, to strictly fulfill the trust, reposed in us both, by Mr Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill; fairer you can not say, nor more honorable that [than] to submit to what I shall think right, let the loss to you be what it may, rather than my character should in the least suffer, & I on my part assure you; Im as little disposed, as any man can be, to cause you any loss, or embarrassment next after yourself its my duty to provide for your Dear family should you be incapable, through losses or other cause to do so. You must come here alone some day when perfectly at liesure & we must contrive whats best to be done & execute it. I think some proposal of giving Alice's Land on this Side & other given her on yours by you should be some part of the offer made to Mess<sup>rs</sup> T. & M<sup>c</sup>G in short my opinion now is (though it may change when we meet) that if possible you get rid of paying in money so Large a sum to these two gentlemen yet I only mean you should get rid with their consent, for what a man has promised, he should most certainly perform if in his power, unless relieved therefrom, by consent of those to whom the promise was made. Your busy and therefore for the present shall only add that I am as usual

Dear Sir Y<sup>rs</sup> sincerely

(signed) John Askin (L. S)

E Brush Esquire Detroit

ARBITRATION OF CLAIM AGAINST FRANCIS VIGO

April 12<sup>th</sup> 1809

Sir, I received a line from you last Night, stating that You understood before You left Post Vincenns that the differences between Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe and me was to be settled by Arbritation. its true M<sup>r</sup> William M<sup>c</sup>Intosh wrote me to that Effect provided I consented. to part of the mode I do. the other part requires consideration much longer than Your stay here will admit of and for which I'm very sorry as the first step is to request that Mess<sup>rs</sup> John McGregor, Angus M<sup>c</sup>Intosh, William Park & George Meldrum meet

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

for the purpose of my laying before them All Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gills accounts with me, relative to the Sale of a Quantity of Peltries the property of Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe sent to London for Sale in 1786 with my other documents relative to that matter and that they should furnish a Certificate of what they had seen and send it to Post Vincenns. this, had time permitted, I would most certainly [have] done by you, but however having unfortunately broke my Arm last Fall, and the Season not permitting me to go to Sandwich since, I must for some time yet defer requesting of these Gentleman to meet as I cannot attend on them, but You may assure Mons<sup>r</sup> Vigoe that as soon as I can I will and that their Certificate shall without fail be sent to the Post Vincenns. should M<sup>r</sup> Vigoe find that their Certificates contain a clear proof to him, that my present demamands are just, why put him & I to further expence. I should hope he wishes for nothing more than is just, nor do I.

I am Dear Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant  
M<sup>r</sup> Tousaint Dubois Merchant Sandwich

*Endorsed:* April 12<sup>h</sup> 1809 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh at Post Vincenns per Mons<sup>r</sup> Dubois Copsy & other Coppies

NEWS FROM MONTREAL

Montreal 16 May 1809

My dear old Friend I received yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>m</sup> and am happy to find you and your family are well, but at same time am sorry to find you had the misfortune to break your arm. I suppose you have been racing, & forgot that you was geting old. it is my case at times, but find it will not do. however it is what we must expect, but it is not the greatest evil to be old. it is the crosses that comes in your way when you are not so able to support them as formerly. your old friend Todd goes on in the same old way, complaining every morning, but a bottle of Mediera & a good dinner removes all his disorders. he says he will go to Niagara this summer. he must go somewhere to get rid of the winter fatigue of eating & drinking M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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is very well, & Frobisher. there is only us four old friends alive, all the new North westards are a parcel of Boys and upstarts, who where not born in our time, and suposes they know much more of the Indian trade than any before them. I am very much hurt of the death of our worthy friend M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton. it must be hard for him to leave this World when just arrived at independance, when other poor fellows who has nothing, must remain & rut thro life, in their old days, and experience the vexation of being forgotten and neglected. Montreal is much changed since your time, I meet twenty young men in the Street in a day that I do not know. the Country is over run with Scotchmen. you wish I would send you a Canadian. you will observe that every lasey Idle vagabond in the Country who is to lazey to work, becomes Soldiers, and those who will be industrious can get half a dollor per day. therefore I am afraid I cannot procure you one that will sute you. I have wrote to M<sup>r</sup> Brush to sell the land he got for Vigoes debt. he has money in his hands which I wish he would make a dividend and send me the amount of what is coming to the Creditors. The Embargo is raised and for which I am very sorry, as it will hurt the Trade of this Country much. it has been of more utility to this Country than any thing that ever happend. My dear friend I do not expect to live long, but you may be assur'd that you was always one of my most esteem'd friends and amongst my last thoughts you will be one of them, but in hopes of meeting in some happier clime consoles me. my famely is Tolerably well, but like my self growing old and all join in our prayer & good wishes for your happiness & that of your family & remain

Sincerely your friend untill death

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> at, Sandwich, Straburne  
Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal May 16<sup>h</sup> 1809 Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> 7<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

ACTIVITIES OF ASKIN FAMILY<sup>2</sup>

Strabane July the 5th 1809

My Dear John, Your mother and I were relieved from a great deal of anxiety relative to your health (occasioned by your Letter per the *Hunter*) by the receipt of your two Letters per the *Nancy* which has given us great hopes of your being soon in perfect health. We recieved every thing you mention having sent us & for which we are very thankful. what you sent for others have been delivered & M<sup>rs</sup> Badeshon is to send you every faul a barrel of apples such as you have already got & you are to send her a bark of sugar for each, ab<sup>t</sup> 30 lbs weight, will be right between you. poor Barthe is very thankful for what you send him & God knows poor fellow he stands in much need of help & we are not so well able as formerly to assist him: the Nuts left last faul will go in the *Nancy*. I went to Sandwich yesterday & agreed with M<sup>r</sup> Pattenson to order from the Riv. Trenche an american ox such as you want but something larger, as the Vessel can take but one for you. I have plenty of good breeding sows therefore needless to purchase. her with all the geese you[r] mother has and which she send[s] Madlaine will be shipt Likewise. your mother desires you to send her a good buffaloe skin for winter, as all those which we had have been lo[a]ned about by the boys so, that not one remains. this is all we want, for as we have reduced the family as to servants we hope to make this serve us the year through, for to buy & pay for it or almost any thing else has now become not an easy job. Charles is gone to meet M<sup>r</sup> Todd at Queenstown. that good man is always trying to serve the family, but the situation of barrack master for Charles is not to my liking; I hate to see a young man penned up in a garrison. if poor Richardson could get it with what he has to assist a large family, I would be very glad. I do not know of a more deserving man. he has done everything a Friend could do for another to preserve the Life of poor Duff and when he failed in that has shewn such kindness to that Family as merits real praise

Colonel Merediths Death is a Misfortune, but we must

<sup>2</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

resolutely put up and reasonably expect such things at our time of Life. If the education of Archanges children does not oblige her to go elsewhere, I expect her here. You should Write standing as much as possible I always did so. I'm sorry you had not time to write Brush. he is a warm hearted fellow I remembered you to all you directed me to do. We are sorry that Madelaine did not pay us a Visit, and also for the occasion that prevented it. I think Your like me & cannot well support the Absence of your Wife. indeed I cannot see well how any Who are fond of each other, can, unless where it becomes absolutely necessary. Edwards has not been able to put in Much Indian Corn nor is that Quarter good for raising Hoggs, owing to the Wolves he has made some Stabling and other out Houses besides fences. The Pacer is in good Order, but very troublesome to his Neighbours. If he could be got up I think you should send for him. You make no mention of J. Baptist Where is he, I hope well. Your Lazy Brothers as to writing who are here seem last Evening to be using the Pen for purpose of Writing you. M<sup>r</sup> Louis Barthe begs you will send him Red Stone, to make some pipes. I have much reason to thank Madelain for the Craiberry Comfiture sent your Mother as I eat my full part of it & its the only Fruit that agrees with me. Your Mother has just been saying how much she has been obliged to Madelain for her attention in sending *Tourshons*, last year, at same time remarked that they were most worn out. I said I would mention her broad hint Louison has Made a Coop for the Geese [which] might go to the East Indies. Gallerneau<sup>3</sup> tells M<sup>r</sup> Fraser he paid you £30 on Acc<sup>t</sup> of rent due the latter, Who says you Account to him for only 30 Dollars. a receipt which Gallerneau holds (a Cobby of which I inclose) will throw more light on the subject.

Its now the 14<sup>th</sup> and its said the *Nancy* will sail tomorrow. A fine Ox with 18 Bundles of Hay, your Geese with an

<sup>3</sup> Apparently Pierre Galerneau, a native of St. Vincent de Paul, diocese of Quebec, who was in Detroit as early as 1797. In 1800 he was a wood merchant. Following the fire of 1805, he drew a donation lot. He witnessed marriages in Detroit, Nov. 10, 1807, and Feb. 9, 1809. On July 30, 1821, he, or another individual of the same name, married Angélique Cascagnette, eldest daughter of Jean Baptiste Cascagnette and Ursula Cadoret. The couple had previously had a son, Pierre, born, May 4, 1820, and died, June 18, 1820. See Ste. Anne's Church Register, *passim*, and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 194.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Excellant Coop & a good breeding Sow have been ready some time, & I have sent to know frequently when they can be taken on Board, but I fear there will now be some difficulty, for the vessel has been at Amherstburgh and brought up 4 Oxen and some Sheep. I fear Captain Burbank has been prevailed on when down to take more Live Stock on Board there, than was M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Intoshes intentions for Alex<sup>r</sup> seemed always disposed to take up your Live Stock. if they cannot be Shipt now, try and make sure for the Next trip. The Ox is a very fine, Gentle, American One in good Order and will not Weigh less than 600. the price £12 10<sup>s</sup>, which brings the Beef to 5 pence.

FROM JOHN ASKIN JR. TO JOHN ASKIN<sup>4</sup>

St Joseph's Aug<sup>t</sup> 5 1809

My Dear Father, I received your favour commencing the 5<sup>th</sup> & ending the 20<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> the 1<sup>st</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> The Articles therein stated to have been shipt on Board the *Nancy* came to hand. It was verry fortunate that you got the Ox put on Board, for it doesnot answer to get Cattle in the Cold season; they cannot recover sufficiently the same year to make good Beef. Its a fine Animal & verry reasonable. I am verry thankful for the breeding sow & hope after this to be able to raise some Pork.

There is not a Buffaloe robe to be purchased on this Island at present. M<sup>r</sup> Crawford who left this for Makina a few days past has assurd me he would bring one over, if it could be got at that place. I'm happy to find Charles is gone to Queenston to meet M<sup>r</sup> Todd & sincerely wish he may succeed in geting to be Barrack Master. its a good situation in these hard times. I observe what you write of Ja<sup>s</sup> & Alex<sup>r</sup> & as Ja<sup>s</sup> has commenced a correspondance I will continue punctually to answer his.

Its highly pleasing to find that Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson paid due attention to Poor Duff during his Illness & the uncommon kindness to that family since the Decease is truly worthy of himself.

<sup>4</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

The Ill state of my health & constant attention to my duty is the sole cause of not writing M<sup>r</sup> Brush by the two last opportunitys I hope he is generous enough to attribute my Silence from the reasons stated & not thro neglect or the want of attention. I'm sorry that you & several of our friends were disappointed in Madelaines intended visit. In a former Letter I stated it proceeded from my indisposition which had caused the Jaunt to be postponed to next summer. In addition to that cause there was another reason to wit: the want of *L'argent* to pay her expences which arose from the Pay List having been return'd as a change had taken place in the mode of paying the Department of this post & a whole years pay is now due me. therefore next spring you may expect her. Mess<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gilvery & Thain<sup>s</sup> passed here a few days ago for Montreal via York. They spent the evening with me & took an early brakefast. The former was exceeding friendly in offering the North West C<sup>o</sup> dwelling house which is occupied by the Commandant at present & that I should make my own Terms for it. When Cap<sup>tn</sup> Derenzy is relieved I then will move into it as the House I now occupy is to[o] small for my family exclusive of my being deprived of shewing many worthy persons that Hospatilty due to strangers.

H<sup>s</sup> Ex<sup>y</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Gore has been pleased to appoint me Collector for the place & enclosed the comm<sup>n</sup> without demand<sup>s</sup> the Necessary secur<sup>s</sup> or even an Acc<sup>t</sup> or charge for the Commission fees. I'm sorry that he has done so as I never applied for the same in anyway whatever, but as there is no remedy for the present, I shall act untill such time as an Opportunity offers for my getting rid of it in a handsome manner. In the mean time it will stop up a hole where troublesome men might creep into & annoy me as the former Collector did. please acquaint M<sup>r</sup> L. Barthe that I cannot send him at present red stone as he requests. none can be

<sup>5</sup> Thomas Thain of Montreal was a prominent figure in the Northwest trade during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. On the reorganization of the North West Company in 1804, he became a partner of the new company, and he and John Ogilvie (another partner) were chosen to act as its agents for a term of five years. In 1824, when the government was negotiating for the purchase of the North West Company's establishment at Ste. Mary's, Thain was still described as the resident agent of the Company at Montreal. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim.*, and Davidson, *North West Company, passim.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

procured. However Mess<sup>rs</sup> Wilmot & Cameron promised when here last to procure me some from the head of the River S<sup>t</sup> Peters on the Mississipi which will be forwarded when received.

I'm sorry to find that Edwards does not succeed in raising Hogs. he must have been verry unfortunate indeed, not being able to send a sow after having had four breeding ones on Halves for two Years. I inclose an Account of the Articles he received from me & for which he is accountable agreeable to the Tenor of the Lease. I cannot think of getting up the Pacer yet as Madelaine may want him during the time she may remain below next year besides the want of a Sufficiency of Hay to winter. John is with the men who are gone to Cut Hay & is verry well. I have done every thing in my power to get a good situation for him w<sup>h</sup> the South West C<sup>o</sup> but my endeavors have failed, they having more Partners & Clerks than their Trade requires.

I rec<sup>d</sup> from Galerneau £17<sup>n</sup>12<sup>n</sup> out of which he got 13½ Ga<sup>s</sup> whisky at 8/ p<sup>r</sup> Ga<sup>s</sup> which left a Ballance of £12 4<sup>n</sup> NY C<sup>y</sup> I paid M<sup>r</sup> Fraser y<sup>e</sup> £12 & if my son Gave a receipt for £30 it is an imposition. in the first place M<sup>r</sup> Fraser knows verry well that Galarno was to have paid £22 or 24 for the rent of the House therefore the whole Amo<sup>t</sup> could not have exceeded £24. If M<sup>r</sup> Fraser insists on my paying the Amo<sup>t</sup> of the receipt clandestinely obtained by Galerno from my Son, [illegible] could not be got otherwise unless the Boys making a mistake by putting pounds in lieu of Dollars. I will see into the Business. John was not authorized to give receipts in my name, the misfortune is the less said the better on those occasions. He being under age & foolish was I'm afraid induced to do what he would not have done had I been at hand. at the same [time] I donot think Mr Fraser acts the proper part for I never charged him a penny for what I did for him & he is not ignorant that Galarno was to have paid for the rent £24 out of which an abatement was to have been made for a Quantity of window glass which were wanting, & sundry other small charges in all amou<sup>ts</sup> as well as I recollect £5 or 6. The money for the Ox I shall remit you by this opportunity. Capt<sup>n</sup> Fearson was detained here some days. It afforded me pleasure to see him as he

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

gave me a full account of all my friends about Detroit: I'm apprehensive he has not been able to get to Chekago or Chekawgo, as the winds have been contrary. Poor fellow he was 33 days from Sandwich to this. Had James taken a Trip to this it would have been verry pleasing to us & I'm sure it would have been very agreeable to him from the Mild Weather [and] the Quickness of the *Nancys* Voyage.

8<sup>th</sup> Inclosed you have a Draft for 40\$ which will pay for the Ox & Corn & [give] the surplus to my Dear Mother to Buy such Bagatelles she may stand in need of.

13<sup>th</sup> I this moment put my Hand on a Letter which you inclosed me last Summer. you'll observe that Galerno stated to M<sup>r</sup> Fraser that he had given me £19.10 (which is incorrect) for the whole am<sup>t</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> was only £17.12, but admitting that he was correct in that sum, its far from being £30 as is stated in the receipt had he delivered me that Amo<sup>t</sup> he most assuredly would not have forgotten it so soon, but would have informed M<sup>r</sup> Fraser at that time to be £30 in lieu of £19.10. Have the goodness to let me know if Bonhomme paid you my part of Giyars debt

Madelaine John & the Girls joins me in best wishes for yours & my Dear Mothers health & our Love to My Brothers & Sisters. Comp<sup>ts</sup> to all Relations & friends.

I am My Dear Father Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane.

*Endorsed:* Island of S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Aug<sup>t</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1809 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> recv<sup>d</sup> the 18<sup>th</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> the 13 of Sep<sup>r</sup>

ESTATE OF THOMAS WILLIAMS<sup>6</sup>

Detroit 10<sup>th</sup> August 1809

Dear Sir I have received your very much esteemed favour of the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant, & have very attentively observed its contents. With respect to what you mention about M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>6</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

Brush having once received the Bookes & Papers, &c that I afterwards took them back, yes I did receive them back at his request, but he did not from what I understood at that time, give me that reason, that it was because he could not word the receipt, or discharge in the way I wanted it, but observed frequently to me that he would willingly give it in the way you should reccommend & afterwards he mentioned to me he would be able to procure me a sufficient discharge, both from the Creditors & Heirs. this was about the time M<sup>r</sup> Brush was about endeavouring to make some arrangement with M<sup>r</sup> John Williams about the Estates. I do not see that M<sup>r</sup> Williams, or any other person whatever has any right to be meddling themselves with these affairs untill all the Creditors are paid in full. they certainly in my opinion have no right.

When the Gentlemen of the Committe called upon me about the Fire Engine, M<sup>r</sup> Williams begun by asking a great many questions, in particular about the Judgement obtained against Mon<sup>sr</sup> Vigo, & that he was confident there was sufficient, & some thing over after paying all the Creditors which I doubt very much If ever that will be the case including the Interest; however be it as it may I can safely swear I have done everything in my power to the best of my knowledge & Judgement for the good of the Estates in question & cannot be expected to do any more.

Please accept of my best thanks my good Sir for the trouble you have been pleased to take in this business in refreshing of my memory, in many things, which from the distance of time, a person is apt to forgett, & also the very proper footing you have placed the matter on, exactly coincides with my own Ideas, that I certainly have nothing to do with any other person but M<sup>r</sup> Henry (or his Attorney) who put the matters into my hands.

I shall therefore again call upon Mr. Brush & request of him to receive them, and I hope you will still be so good a little further to oblige me to mention to Mr. Brush what sort of a receipt or discharge he is to give me; as from every appearance at present he will never be able to recover much more to recompense him for his trouble. I have already

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

paid him a part, & mean to pay him the remainder of One Hundred Dollars, for this, & some other matters he has promised to Interest himself in for me.

I am not in the smallest degree uneasy but from several of the small Creditors hearing there was something to be divided, are frequently wishing that it should be done here on the spot as usual. I am glad M<sup>r</sup> Brush propposes doing so soon. If he has already remitted any Part of it to Montreal, It is only in the first place to take what was gott from Vincennes, & through [throw] it with what he received from me & Cast it up anew, probably what he has already remitted to Montreal will not amount to more than the proportions of M<sup>r</sup> Henry Mrss<sup>rs</sup> Cruickshank & Arnoldie &<sup>c</sup> Yourself as well as me are both Creditors for a triffling amount.

I thank you kindly for the trouble you take in that affair of Gallarneau's. I hope the Error will be cleared up to the satisfaction of all parties. If I should by chance hear of any person wanting to purchase any lands on this side you may depend upon it I will make a point to inform you, but I am not much in the way of meetting with people of that description. I am sorry to be always out when you are so good as [to] Call, but I hope you will excuse me, & will be glad to be more fortuneate at another opportunity. I hope to have the pleasure of a few lines from you, when most at Leisure at any time, & when you come over, to be so good as step in & see me untill then believe me to be

Dear Sir with sentiments of Esteem & Friendship your very much obliged Humble Servant

Ja<sup>s</sup> Fraser

John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Esquire near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1809 M<sup>r</sup> James Fraser to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup>

OBLIGATIONS OF ELIJAH BRUSH

Montreal 14 August 1809

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

Dear Sir Having received a Letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> of June from M<sup>r</sup> Brush, stating that the Lots N<sup>o</sup> 13 14 15 & 16 sold

to him four years ago are from various Causes of much less value now than what he was to pay for them, and to our great surprise offering new & unreasonable terms; and as we presume that he will show you copy of that Letter, it is unnecessary to send you copy from this. We inclose our Answer open for your perusal, by which you will observe that we tell him, we shall authorise you to make proposals on our part, and in consequence thereof we now subjoin these we have to make

1<sup>st</sup> That we will relinquish the Interest now due, which amounts to 600 dollars and cancell the former agreement on Condition,

2 That M<sup>r</sup> Brush will pay M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill for Lots N<sup>o</sup> 13 & 14 One Thousand Dollars. And to M<sup>r</sup> Todd for Lots N<sup>o</sup> 15 & 16 One Thousand Dollars, moiety of these Sums to be paid on the first day of May 1810, the other moiety on the first of October of the same year, free from Interest.

3 That in passing Contract with M<sup>r</sup> Brush he grant you for our behalf, a good & sufficient Mortgage for payment of the money, and besides do pass his notes of hand for the respective Sums, payable *to your order as our agent*, at the periods above mentioned. And the agreement or Contract of Sale to mention these when these Notes shall be paid, then the mortgage to cease in part or in whole as the Case may be, or if M<sup>r</sup> Brush fails to pay the Notes, then the original Agreement which was by Letter is to remain & be in full force.

We have been favoured with your Letter of 7 June & observe what you say of the mode you would recommend accepting, touching the smaller parcells of Land in the Michigan Territory to which we can only say at present that there are other Matters of so much greater magnitude to discuss between our Minister & the American Government that we are unwilling to make any application at this Moment. we therefore conclude by assuring you that, We are Dear Sir

Your very obed Serv<sup>ts</sup>

Isaac Todd  
James M<sup>c</sup>Gill

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Montreal Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1809 Isaac Todd & McGill Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin rec<sup>d</sup> 22 Sep<sup>r</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>

MISFORTUNES OF JACQUES PELTIER<sup>7</sup>

St Joseph's 24<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>st</sup> 1809

My Dear Father, Your favour of the 10<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> came to hand on the 22<sup>d</sup>. Herewith enclosed you have a draft for £25 H<sup>s</sup> C<sup>y</sup> to assist my Dear sister Archange at the same time I have to request that you give such directions as are necessary to prevent its being protested in case my Agent Mess<sup>r</sup> F. R. & C<sup>o</sup> havenot a sufficiency in their hands to discharge the same. M<sup>r</sup> Selbys letter of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> which I inclose to you, will shew you that I have not Rec<sup>d</sup> any of my Pay for 12 M<sup>o</sup> past & that all the pay Lists must first be sent from York to Quebec then back to York for payment & from the latter place the Money or Bills sent to my Agent below. Be pleased to send me back M<sup>r</sup> Selbys Letters by the *Nancy*.

I rec<sup>d</sup> a Similar information to yours respecting M<sup>rs</sup> Merediths pension.

Capt<sup>n</sup> Dawson<sup>s</sup> of the 100<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> who gave you three cheers & beat the Grenadier march *en passant* your place presented me with a Note which M<sup>r</sup> Todd wrote him previous to his departure from Montreal to this wherein he recommends me strongly to Capt<sup>n</sup> Dawson the Commandant of this post. Cap<sup>t</sup> Dawson's Son<sup>9</sup> a Lieu<sup>t</sup> or Ensign is now at Amherstburg on his way to this. I should be happy if my Brothers would show him what covelity they can. He is quite a Boy I'm told & requires verry little ceremony his stay will be but short below as he must take his passage in

<sup>7</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>8</sup> Captain Thomas Dawson, whose assumption of the command of St. Joseph is here noted, remained until the early spring of 1810, when, in consequence of a violent quarrel with John Askin Jr., he was summarily removed by Lieutenant-Governor Gore, and Captain Thomas A. Sherrard, likewise of the 100th Regiment, was sent from York to replace him. See documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 75-85, and 283.

<sup>9</sup> Ensign Erwin Dawson. Presumably he left St. Joseph at the time his father was removed. In November, 1810, he was at Amherstburg, *ibid.*, XXV, 279. He served in the War of 1812, and was commended for gallantry at Isle aux Noix, June 3, 1813. See Irving, *op. cit.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

the *Hunter* in order to join his detachment under his Fathers command. The *Hunter* will return immediately with the Indian Stores which will compleat her last Trip. Therefore the Apples from M<sup>rs</sup> Badishon must be shipt on Board the *Nancy* for the *Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter* will not take a package for any person whatever.

Have the goodness to let me know if you wrote M<sup>r</sup> Todd respecting Johnnys getting the Situation of Ass<sup>t</sup> Com<sup>dr</sup> & Bar<sup>k</sup> Mast for this post I'm told M<sup>r</sup> Todd is related to Col<sup>o</sup> Thornton, aid de Camp to L<sup>t</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Croix & his Interest [is] very great indeed. If you have not already wrote him on that subject I'm persuaded a Line from you will do the Business. I must Confess that I have been very troublesom to you but I hope you will forgive me. I have a presentment that Fortunes wheel is turning in my favour & it requires a little motion to keep it agoing. M<sup>r</sup> Peltier<sup>10</sup> situation is distressing & [I'm] truely sorry to say that from my Having made a purchase of a House at this place, a cow Bed Sted, pigs & potatoe fields has left me so bare that I cannot afford him any assistance at present. As Madelaine will positively go down next summer she will arrange matters as will I hope make him happier than he is at present. My Beau Freres have behaved ill & will repent when its to[o] late Madelaine is distressed about her sisters Marriage<sup>11</sup> she being apprehensive that they have been drove to the same thro necessity. As to Master Whipple If he has been hard with M<sup>r</sup> Peltier he is an ungrateful fellow & merits to be dispised by all the family M<sup>r</sup> Brush is a warm hearted man & feels sensibly for his fellow Creatures, yet he in my oppinion is rather blameable in the Law suit instituted some years past J<sup>s</sup> Peltier *vs* Lacelles it should have been pursued with vigour untill finally settled but instead of that it *trained* for a length of time from Detroit to Post Vincennes & from Vincennes to Detroit.

<sup>10</sup> Jacques Amable Peltier, father-in-law of John Askin Jr., for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 375.

<sup>11</sup> One of the sisters here alluded to was Felicity Peltier, born, March 2, 1781. On Jan. 10, 1798, she married Lieut. Peter Tallman of the Artillery and Engineer Corps, U. S. army. He died, Sept. 15, 1804, and on Aug. 7, 1809, his widow married (second) Francis of Assisi Cicotte of Detroit, son of Jean Baptiste Cicotte and Angelica Poupard and grandson of Zacharias Cicotte and Mary Angelica Godfroy, for whom see *ibid.*, 36 and 375. Felicity Peltier was buried at Detroit, Jan. 3, 1847; Francis Cicotte was buried here, Sept. 29, 1859. They had a family of seven children. Denissen, *op. cit.*, and Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Pray has Charles relinquished the Idea of getting the situation of Barrack Master for Amherstburg, If he has I'm sorry for it, as he could not get a better situation in these bad times.

M<sup>r</sup> Brush once informed me that he had obtained a Section of Land on the River Huron for me Cont<sup>g</sup> 640 Acres of Land & he would get out the Patent & send it. however I have not heard any more of it this year past. Be pleased to make some enquired on that head Tho I may not have immediate use for the same, yet I want the Titles so that I may do with them as I may deem proper when I go down & in the mean time may wish to have some part cultivated.

Madelaine & John join me [in] sincere wishes for You, My Dear Mother Brothers & Sisters. I remain My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane P<sup>r</sup> Brig Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Hunter F[?] Rolette Lieut & Com<sup>a</sup>

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs the 24<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1809 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin  
Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> the 13<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOHN ASKIN JR.<sup>12</sup>

Strabane September 13<sup>th</sup> 1809

My Dear John The departure of the *Nancy* as it relates to time is so uncertain that I think it best to begin to answer your kind letter of the 5 & 24 August which I mean to do in Order of date.

M<sup>r</sup> Todd never made mention to Charles or me of his application to get the place of Barrack Master at Malden for him he had an Offer from the Executors of the Late M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton to Manage his Estate, which he has with my advice undertaken, being well paid for so doing. This will keep him some years at Queenston. he with One of my Grandsons, Alexander is to pay us a visit soon. four others are gone with M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Dickson to Scotland for their education.

<sup>12</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

We are sorry for the reasons that prevented Madelaine from paying us a Visit this year, but happy to learn there is a great likelihood that they will not be the cause next year. M<sup>r</sup> Brush has too [kind] a Heart to be miffed at your short silence for realy its too much for you to attempt to write all your correspondents at Once. I for many years at Michilimacinac received perhaps at one time above 20 Letters & my health paid for my attempting to answer them all immediately. I would advise you to always write standing. & frequently to run out of Doors from your Writing Desk if it was only for a few minutes at the bottom of every page I get up and walk a little

I find you have purchased the N. W. Company's House its certainly pleasing not to be confined or prevented from shewing Civilities where due, which besides being satisfactory to the feelings of a good Heart, does a Man no hurt in the World.

You are certainly under obligations to the Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor for the different employments he has given you do not reject any of them. I believe your indebted in a great measure to M<sup>r</sup> Selby for what you have got, for I'm informed that [His] Excellency pays great attention to what M<sup>r</sup> Selby recomme[n]ds. You will do well therefore to cultivate a friendship with the latter his Letter is friendly. I now send it back.

I have mentioned to your Mother, the steps you have taken to get her a Buffaloe Skin, & M<sup>r</sup> Louis Barthe about the red Stone to make Pipes. in short I have done so far as I have had an opportunity whatever related to any One which you requested me to do.

I cannot say that Edwards is much to blame, the rains rose the Waters in such a manner as to deprive all those whose lands were not in high situations from doing any thing.

In the United States, half the Mills & Bridges are gone. the River Pike as well as where Edwards is dont prove a good situation for raising Hogg[s] M<sup>r</sup> Barthe never succeeded. You did not send the list of Articles, as you intended to shew what you gave Edwards. I believe they are mentioned at the bottom of the lease from which nothing

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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can be taken, but an iron chain & other articles should be added. I never have seen him have a Plough, worth a Dollar, consequently would not answer you. If you want one direct [me] and it shall be made by those who know how. James Forsyth<sup>13</sup> at Gross Point is the Master. Now the Harvest is got in the Pacer cannot do much mischief before Madelaine comes down.

I think you have made the matter respecting Mr Fraser and Gallerneau pretty clear. I have not seen him since I received Your Letter. when I do, I will be able to clear up the affair. I assure you Mr Fraser never threw any reflections on your character, & I believe [him] a man who means fair.

I received your Bill in payment of the Ox &<sup>ca</sup> and have distributed the remainder as you desired to buy trimmings &<sup>ca</sup> The Cloth is with the Taylor and I hope the Coats will be ready for the *Nancy*, though not certain I have forbidden the long waists &<sup>ca</sup> Poor Fearson arrived only yesterday.

A Raft of Bonhommes with Cedar Pickets of a small size having by accident been drove on this Side of the River, I got from him some of them in part payment, which I have credited as they cannot be sold for Money, or anything else.

Its not for want of inclination that James has not paid you a visit, but realy we must avoid all expence. You certainly rendered Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee a service by selling Sam so well, but I fear all that can be done, for him will answer no good purpose as his property decreases every day. Poor Theresa & Alex<sup>r</sup> If you expect Cash for your Sugar at any price, I dont recommend your sending it here, as there is no such thing. Sugar is sold here in the Fall & beginning of the Winter, at Public Sale for wheat & flour payable in the course of the Winter. I could take a little in that way, as I now find I will not have enough but in no other.

you never could have rendered any service to your Mother or I so great as your ready complying with our request in

<sup>13</sup> James Forsyth was a son of William and Ann Forsyth, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 307. He was born in Detroit (Grosse Pointe), Oct. 30, 1769. On Dec. 17, 1789, he married Elisabeth Dolsen (Dolson), daughter of Isaac Dolsen. They removed (date undetermined) to Chatham, Ont., where a son, Thomas, was born in 1813. He served as a militia officer in the Patriot War, was mayor of Sarnia, later removed to Detroit, and died in Windsor, June 24, 1895. Information adapted from Burton, Forsyth-Kinzie-Little genealogy.

sending a Draft for £25. Halifax to assist poor Archange, who had she known my present Circumstances never would have made the demand it is the first since she was Married. on account of the Children & Pension she went to England the 25<sup>th</sup> of last Month but promises us a Visit when her affairs are settled. I have given the necessary information, so that the Draft may be honored.

Please present my Compliments to Captain Dawson & return my thanks for his Compliment passing my House. The Boys have been so employed, that they have not been able to go to Malden to see Young M<sup>r</sup> Dawson when Our Court is over one of them shall invite him here, as the *Hunter* is gone to Fort Erie & will not return to your place so soon as you expected. I advise You (as I often have done, before) to avoid difficu[lt]ties with the Commanding Officer, or indeed any other of the Garrison, but him in particular & should him or them at any time (which might be the Case,) ask you to do, what Honor or Honesty forbids, put them off[f] Gently, without exposing the unreasonable-ness of the demand, which would make them your enemies, & not serve the Government. A steady honest conduct will carry a Man pleasingly through life. I have always obliged mankind so far as propriety admited and by such conduct made myself many Friends. I have wrote M<sup>r</sup> Todd for the two situations you want for Johny your Son, and I'm sure if they are not given away or promised, he will apply for them unless he sees impropiety in the application.

The early return of both the *Hunter* & *Nancy*, if this should be their last Trip will prevent us from sending anything, Except Onions, Comfitures, & the Coats & Stockings if ready in time. we are sorry that Apples & Peeches of which we have such quantities, will not keep at this season. M<sup>r</sup> Pelties situation though not pleasant is not however so distressing as it seems to appear to you. he has hired his place, I believe for three years, to M<sup>r</sup> Cicott<sup>14</sup> the Husband of M<sup>rs</sup> Tallman the other Marriage has not taken place, the reason why I know not. however I did not understand that any other cause than inclination was the means of the Union that took place.

<sup>14</sup> Francis of Assisi Cicotte, for whom see *ante*, 636.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I do agree with you in opinion that notwithstanding the goodness of M<sup>r</sup> Brush's heart, & good I believe it to be he has been neglectfull in M<sup>r</sup> Peltiers suit with M<sup>r</sup> Lacells indeed I have found all the Lawyers more or less so, which is very inexcusable. M<sup>r</sup> Brushe has got the Commissioners confirmation of the Claim he made in your behalf, but No Deeds have or perhaps will for a verry long time Issue for these Lands.

September the 18<sup>th</sup> I yesterday found at M<sup>r</sup> Brush's your letter to me of the 5<sup>th</sup> which I will attend. I have sent Doctor Richardson Cap<sup>t</sup> Dawsons Order to Ship the Sheep to be delivered to M<sup>r</sup> Rollette when [he] arrives from Fort Erie. Never send Letters to M<sup>r</sup> Brush's he pays no attention to them. if I had not found mine, it would not have been sent me this month.

You say nothing will be taken On board the *Hunter* for any one. I should think as you are on the Kings Service your entitled to some Barrell bulk in the Kings Vessell, and on application to M<sup>r</sup> Selby he would have it settled by a standing Order. Your Mother says you must open the Barrell of Onions as soon as You get them.

I called on M<sup>r</sup> Fraser when at Detroit poor Man he says Nothing to your disadvantage however as you say received £17 Odd of Gallerneau & note 19£ Odd as you Gallerneau reported M<sup>r</sup> Fraser observes the difference between £12 you paid him, & £17 Odd you received must be due him. he has beged me to desire Gallerneau to come to me & try to know the fact.

22<sup>nd</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Badechon has just sent for [a] Barrell to put your Apples in. Though I fear they will not keep from its being so early yet as I do not know of any other opportunity, I have sent [them]. you of course will send her 30 lb. of Sugar the settled price.

23<sup>d</sup> As the Vessell sails to day or to Morrow Morn<sup>g</sup> I must close my Letter, with Your Mother & my Blessing to Madelaine you and yours.

Your tender & <sup>ca</sup>

J. A.

Youll find on Board

1 Barr<sup>l</sup> of Onions

1 D<sup>o</sup> apples from M<sup>rs</sup> Badison

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

1 D° D° from us, so poor this Year not worth sending  
1 Crock Comfiture from your Mother to Madlaine  
3 pairs of white stockings your Mother had knit for  
Madelaine.

no gray worsted could be got spun, and M<sup>rs</sup> A. had only  
white

Charles & Alex<sup>r</sup> Hamilton just Arrived & well

*Endorsed:* Strabane September the 13<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>n</sup> 1809 John  
Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to John Askin Junior Esq (Copy)

NEEDS OF THE ASKIN FAMILY

Strabane September 13<sup>th</sup> 1809

My Dear Friend I mean this Letter to contain little more than what relates to my Family with which more or less its probable you will be troubled all the days of your life the inclination you have always shewn to serve mankind in general & me in particular is the cause of my troubling you so frequently. I will begin with my Son in Law Doctor Richardson at Amherstburgh. I wrote you & my Worthy Friend M<sup>r</sup> James M<sup>c</sup>Gill long sence relative to him & as I never got an answer on that subject I have reason to suppose the Letter miscarried. what I requested was both your interests with the Commander in Chief to get him the place of Barrack Master provided the former one was put out of Office but not otherwise. this I believe is the case. I know Doctor Richardson [is] as capable of doing the duty as any one can be got, and am sure [he] will do it in such a manner as will give satisfaction to him who invests him with the charge. he is an excellent good character, much liked, but so loaded with a large Family that notwithstanding the utmost Oeconomy, & great Sobriety, his income as Surgeons mate to the Garrison, District Judge which fetches him little or nothing, and his present practice does not furnish near sufficient to keep pace with his absolute necessary expences. therefore if he got that place a deserving Man & Family would be helped and the Government well served. next comes Mrs Meredith by her Letter I find, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Meredith must have left little Money & his Funeral (which was expensive) must have taken a part of that. she had

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

during her stay to hire a House at a high rate, & not knowing my present circumstances, applied to me for the first time since She is Married for £25 Hallifax (her yearly income not being due.) this Sum it was out of my power to get by any other means than applying to Jn<sup>o</sup> indeed I made no other application & he poor fellow sent me a Draft on Mess<sup>rs</sup> Forsyth Richardson & C<sup>o</sup> for that Sum which Draft I now inclose you & request that you will have it exchanged for a Bill on London and sent to M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith, directed as follows to M<sup>rs</sup> *Lieut Colonel Meredith* of the Royal Artillery at *Woolwich Kent*, England she was necessitated to go home on account of her Son who had or soon was to get his Commission she Sailed the 25<sup>th</sup> of last Month. John Writes me in case there not being enough in Mess<sup>r</sup> Forsyth Richardson & C<sup>o</sup> hands still to pay the Bill, as he was by a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Selby to him (which he sent me) to get immediately a full Years pay that was due, & had been kept back owing to some mistake though none of his. I now come to a request of John's (who like the rest of my Family you have encouraged to trouble you) which is to use your influence with the Commander in Chief to get the appointment of asistant Commissary & Barrack master at Island S<sup>t</sup> Josephs for his Son Jean Baptist Askin who under the Eyes of his Father I'm persuaded would do the duty well. that John's accounts are more than those from any other of the out Departments & Lieut Governor Gore seems so pleased with his conduct that he has added that of Collector to his other employments. you will please observe that if there should be any impropriety (of which you are the best Judge) in applying for these situations for J. Baptist Askin, his Father as well as myself would be very far from wishing to urge the matter, but if no appointment is already made, & the Government wishes to be well served, I think John will take care that his Son does the duty faithfully To this letter as I before mentioned, I will only add one matter which relates to You & Me In my last I mentioned the great mistake I had committed in my settlement with M<sup>r</sup> Smith & although its Consequences perhaps is nothing, yet it returns often to my Mind, as I reproach myself with such an oversight more than anything ever happened to me in all my mercantile transactions. I know I was lead to this, but least said is

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

soonest mended I therefore since that time have been looking out for the means of settling that Matter & have accomplished it in a Manner I'm sure you will like. I have sold the Acre of Land in Front by 40 a deep at the Petite Coté which Cost you £75 N. Y. Currency, for £160 & have got M<sup>r</sup> Woods the Lawyer to be answerable immediately for £80 to be paid in four equal Annual payments for which I have taken four Notes bearing Interest from the 1<sup>st</sup> of this Month this Money will be surely paid when due. My Family joins in assurances of every wish that may tend to Your happiness here & hereafter & I remain as Usual, My Dear Sir

Your ever Obliged Friend

Isaac Todd Esquire at Montreal

*Endorsed:* Strabane September the 13<sup>th</sup> 1809 John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to Isaac Todd Esquire Merchant Montreal (Copy)

RESULTS OF NON-INTERCOURSE ACT<sup>15</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 12 Oct 1809

My Dear Father I duly received your Sundry favours of the 13<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Ulto which came to hand w<sup>th</sup> the Apples, Onions, Comfitures & Stockings. It is fortunate that you gave the Necessary directions respecting the draft I sent you for my Agent Mess<sup>s</sup> F. R. & C<sup>o</sup> wrote me on the 9<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> last that they had not rec<sup>d</sup> my Pay since June 1808. I conceive it a great Cruelty in Government to deprive me of my money for such a length of time without assigning any reason for the delay. however there is no remedy nor can I better myself.

I observe what you say respecting the plough & it [is] a Shear I wanted & not the plough. M<sup>r</sup> Duff sent me one without the Shear Enclosed you have Edwards receipt for the utensils delivered him. If the situation will not admit of raising Hogs I do not see that I'm bound to keep Master Edwards in Pork & reap no benefit Its impossible

<sup>15</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



that from the length of time he has been on my Land he has not raised any Swine. Should it be the case they consequently must be an expence only

Per the *Nancy* you'll receive a large Mocook sugar which you'll please accept. I wrote you per the *Gen' [Hunter]* a few days ago & shall again introduce or rather give M<sup>r</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup> Oakes Ermatinger<sup>16</sup> a letter of Introduction to you. he does not stand in need of any thing I know of in your quarter, but he being merely a stranger & entirely unacquainted with any person (except M<sup>r</sup> Moses David)<sup>17</sup> wishes to get the best information he can how to get a passage down to Fort Erie with diligence in order to proceed to Montreal with expedition. He is a Brother to Geo Ermatinger but a far better man I believe. he carries on a Trade along Lake Superior & would have gone in the Lands again had his Goods arrived here before the non-intercourse Law taken effect. his Merchandize remains stored untill next spring; he proposes returning to this by Land in February next from York.

M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh will deliver you a Packet Containing a few quires of Paper. Have the goodness to write me by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Baby, M<sup>c</sup>Gregor & Elliot & inform me how appearances are respecting us & our Neighbours the Americans. I did not receive any Papers by the last Vessels (except one my Friend Davids sent) I'm apprehensive that the

<sup>16</sup> Charles Oakes Ermatinger was for many years a resident of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., where according to one authority, he was a man "of great energy, courage, and local influence." Both Charles and his brother, George (mentioned, *post*), were long engaged in the Northwest trade. Their father, a Swiss merchant, had settled in Canada not long after the British conquest of that country. A brother of Charles and George, Lawrence Edward Ermatinger, spent many years in England and Europe. Two of his sons, Edward and Francis, in the year 1818, became clerks of the Hudson's Bay Company; Edward served the Company ten years in the Far Northwest, while Francis served it between thirty and forty years, most of the period on the Pacific side of the mountains. Data derived from introduction to "Edward Ermatinger's York Factory Express Journal," in Royal Society of Canada, *Proceedings and Transactions* (Third Series), VI, Sect. II, 67-69, and Fowle, *Sault Ste. Marie*, 299-300.

<sup>17</sup> Moses David was a member of a prominent Jewish family of Montreal, who located in Sandwich as a merchant as early as the autumn of 1800. Here he resided at least until the summer of 1814, when a letter preserved among the Solomon Sibley papers in the B. H. Coll. indicates he was seeking permission from Colonel Croghan to leave the place. Prior to 1803, he had been an ensign in Askin's battalion of the Essex County militia, and in this year, he and Charles Askin were slated for lieutenantancies when the next vacancies should occur. On Aug. 23, 1819, Charlotte David wrote from Montreal to Solomon Sibley of Detroit, concerning certain accounts due the estate of "the late Mr. Moses David." Data derived from mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

embargo has been laid on them likewise for they do not circulate as usual. Should you wish to write me via Makina enclose your letters to Doc<sup>t</sup> Mitchell & he will always be able to send them over by Indians—I send a Bark or Moccock of Sugar for M<sup>rs</sup> Badishon weight 30 lb n<sup>t</sup> Your Moccock is one of the largest I have seen & rec<sup>d</sup> it as good Clean sugar & hope it may turn out such.

Madelaine, John & the Children join me in sinc[e]re wishes for You, My Dear Mother, Brothers & Sister Health & Happiness & believe me to be My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* Island of S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Oct<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> 1809 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin  
Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Answ<sup>d</sup> May 4<sup>h</sup> 1810

OBLIGATIONS OF ELIJAH BRUSH

Strabane November the 21<sup>st</sup> 1809

My Dear Friends, On the 11<sup>th</sup> inst I went to Detroit for the purpose of doing your buziness So far as was in my power & returned on the 18<sup>th</sup>. I will now, let you know what I have done. I first settled with M<sup>r</sup> Brush agreeable to y<sup>r</sup> joint Letter of the 14<sup>th</sup> of August last; he executed new mortgages to each of you for \$1000 payable on 1<sup>st</sup> of May next 500 & the remaining 500 to each on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October next, with the express condition that if he Should not pay at the aforesaid periods he will be liable to pay you agreeable to the 1<sup>st</sup> agreement principal & interest These mortgages are made in trust to me for y<sup>r</sup> uses only he has also given 4 bonds for the like sum, payable to yourselves, or to me as y<sup>r</sup> agent. This I believe is perfectly conformable to y<sup>r</sup> Letters, and he seems to have a grateful sense of y<sup>r</sup> uncommon generosity to him, & means as some Small return to make no Charge for attend<sup>ee</sup> in bringing forward y<sup>r</sup> claims or any buziness of that kind; & I'm sure if he can Sell his Lands near Cincinata or by any other means collect the money due you, so as to have it ready when due I'm certain he will do it. both to shew his sense of y<sup>r</sup> friendship to him,

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

& to avoid paying So much more. He has made up the money in part for the paymt of the orchard with interest & hopes to come over with the whole in a few days. his Disbursements amount to a good deal, but I told him They can not come in on Deduction of the debt for the orchard, but that I would pay him, & in order to enable me to pay that & the Surveyor, he must Urge the immediate payment of what John Harvey owes. this man has a fine new house in the Town of Detroit & other property, but money is now So very scarce, that those in good circumstances are as much pinched for ready [cash] as those in bad The mecanicks as the only people who have a Little. M<sup>r</sup> Brush has obtained & delivered me a deed in you M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills name for 4 Lots in Town of Detroit, containing 17,882 Square feet & for you M<sup>r</sup> Todd 3 Lots in said place containing 16,882 square feet these are in Liue of the 2 small houses belonging to you M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & the one belonging to you M<sup>r</sup> Todd I observed to M<sup>r</sup> Brush that the proportion did not appear to me just, as you had only 1 house & M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill 2 he gave me for answer that owing to [their] Situation in the Town M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills 4 Lots were worth double y<sup>r</sup> 3

I near 2 months ago brought before the Commissioners some of y<sup>r</sup> claims at the Prarie Ronde & from the Spring well towards the River Rouge. at the time the Secretary M<sup>r</sup> Atwater<sup>18</sup> who is one of the Commissioners was absent, & I believe the other two though authorized did not Chose to decide untill his return, which has been for some time past, since which I heard that these Claims were rejected; I therefore went over the River & requested a meeting of the Commissioners, when I Said so much to them, that they

<sup>18</sup> Reuben Atwater (Attwater) was born in Wallingford, Conn., May 11, 1768. His father, also named Reuben, was twice married and had several children. One daughter married General Andrew Hull, long prominent in Cheshire, and in the Connecticut Legislature, and another married Stephen R. Bradley, U. S. Senator from Vermont, 1790-94 and 1801-13. Reuben Atwater (our present subject) lived for some years in Wallingford. From 1808-14 he was secretary of Michigan Territory. At the time of his appointment he was described as a lawyer living in Vermont. In 1811-12 he served as acting governor during the absence from Michigan of Governor Hull. He also served as a commissioner of the Land Board until 1811, and collector of the port of Detroit, 1808-14. He married (first) Eliza Willard and (second) Sarah Lamb, daughter of General John Lamb. He had two children, Catherine and Clinton Edward. He died in February, 1831. Atwater Street in Detroit serves as his local monument. Data derived from sketches in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXXVII, 449, and in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 204-205; and Francis Atwater (comp.), *Atwater History and Genealogy* (Meriden, Conn., 1901), 156-57, *et passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

agreed to revise the matter & Said I might go with the Surveyor & get these Claims measured. therefore I'm in great hopes of their confirmation. I before mentioned that my idea was not, to bring forward any claims, which I thought might be rejected M<sup>r</sup> Brush & M<sup>r</sup> Sibley think I'm very right, for a rejected claim may be considered as waste lands of the Territory & ordered to be Sold, whereas the others claimed can not I have Seen M<sup>r</sup> Anderson the principal man now at the River Raizin & have directed him to have a days ploughing done on each claim there, & I will also send out the Surveyor to measure off the front of each Since I began this Letter the bearer M<sup>r</sup> Labadie called who is on his way to Montreal, & could not Stay untill I had finished I therefore thought it best to give an order on you for \$1½ to induce him to take care of this & one I wrote M<sup>r</sup> Todd, some time ago, which for want of an opportunity is Still here & might be kept Longer. I would have paid him here, but that would not insure so well the delivery of the Letters as by giving an order. on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1805 I sent each of you an acc<sup>t</sup> of the claims I had given in to the Commissioners for each of you. I now send you, enclosed, the State in which each of these claims are I am &<sup>ca</sup>

J A

*Endorsed:* Strabane Nov<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1809 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin to Mess<sup>rs</sup>  
Isaac Todd & Jm<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Coppy The Original sent per  
La Belle the 22<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1809  
Isaac Todd & James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal

LIVING CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>19</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 6<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1810

My Dear Father, On a former occasion I stated that His Excellency L<sup>t</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Gore had sent me a Collectors Commission (without any application on my part) for it, & merely my wish not to give Offence induced me to Act as such. I'm However happy to Inform you that the Duties arising from Tobacco & Rum entered will exceed two Hundred pounds & of course my Share will be £100 pro C<sup>y</sup> for this year. so far Fortune! has favoured me. Should

<sup>19</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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the N.W.C<sup>o</sup> enter their Tobacco yearly at this port in lieu of Niagara or Queenston it will settle a Hundred Annually as long as I reside here or they continue so entering their Goods.

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs never was so dull as this Year (thats to say) since I have been an Inhabitant; Whilst the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> were here We were all sociable & entered into Card parties, Dances, Dinners &c but am sorry to say a great change has taken place laterly & it appears that Economy is the Word of the Day & no keeping up the rank of the Situation each man holds.

Its a great pity that Cap<sup>tn</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee does not apply to come to his situation at this post, he is not aware of the advantages thereof. I can assure him he would live much better & have every article Necessary for his family as cheap as [at] Sandwich by importing them from Lower Canada. The country abounds in fish of a Superior quality. Hares, Patridges & Ducks some Rein Deer & Bear. The Soil exceeding good for Raising Vegetables Meadows abounding w<sup>th</sup> wild Hay for wintering such cattle as he may take from his farm to supply himself w<sup>h</sup> Beef (as to pork its sold at 1/Yk C<sup>y</sup> P<sup>r</sup> lb) with the Rations he used to receive would keep him with a full abundance. & you can assure him that £100 H<sup>x</sup> C<sup>y</sup> pays all my yearly stores including the Transport (which I have not Rec<sup>d</sup> from Govern<sup>t</sup>) as the rest of those in the Departm have & amongst my stores I generally Order Two Quarter Casks wine as much spirits, which I find quite sufficient for my family & friends The remainder of my Salary goes towards pay[ing] my Debts. The Climate would answer him & Therese far better than where they are—Men servants can be procured here which are the best being engages & accustomed to the country. he will want a Female Servant they being scarce who understand how to Cook wash & milk Cows For my part an Engage, the Negresse & Gilbert does all the Work about the House the Engage Cuts & hawls all the Wood for Four fires, Feeds 4 Cows, 1 ox 2 Horses & ½ D<sup>n</sup> Hogs & always more Wood in the Yard than My Brother ever had at any one time. In short it appears to me he would be far happier: than where he now is on a Farm which is worn out. He

would be the First man here from his Situation & great acquisition to the Place. His Friends & well wishers should advise him to come & execute the duties of his appointment or station, otherwise he may dwindle away to nothing.

If Edwards has delivered you any corn on my Acc<sup>t</sup> I request you'll have the Goodness to ship it in the first Vessel. should you have no Bags M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh perhaps will oblige me w<sup>h</sup> the loan of as many as will Answer & be ret<sup>d</sup> by the Vessel. I want Three good sheep to be shipt on Board the *Nancy*. If you have none yourself, have the goodness to get M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh to procure them. I want them for summers use & wish them to be got fat if possible.

Edwards Lease expires in April next (I believe). If you think him industrious & deserving of continuing, you can make arrangements for his remaining on the same till Madelaine goes down or for another year as you think fit.

\* \* \* \* \*

I remain Dear Father Your Dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane Near Sandwich Recommended to the care of The Hon<sup>ble</sup> P. Selby York

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Jan<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>h</sup> 1810 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Recv<sup>d</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> May 4<sup>h</sup> 1810

FROM LAURENT BAZADONE TO JOHN ASKIN

Vincennes 30 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1810

D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup> I am still without any information from you concerning a Note I put into your Hands of one Choiser who lived in Montreal and owed me about 450 Livres in Peltry or 900<sup>te</sup> in Money. He was in good circumstances then and must have paid your Correspondent; and they ought to account to you, who in Justice ought to reimburse me who am an unfortunate poor man.

<sup>20</sup> The concluding paragraphs of the letter are devoted to greetings to friends and relatives.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Expecting the pleasure of hearing from you by M<sup>r</sup> DuBois  
and remain, D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Laurent Bazadone<sup>21</sup>

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire near Sandwich upper  
Canada Favor of M<sup>r</sup> DuBois

*Endorsed:* Post Vincennes Jan<sup>y</sup> 30<sup>h</sup> 1810 Mons<sup>r</sup> Baza-  
done to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> the 14<sup>h</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> & wrote an Answ<sup>r</sup>  
to M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Mackintosh same day

ARBITRATION OF CLAIM AGAINST FRANCIS VIGO

Sandwich 15<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1810

M<sup>r</sup> Askin proposes to M<sup>r</sup> Vigo to refer all matters in dif-  
ference between them to the Arbitration at this place, of 3  
or 5 Gentlemen to be mutually appointed by the Parties.  
On his part he will have No objection to Mess<sup>rs</sup> Ja<sup>s</sup> Francis  
or B<sup>to</sup> Baby, M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum M<sup>r</sup> Park, or M<sup>r</sup> May. And further  
that if M<sup>r</sup> Vigo will come to Sandwich or Detroit himself,  
on this business, in the course of next Spring or Summer,  
M<sup>r</sup> Askin pledges his Word of honor that M<sup>r</sup> Vigo shall not  
be sued by him either at Sandwich or Detroit. Each party  
giving security to the other for pay<sup>t</sup> at this place of the sum  
which may be given ag<sup>t</sup> him.

CHARGES AGAINST JOHN ASKIN JR.

York the 25<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1810

My Dear Grand Papa I arrived here on the 20<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>  
in 15 days from the Island of S<sup>t</sup> Joseph, with dispatches for

<sup>21</sup> Laurent Bazadone was described by Governor Harrison, in 1811, as an "Italian inn-  
keeper" of Vincennes. He was the recipient of 400 acres of land granted by Congress to  
heads of families residing there in 1783 or earlier. *Am. State Paps., Pub. Lands*, I, 290.  
He was engaged in trade in Vincennes for many years. In 1786, his store was plundered  
by George Rogers Clark, for which Bazadone a decade later levied upon Clark's property  
in the sum of \$20,000. *Ind. Mag. Hist.*, IV, 10-12. In 1788, one Bazadone, presumably  
Laurent, ransomed William Biggs from his Indian captors. In September, 1807, Bazadone  
was chosen president of a mass meeting of French settlers of Vincennes which adopted  
ringing resolutions of loyalty to the American government. *Ind. Hist. Colls*, VII, 256-59.  
These resolutions Bazadone signed by making his mark; his letter here printed is written  
in an excellent hand, presumably that of some amanuensis. In the spring of 1811, Harrison  
prosecuted Bazadone for murdering an Indian in Vincennes, but the jury acquitted him  
"almost without deliberation." *Ibid.*, 515.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

His Excellency Governor Gore, from my Father, he having been suspended from his Situations as Store Keeper & Interpreter in the Indian Department by Captain Tho<sup>s</sup> Dawson Commanding at S<sup>t</sup> Joseph, who is the most malicious fellow I ever Knew. I must refer you to D<sup>r</sup> Richardson for the particulars of the transaction, he having been made acquainted of them by me. I'm told that His Excellency, on the perusal of the dispatches, was verry much displeas'd with the beheaviour of Capt. Dawson, & in consequence of which, has been pleas'd to issue an Order that M<sup>r</sup> Askin do resume the Duties of Store Keeper & Interpreter in the Indian Department at S<sup>t</sup> Joseph, that Capt. Sherrard<sup>22</sup> immediately proceeds to S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's to take the Command of that Post, & that Capt Dawson be held responsible for issue[s] out of his Majesty's Indian Store during the Time of my Father's Suspension. Captain Givens is also to accompany us to S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's to examine whether there is Sufficient grounds for a Court of Enquiry & to report to His Excellency Accordingly, he conceiving it ne[ce]ssary from the Charges Alledged against my Father

I expect We shall leave this to morrow Morning for S<sup>t</sup> Josephs. I am afraid we will meet with a great deal of difficulty to get there, the season being so far advanced

When I left S<sup>t</sup> Josephs my Father desired me to request Your condescending to Excuse him for not having wrote you he being at that time unwell.

My Father & Mother desired their Respectful Love to be presented you & My Dear Grand Mama & Kind Remembrance to their Friends I remain My Dear Grand Papa

• Your Dutiful Grandson  
John B. Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane Hon<sup>d</sup> by D<sup>r</sup> Richardson

*Endorsed:* York Fe<sup>y</sup>b 25<sup>h</sup> 1810 J Bapt. Askin to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> the 15<sup>th</sup> March

<sup>22</sup> Captain Thomas Ormsby Sherrard, of the 100th Regiment, became an ensign in the army, June 26, 1801. In February, 1810, he was ordered to proceed from Toronto to St. Joseph, to relieve Captain Dawson as commandant of that post. He served in the War of



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

AMERICAN CONQUEST OF FUR TRADE

Montreal 26 February 1810

My dear Old freend I receved a letter from you last fall, and wrote to you the same time which is very extraordinary that you did not receive it. there is no safety in writing otherwise than by post, as the Boatmen is very careless. I also this day had The pleasure of receiving yours of the 13<sup>th</sup> January and am Happy to find that you and yours are in good Health, which is one of the greatest blessings Providence can bestow on us poor Mortals. also that you are exempt from the many troubles, vexations, and disapointments attending those who are in commerce. for my part I have had a severe Bilious Fever which I got in Lake Champlain, which was near puting an end to our frienlly intercourse. however it pleased providence to Lengthen out my span, for sometime longer. I wish when it was in my power to have retired from active live to have done as you did. when we are young we do not feel the effects of misfortune, so much as when we grow old. how[e]ver when I look arround I find many worse than myself which is a consolation. our old friend Todd is in New York and has been there all winter, which has been a loss to our sociaty. espesially to me. he being the only old friend, except M<sup>r</sup> Frobisher, who has not changed their dispositions, some from geting rich, other from having obtain'd places, &<sup>ca</sup> has raised them in their own imagination above their old acquaintance, and I am sorry to say your friend M<sup>c</sup>Gill is one of that number. the popolation of this City within this two years exceeds all imagination. the whole trade of the Country is carried on by Americans and their agents, and I expect the Indian Trade will fall into their Hands, as M<sup>r</sup> Astore has offerd to purchase out the Makenau C<sup>o</sup> he has a Charter from Congress to an excluseve right to the Indian Trade, and I understand he is to be conected with the N W Company to make settlemnts on the North West coast of America, to communicate with the inland N W Trade. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gillavray is now in New York & M. Richardson on that

1812, and was three times wounded in the battle of Chippewa, July 5, 1814. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*, and XV, 606.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

business. I hope your reading this Letter will not give you the blues. it is a bad rainy day & that has affected my spirits. the next I hope will be better. we have had a disagreeable winter. more sickness in the Country & Town, than ever was known. I have not heard from M<sup>r</sup> Brush this 12 Months. let me Know whether he is dead, or no. M<sup>rs</sup> Henry and my Daughter are all I have of my family, two of my boys in the N West, one on board of a Man of War. my paper is almost full therefore I must close (is it possible we will never meet in this world). M<sup>rs</sup> Henry & [I] Join in wishing you & M<sup>rs</sup> Askin every Happ[i]ness this world can give [I] remain Dear Askin your old friend

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Feb<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>t</sup> 1810 Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup>  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> April Answ<sup>d</sup> July 24<sup>h</sup>

VALUE OF REAL ESTATE IN GROSSE POINTE

Detroit 20<sup>th</sup> April 1810

Dear Sir By the mail on Tuesday evening I rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Porter at Washington saying that the Gov<sup>t</sup> would give me other Lands for the Lot I have in the Esplanade in exchange and would give me a bargain. the Commodore passed by here day before yesterday for the Gross point in order as he said to consult M<sup>rs</sup> Grant on the subject of purchasing the back concession he seemed himself not much in favour of it I though[t] or rather he seemed to regret the idea of giving so much money, tho formerly he was very desirous of it. I think a word from you to him would influence him much. instead of their being 270 acres as I thought there is 360, which at 2 dollars is 720 Dollars which I will get him for 650 Dollars and he or any other person that owns the Gross point had better give a thousand for it than have it own<sup>d</sup> by another I expect to see him on his return if he crossess here, but if he should cross at Meldrums you will be prepared to meet him on this subject on his arrival at your house. the land will never be sold by the Gov<sup>t</sup> for a Cent less than two dollars per acre, and if he does not take it some designing countryman of mine will jump at it for the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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very purpose of shoving him out of the front and which ere long they will do.

I am Dear Sir very truly Yours

E Brush

P. S. I did not go at [to] Sandwich the day before yesterday as I had intended but shall go tomorrow without fail.

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Straban.

TROUBLES AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>23</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's 21<sup>st</sup> April 1810

My Dear Brother, Tho your nephew John went to York last winter thats to say he left this on the 5 Feb & arrived at that place on the 20<sup>h</sup> of same Month, Yet the situation of my mind was such from the persecution of a Malignant Commanding officer that I had not time to write you. rest assured My Dear Charles it was not from the want of that Affection which nature imbibes in us, but merely from the Multiplicity of my Business or Affairs. From the ill state of my Health & the unpleasantness of my situation reduced me to a mere Skeleton however thank God my Health & strength is recovering fast and I hope to be able to get thro with my Affairs & the better of all those Malevolent Characters that have endeavoured to Calumniate me Doctr Richardson happened to be at York when John was there which afforded him and the family at the latters return to this [place] infinite pleasure. Capt<sup>n</sup> Sherrard arrival here was a fortunate circumstanc as the Garrison at this Post was in a state of Mutiny. The principal ring leaders were secured in time The Indian[s] mounted Guard day & night under my Directions with The Soldiers till such times as the prisoners were compleatly secured & put in Irons.<sup>24</sup>

I do not know of any instance that any Officer in the Indian Department have been persecuted, harass'd or annoy'd as much as I have [been] since I came to this place.

<sup>23</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>24</sup> For Captain Dawson's version of this affair (written the same day as Askin's present letter), see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 279-81.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Cap<sup>t</sup> Dawson who Commanded here previous to the 24<sup>th</sup> March last: conspired with the most worthless Characters of the Country to bring false & groundless accusation[s], but all their Diabolical Machinations have been brought to light & his Capt D. unwarrantable conduct will be exposed. As our Dear Father may be anxious to know what has transpired here, have the goodness to write him by the first Opportunity that His Excellency L<sup>t</sup> Gov Gore has been pleased to order that I resume the Situation I held in the Department and that the accusations which were prefer'd ag<sup>t</sup> me were mere cobwebs and not a single accusation was substantiated at the investigation that took place. I have been beset by a set of Malignant people who were callous to every sense of feeling and Capt<sup>a</sup> Dawson who [was] more Malicious than the whole countenanced these in order (I believe) to get the Indian stores into his own hands, but the prompt & Judicious mode of His Excellency L<sup>t</sup> Gov Gore put a stop to the Business in due time.

Madelaine, John & the Children join me in fervant prayers for your Health & prosperity. Our Love to M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Dixon & all our friends in your Quarter I remain My Dear Charles

Your affectionate Brother

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

M<sup>r</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup> Askin Queenston

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin Queenston

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs April 21<sup>st</sup> 1810 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup>  
to C A

AFFAIRS AT STRABANE<sup>25</sup>

Strabane July the 31<sup>st</sup> 1810

My Dear John, The very best time to mention matters are as they occur. I'm just come from M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Eberts's<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>26</sup> Presumably Joseph Eberts, eldest son of Dr. Herman Eberts, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 593-94. Joseph was born in Montreal in 1785, and was brought to Detroit by his mother in 1791. From Niagara the journey was made in company with the family of William Baker, for whom see *ibid.*, 520. Joseph Eberts is described in various entries in the St. John's Church Register (Sandwich) as a merchant of that place. On July 24, 1810, he married Ann Baker, daughter of William Baker, and three daughters were born to them

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

where I saw the stick erected as a flag staff that you was once so kind as to give me. I asked him how he came by it. he said a Monsieur Bellaire (how [who] has now gone to S<sup>t</sup> Joseph as a carpenter) sold it to him. have this matter cleared up, for its certainly right I should have the value, of any thing given me & taken without my consent. its uncommonly fine & is still above 90 feet long.

Another matter has been cleared up to me by a Gentleman some days ago. He says he paid you £20 & M<sup>r</sup> Fraser £10 on acc<sup>t</sup> of rent due the latter & for these two sums your son gave a receipt to Gallerneau, this I have wrote M<sup>r</sup> Frasar a few days ago. he agrees that he got the £10 but writes you never gave him but £12 out of the £20 if so there is £8 due him.

Poor Capt<sup>n</sup> Laughton<sup>27</sup> was burried yesterday. Allice & child very well, but Brush not able to walk ab<sup>t</sup> from a severe fit of the gout—the rest of the family well.

Doctor Richardson having given me to understand that Capt<sup>n</sup> Dawson intended to avail himself of the acc<sup>t</sup> made out agn<sup>st</sup> him for Shoes for (& which M<sup>r</sup> Woods compelled him to pay) to prove that you actually traded as I understand precaution was taken in it to set forth that they were lent & belonging to another man; in order to defeat this piece of malice I've explained the matter both to M<sup>r</sup> Selby at York & M<sup>r</sup> Todd say M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill at Montreal, for M<sup>r</sup> Todd is gone to England & M<sup>r</sup> Woods has done the same to Forsyth Richardson & Co at Montreal.

Capt<sup>n</sup> Rough as passing yesterday said he had seen the *Caledonia* at the Detour which gave us much satisfaction, as from the weather we feared Madlaine would have had a long voyage.

in the years 1818-23. Joseph Eberts was an ensign of the Essex County militia in the War of 1812, serving at Detroit and Raisin River (possibly elsewhere, also). Data derived from *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*, especially XXVIII, 620-26; and St. John's Church Register. There was another Joseph Eberts, surgeon, who died, Sept. 29, 1819, aged sixty-six years, and was buried in St. John's churchyard two days later. What his relationship with the individual here noted may have been has not been determined.

<sup>27</sup> Probably John Laughton of the British naval establishment and (later) Stromness Island, who is noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 175-76. However, the St. John's Church Register records the death, on Sept. 1, 1810, of "John Laughton, late of this Parish, mariner." We are unable to reconcile the conflicting records with respect to the date of his death.

I can't say when there will be an opportunity to send this letter, but it shall be ready.

Its now the 12<sup>th</sup> August & some days ago I receiv<sup>d</sup> a letter from Judge Powell saying I would get a Deed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> concession where we live (the 1<sup>st</sup> we have) this gives me great pleasure, as also that some other claims I had to the am<sup>t</sup> of 800 acres would be now granted (though formerly refused) as delays with Government in particular are dangerous & I have not the means of getting the Patent without money, I wish it was convenient for you to draw for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual paym<sup>t</sup> Madlaine proposed [to make]. I 2 days ago gave M<sup>r</sup> P<sup>28</sup> a broad hint of my immediate want of sufficient [funds to] take up my Patents, & that I was in hopes by y<sup>r</sup> means soon to reimburse him but he did not seem to wish to do it (though his wife would with all my other children benefit by any lands I got) I therefore did not urge it nor beg of him, nor would I of the first man in the Country should I never get a foot of Land more!

Its now the 16<sup>th</sup> August & y<sup>r</sup> favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> per the *Hunter* is just come to hand & though the *Caledonia* is in sight & I expect more Letters by her, I'll now answer this. I'm glad Madlaine had not so long a passage as we feared she had. I'm glad John is gone to the Mississippi though it deprives you of help, yet it will prevent some falsehoods in any point of view you take it I think it *for the benefit of both*.

I think M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh disposed to oblige any of the family, when he can do it without drawing blame on himself from the N.W.C<sup>o</sup>. I'll attend to what you say ab<sup>t</sup> apples & cider &c. I will also direct Brush if any thing from Detroit goes, to send it to the care of Doctor Mi[t]chell at Mackinac.

I was mistaken it was the *Charlotte* & not the *Caledonia* that was in sight. Its now the 18<sup>th</sup> & I've rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> two Letters of the 14<sup>th</sup>. I have now wrote M<sup>r</sup> Brush respecting any apples &c intended to be sent you from the other side, to be directed to Doctor Mitchell. There seems to be so

<sup>28</sup> The name Powell is written in the manuscript, with all the letters but the first crossed out. The manuscript is a copy made of the letter actually sent, and is apparently in the handwriting of Alexander Askin. Judge Powell was not Askin's son-in-law, and it seems likely that the letter B (for Brush) was intended by the copyist.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

many masters to apply to, to send any thing in N.W. C<sup>os</sup> Vessel that its disagreeable. I believe when M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Intosh can do it he would oblige you or I. I will do as you direct respecting the Ox & wheat. Its too early for apples therefore will desire M<sup>rs</sup> Badishon not to send this trip. I shall not forget y<sup>r</sup> plough at least the Shear.

We were very happy to learn that Madlaine is so well after her Voyage. I have rec<sup>d</sup> the Matts for M<sup>r</sup> Brush & M<sup>r</sup> Peltier & have sent them to them, as well as the Letters for the other side. Your Mother received the box & things from Madlaine, for which she is very thankful.

21<sup>st</sup> In order that there might be no mistake I called at M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's & saw both him & Capt<sup>n</sup> Burbank & asked if the ox for the commanding Officer could be taken on board. they said not, owing to Cattle the N. W. Gentlemen have ordered up. Capt<sup>n</sup> Burbank says Capt<sup>n</sup> Sherrard gave up his claim of geting an ox, provided Lieut<sup>nt</sup> Williams could get a cow on board. respecting this Cow I know nothing.

I sent to M<sup>r</sup> Davids about the Plough or Irons if the Plough was not made. neither was done owing to the man's having been sick, but he was in hopes they would [be] before the Vessel should [sail] & if so he would Ship them.

25<sup>th</sup> Under cover you have the Papers which M<sup>r</sup> Brush promised to send after Madelaine. I only rec<sup>d</sup> a Copy of them yesterday & have got Alex<sup>r</sup> to draw them out, & sign both and keep one & send the other to me. sign in presence of the Same people I have, thats to say Cap<sup>t</sup> Burbank & W<sup>m</sup> Thorn fill up the blank of the date on which you Sign I did not put the real Sum due me in the paper, as it's of no consequence, what the Sum is said to be. I am &<sup>ca</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN JR. TO JOHN ASKIN<sup>29</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 14<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1810

My Dear Father The *Caledonias* arrival from S<sup>t</sup> Maries affords me the Opportunity of writing again, and to inform

<sup>29</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

you that Mr Shaw<sup>30</sup> the N W agent has been so good as to desire that the Officers of this Garrison should receive what Cattle & provisions they may want by their Vessel tho I am not one of the Officers yet I cannot think that Mr Mcintosh would exclude me from that indulgence. Mr Shaw remained a few hours at my House & I did not think of making him a request of that kind, otherwise it would have been granted me. Such things as you or any of my Detroit Friends wish to send me I request you'll apply to Mr Mcintosh to let them be shipt on board the Vessel and that I hope to be able to send him a similar requisition to the Officers of the Garrison as soon as Mr McLeod<sup>31</sup> arrives. Per the *Caledonia* I send a Moccock of Sugar for Mr<sup>s</sup> Badishon & expect as usual a Barrel of her dry Apples.

Capt Sherrard wishes to get a fat Ox up on the N. W. Vessel and as he has no Friend about Sandwich to apply to he has requested of me to procure him one to weigh about 6 Cwt I beg you'll have the goodness to apply to Mr Pattinson, he having a number as mentioned by you in a former letter. Make the best bargain you can and let Mr Pattenson send the Acc<sup>t</sup> for the Ox, hay & Oats or Bran that may be requisite and at the return of the Vessel he will get a Draft for the Amount.

I send two Empty Bags and wish that they may be fill'd with Wheat that is to say 2 Bush<sup>ls</sup> of Spring wheat & 2 of fall wheat & marked Capt Sherrard S. Wheat & F. Wheat. I hope you will be able to borrow that Quantity and make Edwards return it. Have the goodness to get Mr David to ship my Plough & Shear if the plough is not made no matter about that part I want the shear. Let Mr Peltiers family know that there is a Bundle of Mats for them directed to your care. and acquaint them that by writing via Makina recommended to the care of Doct<sup>r</sup> Mitchell answers as well

<sup>30</sup> Angus Shaw, a partner and long prominent in the affairs of the North West Company. He was one of the three signers, Nov. 5, 1810, on behalf of the North West Company, of a memorial to the government respecting interference by American officers with the operations of the Canadian traders. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXV, 273-75, and Davidson, *North West Company*, *passim*.

<sup>31</sup> Archibald Norman McLeod, also a North West partner, and one of the most notable members of that organization. He figured prominently in the effort to drive Lord Selkirk's settlers from the Red River country in 1816, culminating in the killing of Governor Robert Semple and his followers in the battle at Seven Oaks. See *ibid.*, *passim.*, and Campbell, *St. Gabriel St. Church*, 271-72.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

as by our Vessels or if they wish to send Apples in the Autumn by that way Doct Mitchell will take charge of them & [they will be] forwarded with care to this.

Madelaine informs me that you have Corks. if so, send me a few Dozen for I have not one to cork my spruce Beer. My reason for requesting of you to make the best Bargain about the Ox is that I expect I get the Half of him *en payant*.

I rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from John Yesterday dated the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst which states that he was to leave Makina on the 11<sup>th</sup> for the Mississippi w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Redford Crawford, his salary is but small being only 200\$ yet its far better than Idling his time here and [he] could get no legable [eligible] situation as long as he remained for there is none to be granted now as M<sup>r</sup> Rawson<sup>32</sup> has been appointed commissary for this Post.

Madelaine has been verry well since her return to this. the Climate of the place appears to be favourable to her.

Have the goodness to inform my Dear Mother that she shall not pass the Winter without a Buffaloe Skin and that I should have sent her some Sugar by this Vessel but am prevented for the want of M<sup>r</sup> Crawfords arrival from Makina, his clerk not know<sup>s</sup> if there is any for sale by his Employer. I believe I wrote you before that it would have been gratifying to me had it been in my power to have sent M<sup>r</sup> Barthe Sen<sup>r</sup> & several of my worthy friends a little sugar, but I have been compleatly deprived of that Satisfaction, thro the means of that Vagabond who went away. Madelaine joins me in best wishes to You & my Dear Mother & our Love to all my Brothers Sisters & relations & am

My Dear Father Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr.

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

<sup>32</sup> Santlaw Gustavus Rawson was born in Nottinghamshire, England, in July, 1749. He served in the American Revolution as a member of the Fifth Regiment of Foot. He subsequently withdrew from the army and became a merchant of Quebec. He became security for his sons-in-law, who failed, entailing the loss of his own property. In August, 1810, he became assistant barrack master and assistant commissary at Fort St. Joseph, and served for many years thereafter at St. Joseph and Drummond Island. On the evacuation of the latter place by the British in 1828, he withdrew with the garrison to Penetanguishene. In 1841 he located at Price's Corners, North Orillia, where he died in October, 1845. See Simcoe Co. Hist. Soc., *Pioneer Papers*, No. 5, pp. 79-80, and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane.

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1810 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> the 18<sup>th</sup>

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO CHARLES ASKIN<sup>33</sup>

Strabane Oct<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1810

My dear Charles I wrote you from Gros Point two days Ago & on my Arrival here yesterday I found two letters from you dated at Montreal on the 2<sup>d</sup> & 4<sup>h</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> & two others dated at Queenston of the 3<sup>d</sup> & 8<sup>h</sup> Instant, to all wh. I will now Answer.

I never had a doubt of my Montreal Fri[e]nds shewing Every Attention in their powers to any Child of mine they are realy Worthy men & sincerely Fri[e]ndly. I'm very sorry Indeed that you report one of them (M<sup>r</sup> Frobisher) to be so near his last good as well as bad Characters must go when the Almighty thinks fit.

You do not Mention of whom you purchased your goods. I Approve much of your Not having taken much at first & I Advise you strongly not to buy fancy goods as some of them always remains On hand whilst Necessary Ones must sell sooner or later & I'm well pleased you remain at Queenston for the present, for the Commodore has told me that all the world is crowding to the Head of the Lake. You seems to have great Fri[e]nds at Queenston I'm happy you deserve them. Among which your time will pass Agreeably.

I cant say how late a Vessell will sail or what Vessells will Sail for Fort Erie. I fear None from this side. however I will put up in the best Order 20 Barrells or more of Apples. I have good new Barrelles making to put them in. I do not want any Money to pay for them. As to Cider my press is out of Order therefore will not make much. I'm sorry for the Death of poor Harry Hay & the manner in which he died.<sup>34</sup> What changes take place in this life.

<sup>33</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>34</sup> Apparently Pierre Henry Hay, eldest child of Jehu Hay and Marie Julie Réaume, for whom see *ante*, 58-59. Pierre Henry seems to have been commonly known by his second

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Send always an Account of the Expence of what you send us. the whole must be paid you out of the Annuity from Jn<sup>o</sup> £20 Ster. or the Legacy.

Big-Knife is Arrived safe & shall be put on the Island where he will live well & not be subject to be rode.

The Bill gave M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson for £100 N. Y. C. on Geo. & Alex<sup>r</sup> he paid Away to M<sup>r</sup> Fraser of whom he purchased some Land. I wrote them by desire of the latter that he wished to get a Draft payable in Montreal in Exchange. M<sup>r</sup> Fraser not being pinched in Money Matters, I'm Sure will be content to take a Bill payable in some Months in which case Interest should be Offered him though I think he will not Ask any. I found him poor fellow, Friendly & kind. I know you will be Attentive to him. As to the Spirits, from the Agree<sup>mt</sup> with Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee, I do not think M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson Expects them for what they cost in Montreal & Expences up. The words were *£100 in goods at a low or reasonable Advance*. Those goods I supposed at first where [were] to have come from Queenston & [to be] furnished at a reasonable Advance as others in that Place. Indeed as you say it's hard to meddle in Bargains between Grand Sons & Sons in Law. I think the Curricule a Dear Bargan, though it cost M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson much more. however as he gave Geo. his choice to take it or leave it M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson is in no wise to Blame. No doubt from Queenston to Sandwich the Spirits will be at M<sup>r</sup> P. risk & charges

I'm glad that Roberts connections have been so lucky. we see how many things turns out for the best contrary to what we Expected.

Its no trouble to me to do anything I can for my Grand Children. If M<sup>r</sup> Brush brings in the Mair as I expect and a Vessell goes down Afterwards she will be sent to George.

name. He was born in Detroit, Sept. 11, 1765. In a petition to the Executive Council of Upper Canada, July 11, 1793, he stated that he had served in the Revolution as an ensign in the Second Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, and asked for an allotment of land in the back concessions opposite Fort Detroit. In September, 1794, Hay was a lieutenant in Capt. Daniel Field's company of Essex County militia, then doing garrison service at Detroit. In May, 1796, Governor Simcoe appointed him lieutenant in Captain Louvigny Montigny's company of the Royal Canadian Volunteers (Montigny had married Agatha Hay, Pierre's sister, in 1790). The details of his further career have not been found. Data derived from *Simcoe Papers, passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; information and documents supplied by the Public Archives of Canada.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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As James is now Absent & may not be here so as to leave this the 4<sup>h</sup> of Next Month, Your Mother says to put off [f] your departure with Alex<sup>r</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> and that James & Alex<sup>r</sup> will leave this to meet you at same time and take Alex<sup>r</sup> Hamiltons young Mair with him.

I have not seen M<sup>r</sup> Johnston yet, but mean to call on him this day.

We have no good tin Man here, therefore beg you will send us the following Articles of that Mettle. 4 2<sup>n</sup> & 4 pint Measures, a large & small funnell, 2 Puding Dishes, one Lantern, with 2 Sau[ce]pans One to hold a Quart & the Other two Quarts.

I will now finish this long Letter & present you with the Families best wishes Adieu My Dear Charles

Your Affectionate Father

John Askin

P. S. the Deed for your Orchard is signed, but not yet dated, as in 6 Months after Execution we must Acknowledge it before One of the Judges & it was Neglected when Judge Scott was here

INSTRUCTIONS TO AARON GREELEY  
CONCERNING LAND CLAIMS

Strabane December the 17<sup>th</sup> 1810

Dear Sir, In order to enable you to make a fair & true representation of the situation of such claims of lands in the Michigan Territory that have been rejected or not brought forward (though entered) belonging to Isaac Todd, James M<sup>c</sup>Gill, Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill jointly, Major William Ancrum myself & the late William Robertson & myself jointly, I'm collecting under one head, on what grounds my claims for myself or the aforesaid gentlemen are founded, so that, added to the knowledge you already have respecting such claims, by looking at the memorandums I'm preparing you will obtain any knowledge you do not already possess.

I have no doubt from the promise you made me at our last conversation but you will do all in your power consistent with equity to have the aforesaid claims confirmed & those

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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who unjustly took possession of them prevented from benefiting by their fraudulent intentions. I see by the Law of the United States, great stress is laid on cultivation & improvement. that perhaps may be very right when a man goes on a tract of land on which nothing has been done, but to go into houses made, & paid for by others or even when there has been but a cultivated field & on which erect a small hut of no value (which is the common improvement as you know of those who take up other people's property for which they paid an equitable value) most surely by such means they acquire no right to the soil, when compared to the purchaser for I can let out a waste piece of land on which there's been no improvement whatever to a man, who will engage to make a house, out house barn &c & clear 4 acres of land each year & return the whole in 7 years without any charge. this clearly proves how little improvement is worth when compared to *the property of the soil*. It's not in my power to direct you to what authority to apply for redress of what I think my grievances. you know best yourself. nor can I say by what mode redress will be granted (if it should,) however I suppose by making a more favorable Law for honest fair purchasers who could not get people to keep & cultivate all the lands they were obliged to take in payment of those who could not get any thing else & requested as a favour that such payment might be recieved, which was my case & out of compassion I complied with, not one of the Lots I got, one excepted being obtained by *course of Law*

I have now to repeat what I already mentioned when I had the pleasure of seeing you last, which is that you should be amply rewarded in Land for any tract you may get confirmed of those mentioned in my memorandum to you whether such tract may belong to myself or those who's claims I have given in as being their agent & if any further security than what I give by this Letter is necessary you shall have it. I beg you will take this matter in its true light. Im not offering you a bribe or requiring you to betray a trust or injure any man who has right on his side, but I offer you a reward for the trouble & expence you may be at to obtain for me & others what Im sure is our right, & what you must in conscience feel to be such, therefore

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I'm employing *you* as I would a Lawyer to prevent others from doing me wrong & to forward *my just claims*.

Please let me know by the first opportunity how long exactly you think you'll be here, so that I may have the memorandums respecting my claims ready to send you, should the weather prevent my *seeing you before y' departure*.

With this I send a Letter for M<sup>r</sup> Brush directing him to give you 50£ out of which please take out any patents you get for any lands confirmed to myself or those for whom I act, also the one for M<sup>r</sup> Brush at Prarie Ronde & one for my son John at River aux Huron's.

I am Dear sir &<sup>ca</sup>

P.S. please send me the N<sup>o</sup> of the Lots I wrote you for some days ago

M<sup>r</sup> Aron Greeley Surveyor Detroit

*Endorsed:* Strabane Dec<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>h</sup> 1810 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin To M<sup>r</sup> Aron Greeley<sup>35</sup> Surveyor Detroit Copy

REPORT OF COLLECTOR OF THE PORT OF DETROIT

A STATEMENT of the salary, fees and emoluments received by Reuben Attwater Collector for the District of Detroit in the Territory of Michigan, commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, and ending the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1810, and also of actual expenditures during said period.

RECEIVED

For salary . . . . .	\$250
For fees . . . . .	356 53
For commission . . . . .	46 5
	<hr/>
	\$652 58

EXPENDED

For stationary . . . . .	\$ 6
For office rent and fuel . . . . .	36
	<hr/>
	\$42

<sup>35</sup> For the career of Aaron Greeley, see *B. H. R.*, I, 227-28.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Collectors Office }  
Port of Detroit } December 31<sup>st</sup> 1810

Reuben Attwater  
Collector.

Territory of Michigan, ss:

Personally appeared before me, the Undersigned Reuben Attwater Esq. who in verification of the above account, did on oath declare the same to the best of his knowledge and belief to be correct and just

February the 1<sup>st</sup> 1811 Reuben Attwater  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Smyth<sup>36</sup> Justice of the peace

*Endorsed:* Statement of the salary, fees and emoluments, and also of actual expenditures, commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> January and ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1810

DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY OF JAMES M<sup>c</sup>GILL<sup>37</sup>

Montreal the 6<sup>th</sup> January 1811

Dear Askin, I think I requested you some time ago to have the goodness to transmit me a statement or Schedule of all the Lands I have got from you, in settling matters between us (except the 40 Lots near or upon the River Sinclair of which I have the Deeds that I might be enabled to devise or bequeath them so that they should not be lost or occasion difficulties among<sup>st</sup> my successors, but I have not yet received it.

I again make this request more especially as I wish to leave you part of them as a mark of my confidence and esteem, notwithstanding all misfortunes, for by a view I can now

<sup>36</sup> Richard Smyth (Smith) came to Detroit about the year 1800 and died at his home on Grosse Ile, March 9, 1836. He held numerous public offices: marshal in 1803; sheriff in 1804; county treasurer in 1805; town trustee in 1818; and justice of the peace at various times. He was appointed lieutenant of cavalry in the Michigan militia in 1805 and major in 1811; during the War of 1812 he served as colonel, and in 1826 was appointed major general of militia. In 1805 he had a tavern on Woodbridge Street near Woodward which he kept for many years. He married Prudence Brady, and they had a son, John, born in Lexington, Ky., prior to their removal to Detroit. They also had two daughters: Jane, who married Thomas Lyon of Mackinac, Oct. 26, 1818; and Martha, who married Jeremiah V. R. Ten Eyck, May 14, 1819. Data adapted from sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 163-64.

<sup>37</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

take of my affairs, there will be enough for all Mr<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills relations, and I have none of blood to myself, and I therefore wish to be mindful of Friends in Upper Canada, who perhaps stand in need of assistance.

I request you not to loose time, for though in perfect health at present both you & I are getting forward in years— I hope you will be so particular in your description as to render it easy to convey my intentions into Effect, & wishing you the return of many happy new Years, I am, Dear Askin

Your Friend

(Signed) James M<sup>c</sup>Gill

John Askin Esquire

Turn Over<sup>38</sup>

NEWS FROM ST. JOSEPH<sup>39</sup>

St Josephs 8<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1811

My Dear Charles You favour of the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> last came to hand on the 16<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> per Capt<sup>n</sup> Fearson of the *Ellen*, who from Contrary winds and so boisterous as to drive his Vessel aground & wintering setting in immediately after compelled him to winter here: He will be an addition to our little society *Malgre lui* I feel much for his Wife & Children who no doubt must be verry uneasy not knowing what [h]is fate is. Indeed our *Beau frere* Pattinson must fret a good deal about his Vessel for he cannot possibly know any thing of what has happened or where its likely the Vessel is Fearson will be able to get her off[f] with two Boats as soon as the Ice goes away in the spring for she has not received any injury.

I'm sorry to find that my Friend! Schieffelin has been so unfortunate & I hope long ere this the poor fellow has extricated himself from the horrors of a Joal, tho my Dear Charles you represent the prison bounds extensive & in a pleasant part of the town; yet the verry Idea of being a prisoner is enough to Effect the mind of the person who you know has always been fond of liberty. I am happy to find

<sup>38</sup> The manuscript is a copy made by Askin to send to his son Charles in Queenston On the opposite side of the page is the letter of transmittal to Charles.

<sup>39</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



that you have commenced Business at Queenstown & have every reason to believe you will do well for all those who carry'd on Business at that place made money. The mode you travelled from Lower Canada to the State[s] & U. C must have been verry pleasant especially as it was a Novelty to you. The steam Boats must be an expeditious way of voyaging. M<sup>r</sup> Johnston<sup>40</sup> arrived here on the 18<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> last quite worn out with the fatigue of his Jaunt to Ireland, tho he says his greatest anxiety was on Lake Huron being 5 days in a fog and within 12 Miles of this place. As Capt<sup>n</sup> Pelkinson is a verry active & Industrious man its not unlikely but he will do well at Johnstown; Thats to say if the principal persons of your place and Niagara gives him every encouragement & support, otherwise nothing of consequence will be made except merely a decent living.

I have not received any letters from Johnny since he left a place called La Bay. as he was always verry punctual in writing to me I have reason to believe that no opportunity has offered which accounts for his silence. M<sup>r</sup> Crawford was to have left him at the Sock Villiage and himself to have gone down the Mississipi. John would have preferrd any other way of acquiring a livehood than the one he has undertaken, but as he had not *les Moyen* or Friends capable of assisting him he was compelled to take the steps he did untill such time as a favourable opportunity offered: *Entre nous* he had an Offer, but on my being consulted I advised one of the Party not to take any rash step by giving up a certainty but to wait with patience untill such time as he

<sup>40</sup> John Johnston was born, Aug. 25, 1762, near Coleraine, Antrim County, Ireland. His family was one of considerable local prominence and he received a good general education. In 1790, he came to Canada in search of a new career, and falling in with Andrew Todd, accompanied the latter to Mackinac in the summer of 1791. By Todd he was given a fur-trade equipment and despatched to Chequamegon on Lake Superior (modern La Pointe, Wis.), then a Chippewa stronghold. Here Johnston married a daughter of Chief Wabojeg, thereby establishing an intimacy with the tribe which continued to the end of his life. He subsequently located at Sault Ste. Marie, where he died, Sept. 22, 1828, having figured prominently in the activities of the adjoining region for upwards of a third of a century. He was the father of eight children, all born at the Sault. Lewis, born in 1793, entered the navy, and served on the *Queen Charlotte* in the Battle of Lake Erie; later he served in the British Indian Department and died in Amherstburg in 1825. George, born in 1796, served in the army during the War of 1812, and was present at the defeat of Major Holmes at Mackinac, Aug. 4, 1814. He died at Sault Ste. Marie, Jan. 6, 1861. Jane, born in 1800, married Henry R. Schoolcraft, Indian agent and writer, and died at Niagara, May 22, 1842. Descendants of Johnston still reside at the Sault. See Henry R. Schoolcraft, "Memoir of John Johnston," *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXXVI, 53 ff.; and C. H. Chapman, "The Historic Johnston Family of the Soo," *ibid.*, XXXII, 305 ff.

would be sure of success. As soon as he returns from his Wintering he will write you the plan he proposes to pursue. The person who got the appointment of Ass<sup>t</sup> Com<sup>v</sup> for this post<sup>41</sup> appears to be an honest man but a verry ignorant one. And better calculated to manage a Corporals Guard than any thing else. he was a sergeant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and a more consequential Phiz I never saw in any man before and as headstrong as old Sultan the *Cheval* our Father had at the same [time] I cannot but give him the justice to say that he is a verry sober man: Its a thousand pitys John did not get that situation he would have been under my eye and the emoluments arising therefrom would have answered him well enough untill better times should have offered. M<sup>r</sup> Crawford who left Montreal in Oct. last, informed me that M<sup>e</sup>Kenzie had seen you at that place: I'm sure Old M<sup>e</sup> told you a long winded story of my Misunderstanding with the Vagabonds Dawson & Dixon.<sup>42</sup> greater villains there never were in any part of the World. I assure you I would rather than £100 I had never seen the Scoundrels for tho they were ordered away, yet it will always cause a certain coolness between those of his Cloth & me. at present I cannot complain for Capt Howard, L<sup>t</sup> Williams, Gibbon & Ass<sup>t</sup> Surgeon Burnside<sup>43</sup> are on the most friendly terms with me. but there is no knowing those who may relieve the present. M<sup>r</sup> Williams has been as unfortunate as myself with his Com<sup>o</sup> Officer at York [torn] own story it appears he has been treated verry ill. [torn] Unless you have had the precaution of writing & send<sup>e</sup> yo [torn] Mess<sup>rs</sup> Cameron or Selby at York I shall not receive any [from] you by this Courier, for he leaves this the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> yearly [and is] at York on the 2<sup>d</sup> feb<sup>y</sup> leaves that 6 days after for this place. Madelaine, Theressa & Julia<sup>44</sup> present their Love to you & all join in best wishes for your Prosperity & believe me to be

<sup>41</sup> Santlaw Rawson, for whom see *ante*, 661.

<sup>42</sup> Dixon was a lieutenant of the garrison at St. Joseph, who was involved in the quarrel between Askin and Captain Thomas Dawson which is described *ante*, 651-52. Additional documents pertaining to this dispute are printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*.

<sup>43</sup> Apparently these were all officers of the 100th Regiment, stationed at St. Joseph. Gibbon (then an ensign) and Lieutenant Williams were commended for gallantry in the action at Isle aux Noix, June 3, 1813. See Irving, *op. cit.*, 253.

<sup>44</sup> Therese was an adopted daughter of the Askins, being by birth a member of the Robert family of Detroit and vicinity. Shortly prior to May 1, 1815, she married Ensign

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

My Dear Charles Your Affectionate Brother

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J

M<sup>r</sup> Cha<sup>a</sup> Askin Merch<sup>t</sup> Queenston

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin Merchant Queenston

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 8<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1811 John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup>

MISCONDUCT OF THOMAS MCKEE<sup>45</sup>

Strabane Jan<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1811

My Dear Charles I'm sorry to hear that Cap<sup>t</sup> Ruff passed without calling as I wanted very much to send under cover to you a Packett for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill which woul'd be too expensive to send by Post. as to any thing further I have to write you (in addition to my Letter of the 24<sup>h</sup> Ulto by M<sup>r</sup> Lee) it's of no consequence. the only thing now is Miss Maria Grant geting married to M<sup>r</sup> Robertson<sup>46</sup> without the knowlege or consent of her Father so far as I know. I'm sorry to say his conduct in general seems to be much disaproved of.

I have got this Letter, as well as One for M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and an Other from Therese to you, all ready, for the first person who calls & is going your way—I need hard[lly] warn you to have no accounts with Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee, who at the same time I believe an honest man, & I'm sure none can be more so than his wife, yet his conduct is such that it's impossible for him to keep his word, with all those to whom he owes: how shamefull it is for a man who receives £69 Odd clear Every Quarter, not to live well, & be clear of debt, but [he] does neither. Your Mother Thank God & all our Family are well. Give me a full answer to my last Letter. James's Horse is in great order & he will send him to you if he finds

O'Brien of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. No record of his further career has been found, nor anything concerning Julia, the other child here noted. Neither of them is mentioned in Askin's will, made Dec. 10, 1819; this neglect would seem to imply that they had died before this time. See *post*, 781.

<sup>45</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>46</sup> William Robison, husband of Maria Julia Grant, for whom see *ante*, 378. Robison came to Detroit from Albany, N. Y., where he (or possibly his father) was engaged in business under the firm name of Robison and Martin. The firm was also interested in trade in Detroit, its local representatives being Hugh R. Martin and Charles Curry. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 196-97, and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

you wish he should. May happiness Attend you here & hereafter are our constant prayers,

Your Affectionate Father

M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin

John Askin

DEATH OF CAPTAIN HOWARD<sup>47</sup>

St Josephs 20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1811

My Dear Father, As an Express will leave Makinac in a few days for Detroit to give intelligence of the sudden Death of Capt Howard<sup>48</sup> who commanded at [that] Post. it appears he departed this Life on the 13<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> of a Hemorrhage. from what I can learn he was an Honest sober & just man and much regretted. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> I wrote you via York and informed you therein that Capt<sup>n</sup> Fearson arrived here on the 17<sup>h</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>, unloaded his Cargo, ballasted & prepared to depart, when the wind verred to the S. East and increased to a Hurricane, which drove the Vessel ashore on a Sand bank nearly opposite my House before she could get her sails sufficiently dried, and preparations made to get her off, the winter set in and consequently poor Fearson [was] obliged to winter here. he expects to get away early in the spring. Should [my] Letters via York not arrive before this I request you'll inform M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson that every assistance will be given to Capt<sup>n</sup> Fearson to get the Vessel afloat as soon as the Weather will permit. That provisions has been borrowed from the Garrison, for the Vessels Crew; which Capt F. has acquainted him thereof. M<sup>rs</sup> Fearson who must be very uneasy about her husband should be made acquainted of his being at this place and in very good Health. Should you write by the return of this Courier, it will be necessary for you to give your Letter to Capt<sup>n</sup> Dyson or Col<sup>n</sup> Kingsburry<sup>49</sup> under Cover to Doct<sup>r</sup>

<sup>47</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>48</sup> Lewis Howard was commissioned first lieutenant in the Eleventh U. S. Infantry, March 3, 1799, and honorably discharged, June 15, 1800. He re-entered the service, Feb. 16, 1801, as first lieutenant of the Second Artillerists and Engineers, became captain, Nov. 1, 1806, and died, as here described, Jan. 13, 1811. Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*

<sup>49</sup> Jacob Kingsbury was born, June 6, 1756, in Norwich, Conn., to which place his great-grandparents had removed from Haverhill in 1708. He enlisted in the army at the first outbreak of hostilities in 1775, and served throughout the Revolution, being made an ensign in 1780. He became a lieutenant in the U. S. Infantry Regiment, Oct. 15, 1787, and served

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Mitchell, or Lieu<sup>t</sup> A. Darragh,<sup>50</sup> or Lieu<sup>t</sup> Hanks Com<sup>g</sup> Makinac by this means your Letter or Letters will come safe to hand. The Winter set in very severe. we had upwards of three feet of snow on the ground early in Dec<sup>r</sup> but of late the Weather has been much milder than customary for the season. Madelaine joins me in praying you & my Death [dear] Mother for your Blessings and the Children join us in sincere wishes, [for] your & my Death [dear] Mothers Health & Happiness & our Love to my Brothers & sisters & am My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich U. C.

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Jan<sup>y</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 1811 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> & [answered the] 26<sup>h</sup>

AMERICAN INVASION OF MONTREAL

Montreal 10 February 1811

My dear Askin I received yours of the 24 December last week. I need not tell you, it gave me great pleasure, as you

continuously until the close of the War of 1812. He served under General Harmar in 1790-91, and as a captain in the army of General Wayne in 1792-95. He was in Detroit as early as 1800, when he made a sketch of Ste. Anne's Street which has often been reproduced in print. In 1804, he was commandant at Mackinac, and in the spring of 1805 conducted a detachment of troops by way of Chicago and the Illinois River to establish Fort Belle Fontaine near the mouth of the Missouri. From 1809-11, he was commandant at Detroit, and in the spring of 1812 (while on leave of absence in the East) was tendered the army command which was shortly assumed by General Hull, but illness prevented his accepting the appointment. He was a capable soldier, and it is interesting to speculate what the course of history might have been had he been in command of the army Hull led to surrender. During most of the war, he served as inspector general of the New England levies. At its close, he settled in Franklin, Conn., not far from his birthplace, where he died, July 1, 1837. He married Sally P. Ellis of Connecticut about the year 1800. Two of his sons were army officers, one of them being killed while leading his regiment in the Battle of Antietam. Many of Colonel Kingsbury's papers are preserved in the Library of Congress and in the Chicago Hist. Soc. Library. Data derived from *Norwich Vital Records*; Ashbel Woodward, *Historical Address Delivered in Franklin, Connecticut, October 14th, 1868* . . . (New Haven, 1870), 85-86; Heitman, *op. cit.*, Quaipe, *Chicago and the Old Northwest, passim*; and Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit, passim*.

<sup>50</sup> Archibald Darragh of Pennsylvania entered the army as second lieutenant of Artillerists, Feb. 27, 1807. He served until the close of the War of 1812, being made captain on Aug. 15, 1814. He was again commissioned captain in the quartermaster's department, April 18, 1818, and was honorably discharged on June 1, 1821. See Heitman, *op. cit.* Darragh's relations with John Askin Jr. were apparently somewhat intimate. An interesting item in this connection is in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, X, 96.

know it must, and allways will, while I draw breath, to hear that you and your family are happy. however it vexes me much, when I reflect, that there remains no hope of ever seeing you in This world, and I am afraid the other is so large, and so many before us, that it may be a long time before we meet. I am very sory to hear of the Death of M<sup>rs</sup> Grant. I hope the Old Comodore is well, to whom remember me. we loose many old friends. poor Frobisher, after yourself he was my next old constant, disinterested friend. Todd is in England, and I am informed have been in Ireland and much displeasd with his old Country, wants much to be in Canada, as all his friends in London are dead and gone. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gillavray has left us some time past for New York, and it is reported his wife, who left this [place] last fall for London, is Dead, and that he has gone from that to England. so you may imagine we are very lonesome. M<sup>c</sup>Gill is very well. There is a great change here within two years. I begin to think that I have been dead, and come to life again, as I find my self in a strange country. hundreds who I do not know or ever heard of, I meet in churches, and other places, both male and female. on inquiry, they are all Merchants settled here, who keep large stores, mostly Americans. The increase has doubled the number of the inhabitants of this place in the above time. There is but little french spoke here at present even the suburbs are more than half American and I am grown so old that it is a difficult matter with me to make new acquaintances as my old ones are all Dead.

You say from the number of arrivals we must be all rich. quite the contrary, many bills returning and no means of payment. great loss on imports. all the Timber & Pot ashes gone home will do less 50 per C<sup>t</sup>. what little money [there is] in this country, the Americans takes away for ashes port, etc etc. pork is 9 dollars p<sup>r</sup> 100 lbs. flour at Quebec 15 dollars per barrel & wheat here [torn] 12/6. News we have none, only expect [war] with America, which must [come?] sometime or other you have the A[merican?] papers as soon as we, therefore you know all that is new. your son Charles was here a Short time. I could not get him to make free. M<sup>rs</sup> Henry & my daughter are all my family, and tolerable

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

well, and so am I since I have got rid of the fever & Ague, which continued a great part of the summer. you say you are 71 years. next August I will be 72. Todd says he is only 68. Todd was once much older than me but he has grown much younger at present. God bless you & your family which is the constant prayers of mine, & your old friend

Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Feb<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> 1811 M<sup>r</sup> Alexd<sup>r</sup> Henry  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recd ye 25<sup>h</sup> March wrote him 15 July

### MARRIAGE OF NANCY GRANT<sup>51</sup>

Strabane February the 19<sup>th</sup> 1811

Dear Charles, Although I have nothing very particular to communicate yet from a wish to resume our former correspondence I avail myself of the opportunity of writing you by James Miller who leaves this tomorrow for Fort Erie.

I was happy to learn by M<sup>r</sup> Smith's account that you appeared to be quite pleased with your change of situation which I can assure you is not a little interesting to us.

As I have nothing else to write about, and as a circumstantial account of Nancy Grants<sup>52</sup> elopement may be very acceptable I will endeavour to give it. It having been suspected some time before she run off that she had a serious attachment for young Mayez, she was sent from Gross Point to Woods's where she remained some days, after which she went to Amherstburg and attended poor Madelain's funeral; in the evening she returned with M<sup>rs</sup> Woods and about nine Oclock crossed the River & went up to the River Huron where they were married by Clemens, who first came to Gross point to consult the Commodore. she has since been over to a dance with her husband at old Parres as we have understood. The Commodore had brought

<sup>51</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>52</sup> Ann (Nancy) Grant was born on Feb. 5, 1785. At the time of the "elopement" here described, she was twenty-six years of age. On Feb. 8, 1811, Commodore Grant made his will and in it disinherited his daughter Ann for having "acted a most undutiful part toward him." Three months later, however, he attached a codicil to the document revoking this provision. See Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXII, 177-78.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Nelly down but she has returned to Gross-point and its reported that she has got married to Young Cotteral at the River S<sup>t</sup> Clair.<sup>53</sup> We do not so much feel these things as we would, had we not for some time past been prepared by one misfortune for another. My Mother has not seen one of them since the death of poor M<sup>rs</sup> Grant.

James & myself went to Amherstburg some time ago to attend the funeral of the Doctors youngest who died of the same complaint as its poor mother.<sup>54</sup> Jane was pretty well reconciled, but the poor Doctor quite dejected.

Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee has gone to York, & anticipated great pleasure in visiting you on his return. I suppose he has by this time fulfilled his intention. I remain

Your very affectionate Brother  
Alex<sup>r</sup> D. Askin

Therese begs of me to give you her love.

P. S: I need make no apology for the bad writing as you'll not believe that I can write better. however I have written in a great hurry.

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin Merchant Queenstown  
Favored per M<sup>r</sup> Miller

*Endorsed:* Strabane Feb<sup>y</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1811 Alex<sup>r</sup> Askin to C A  
Answ<sup>d</sup> the 14<sup>th</sup> March

BUSINESS DEPRESSION IN DETROIT

Detroit 9 March 1811

Dear sir It is now nearly four weeks since I hav[e] taken a pen in my hand to write or attempted any other kind of business therefore hope you will excuse me for not answering your former letter. With respect to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills farm at River Rouge if he were to offer it for half of the sum you now offer it I am sure he would not find a purchaser for ready cash. its now vacant the tenant having left it. I let a man in by the name of Patrick to take care of the house but he is to leave it at the word of command. real

<sup>53</sup> Apparently this report was unfounded. Eleanor (Nelly) Grant married George Jacob of River Thames in Sandwich, Oct. 31, 1820. *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> Madelaine Askin, wife of Dr. Robert Richardson of Amherstburg, died Jan. 10, 1811. See *B. H. R.*, I, 441-42.



JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

property on this side will not sell for any thing ready money its useless to attempt it. King would not give 100 Dollars for the house you offer him for £100. the Gov<sup>r</sup> Lease is not out untill the fore part of the next month I do not remember the exact day however he was here the day before yesterday and said that as he had given up entirely the idea of purchasing, he would not give by any means as much for the use of the place the succeeding year in fact the house being now good for nothing, no use can be made of it. its worth nothing more than any other one on two acres of Land in any other part of the country is for cultivation, and that to without any fencing whatever on it. I will pay James or cook the 8 dollars as soon as I get able to move out. at present I have no money in the house otherwise should have sent you some by Alexander when he was over. I had about 40 Dollars in the house when I first fell sick but its all waisted for one thing or another and you never get a Sight or hearing from a debtor unless you go yourselfe. your supplemental account is not yet made out and I must yet be excused for a few days when I hope to feel better than I now do. if I could move out I certainly would search the Town up for a pair of shoes for M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, though shoes are very scarce on this side, but its a bad time to send here for any thing when I am laid up. I have no person except Alice about me that knows any thing or can do any thing please let me know what kind of shoes She wants and send the measure

M<sup>r</sup> Brow[?] will give the money for your dft in one or t[wo da]ys he says. in fact he is going to Queenston the latter part of this week. you may perhaps wish to write by him. I had meant to have sent Charles his money by him it seems George has brought an old shoe of M<sup>rs</sup> Askins as soon as I am able to go out I will try to fit her a pair

all my farming [is] behind hand not a plough mov'd yet. we are all well except myselfe thank God

Adeu Yours  
E Brush

John Askin Esq

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Present

FAMILY DIFFICULTIES OF COMMODORE GRANT

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 10<sup>th</sup> May 1811

My Dear Father Your Favour of the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> last via Makinac came to hand on the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. The Death of my dear Sister & the downfall of the Commodores Family has affected Madelaine & myself much. The first Accounts I rec<sup>d</sup> were from M<sup>r</sup> Selby & Charles letters which came to hand on the 23<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. They gave me the Melancholy tiding in every respect with the exception of Nellys imprudent step. The conduct of the Commodores girls were never equalized by any in Detroit or thereabouts since I have known it. No there never was a similar instance of sordidness happening to any family of their situation in the Canadas. Whatever treatment they received from the Commodore (if any improper) was no plea for throwing themselves away in the disgraceful manner they have done, and what is still worse I'm told the troubles are not over yet in that Family. *God* protect him from additional afflictions is my fervent Prayer, for I do not believe he has fortitude enough to support the different Tryals.

Poor Richardson always shewed himself a good Husband & tender Father, he has met with a severe loss its true, but I'm well assured he will support the same with the true faith of a Christian. As his Family consist chiefly of Boys I hope he will be able to get thro the World as he has heretofore done without involving himself. I'm happy to find that Miss Richardson gives satisfaction

I shudder at the dreadful situation my Poor Mother was placed in when surrounded by the flames, and Offer my Prayer to the Almighty Father of the Universe for having sent aid to snatch her from the jaws of that Element. I am happy to find that her hands as well as your Own are entirely cured. Madelaine joins me in wishing M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Pattinson joy on the Birth of a Daughter

It gives me pleasure to find that Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kee has at last undertaken his Trip to York & hope he may be successful in accomplishing his ends.

I was happy to get a Letter from Brush for he gave me information of the state of health of M<sup>r</sup> Pelties Family &

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

was anxious about not having heard from any of them for a length of time. Per the Winters express I requested of you to send me the Corn rec<sup>d</sup> of Edwards & by yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> I find that it was not very ripe, but as it is intended for my Poultry & swine it will answer verry well. The Paper or Instrument of writing you require I herewith enclose. There is not a grain of corn on this Island fit to plant & in consequence thereof have sent to L'herbe au Croche for three Sacks. should it not arrive in time for Fearson you will have to make use of the Detroit Corn & keep what will be sent you (if to[o] late [to] plant) for next year.

Per the *Ellen* you'll receive the 3 Mocoeks sugar purchased last fall for you weigh<sup>s</sup> 143 lb

Cap<sup>t</sup> Fearson will give you a circumstantial account of the Occurrences of the place during his stay amongst us.

You'll receive a Barrel Fish & a Mocoek sugar which I send you & hope they may prove good. a few Shaygans in a Mocoek & two Sacks L'herbe au Croche Corn & a Bundle addressed to my Mother. I have shipt several Packages for Brush, M<sup>rs</sup> Cicott M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee & M<sup>rs</sup> Peltier. the Articles for M<sup>r</sup> Peltie I wish M<sup>r</sup> Pattenson might Keep them in his store as they may be handier for M<sup>r</sup> Peltie to take them over. Madelain & the Children join me in wishing you & my Dear Mother every Blessing that this life can Afford I am Dear Father

Your dutiful Son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

4 Mocoeks sugar 1 Barrel Fish 1 Mocoek w<sup>t</sup> Fish Backs  
(Shagans) 2 Sacks corn no Mark or address

M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee 1 Mocoek sugar

M<sup>rs</sup> Askin 1 Bundle

M<sup>rs</sup> Phillis Cicot 1 Mocoek Sugar

E Brush 1 Barr<sup>l</sup> Fish

M<sup>r</sup> Peltie 1 Mocoek Sugar 1 Bundle

*Addressed:* Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs May 10<sup>h</sup> 1811 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> 17<sup>h</sup> June

OWNERSHIP OF DETROIT COMMONS

To the Honorable Governor & Judges  
of the Territory of Michigan

The Memorial of the Subscribers, in behalf of their Fellow  
Citizens of the Town of Detroit; Humbly Sheweth;

That your Honors were authorised by an Act of Congress  
of 21<sup>st</sup> April 1806 to lay out a Town, including the *whole* of  
the old Town of Detroit, and Ten Thousand acres adjacent,  
excepting certain Military reserves.

That your Memorialists were proprietors in the old Town  
of Detroit on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1805, and were found by your  
Honors, in full possession of the Detroit commons,<sup>55</sup> extend-  
ing two miles back from the Detroit River, under a Law of  
the United States late Government of the North West  
Territory, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Town of  
Detroit" passed by the House of Representatives and  
Council of said Territory, and approved by His Excelency  
Arthur S<sup>t</sup> Clair Governor of the same on the 18<sup>th</sup> January  
1802, enacted when your Memorialists were a component  
part thereof, under the second grade of Government  
authorised by the Ordinance of Congress of the 13<sup>th</sup> July  
1787. Consequently the old Town of Detroit at the time  
Congress passed the aforesaid Act of 1806 comprehended  
the said Commons, and made a part and parcel thereof.

Your Memorialists under this idea, set on foot a petition  
to your Honorable Body last year, which was lately read  
in open Session, but was not referred to a Committee to  
make a report on its merits, as is the usual practice of all  
Legislative Bodies, nor has the question as yet, been taken  
on the Subject; *which consequently is still open for investiga-  
tion.*

Your Memorialists further beg leave to remark that their  
right to the Detroit Commons has been strengthened by the  
5<sup>th</sup> Section of the Act of Congress of the 3<sup>d</sup> March 1805,  
which recognises the principle of possession and occupancy,  
prior to, and since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1796, and that an Entry in  
Conformity to said Act was made with the Commissioners

<sup>55</sup> A history of the public domain at Detroit is given in Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit*, 24 ff.  
The present document has been printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXXVI, 236-39. The original  
manuscript (here printed) is preserved among the Askin papers.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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of the Land Office for the District of Detroit, on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 1805 in behalf of your Memorialists by a person duly authorised therefor at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the District of Detroit.

Your Memorialists beg leave to suggest that they are informed, and have been assured that the sales of the Detroit Commons on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1809 have been made in violation of An Act "Concerning the Town of Detroit" made and published the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1806 and that untill the said Act is repealed, or so much thereof as regards the Detroit Commons beyond the Court House Circus, the said sale is absolutely invalid in point of Law; If so, your Honorable Body is still at full liberty to retrace your Steps, and grant to the Inhabitants residing in the Town of Detroit, their Commons, *which they have time out of mind enjoyed*, untill partially dispossessed of by Military Authority, as hath been emphatically expressed by the said Legislature of the North West Territory, in their written instructions to Paul Fearing Esq<sup>r</sup> their Delegate in Congress on Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1801.

Your Memorialists claim the const[it]itutional privilege to Assemble and petition Government for a redress of grievances; considering their rights invaded, We enter our Solemn Protest against your proceedings, in violating through us, the constitution of the United States, by Selling the Public Commons aforesaid, and by the repeal last Fall of all Laws enacted by the Legislature of the North West Territory aforesaid under its second grade, by which we had acquired rights greater than any you Could Confer, and Particularly the Act aforesaid incorporating the Town of Detroit which passed while we the *People of this Territory*, were legally represented in said Legislature. The act of Congress of the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1792 Section 2<sup>d</sup> only having authorized the Governor & Judges of the Territory North West of the River Ohio, and consequently your Honors as their Successors "*to repeal their Laws by them made, whensoever the same may be found to be improper*"

Your Memorialists with humility request leave to express their opinions, that there could not possibly be any *impropriety* in said Incorporation act, Authorizing Trustees

to make Laws and Ordinances for the health, safety, cleanliness, convenience, and good government of the said Town of Detroit, and the Inhabitants thereof, but on the contrary, a very palpable one in leaving them exposed as they now are, without any lawful regulations whatever on that subject.

Your Memorialists therefore Humbly request that your Honors will refer the aforesaid Petition respecting the Detroit Commons to a select Committee, with powers to investigate the merits and rights therein of your Memorialists, and to grant them the same as a Public Commons and that so much of the sweeping repealing Law adopted last Fall as annuls all Laws enacted and made by the Representatives, Council and Governor of the late North West Territory, and repeals the said Act to incorporate the Town of Detroit may be vacated and declared null and Void, inasmuch as it may be the means of restoring your Memorialists to their just rights constitutionally acquired, and of preventing a Similar calamity befalling your Memorialists as happened on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1805

And your Memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray  
 Detroit 8<sup>th</sup> June 1811

Conrad Seek<sup>56</sup>  
 Jean B<sup>ts</sup> Beaubien<sup>57</sup>  
 Rich<sup>d</sup> Smyth  
 W<sup>m</sup> Brown  
 Archibald Horner<sup>58</sup>  
 James Dodemead<sup>59</sup>  
 Jean Durette<sup>60</sup>  
 Louis Lognon<sup>61</sup>  
 Daniel M<sup>c</sup>Neel<sup>62</sup>  
 Joseph Campau<sup>63</sup>  
 Joseph Thibault<sup>64</sup>  
 Augustin Lafoy<sup>65</sup>

Conrad Ten Eyck<sup>66</sup>  
 Ant. Dequindre J<sup>r</sup><sup>67</sup>  
 Baptiste Bellangé<sup>68</sup>  
 Rich<sup>d</sup> H. Jones<sup>69</sup>  
 Ab<sup>m</sup> C. Truax<sup>70</sup>  
 Peter Audrain  
 Jas Henry  
 Jos Coté<sup>71</sup>  
 prisques Côte  
 J B<sup>t</sup> Piquette  
 J. Dodemead

<sup>56</sup> Conrad Seek died in Detroit of cholera, Oct. 31, 1832, aged sixty-two years. His obituary notice, published in the *Democratic Free Press* for November 8, stated that in childhood Conrad and a younger brother were stolen from their home in Kentucky by a band of Indians from the Detroit region. The brother remained with the Indians until his death, "five or six years since." Conrad was purchased from them by a trader and taken to Montreal, where he learned the tailor's trade. "In time" he married and removed to Detroit.

Detroit 8<sup>th</sup> June 1811

Conrad Leek  
Sean B. Beaubien

Richd Smyth

Wm Brown

Archibald Menie

James Robertson

John Currier

Robert Morrison

James A. Beckel

Joseph Cambour  
Joseph M. Bault

Augustus Looney

Thomas M. Beck

Am. J. Equin

Agathe Bellange

Richd H. Jones

Wm. C. Jones

Peter Schuman

Wm. Young

Joseph G. G. G.

J. B. G. G. G.

SOME EARLY DETROIT AUTOGRAPHS  
Signatures to memorial concerning Detroit commons

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Endorsed:* June the 10<sup>th</sup> 1811 Presented and ordered to lie on the table. 1811 Protest against sale of Detroit Commons

These statements presumably rest upon family knowledge and authority. From authentic records, we learn that in 1790-91 Nicholas Seek, tailor, was a discharged loyalist living in New Settlement (on Lake Erie). *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIV, 178. On Feb. 14, 1794, the Land Board of Kent and Essex counties (John Askin, Colonel England, and Louvigny Montigny) in session at Askin's home in Detroit, granted Nicholas Seek a lot of land on Thames River, and on April 11, 1794, granted the adjoining lot to Conrad (whom we presume to have been his brother), both grantees taking the oath of allegiance and loyalty. Ont. Bur. Archives, *Report*, 1905, pp. 249, 251. Conrad was a house-holder of Detroit (where he followed his trade of tailor) shortly after the opening of the century. In 1802, he was appointed collector, and in 1804, constable. In the fire of June 11, 1805, he reported losses totaling £260. In October, 1805, he became lieutenant in the First Regiment. He married Mary Morrison and seven children were born to them in the period 1801-16. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 203; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and Dennisen, *op. cit.*

57 The founder of the Detroit Beaubien line was Catherine Trotier *dit* Beaubien, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 34. One of her sons, Jean Baptiste Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien, born in Lachine, Jan. 6, 1709, married in Detroit on Jan. 26, 1742, Marie Anne Lootman *dit* Barrois, daughter of François Lootman *dit* Barrois, and Marie Anne Sauvage. They had a family of thirteen children, the second child and oldest son being Jean Baptiste Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien, who was born, April 15, 1745. On March 19, 1770, he married in Sandwich Geneveva Parent, daughter of Laurence Parent and Jane Cardinal for whom see *ibid.*, 418. Apparently the signer of the present document was Jean Baptiste, the eldest son of this couple. He was born in Sandwich, Jan. 28, 1771, and married there, Jan. 9, 1826, Frances Metay daughter of Joseph Metay and Catherine Dufour, who had been twice widowed before her union with Beaubien. He was buried in Mt. Clemens, Nov. 19, 1858. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*

58 Archibald Horner, a cabinet-maker, was living in Detroit prior to the fire of June 11, 1805, by which he suffered losses amounting to \$657.50. Both Horner and his wife, Elizabeth, received donation lots, granted to residents of the town at the time of the fire. They had two daughters, Sarah and Mariah. Horner died in 1812, and his widow subsequently married (second) John Walker, and (third) Rev. Elias Pattee. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 173-74.

59 James Dodemead was a son of John Dodemead and Jane Murray, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 304. He was born, March 27, 1785, and died in 1818. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 187.

60 Antoine Durette (Duret, Durett) married Margaret Renaud and lived in the diocese of Lucon, in France. Their son, Jacques, born in 1658, migrated to Canada, and on Feb. 10, 1687, married in Quebec, Catherine Jomein, who was born in that place on Aug. 21, 1672. Their son Charles, born, Jan. 23, 1702, was thrice married, the third time to Mary Frances Girard, in Lorette, Nov. 8, 1734. The offspring of this union was Jean Baptiste Durette, who was born in Quebec, May 6, 1735. He married there on Jan. 7, 1761, Mary Bibiana Laberge of Baie St. Paul. Their son, Jean Baptiste, born in Quebec on Dec. 25, 1762, was the signer of the present document. On April 18, 1796, he married in Detroit, Mary Ann Renaud, daughter of Louis Renaud and Mary Ann Casse *dit* St. Aubin, who was born in Detroit, Jan. 13, 1774. They had eight children, born in the period 1797-1811. The eldest son, Jean Baptiste Durette, born, Jan. 22, 1797, was recommended to West Point by Governor Lewis Cass in 1820. Durette, our present subject, was a baker. The date of his death has not been learned. Mary Ann Renaud was buried in Grenierville, Aug. 11, 1859. Data derived from *ibid.*, 165, and Denissen, *op. cit.*

61 Pierre Lognon, born in 1631, married in Quebec, Oct. 8, 1652, Frances Roussin, daughter of Jean Roussin. Louis Lognon, signer of the present document, was their great-grand-son. He was born in Quebec in 1765, and was a resident of Detroit at the time of the fire of June 11, 1805. He became owner of P. C. 27, still known as the Lognon farm, lying west of modern Eleventh Street. On Jan. 30, 1814, he married Louisa Drouillard, daughter of Charles Drouillard and Mary Louisa Quesnel *dit* St. Remy, for whom see



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

*B. H. R.*, I, 257. Louis Lognon was buried, Jan. 9, 1823, leaving his widow and four children, born in the years 1815-21. See Denissen, *op. cit.*, and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 197.

62 Daniel McNeal (McNeal) was in Detroit as early as May 15, 1802, when he purchased from James May a lot on St. Joseph Street. In the fire of June 11, 1805, he sustained losses amounting to £480. He purchased land of May in 1807 and again in 1809, and all three tracts were in his possession when he died intestate in or prior to 1815. He had a wife named Margaret and two sons, Daniel and John. In 1817, the latter (both parents being now dead) sold their inherited property, at which time Daniel was a soldier in the U. S. army and John was a resident of Quebec. See *ibid.*, 197-98 and references there cited.

63 For the Detroit Campau line, see *B. H. R.*, I, 33. One of the sons of Jean Louis Campau and Mary Louisa Robert, there noted, was Jacques Campau, born March 30, 1735, for whom see *ibid.*, 48. Joseph Campau, signer of the present document, was a son of Jacques Campau and Catherine Menard there noted. He was born at the Northeast Coast of Detroit, Feb. 25, 1769, the sixth of twelve children born to his parents in the period 1762-81. He early engaged in trade, and in addition to his principal store in Detroit, established posts at numerous outlying points. To this business and to his steadily expanding real estate holdings, he chiefly devoted his long business career. At the time of his death (July 23, 1863), he was reputed to be the wealthiest resident of Michigan and the largest holder of Detroit real estate.

Campau held various local public offices, including those of town trustee, overseer of the poor, assessor, appraiser, and major of Michigan militia. He was one of the founders, in 1831, of the *Democratic Free Press and Michigan Intelligencer*, the forerunner of the present *Detroit Free Press*. Joseph Campau Avenue was named in his honor.

On May 12, 1808, he married Adelaide Dequindre, daughter of Antoine Dequindre and Catherine Desrivieres de la Morandiere, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 205-206. They were the parents of twelve children, born in the years 1809-29. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*; C. M. Burton (comp.) *Barnabas Campau and His Descendants* ([Detroit], 1916); obituary notice in *Detroit Free Press*, July 25, 1863; and article by Robert B. Ross in *Detroit Sunday News-Tribune*, Nov. 4, 1894, "Detroit in 1837: Reminiscences of Joseph and Daniel J. Campau."

64 There were at least two contemporary Detroit residents of this name. See *B. H. R.*, I, 347 and 377. The identity of the present signer has not been determined.

65 For the career of Augustin Lafoy, see *ibid.*, 380.

66 Conrad Ten Eyck belonged to an ancient Albany family, his parents being Abraham Ten Eyck and Anna Lansing of that city. Conrad was born, July 7, 1782, being the sixth of nine children born to his parents. He came west to Detroit in 1801 and engaged in trade, having a store for many years on Jefferson Avenue near Woodward. He became locally prominent, and held the offices of county treasurer and U. S. marshal. He was the father of several children. He died in Dearborn, Aug. 23, 1847. Data adapted from *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 205-206, and Joel Munsell (ed.), *Collections on the History of Albany from Its Discovery to the Present Time . . .* (Albany, 1865-71), IV, 172.

67 Antoine Dequindre Jr. (known in later life as Major Dequindre) was the eldest son of Antoine Dagneau Dequindre and Catherine Desrivieres de la Morandiere, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 205-206. On Oct. 8, 1789, by decree of the Court of Common Pleas of the District of Hesse, Catherine secured a legal separation of her property from her husband's control, and on March 28, 1795, she procured from Susanne Baby, widow of Jacques Baby dit Duperon, a tract of land at the Northeast Coast of Detroit which on July 2, 1807, was awarded to her by the Land Board as P. C. 8, being the western portion of the present Dequindre farm. Antoine, eldest son of Catherine and Antoine Dagneau Dequindre, was born, June 18, 1781. In November, 1813, he secured control of P. C. 17, originally awarded to Francois Gouin, and in May, 1816, Catherine Dequindre deeded to him her farm (P. C. 8), purchased from Susanne Baby. The two properties united, constituted what has since been known as the Dequindre farm, from which Dequindre Street takes its name. Antoine Dequindre was a merchant; in later years he encountered financial adversity, and the Dequindre farm passed into the hands of his various creditors. He was an officer of the Michigan militia from April 5, 1806. In the opening months of the War of 1812, he was captain of a company of Detroit volunteers, and in this capacity distinguished himself in the battle of Mongaugon, Aug. 9, 1812. On Sept. 9, 1809, he married Catherine Chapoton, daughter of Louis Chapoton and Catherine Meloche, and nine children were born to them

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

### MARRIAGE PLANS OF ROBERT RICHARDSON

Amherstburg 30 June 1811

Dear Sir The chief intention of this letter is to communicate to you a circumstance which I Sincerely hope May meet your approbation. You must be well aware, from the situation of my family altogether, and from The

in the years 1810-30. He died, Feb. 24, 1843, and was accorded a military burial. Obituary notices in both the *Weekly Advertiser* (Feb. 28, 1843) and the *Democratic Free Press* (Feb. 25, 1843) emphasized his military services and heroism. See also Denissen, *op. cit.*; C. M. Burton, Dequindre genealogy (ms.); abstract of title of the Dequindre farm (printed); and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

68 Valentin Belanger married Jane Lafitte and lived in La Pouyade, diocese of Bordeaux, in France. Their son, Pierre, born in 1713, followed the mason's trade. He migrated to Canada and on Nov. 18, 1742, married in Quebec, Ursula Simon, who was born in Ste. Foye, Aug. 23, 1712, daughter of Pierre Lucian Simon *dit* Delorme and Ursula Hamel. Philip Belanger, eldest son of the foregoing couple, was born in Quebec, Nov. 13, 1746. He came to Detroit prior to 1771, and on January 13 of that year married here Mary Elizabeth Vallé who was born, March 15, 1752, daughter of Jean Vallé *dit* Versailles and Mary Elizabeth Drouillard. She was buried here, Sept. 9, 1799; Philip Belanger was buried, Sept. 16, 1800.

To him and Elizabeth Vallé twelve children were born in the years 1771-93. The sixth of these was Jean Baptiste Belanger, signer of the present document. He was born, Jan. 29, 1784, and was buried here, Oct. 28, 1818. On Aug. 20, 1804, he married Margaret Prudhomme *dit* Nantais, who was born, July 23, 1788, daughter of Jean Baptiste Prudhomme *dit* Nantais and Mary Ann Dellard, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 370. They were the parents of seven children, born in the years 1805-17. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*

69 Richard Hall Jones was in Detroit as early as 1799. Subsequent to the fire of June 11, 1805, he was awarded a donation lot. In May, 1812, he subscribed sixteen shillings to the fund for the purchase of gunpowder for the defense of the town. He also signed the protest of citizens against General Procter's order banishing a number of prominent citizens from Detroit. He died prior to December, 1813. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, and sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 171.

70 Abraham C. Truax was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1778, being a cousin of Stephen Van Rensselaer, proprietor of the patroonship of Albany. He was reared by an uncle, and in early manhood made his way to Detroit, arriving here about the year 1800. He eventually engaged in trade, and on May 30, 1809, purchased from Elijah Brush a lot on Jefferson Avenue, between Wayne and Shelby streets, on which he subsequently erected a store-building. About the year 1817, Truax removed to the present site of Trenton, where in 1834 he platted the town, which was originally called Truaxton. He held various local public offices, being a captain and subsequently colonel of Michigan militia, justice of the peace, and supervisor and commissioner of roads.

In 1818 he married Lucy M. Brigham of Hanover, N. H., who died in Trenton in 1837. They were the parents of four children; two died in childhood; a son, George B. Truax, died in Detroit in 1869; a daughter, Sophia Maria Brigham Truax, married Giles B. Slocum of Slocum's Island, a leading business man of his time in Michigan. Abraham Truax was killed by a steamboat explosion on the Detroit River in 1844. Data adapted from Carlisle, *Chronography of Wayne County*, 150 ff.

71 For the Coté family line, see *B. H. R.*, I, 387. Prisque (Priscus) Coté and Magdelene Lefebvre, there noted, had four children. Prisque, the eldest, was born in Detroit, May 21, 1772, and was buried here, July 17, 1845. He lived and died a bachelor. A younger brother of Prisque seems to have been the signer here noted. He was born, Jan. 19, 1776, and appears in the record as Antoine. When he came to die, he was called Joseph, and he was also known to the Governor and Judges by this name. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 187; Denissen, *op. cit.*; and Ste. Anne's Church Register.

circumstance particularly of my being days and nights absent from home, that Some person is much wanted at their head. indeed I feel it absolutely necessary and indispensable. Tis true My Daughter has behaved in the most praiseworthy and exemplary Manner, but she is little more than a child herself, and certainly not fit to be so often left entirely alone.<sup>72</sup> having therefore reason to believe that I can obtain the consent of a lady every way well qualified to act as a Mother to my children, I have after the most mature reflection and consideration, come to a determination on the Subject. this may in The Eyes of some people be called a hasty resolution, but when my situation is considered, which is certainly not a common one, an excuse may easily be found. The Person I allude to is Miss M<sup>c</sup>Gregor the eldeset daughter of the late Col. M<sup>c</sup>Gregor.<sup>73</sup> her character and conduct are well Known, and I think are such as will do honor and credit to Any family in the County I was an Eye witness to her dutifull and truly affectionate behaviour to her Dying Parent and it was such a[s] convinc[es] and satisfies me she will make a Kind and affectionate Mother to my dear Madelanes children. could I for a Moment think otherwise, she should never have charge of them. Though this is not intended to take place instantly, yet as there are plenty of people ready to raise and propagate storys of this kind (often without any foundation) my wish is, out of respect to you, that the first account of this to you, should come from myself.

I will only add that no change of this Kind will ever lessen The respect and esteem I have for you, and in fact the sincere regard I have for the whole family.

I am with Sincerity Dear sir Yours &

R. Richardson

J. Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

CONFIRMATION OF LAND BOARD PROCEEDINGS

Near Sandwich July the 15<sup>th</sup> 1811

My Dear Sir, Its some time since I had the pleasure of

<sup>72</sup> The allusion is to Jane Richardson (born, May 19, 1794), for whom see *ante*, 131.

<sup>73</sup> The prospective bride was Ann McGregor, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 442.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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hearing from you, not that there is anything material I want to know except as relates to yourself & families health, & to know if you expect M<sup>r</sup> Todd & how he was when you last heard from him; I wrote him once since he went home, but [have] recieved no letter from him.

A man who lives on the River Trenche called here some days ago and offered £300 NY<sup>k</sup> currency for a Lot there belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Todd part of it was his & part mine; I therefore had it valued & charged M<sup>r</sup> Todd with my share. the valuation put on was £300. we obtained it from M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Smith in consequence of a Judgm<sup>t</sup> ang<sup>st</sup> him. What I now want to know is whether or no, you think I should sell it for whats' offered. the terms of payment are £50 down, the other three paym<sup>ts</sup> annually and eaqual to form the £300, the notes to draw interst from the day of Sale untill paid, & a Mortgage to be given in security. it has no improvement, except part of an orchard [and] brings no rent, therefore unless M<sup>r</sup> Todd was pinched for ready money I do not think the offer bad. even admit it was not paid for at the expiration of the 3 years, yet improvem<sup>ts</sup> will be made which will make the Lot more valuable. I wish y<sup>r</sup> answer on this subject. I had not y<sup>e</sup> Letter delivered to M<sup>r</sup> Park as I intended. his situation prevented me, as no reasonable answer could be expected. according [to] the Doctors opinion of him he can last but a Short time. M<sup>r</sup> Meldrum called on me on his way to See him two days ago, & said he had written him twice on the subject but either got none or a very unsatisfactory answer from him but thinks his executors will have no objections to pay the £60 with interest. indeed no conscienscious man could refuse it, & if [he] did [he] certainly can be compelled.

I can give you little information further, respecting y<sup>r</sup> property in the Michigan Territory, than what I did in December 1810 & March last. [The] Surveyor has not returned from Washington nor said when he will. he waits to bring the Deed's with him.<sup>74</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Sibly (the Lawyer I employed) shewed me a Letter from the Secretary in answer to a representation he made him respecting your's and M<sup>r</sup> Todds claims that were not confirmed to you, but on the

<sup>74</sup> The allusion is to Aaron Greeley, for whom see *ante*, 664-66.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

contrary some were given by the Commissioners to others who never paid a penny for them. This letter I will send you a copy of. It gives little or no hopes of redress. Congress I believe confirmed all the Commissioner's did, be it right or wrong. they would not give their time to matters which interested their Govern<sup>t</sup> so little. however I do not find they have directed the Lands in the rejected claims, in the Michigan Territory to be sold; They have in some others. perhaps they mean to give them another hearing. I will conclude by saying myself & family enjoy good hea[alth], thanks be to the Almighty. may a like happiness attend you and yours, are the prayers and wishes of M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, as well as those of

My D<sup>r</sup> Sir Y<sup>r</sup> ever obliged and Sincere friend

(Signed) John Askin

Copy

James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal

*Endorsed:* Copy of a Letter from John Askin Esquire to James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> at Montreal

NEW ROUTE TO UPPER COUNTRY<sup>75</sup>

S<sup>t</sup> Joseph 11<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1811

My Dear Brother As Mess<sup>rs</sup> Gilivray, Gregory & M<sup>c</sup>Kay leave this for Montreal tomorrow via York for the purpose of making some arrangements respecting the portage they mean to establish from Youngs [Yonge] Street to Matchedash Bay I avail myself of their Conveyance to write you these few lines and to say that John returned from the Mississippi a few days ago and is very well. The man he wintered with, M<sup>r</sup> Redford Crawford died a few days after his departure from Fort Maddison. Mr Robert Dickson is now with us and proposes to go & see his Brother Thomas in a few days that's to say as soon as he returns from Maki-nac. Should the NW Gentlemen establish the road as is proposed from York to Matchedash it will be the making of that Country and will injure M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh very much which I'm sorry for, he having a large family and a Worthy

<sup>75</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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man. His son Alex<sup>r</sup> left this about 4 o'Clock P M on the *Nancy* loaded with Packs for Fort Erie. I will write you again per R<sup>t</sup> Dickson & shall conclude by presenting M<sup>rs</sup> Askin joint wishes for your Health. John & the Children present their love & am

My Dear Brother Most Affectionately yours,  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin Merchant Queenstown

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph's Aug<sup>t</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1811 John Askin Jun<sup>r</sup>  
to CA rec<sup>d</sup> 27<sup>h</sup> answ<sup>d</sup>

AFFAIRS AT ST. JOSEPH

St Joseph aout 25 1811

Ma cher Mere Jasper que cel-y-cite vous trouvera ainssi que mon cher pere en bonne senté, jai le plaisir aprésent, de vous dire que excepté que mon cher John qui a le rume, nous nous porton tout bien. Johny ait tout-afait retabli et je crois que dens trois ou quatre jours il vas partir pour aller hiverné dans le lac Superieur, les battaux de la Campagnie du Sud étent arrivé davanhier, quoi quil nait pas emploiez par eux, mes je crois que M<sup>r</sup> Crawford pour qui il vas hiverné prand sa marchandise deuse, les agent pour la Compagnie sont arrivé de ce matin de Mackinac et come il doit faire leur Equipement icite, sandoute le monde vas abondi aujourdhui et demain. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Givraye ainssi que M<sup>r</sup> Gregré et M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kay son revenue de fort William il sont venue nous voir en allant et en revenant M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gilvraye a ofert tous ses sarvice ainssi que M<sup>r</sup> Gregré a mon cher john: je crois en concequence de quel-que intention que je leur ait montres quant il ont passé et retourné, je leur ait envoyez du beur frais et des oeuf et des biscuit, aussi il on montré boucoupe de reconnaissance en ofrant come je vous ait dite leur service a mon cher John. il sont passez par York, come le gouvernement a acheté des terre des sauvages je crois quil vont apresent prandre leur mesure pour etablir le chemin afin il nous ont dit quil etoit décidé de le fair—sandoute que vous avez aprise la mort de M<sup>d</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gilvraye el mourut le meme jour que son mari lessa Montreal pour aller la retrouvé vous savez sandoute

quel etoit allé en Engleter sous la protection de M<sup>r</sup> Todd qui mène aussi sa fille. M<sup>r</sup> Todd ne pouvoit pas revenue dans le tem que M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup> Gilvraye ait venue en concequence d'un rume quil avoit atrapé, et come il Indulge boucoupe son appetit il etoit devenue nesaire de se mettre en les mains d'un Docteur qui lui donna esperance de le retablir sous peut de tems. Je supose aprésent quil ait de retour.

Nous some ni grand amie ne ennedie avec le Militaire en un mot il nous est impossible d'être bien Intime avec euse il sont si bas de coeur il ni a que M<sup>r</sup> Williams et sa Dame avec qui nous some Intime. M<sup>r</sup> Caudell vous savez sadout quil a etté bannie de York pour avoir mal Ecrit contre le Gouverneur et plusieurs autres respectable parsonnes. Je vous envoie une piéce qui a été posté quinze jours après son arrivé icite il n'avoit pas encore vue M<sup>r</sup> Crawford et il avoit seulement rendu la visite de mon cher John, afin il me seroit impossible de vous dire tout les crasserie quil a comette icite tout les jours. Johny auta cet piece don je vous envoie la copie, et nous nen avons pas parlé a personne mes le vilain ses tourmenté tout cet Journée la pour savoir quel efet saroit hut, il fut chez M<sup>r</sup> William et parla de poésie et meme il pretit tout ces piece quil avoit ecrit a York ainssi que ceux que M<sup>d</sup> Dawson et il demanda le Docteur pour prendre le thé et lui qui ne ne savoit rien consequament il ne pout avoir aucune information de ce coté la il vin aussi a l'office et parla de ses afair de York mes tout inutilement afin il ne pouvoit plus resisté il retourna a chez M<sup>r</sup> William le soir et lui demanda sil il avoit entendu parlé d'une piece qui avoit été auté par le jeune Askin. M<sup>e</sup> W. fut bien surprié de ce que javoit visité M<sup>d</sup> W. ce jour la et que je nen avoit pas parle, mes tout fut inutil car parsonne ne vue le papié, et je croit que lintention de cela étoit seulement pour avoir un pretexte pour a querellé avec mon cher John. car deux jour avant cela il demendit au Docteur a être appointe Clark de la court de requette et le Docteur lui dit quil parleroit a M<sup>r</sup> Askin et en efet il parla de cela et mon cher John [torn] de reponce, et come vous voiré que cet piéce a été [torn]

Afin il ait tem que je change de propos seulement pour vous marquer la surprise dans lequel Jai été d'aprandre il-y-a quelque tems passé que Docteur Richardson faisait

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

la court a M<sup>se</sup>1 M<sup>c</sup>Gregor trois mois apres la mort de pauvres Madelaine, et j'ai apprise par cet Barque icité quil soit marie le huit du présent, Je crois que sa pauvre fame auroit plus respecté sa memoire; sa nous a fait de la peine, car nous avons une bonne opion de Richardson, ces-adiere que la tendresse quil a toujour montré pour sa fame nous faisoit suposé quil respecteroit sa memoire un peut plus longtems. Je vais conclure par vous prie dassures mes tendres amitié a mon cher pere, et mes frere, et soeur, et croyez moi avec tout tendresse possible,

Votre affectionné fille

Madelaine Askin

*Addressed:* (by John A. jr.) Mrs. Askin Strabane  
Recommended to the care of R. Richardson, Esq., Amherst-  
burg.

*Translation*

St. Joseph, August 25, 1811

My dear Mother: I hope that this will find you and my dear Father in good health. I am pleased to tell you that with the exception of my dear John, who has a cold, we are all very well. Johnny is quite recovered and I think that in three or four days he intends to leave to spend the winter in the Lake Superior country. The South [West] Company's boats came in yesterday. Although he is not employed by them, I believe that Mr. Crawford, for whom he will work this winter, gets his goods from them. The company's agent arrived this morning from Mackinac, and as he gets his outfit here, there will likely be a great crowd in today and tomorrow. Mr. McGillivray, Mr. Gregory,<sup>76</sup>

<sup>76</sup> John Gregory, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 334, was one of the early fur-trade magnates of Montreal, being in partnership in the early 1780's with Archibald N. McLeod, for whom see *ante*, 660. In 1784, under the leadership of Simon McTavish and the Frobishers, the North West Company was organized for the purpose of dominating the trade of the upper country. Gregory and McLeod and Peter Pangman thereupon established a rival organization whose creation is of somewhat peculiar interest to Detroit, since they took into the firm Alexander Mackenzie, a young Scotchman who, after five years in the employ of Gregory in Montreal, had recently established himself in business in Detroit. He now entered upon the career of trade and exploration which in the next few years was to win for him world-wide fame. After a short and bitter period of competition, the Gregory-McLeod-Mackenzie firm united with the rival combination in the summer of 1787, and by the union became members of the North West Company, in which Gregory was for



and Mr. McKay returned from Fort William. They came to see us both going and coming. Mr. McGillivray offered to do anything he could for my dear John, so did Mr. Gregory. I think this was in return for some little attention I purposely showed them when they went through, both going and coming. I sent them some fresh butter, and eggs, and biscuit, so they showed their gratitude by offering, as I said, to be of service to my dear John. They went through York. I believe that as the government has purchased land from the Indians, they are now to lay out a road. In fact they told us that this had been decided. No doubt you have heard of the death of Mrs. McGillivray. She died the same day that her husband left Montreal to go for her. You probably knew that she had gone to England under the care of Mr. Todd who took his daughter also. Mr. Todd could not return when Mr. McGillivray did because he had taken cold, and as he indulges himself much in eating, he had to put himself in the hands of a doctor who gave him hope of an early recovery. I suppose he has returned by now.

We are neither very friendly with the military nor the reverse. To say the least it is impossible to be really friends with them, they are so common. Mr. Williams and his wife are the only ones with whom we are intimate. Mr. Cawdell,<sup>77</sup> you doubtless know, was banished from York because of what he wrote against the Governor and several

many years an influential partner. He died in Montreal, Feb. 22, 1817, aged sixty years. Data derived from Campbell, *St. Gabriel Street Church, 97-98, et passim*; Davidson, *North West Company, passim*; Alexander Mackenzie, *Voyages from Montreal on the River St. Lawrence through the Continent of North America to the Frozen and Pacific Ocean in the Years 1789 and 1793* (Philadelphia, 1802).

<sup>77</sup> The allusion is to James M. Cawdell, an erratic individual, one of Upper Canada's pioneer literary characters. After acquiring a classical and legal education in England, he purchased an ensigncy in the One Hundredth Regiment, which he joined at Montreal in the summer of 1810. He was soon stationed at York where he published an anonymous lampoon upon Governor Gore, and in consequence was ordered to St. Joseph, "the Military Siberia" of Upper Canada. Angered by this punishment, Cawdell tendered his resignation and offered his commission for sale, but several months elapsed before the acceptance of his resignation. He figured curiously in the War of 1812, and subsequently settled in York, where he died in 1842, having been for many years librarian and secretary of the Law Society of Upper Canada. In 1823, he had founded in York a publication, *Rose Leaf*, whose contents were chiefly contributed by himself. In a memorial to the Governor in 1818, Cawdell candidly described himself as a genius, whom many of his associates considered to be insane. The student of his career will, perhaps, feel it unnecessary to take issue with the latter portion of this self-characterization. Data chiefly derived from "The Memorial of J. M. Cawdell," Adam Shortt (ed.), *Can. Hist. Rev.*, I, 289, ff.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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other influential people. I am sending you a piece that was posted up here fifteen days after he came. He had not yet seen Mr. Crawford and had merely returned my dear John's call. In fact, it would be impossible for me to tell you all his rudeness from the first day he came. Johnny removed the paper, a copy of which I am sending you, and we have not mentioned it to a soul, but the wretch worried all that day, wondering what effect it would have. He went to see Mr. Williams and talked about poetry and even loaned all the pieces he had written at York and even those about Mrs. Dawson. He asked the doctor to have tea with him, but the latter knew nothing so he could get no information there. He came to the office (too) and spoke of his affairs at York, but all to no purpose. Then he could bear it no longer and that evening went again to Mr. Williams and asked him if he had heard anything about some writing that young Askin had removed. Mr. W. was much surprised, for I had called on Mrs. W. that same day and said nothing about it. In fact, nothing was of any use for nobody had seen the paper. I believe he intended it only as a pretext to quarrel with my dear John, because two days previously he had asked the doctor to be appointed clerk of the court of requests and the doctor had told him to speak to Mr. Askin. So he did, and my dear John [torn] any answer, so you see that that paper [torn]

But it is time that I changed my subject, if only to tell you how surprised I was, some time ago, to hear that Dr. Richardson was paying court to Miss McGregor in three months after poor Madelaine's death, and now by this boat I hear that they were married on the eighth instant. I think he might have had more respect for his wife's memory. We feel badly about it, for we had always thought so well of Richardson, and I must say that the love he always showed his wife made us think that he would respect her memory a little longer.

I shall conclude by begging you to assure my dear Father of my love, also my brothers and sisters, and believe me, with all fond wishes possible,

Your affectionate daughter,  
Madelaine Askin

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-IMPORTATION ACT

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1811

My Dear Father Tho I have not any of your favours before me to answer yet cannot let this opportunity slip without letting you know that we are all well. The constant arrivals of Canoes for some days past from Michilimakinac and Boats from Montreal via the Lakes has kept the place alive The non-importation act will effect the S. W. Furr Company much for their Goods must remain here this winter unsold Mess<sup>r</sup> Gillespie, Pothier, Berthelot and many others are expected in to morrow they are to remain some time in hopes that the Act will be repealed. M<sup>r</sup> Robert Dickson intends going to Queenston via York from Queenston to Buffaloe from B. to Fort Pitt down the Ohio to the Mississipi then up the last mentioned river to the head thereof amongst the Siouxs. Johnney has made his arrangements w<sup>h</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Lewis Crawford and is to winter at Lake de Flambeaux, Superior. he only gets £50 H<sup>x</sup> tho little, its better than to be Idle. Madelaine John & the children join me in best wishes for Your & my Dear Mothers Health & Happiness & our Love to My Brothers & Sisters & am My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

Have the goodness to tell my D<sup>r</sup> Mother that I have not forgot her about the Buffaloe Skin

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Aug<sup>t</sup> 25<sup>h</sup> 1811 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup>

AFFAIRS AT ST. JOSEPH

S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 18<sup>h</sup> Sept 1811

My Dear Father I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Sundry favours of the 21 Ult<sup>o</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> & 4 Ins<sup>t</sup>, which arrived all at once yesterday. I'm sorry to find from your Letters that the drouth has injured your Garden & Field so much.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>78</sup> The lines omitted concern a shipment of goods.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

I am much obliged to you for the Sow she is indeed a fine large animal and will be in good order shortly for the Indians are now bringing in Corn. When the *Nancy* passes I shall send the Buffaloe Skin for my Dear Mother and some of the best and earliest L'herbe au Croche Corn for seed. The Indians commenced taking in their Harvest this year about the 1<sup>t</sup> of the M<sup>o</sup> therefore their seed Corn is of a good kind. M<sup>r</sup> Brevort<sup>79</sup> of New York brought a few grains of Corn which produces two Crops in the same season, thats to say in the Summer. the person who has got it, is to try the same and if it answers you will be furnished with a little. I'm sorry to find that the Pacer rendered you so little service. I observe what you say respecting the Com<sup>s</sup> Officer of the veterans and and shall endeavour to steer myself clear of them as well as I have done with part of the Filth now going down. Burnside, L<sup>t</sup> Williams & Ens<sup>a</sup> Gibbons are the only decent persons belonging to the 100 reg<sup>t</sup> which have been here. By the time the *Nancy* returns I shall be able to give you some acc<sup>t</sup> of this Detachment. It is reported that the *Gen<sup>t</sup> Hunter* is to return to this & [I] hope it may be the case for all my Stores which left Montreal in July last have not

<sup>79</sup> Presumably Henry B. Brevoort, member of an early Dutch family of New York, who was born there, Jan. 13, 1775. He entered the army about the close of the century and spent a year or more on the lower Mississippi. In the spring of 1802, he was ordered to Detroit to assume command of the *Adams*, which had been built at the Rouge River shippyard in 1799 to serve the military arm of the government on the upper lakes. From this time until the War of 1812, Brevoort, with home station at Detroit, commanded the "navy of the lakes," which during most of the period comprised the *Adams* and her crew. In consequence of Hull's surrender of Detroit in August, 1812, Brevoort became a prisoner on parole, and in February, 1813, was banished from Detroit by General Procter. He subsequently served as a volunteer under Commodore Perry, and his conduct in the Battle of Lake Erie, Sept. 10, 1813, won the commendation of that officer, and a silver medal awarded by Congress in January, 1823. He returned from the army with the rank of major in June, 1815. On Jan. 15, 1811, he had married Mary Catherine Navarre, daughter of Robert Navarre and Mary Louisa Marsac, and granddaughter of Robert Navarre and Mary Lootman *dit* Barrois, who are noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 36-37. In 1772 the Potawatomi had given their village site in the vicinity of modern Twenty-third Street, fronting four arpents on the river, to Robert Navarre II. The tract was confirmed to Navarre by the Land Board in July, 1807, as P. C. 20, and Mary Catherine, on the death of her parents, inherited a one-twelfth interest in this property. Her husband subsequently acquired the shares of the several remaining heirs, and with these the old Navarre homestead. The property has since been popularly known as the Brevoort farm. For several years in the twenties (1823-29), Brevoort served as Indian agent at Green Bay. Save for this interval, Detroit was his home until his death, Jan. 30, 1858. Catherine Navarre died at the family home, Dec. 26, 1868. They were the parents of five children, born in the years 1812-22. A charming old-age description of the Navarre-Brevoort home, written by Mary Ann Brevoort, who was born there, Feb. 17, 1812, is in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, VIII, 293 ff. Data compiled from Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, II, 34 ff.; abstract (printed) of Brevoort farm; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, VIII, 293 ff. and XX, 312.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

reached this. I have wrote W<sup>m</sup> Duff to send an Express to you, the Moment its ascertained the *Hunter* is to return in order that you may be prepared to ship the Apples from M<sup>r</sup> Badishon & Onions as the Vessel passes for Cap<sup>t</sup> Barwis I'm afraid will not wait a moment

The Ram will be very acceptable in the spring as the season is to[o] far advanced to risk him this autumn. Per the *Nancy* I shall write you fully & send the Sugar etc etc. Madelain joins me & the Children in every wish that can tend to your & my Dear Mothers Health & Happiness & our Love to My Broth[er]s & Sisters

I remain My Dear Father

Your dutiful Son  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Per *Gen Hunter*  
Capt Barwis Com<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Josephs Sept<sup>r</sup> 18 1811 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior recv<sup>d</sup> the 29<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> October

AFFAIRS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>80</sup>

, S<sup>t</sup> Josephs 18<sup>h</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1811

My Dear Charles, Your favour of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ulto came to hand yesterday per the *General Hunter* with a Detachment of the Veterans for this Post. it would have been very pleasing had it been part of the 41<sup>t</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> they being a good set of people and well known as to this Detachment I cannot as yet form any opinion of them.

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Dickson was with us some time ago and its reported he has got to the Mississipi with a compleat assortment of Goods. where he got them & [the] manner he escaped the Yanky Collectors &c I am not at present authorized to say. In the spring you shall hear more on that subject. This goes by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Williams of the 100 Reg<sup>t</sup> a very good man who has been unfortunate in having Quarreled with his Commanding Officers Martin & Sherrard

<sup>80</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

the latter has used W. very ill indeed and had he been otherwise situated than he was [he] would have pulled Sherrard[']s nose M<sup>rs</sup> W. is a very good woman and would have been a most agreeable Companion to Madelaine &c had she not been indisposed part of the time she remained. Our poet M<sup>r</sup> Cawdell is going to display his poetical Talents in Burmuda a very good place I'm told for those professing that faculty. It does not appear to me that there is any probability of their getting an address from the Inhabitants of either of the Canadas Johnny remained with me about One Month & then went to winter on the heads of the Montreal river which empties into Lake Superior he only gets £50 H C<sup>y</sup> and as he only went to be informed of the Country I dont believe he will go again at so low a price or Sallary.

The Feathers cannot be procured at present. next Summer I hope to be able to send you what you want

Should you be disposed to write by the Winters Express it will be necessary for you to have your Letters at York on or about the 25 Jan<sup>y</sup> Madelaine Theresse & Julia join me in sincere wishes for your Health & prosperity & am My Dear Charles

Your affectionate Brother

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J

M<sup>r</sup> Cha<sup>s</sup> Askin Merch<sup>t</sup> Queenston

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Charles Askin Merchant Queenston  
Hon<sup>d</sup> by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Williams 100 reg<sup>t</sup>

*Endorsed:* S<sup>t</sup> Joseph Sep<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1811 John Askin jun<sup>r</sup>  
to C A rec<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

DEPARTURE OF GOVERNOR GORE

Queenston October 15<sup>th</sup> 1811

Dear Father I returned here a few days ago from Prescott where I had gone to accompany Nelly Grant I was nearly three weeks away, which is about the time I expected to be absent. \* \* \* \*<sup>81</sup> I have still some of the same kind of Tea as you got of me and will send the quantity you

<sup>81</sup> The lines omitted deal with personal matters of no present importance.

desire. in consequence of an act of Parliament which has long been passed but only lately put in force, no Tea can be brought into the Province from the States. this has raised the price of it very much and it is charged me, (that is Single)  $5/4$  Hf<sup>x</sup> lbs. in Montreal which is more than it used to be sold for here last Spring, by retail. Thirty thousand chests are said to be consumed annually in the Provinces most of which comes through the States, therefore if smuggling can be prevented it will save [a] great deal of money in the Country which goes out every year for that article. The East India Company in consequence of this law being put in force have given permission to the N.W.<sup>c</sup> to send a Vessel to the East Indian loaded with furs and to bring home Tea and other E. I. goods, Sugers are much lower this year than they were last. Muscovado, is 40/Cw<sup>t</sup> and loaf 1/ Hf<sup>x</sup> lbs all other goods are very low for Cash. the scarcity of money is so great that bills are at 20 p<sup>r</sup> C<sup>t</sup> discount.

Before this you have no doubt heard that Lieut. Governor Gore had got leave to go Home, and that he and his family had left York, as also that General Brock<sup>82</sup> succeeds him in the Administration of the Government as President. I am told the Gover<sup>r</sup> and his Lady seemed to regret going, particularly the latter who went the day before the[y] left York to see all those she was acquainted with, and was much affected at parting with them & when she embarked cried like a child. probably they thought as many do here, that they would never return to the Country again. General Brock is much liked here and will be so wherever he is known. he came over on Saturday last and yesterday held a Levee at which I with a number of others attended. I inclose you the address presented him by the magistrates & Inhabitants of this District & his answer. to day he

82. Sir Isaac Brock was born on the Island of Guernsey, Oct. 6, 1769. He purchased a commission in the Eighth Regiment in 1785, and in 1797 became lieutenant colonel of the Forty-ninth Regiment, with which he was sent to Canada in 1802. He became colonel in 1805, and major general in 1811. Upon Governor Gore's return to England in the latter year, Brock was entrusted with the civil administration of Upper Canada, thereby uniting the civil and the military administrations upon the eve of war with the United States. His administration of its affairs in the opening months of the war won him the undying affection of the Canadian people. He was killed during the Battle of Queenston, Oct. 13, 1813. An imposing monument now adorns the brow of the hill, a short distance from the spot where he fell. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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reviewed the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> at Niagara who went remarkably well through the different Maneuvres. I regreted very much that James was not here to see it; for I am sure he would have been highly pleased if he had. it is seldom now, that a person has an opportunity of seeing any thing of this kind in the Country. The General did another good thing to day, he pardoned a poore fellow under sentence of death for stealing a Heifer.

I am sorry to say poor M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright has lost another son the young man who was up and who you saw last year. he was a most amiable character and is much regreted by all who knew him, and the poor family are in the greatest distress immaginable. he died two days after I left Kingston. when on my way down I called to see him at which time he seemed to have great hopes of recovering & so did the family, in consequence of his leg swelling which they thought would break, and carry off all the bad humours; but unfortunately this was not the case and he suffered great pain before he died which is seldom the case with those who die of a consumption.

Tho you have not ordered it I send you a keg of Muscovado suger, and a little loaf suger. I have a pine apple cheese and a few other small things coming up for my Mother, which I hope may get up in time to go with the suger.

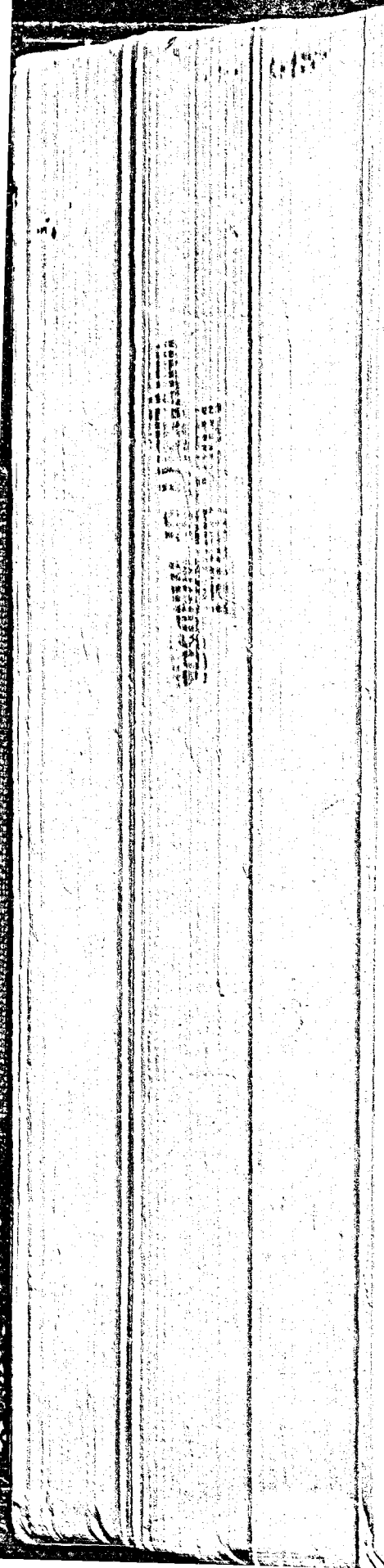
Please give my love to my Dear Mother and to my Brothers and Sisters, and remember me kindly to my Uncles & Aunt Barthe. I am

Your dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich





SECTION IX

LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1812

1870

1870  
1871  
1872  
1873  
1874  
1875  
1876  
1877  
1878  
1879  
1880  
1881  
1882  
1883  
1884  
1885  
1886  
1887  
1888  
1889  
1890  
1891  
1892  
1893  
1894  
1895  
1896  
1897  
1898  
1899  
1900

## MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN YORK

40 Mile Creek Feby. 28<sup>th</sup> 1812

Dear Father I am now on my way home from York where I have been some time and from which place I wrote to you a few days ago. a person who I have met here on his way to Detroit gives me a favourable opportunity of writing to you which I embrace, tho I have little to say. The Legislature have done little this Session as yet and as the house is soon to be dissolved there will not be much done. A new Militia Act has passed: In every Reg<sup>t</sup> there are to be two flank companies, to consist of one hundred men each which are to be out six days in every month for the purpose of training, untill they are perfect in their exercise. regular soldiers will be employed to drill them I believe. the house has voted £8000 to the President to be laid out in such manner as he thinks best, for having the Militia trained.

a law respecting travellers on the road meeting has also passed the house. all persons meeting in carriages or sleighs are to give half the road and after December next no one is to drive a Sleigh without Bells. M<sup>r</sup> Nichol was committed to Gaol in York by a warrant from the Speaker of the house [of] Commons the day before I left it. this was for writing something to Major Hatton offensive to them in justification of his conduct when wrongfully accused by that House of not having accounted for Public money in his hands. its so lengthy a bussiness that I shall not enter more fully into it, as I should then not be able to give you all the particulars of it, and you will have the whole of it from the Members when they return home, which will be soon.<sup>1</sup>

Orders have been received lately from Below to fortify York. I met the Engineer here this evening from Niagara on his way there (probably for that purpose).

<sup>1</sup> For an account of this affair, see Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XIX, 10 ff.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Please give my love to my Dear Mother and to my  
Brothers & Sisters

Your Dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich Fav<sup>d</sup> by M<sup>r</sup>  
Witherall

*Endorsed:* 40 Miles Creek Feb<sup>r</sup> 28<sup>h</sup> 1812 Charles to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 5<sup>h</sup> March Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>h</sup>

INJUSTICE OF LAND BOARD DECISIONS

Strabane April the 14<sup>th</sup> 1812

My Dear Friend, The only letter I received from you since you got home, was on the 24<sup>th</sup> November last, and was dated at London the 15<sup>th</sup> June; by it I was happy to find that you did not complain of bad health, and you gave hopes of returning to Canada this Spring; but I'm very sorry to learn by a Letter of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills dated the 14<sup>th</sup> February last, that he has no such hopes, which seems to effect his spirits much; he says you are the only one of his first acquaintances left, & now he dispairs of Miss Portius [Porteous]<sup>2</sup> living long; All his & M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills pleasure in this life seems to be at an end; how seemingly hard is this good mans Lot; yet as infinite wisdom directs all for the best, it must be so, and so he thinks it; for the more friends we lose by death or absence, the less our attachment is to this World, & the better we prepare for the next. Nothing could be a greater Loss to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill, than your Society; he loves you as a brother & you always brought him home dayly news, interesting and amusing which he otherwise could not have; his natural turn being, not to mix, but with a few chosen friends. He wrote me

<sup>2</sup> Mary Charlotte Porteous, daughter of John Porteous, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 144. Porteous had ten children, two of whom died before their father and one of whom (Mary Charlotte) was born after his death. McGill assumed their guardianship, and after the death of Mrs. Porteous, Mary Charlotte was taken into his home and treated like a daughter. In his will, McGill bequeathed her \$5000. She was afflicted with tuberculosis and died either before or soon after her foster father. See "The Early Years of James McGill," by E. Fabre Surveyer, in *McGill News* (supplement), September, 1929.

once his intentions respecting Madelains children, but their father marrying again, rather soon, he never since has said any thing on the subject; being pinched for about 600 Dollars, I wrote him to know if he could accomodate me with that Sum, & take Land to eaqal value in payment; his money seems so placed that he could not, but desired me to Sell half his lands in the Michigan Territory & apply this money where I wanted it; his friendship to me & family has no bounds however there is no money in or about Detroit, for purchasing Lands, or payment of Debts. all is confusion with preparations for war. I fear you & M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill will not recieve next month, your pay<sup>mt</sup> from M<sup>r</sup> Brush, not that I think he would take the advantage, of the misunderstandings between the two Governments, but untill the appearance of war blows over, (if it should) I dont think he can Sell his Lands, or raise the money by other means. I wrote M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill on the 30<sup>th</sup> December last, that 3 patents were arrived for you, & I fear they are all you will ever get, from your large and fair claims. there could not in my opinion be done more injustice even pointed at some of your claims, than what was shewn by the Commissioners; one instance in a large field near River Rouge, they confirmed M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills claim & rejected yours, though the Surveyor offered to make oath, that they were under the same inclosure; They rejected the claims from the Wind mill Seat to the River Rouge (M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills Lot excepted) Lands I have had possession of, for perhaps 20 years, before I sold them to you; I memorialled the Secretary for redress, but got none; what the Commissioners did, (though many of them glaringly partial & unjust & even remonstrated against) was confirmed or approved by Congress. The Commissioners were M<sup>r</sup> Atwater the Secretary, M<sup>r</sup> Audrian Recorder & M<sup>r</sup> James Abbott. the latter seemed to do all the business & rule the others. perhaps you had some misunderstanding with him, & he took this opportunity to injure your interest. while I live, this subject, when I think of it will disturb my mind. had you been in Canada, I believe I should have been tempted, to have desired you to have bought up an obligation due by one of these Gentlemen Commissioners & thrown him in

prison for payment; as paymt for his injustice to you. The three Deeds come for you are, one for the Prairie Ronde 356 acres, another at River au Raisin for 409 & the third for the house & Lot at the Grand Marrais. These, with 3 Town Lots (for which I have got the Deeds) I fear my Good friend is all you will get, a very poor payment indeed, for all you advanced me, and remained undischarged.

I have wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith by this opportunity & advised her to come here; as living in England is so very expensive. I heard indirectly that you had advanced M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith some money; please let me know how much that I may convey its value in Land; My Family must not deprive your Dear Daughter of her rights; Had y<sup>r</sup> worthy friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Children or relations, I could not think of taking what he offers, nor have I said I would; I have still Lands worth more than what I owe, If they could be sold for their value, & why take his, for which there is not a readier Sale than my own. He has made no Secret of his intentions, respecting my family, in his will, as well as some others; he more than once, in Letters to me said, that as he had no blood relations alive, he would so something for his friends, & even to some, said, I must be served first. I have nothing but "poor Gratitude[""] to offer in paym<sup>t</sup> of such great obligations. however unless quite reduced, which thank God is not yet the case, I can not think of being burthensome to my friends. Your property in my hands is certainly growing more valuable, & though the farm got of M<sup>r</sup> Smith, is not not yet Sold, I expect it soon will for £300. there was £200 in cash offered, but money has been very scarce, but now there are contracts for Wood etc at Malden, with men employed at the works, which will tis thought cost above £2,000. money must get into the hands of farmers & workmen, who will lay it out, mostly for lands.

My family in general, beg me to return their most sincere thanks, for y<sup>r</sup> kind remembrance of them. And I remain My Dear Friend your ever obliged

(Signed) John Askin

Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> London Copy

*Endorsed:* Strabane April 14<sup>th</sup> 1812 Copy of a Letter to Isaac Todd, Esquire in London

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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WAR CLOUDS IN DETROIT

Strabane April the 28<sup>th</sup> 1812

My Dear Charles, I'm now two letters in your debt, the last of which dated the 16<sup>th</sup> Instant came to hand two days ago. It makes your mother and I happy that you do not complain of bad health, God be praised, the Family here enjoy the like great blessing.

The Militia-Law has arrived, but I have not yet seen it. indeed, unless on my children's account I have little to do with it. Except my wishes for the success of the British arms, which can only end with my last breath. I can not comprehend how a man of honour & honesty can ever change his allegiance. There are some preparations making at Detroit, and great ones at Malden for War. I hope it may not take place, yet I dread it much. The contracts at Malden for wood etc for furnishing say to repair the Garrison & make a Vessel, its thought will exceed £6,000. this will throw a Good deal of ready money into this part of the Country. Im sorry y<sup>r</sup> brothers are so little calculated for business, otherwise I should have endeavoured to have got them, at Montreal, or Queenston, such a cargo, as I'm sure in proper hands could be turned into cash.

I was almost tempted yesterday to have purchased 50 barrells of flour at 6 dollars & draw on the Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hamiltons for payment: The quality I suppose must be nearly the same as with you, for its's manufactured at M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregors famous Mill at the River Thames, and as the freight down is only 4/ the profit would be something in theirs or your pocketts. You may Speak to them on this subject & if they will answer my Drafts, when I see an opportunity of purchasing & sending them down such articles as will immediately sell with them; they Shall have half the profits; but they must keep me regularly advised of the cash price of provisions or liquors with them, so as to enable me to know when I should buy. They may depend on my directions, not involve them or myself, in purchases to too large an amount for their purses & credit, or in buying articles, the Sale of which may be doubtfull. The inhabitants give their flour for 24/ a hundred & do not yet know that the



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

merchants get seven & a half dollars per barrell from Government, & these latter keep the secret by not offering the farmer more than the 24/.

\* \* \* \* \*

The indians have done a good deal of mischief in different quarters of the United States. the people of Detroit, not in the Garrison, are much alarmed; Alice was here a few days ago. poor woman, She Suffers amasingly from fear, for I understand none of the Town's people will be recieved into the Garrison. Alex<sup>r</sup> was over yesterday & says they are now taking precautions ag<sup>nst</sup> Indian surprise, & therefore she is not so much alarmed. The Guns, blunderbusses etc here are all loaded & in good order; I hate to be taken prisoner & he who attempts it, if openly may lose his life; having only my children & self we can not do much, but I will try not to be surprised I advised Capt<sup>n</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee to move to Malden there is too great risk here. I believed he moved yesterday. Most of Rob<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Dougall's property is on this side. poor Meldrum I think [is] much embarrassed. I think him in his heart [a] true british Subject. the conduct of his boys bears hard on him.

\* \* \* \* \*

Y<sup>r</sup> tender Father  
(Signed) John Askin  
Copy

M<sup>r</sup> Ch<sup>s</sup> Askin Merch<sup>t</sup> Canbury.

*Endorsed:* Strabane April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1812 Copy from John Askin S<sup>nr</sup> to Ch<sup>s</sup> Askin Canbury

AMERICANS OCCUPY SANDWICH

(Copp)

Strabane July 17<sup>h</sup> 1812

My Dear sir A few days ago I was favoured with a Letter from you dated the 29<sup>h</sup> of April last, covering one from M<sup>r</sup> Todd bearing date the 10<sup>h</sup> of March: Every thing I thot necessary to Acquaint you or him with, or what I though[t] either of you wished to know, was contained in Letters wrote you both, on the 14<sup>h</sup> of April last: with one at same time for M<sup>rs</sup> Meredith, to your care.

About a week Ago, Our Militia & other force left Sandwich, and [the] same day the Americans came over to this side. Governor now General Hull, keeps up the strictest good order. the soldiers dare not take a Cherry, without the Owners consent. I waited on him two days after his arrival, and he recev<sup>d</sup> me not only with Politeness, but Fri[e]ndship, and Exacted no oath, or promise, other than my Word, that I would not, whilst he had Possession here, meddle in the present troubles: Indeed I did not mean to do it, otherwise than giving my Advice to my Sons how they should act, in doing their duty to their King & Country. For in 1809 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Gore wrote me a Letter, saying, that from my Advanced time of life & tender constitution, he gave the Command of my Reg<sup>t</sup> of Militia, to Col. Caldwell, who did not Accept of it: he having put Col. Elliott, (a Junior officer to both of us) first Col. I dayly see how pro[v]idence, orders all for the best. I had no duty but that of a magistrate to perform, since that time: and not having been consulted, by the president, nor he who now Commands at Malden, on any Public matter. I have not thought it my Duty to my King & country, that I should be officious in giving Information, in particular as the same could be obtained, from those in office, who from Duty & reward should do so: Therefore I have kept myself quiet and were it not for our anxiety respecting our Children & Fri[e]nds, M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & I have no cause of Uneasiness, That of the fate of a Government I have allways lived under, and that my wife & Children love much excepted. However should it be our lot, to fall under any other Authority, I would not prefer any man, to the present General Hull; who I'm pretty sure will not only respect my property, but that of my Fri[e]nds, so far as he can consistan[t]ly do so, in which he will be Aided & Assisted, by the Talents & Interest of M<sup>r</sup> Brush, (who now Commands at Detroit) and who I believe as kind & Fri[e]ndly a man, as ever was. All Our Canadian Militia to a man, being called to Malden: M<sup>r</sup> Brush says he will send men to cut down my harvest. On the Subject of the Canadians on Our side, let me Assure you, I never have seen men shew more fidellity. they Volentered to a man, and left their Houses without a single person Except Women & Children.

however Our Enemies have taken no Advantage of their distressed situation, and up to the present time, there has not been a single life lost in this Quarter, in consequence of the War. how long this may continue, God only knows. I'm neither informed nor do I make Any Enquiry into the Views of our Govern<sup>t</sup> here. they appear very Extrordinary to many Others as well as me. how far all may have been done in consequence of Orders I'm unacquainted with. I cant write M<sup>r</sup> Todd at this time, or rather could have nothing [to] say, but what I now say to you, and which I'm sure you will make him Acquainted with, should this Letter reach you, & yours him. some few Canadians, but many more English of the river[?] Trench, are come off[f] from Malden without leave. I realy think the distressed state of their Families and the harvest being so very near, is the general cause. General Hull has taken no notice of their haveing taken up Arms Agns<sup>t</sup> him. he desires them to go home & keep quiet. he wants no service from them, unless such as choose to offer themselves Volenteers. He has no Indians with him on this side, and I heard would not Employ them.

The Crops in this place are the finest that have been seen for many years

No prospect of receiving any paym<sup>t</sup> of any Debt for the present. M<sup>rs</sup> A & I Enjoy good health, which I'm surprised at. May God of his infinite goodness & mercy, preserve you & yours in this time of Danger are the prayers of M<sup>rs</sup> A as well as those of Your etc

Since writing the Inclosed, General Hull has taken possession of privat[e] property goods & Prov<sup>s</sup> belonging to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gregor, M<sup>r</sup> Baby & M<sup>r</sup> David, which he said in my hearing yesterday (y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>h</sup>) he would return, when some private property taken in a Vessell near Malden, was given up. Our Canadians now desert in numbers. Our officers will have no men. My son James is Capt & Alexd<sup>r</sup> L<sup>t</sup> in the Militia at Malden.

Jm<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill Esquire Montreal

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

### CHARLES ASKIN'S JOURNAL OF THE DETROIT CAMPAIGN, JULY 24—SEPTEMBER 12, 1812<sup>3</sup>

Left Warner Nelliss<sup>4</sup> Sunday afternoon the 24 met on my way up to the Mohawk Castle two or three Indians who appeared alarmed one of them told me that an Indian had just come from Amherstburgh that he said there were a great body of the American troops on their way up the River Thames, horse & foot. this Indian appeared from his dress &c as if he had left home to go and meet the Enemy with the party under Major Chambers;<sup>5</sup> but had got alarmed and was going back again. after going a little farther I came to a Village where I saw two or three hundred Indians. I found from some of them who rode up with me to Mohawk Castle that they had had a Council and it was their determination not to fight the Americans. I afterwards learnt that General Hull had wrote them a letter which was brought them by the Indian who had as I before mentioned come from Amherstburgh, which was the cause of their holding the Council. I got in the Eve<sup>6</sup> to the Bridge. there got a fresh horse and rode to Yiegh's where I got about 9 O'clock, I found Major Chamber's with the party under his command, also M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Crooks,<sup>6</sup> and Hamilton Merrit<sup>7</sup> with some Light horse, who had Ebenezar Allan

3 From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

4 Warner Nelles. Henry William Nelles migrated from the Mohawk Valley region of New York to the then wilds of western Canada about the opening (possibly later) of the Revolution. With the immigrant came six sons and several slaves. One son, known as Major Nelles, settled on the Grand River (modern York, in Haldimand County). Another son was Warner Nelles here noted. Mohawk Castle was Brant's Grand River settlement; it stood a short distance east of modern Brantford, where the ancient Mohawk Church still stands. Warner Nelles' home must have been some distance lower down Grand River. For the Nelles family see E. A. Owen, *Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement* . . . (Toronto 1898), 403 ff.

5 Peter Latouche Chambers came to Canada as an ensign in the Forty-first Regiment early in the century. He became a captain in 1808 and brevet-major, Feb. 25, 1815. He served with his regiment in most of the battles on the western front during the war. See Irving, *op. cit.*, 261; Casselman, *op. cit.*, *passim*.

6 William Crooks, a captain in the Fourth Lincoln Militia Regiment during the war, was an elder brother of Ramsay Crooks who is notable in the annals of the American fur trade. William was born in Scotland about the year 1775, and came in early manhood to the Niagara region, where several other members of the family had located. A younger sister of William, Joan Crooks, married at Niagara on Dec. 11, 1807, Lieut. William Procter of the Forty-first Regiment, brother of General Henry Procter. See *ibid.*, 120; William Kirby, *Annals of Niagara* (n. p., 1896), 131; Irving, *op. cit.*, 80.

7 William Hamilton Merritt was the son of Thomas Merritt, a New England loyalist, who served during the Revolution as an officer in the Queen's Rangers. At the close of

and two other men prisoners, that were taken at Delaware for some treasonable behaviour. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> in the Morning M<sup>r</sup> Merrit went off with his prisoners to Niagara. Major Chambers, young S<sup>t</sup> John & myself rode down to G. R. to the Mohawk Castle, we found Cap<sup>t</sup> Norton, there who told us that few of the Indians were ready yet to go with him, but would be in a day or two we returned from the Castle to Woodruffs at the G. R. Bridge direct there. Cap<sup>t</sup> N. with us. from this Major C. and myself with Lieu<sup>t</sup> Garner a Militia Officer (who volunteered his Services to go with the Major on the Expedition) went to Mount pleasant press'd a few Waggons then rode to Yiegh's. M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton, Wilkinson,<sup>8</sup> and some of the men had left it and gone with part of the baggage to Oxford. Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Morn<sup>g</sup> Our party left Yiegh's in Waggons and went to Oxford where we found some of the Oxford Militia under Col. Bostwick<sup>9</sup> I think ab<sup>t</sup> seventy five of them. Monday 27<sup>th</sup> In the Morning Col. Talbot,<sup>10</sup> arrived at our Camp from Long P<sup>t</sup> with young M<sup>r</sup> Rolph<sup>11</sup> and some Other

the war, he settled in New Brunswick, later removing to Upper Canada. William Hamilton (born in Bedford, N. Y., July 3, 1793) thereby became a resident of Upper Canada. He participated in Brock's Detroit campaign of 1812 and subsequently commanded a troop of provincial cavalry. He was taken captive at the Battle of Lundy's Lane and was released only at the close of the war. He founded the city of St. Catherine's and was the promoter of the Welland Canal. He served in the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada from 1832 to 1840 and in the Legislative Council from 1860 until his death, July 5, 1862. In 1815, he married Catherine Rodman of Dutchess County, N. Y., and they became the parents of four sons and two daughters. Data derived from *ibid.*; Wallace, *op. cit.*; Casselman, *op. cit.*

<sup>8</sup> Alexander Wilkinson, listed as a "gentleman volunteer" in the Forty-first Regiment. He served in the Detroit and Maumee campaigns and in connection with the latter was recommended by General Procter for promotion. See *ibid.*, 165, 167; Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>9</sup> Henry Bostwick, lieutenant colonel of Oxford Militia. He commanded in the affair at Nanticoke Creek, Nov. 13, 1813. He died at Woodhouse, July 27, 1816. *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Thomas Talbot, born, July 17, 1771, in Dublin County, Ireland. He entered the army while still a child, becoming ensign in the Sixty-sixth Regiment, May 24, 1783. In 1790, he came to Canada as a subaltern in the Twenty-fourth Regiment, and in 1792 became private secretary to Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe. He subsequently served seven years in Europe, and from 1796 to 1800 was lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Regiment. In 1801 he returned to Canada, and, obtaining a large grant of land, in 1803, became the founder of Port Talbot on the north shore of Lake Erie. Here he ruled a semi-patriarchal domain until his death, Feb. 6, 1853. He lived a bachelor, and bequeathed his estate to his servants. In the War of 1812, he was colonel of the First Middlesex Militia Regiment. See *ibid.*; Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>11</sup> George Rolph, a lieutenant in the First Norfolk Regiment, participated in the Detroit campaign of 1812. He died in Dundas, July 25, 1875. Irving, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Officers of the Long P<sup>t</sup> Militia who said that their Militia had been on their March to join us had got as far as Mas-acres:<sup>12</sup> but there mutinied and went back.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> I was taken ill in the Morn<sup>g</sup> occasioned by being out a great deal in the Rain. continued ill Wed 29<sup>th</sup> & 30 in the afternoon on Thursday I went with M<sup>r</sup> Carl to stay at his house as it was more comfortable there than where I was staying, and I thought I should soon recover—before I left our Camp (for I know not what else to call it) Col. Talbot, had gone either to L<sup>s</sup> P<sup>t</sup> or Port Talbot, Cap<sup>t</sup> Norton had joined us with Ab<sup>t</sup> 12 or 14 Indians, W<sup>m</sup> Crooks & M<sup>r</sup> Racey had been with us and had gone off with West-brook of Delaware to take him down a prisoner as he was supposed to have some concern with the Enemy and suspected to have aided in having General Hull's proclamation promulgated. Friday 31<sup>st</sup>. Doc<sup>r</sup> Sumner<sup>13</sup> paid me a visit and wished to give me an Emetic but I felt myself so much better that I declined taking any. he ad[vised me] then to remain for a few days where I was. The Doct<sup>r</sup> Left me and soon after M<sup>r</sup> Wilkinson came and informed me that the men were to march for Delaware that evening. I got the few things packed up I had with me and left M<sup>r</sup> Carle's where I had been treated with very great attention and politeness. he has a large family most of them sons growing up. they all appear much attached to the British government, which I believe is the case with very few in Oxford Delaware, on the Grand River. On my Arrival at my old Quarters, I found that Major Chambers and M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton had been on their way to Delaware but had returned in consequence of some Despatches bought to the Major by young M<sup>r</sup> Secord, I also learnt that we had taken Michilimackinac without firing a shot. it was said to be taken by a party of Indians under M<sup>r</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Dickson.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Abraham Messacar migrated from New Jersey to Upper Canada and settled on Nanticoke Creek near modern Rockford Post Office. His children and their descendants were numerous. Owen, *op. cit.*, 481 ff.

<sup>13</sup> Cyrus Sumner, a resident on Twenty-mile Creek. He served in Brock's Detroit campaign and subsequently as hospital assistant on the Niagara frontier. Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>14</sup> Mackinac surrendered to Captain Charles Roberts, commandant of the British fort on St. Joseph Island, July 17, 1812. Captain Roberts' little army included a few regular soldiers, a considerable number of fur traders and their employees, and a large number of Indians. The latter were mainly led by John Askin Jr., and Robert Dickson.

Saturday Aug<sup>t</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> The Detachment left Oxford with the Dragoons & ab<sup>t</sup> 70 Oxford Militia. I was unwell & had to stay behind. Sunday I Left Fuller's with Doct<sup>r</sup> Sumner and went to Yeighs. the fatigue of riding put me in a fever. the Doct<sup>r</sup> Left me here and went to Join the Detachment which had marched to Long P<sup>t</sup> in the Morn<sup>g</sup>. Monday 3<sup>d</sup> I was so unwell that I was confined to bed most all day.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Felt much better & heard that a few Light horse from York and about 100 of the York Militia were on their way to Long P<sup>t</sup> saw 3 Canadians today who are just from Amherstburgh on their way to Montreal. They mentioned that the Indians had had some skirmishes with the Americans near River Canard and had driven them over it twice. Got a note in the Evening from M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton from L<sup>s</sup> P<sup>t</sup> advising me to join immediately. had a horse press'd in harness and rode [to] Long P<sup>t</sup> through a most beautiful [coun]try and very good roads arrived at Dover ab<sup>t</sup> 3 OClock in the after-noon saw a great many men there, Norfolk Militia, York Militia Oxford Militia Dragoons & the troop of Hussars also some Artillery with a 6 pounder which was sent up from Niagara. heard on my way up that the General was coming, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> heard that the *Nancy* had been to Fort Erie & had brought up about 60 of the 41<sup>t</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. Was so weak that I could not drill with the men. Wednesday Morning and today the Militia was drill'd by Captain Chambers

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Nothing remarkable occured to day. in the Evening General Brock arriv'd M<sup>r</sup> William Hamilton & myself left M<sup>r</sup> Nichols where we had [been] staying, and went to M<sup>r</sup> Williams where Cap<sup>t</sup> Henry [?] & other Officers of the York Militia were. here we staid all night Cap<sup>t</sup> [?] Jarvis arrived in the Middle of the night he came with a small party of Indians. Saturday 8<sup>h</sup> we all embarked in boats, for Amherstburgh Exce[pt] the Norfolk Militia, under Major Salmon<sup>15</sup> & about 14 or 16 Oxford Do. who embarked in the *Chippewa* and some of the Oxf<sup>d</sup> & Norfolk militia were left behind for want of boats. I embarked on board the largest boat with the 41<sup>st</sup> Major Chambers was

<sup>15</sup> Major George C. Salmon, Second Norfolk Militia Regiment. See Irving, *op. cit.*, Casselman, *op. cit.*, 60.

so sick that he had 10 remain behind.<sup>16</sup> our boat being much loaded having the 6 pounder on board & many other things we did not get off so soon as the other boats we attempted to get to the carrying place but could not find the small creek that lead[s] to it nor could we get on shore therefore anchored among the Rushes and staid there all night. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Early in the Morning we got under way and soon saw the General's Boat and several other[s]. we got in the Creek and went up to the carrying place we had to take out most all our loading and then invite the assistance of the other boats crew had great difficulty to get our boat over. We had to caulk our boat here and then load and were so long doing this that Most of the boats were seven or eight miles a head of us before we sailed off but the wind was fair and we came up to them. the General put in at Kettle creek and all our brigade.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Left Kettle Creek early in the Morning, the wind fair and a good breeze the wind increased so and there was such an appearance of a storm, that M<sup>c</sup>Caul<sup>17</sup> who sailed our boat thought it advisable to put in at Port Talbot, distance 7 Miles from Kettle Creek. this was a very bad port for our boat, for we could not get her into the Creek, and had to haul her up the beach. here we remained all day. during the day Col. Talbot and Major Chambers arrived, also ab<sup>t</sup> 28 Dragoons but these I did not see they were ordered to Delaware immediately during the night it rained so hard, that M<sup>c</sup>Lean[?]<sup>18</sup> and myself were forced to leave our camp & go up to Col. Talbots, where we slept

<sup>16</sup> From the beginning of the entry for August 1 to this point, the manuscript is so dim as to be semi-illegible.

<sup>17</sup> Three McCalls, Captain Daniel, Captain Duncan, and Ensign James, belonged to the First Norfolk Militia which served under Brock at Detroit. All were sons of Donald McCall, a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, who served in the Seven Years' War in America, located in New Jersey, remained a loyalist in the Revolution, subsequently migrated to Canada, and in 1796 removed to the Long Point Settlement on Lake Erie, where his descendants were numerously represented until a recent date. See Owen, *op. cit.*, 91 ff.

<sup>18</sup> Possibly Archibald McLean, a lieutenant in the Third York Militia. He was born in St. Andrews, Upper Canada, April 5, 1791, the son of Neil McLean and (subsequently) the step-son of Robert Hamilton. He served under Brock at Detroit and Queenston, being wounded in the latter battle, and was taken prisoner at Lundy's Lane. Prior to the war he had studied law, and in 1815 was admitted to the bar of Upper Canada. He served in the Legislative Assembly from 1820 to 1836, and subsequently for many years as a judge, becoming chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in 1862. He died in Toronto, Oct. 24, 1865. See Wallace, *op. cit.*



on our blankets before the Kitchen fire very comfortably. we found a man there who had just arrived with an express for General Brock. Today our party was streng[th]ened by a Company of Riflemen in two boats under Cap<sup>t</sup> Robertson<sup>19</sup> of York. Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> left Port Talbot we sail'd some time, then the wind changed and we had to row. we were left behind by all the boats. at length the wind increased so much that we went a shore and anchored off. the General who had putt on shore a mile further came down & had our boat taken up nearly a mile above where his Boat lay. we staid here the remainder of the day. in the evening we got orders to get under way at 12 OClock but that the General's boat would have a light in it and no boat should pass it. Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> ab<sup>t</sup> 4 OClock in the Morn<sup>g</sup> we saw a boat with a light passing. we got off as soon as possible but all the boats were a great way a head of us the Wind was fair and we passed them all before we got to Point aux Pins the General desired us to Make the best of our Way up the Wind was fair and we got to Point a Pelé at night. here we went on shore to cook something for the men. as we understood a party of American Light horse had been there we patrolled all night, not myself for I had not been well since I left port Talbot Thursday 13 Left Point au Pelé before day and arrived at Amherstburgh ab<sup>t</sup> 8 OClock in the night. we were saluted by a Number of Indians encamped near Cap<sup>t</sup> Elliotts. heard On our way up at a house we stop'd at to day, that the Americans had left Sandwich and returned to Detroit.

Saturday afternoon 15<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1812 the American Garrison was summoned to surrender by General Brock but refused. as soon as their answer came down to Gen. B. the artillery Officer went up to the battery opposite Detroit and [we] soon heard a firing commence which continued for a couple of hours. the party of the 41<sup>st</sup> which came up with us were called out, and 9 more of the Reg<sup>t</sup> joined us we were then I think just 56 men including M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton M<sup>r</sup> Wilkinson &

<sup>19</sup> Apparently Captain Peter Robinson of the First York Militia Regiment. He was born in New Brunswick in 1785 and died unmarried in Toronto in 1838. He commanded a rifle company at the capture of Detroit in 1812 and figured prominently in the defense of Mackinac against Colonel Croghan in 1814. In 1817, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He later served as Commissioner of Crown Lands, and became the founder of Peterboro, Ont., which was named in his honor. See *ibid.*

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Myself. we were in two divisions the first commanded by M<sup>c</sup>Lean [?] and the 2<sup>d</sup> to which we belonged by Sergeant Blaney. Some Militia joined us and Major Chambers form[ed us] into open Column & then into line several times. every one, and every thing allmost, was at this time in motion, people galloping in every direction. we were ordered to be in readiness at 4 OClock next morning for marching. as soon as we were dismissed the Officers of Militia and most of us were very bussy in preparing every thing for action, pistols sword &<sup>oa</sup>. Long before day we were up on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> then fell in *with the York Militia*.<sup>20</sup> Major Chambers commanded the 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade—strong, composed of 150 of the 41<sup>st</sup> including 3 Vol<sup>s</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hatt's<sup>21</sup> company Militia the Norfolk & Oxford Militia—Major Tallen<sup>22</sup> commanded the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade in which there was nothing, but the 41<sup>st</sup> & the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade commanded by Col. S<sup>t</sup> George consisted of the Essex Militiamen & some Newfoundland Corps The 2<sup>d</sup> Brigade was halted a short wait at Sandwich then marched down near to Parks Mill, where we embarked. when marching down we saw the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade and the General and his staff crossing the River just below the Springwell I think it was the handsomest sight I ever saw. the Indians were allready over they just crossed before us. when we landed we formed in open collumn in the rear of the 3<sup>d</sup> Brigade. a company of Riflemen from York (we all got over without any opposition) went over with us, but did not belong to our Brigade they were most all painted as Indians. we were some time halted here, then marched up the road. I was much pleased to observe how unconcerned Most of the men were both Militia and Regulars the first house we passed we observed the Indians had broke into and were plundering. we found them also running after horses in every direction we marched at Quick time but

<sup>20</sup> The words in italics are crossed out in the manuscript.

<sup>21</sup> Captain Samuel Hatt of the Fifth Lincoln Militia. He served with Brock at Detroit and Queenston and was wounded at Lundy's Lane. See Irving, *op. cit.*, Casselman, *op. cit.* 60.

<sup>22</sup> Captain Joseph Tallon of the Forty-first Regiment. On Aug. 14, 1812, General Brock issued an order at Amherstburg organizing the army under his command in three brigades, commanded respectively by Lieutenant St. George, Major Chambers, and Major Tallon, the whole to be under the command of Colonel Procter. See *ibid.*, 53.

had frequently to halt. the Can[?] Brigade passed us on the Road I think there was about five or six Guns—and [illegible] I believe in front. I saw a number of inhabitants many of whom knew me and seemed happy to see me. we got at last to M<sup>r</sup> Henry's about a Mile and a half from Detroit and there halted. from this place sent a flag of truce to the Garrison desiring them a 2<sup>d</sup> time to surrender it was a long time before we had an answer therefore was kept a long time in suspense many were wishing them not to capitulate these were young Officers who were anxious to have an opp<sup>y</sup> of distinguishing themselves: but most of us wished I believe they should spare the effusion of blood and for the sake of the poor Women & Children who we knew would not be spared by the Indians should an action once commence. fortunately for us as it will appear afterwards the Americans after some time capitulated and surrendered themselves prisoners of War. I forgot before to mention that while we were marching up a constant firing was kept up from Our Battery at M<sup>r</sup> Babys<sup>23</sup> and from the American Fort. the American Guns were 24 pounders. while we staid at M<sup>r</sup> Henry's<sup>24</sup> two prisoners were brought in, one by an Indian and another by one of the Rifle Company. during our stay here a good many of the Canadian Militia belonging to Col S<sup>t</sup> George's Bridgade joined us. M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Forsyth<sup>25</sup> was living near M<sup>r</sup> Henry's I never saw a

<sup>23</sup> The Baby house, near which the battery was posted, is still standing, and occupied as a residence, in Windsor.

<sup>24</sup> James Henry, for whom see *ante*, 305. At Henry's house General Brock and staff paused to breakfast.

<sup>25</sup> William Forsyth was a son of William Forsyth, early Detroit inn-keeper, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 307, and a brother of James Forsyth, for whose career see *ante*, 639. William was born, Sept. 9, 1765, the eldest child of the union of William and Ann Forsyth. On March 24, 1794, he married Margaret (Margarethe) Little of Grosse Pointe, daughter of John Little, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 309. In 1798, William Forsyth's elder half-brother, John Kinzie, married Eleanor, a sister of Margaret Little, and the widow of Daniel McKillip. William Forsyth resided for many years in Sandwich, and it was at his home, according to Mrs. Juliette Kinzie, author of *Wau Bun*, that John H. Kinzie, husband of the author, and son of John Kinzie and Eleanor Little (McKillip) was born, July 7, 1803. Forsyth's name appears frequently in the St. John's Church Register over a period of years. In 1806, he is described as "inn-keeper." Several of his children were baptized on the same day, June 16, 1822: William, aged 14 years; George, born May, 1811; Duncan Chambers, born in May, 1815; and Margaret (Margarethe) Eleanor, born, Feb. 6, 1818. Another daughter, Elizabeth, married George Nelson of Sandwich on Nov. 1, 1818. *Ibid.* Still another daughter, Ann, married and had descendants living in Toronto in recent years. William Forsyth died, Dec. 28, 1843. See, in addition to references cited, Burton, Forsyth-Kinzie-Little genealogy.

person more happy than he was to see us he was so overjoyed that he could hardly speak. *I have been told since that there were 32 p' of cannon in all and about 2900 Stand of arms. There were a great many Waggon's &c<sup>a</sup> The numbers I do not know*<sup>26</sup> We marched up to the Garrison the gun Brigade in front I believe there was—six pounders & the Ammunition Carts.[?] We marched into the town and from that up into Fort Lernow: but there were so many American Troops in it, that we could not all get in. I believe our marching in was improper, and that it was done by mistake, for we were but a few minutes there before we were ordered to march out. I really think there was while we were in the Garrison two Americans for one of us and they had still their Arms. we formed on the West side of the Fort in line, untill all the Americans had marched out, but I was so situated that I could not see them coming out. they did not march with the honors of War though I am told they were allowed to do it by the Capitulation but the Officers of the Am. Army were so mortified that they had to surrender without fighting that they were indifferent about it or anything else then. the American colours were flying nearly an hour after we first marched into the Garrison. After the Americans had all marched out, the Grenadiers & Light Infantry of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>, and the Volunteers in that Reg<sup>t</sup>, that is Mr George Hamilton<sup>27</sup> Wilkinson & myself And Jn<sup>o</sup> Richardson; commanded by M<sup>r</sup> Bullock of the Grenadiers, marched into the Fort, with Drum & fife, to the Tune of the British Grenadiers. I must say that I never felt so proud, as I did just then.<sup>28</sup> as soon as we were in the Fort, the American Colours were taken down and ours hoisted.

<sup>26</sup> The words in italics are crossed out in the original manuscript.

<sup>27</sup> George Hamilton, son of Robert Hamilton and Catherine Askin (for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 14, 188) was a captain in the Niagara Light Dragoons; like Askin, he participated in the Detroit campaign merely as a volunteer. He married Maria Lavinia Jarvis, eldest daughter of William Jarvis, first Provincial Secretary of Upper Canada, and a granddaughter of Rev. Samuel Peters of Connecticut Blue Law fame. On the outbreak of the War of 1812, Hamilton removed his wife and infant son from Niagara-on-the-Lake to Burlington Bay for safety from the enemy. Here he subsequently laid out the village (now city) of Hamilton.

<sup>28</sup> This narrative of the occupation of Fort Detroit may profitably be compared with that of John Richardson, another of Askin's grandsons, who participated in the event. See Casselman, *op. cit.*, 56-57.

three Cheers were given as they were hoisted by the Militia and others outside the Fort & the Indians when the Salute with the Cannon was given gave an Indian yell every shot we the Volunteers remained with our Guard until the Colours of the 4<sup>th</sup> A. Reg<sup>t</sup> were brought by part of our Guard After which we got leave to go where we wished and M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton went to see M<sup>r</sup> Brush, where we dined Two prisoners were taken in the Woods today while we were at M<sup>r</sup> Henry's, one by an Indian and another by a rifleman.

There were about 2300 prisoners surrendered, besides the Militia of the Michigan Territory, who gave up their arms that day, with the others. these were 3 or 4 hund[red] strong. most of the American army were composed of Militia from the State of Ohio, who had volunteered their Services for a year, some were cavalry reg<sup>t</sup> One company, great number Riflemen, and some infantry there were of the Regular troops, ——— of Artillery ——— of the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and about 3 hund<sup>d</sup> of the 4<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. this last Reg<sup>t</sup> are highly spoken of by the Americans. indeed from the manner they speak of them you would suppose them to be Invincibles.<sup>29</sup> the whole of their army were ill dressed, and few of them appeared healthy or well, indeed they seemed to me the poorest looking sett of men I have seen for a long time. their situation and dress may probably have made them appear so ill to me. seven hundred Rifles were taken and a great many Muskets nearly 3000 stand, & 32 p<sup>s</sup> Cannon of all descriptions, a great number of Waggon, horses, &<sup>ca</sup>

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Remained at Detroit but did no duty. saw the American prisoners embarking, many of whom were unwell with fever & some wounded. poor fellows I fear few of them will ever get home. All the Vessels from Amherstburgh I believe & those taken at Detroit were taking in prisoners; but there were not a sufficient number to take them all, and those who were on board were very much crouded. by the Capitulation, as I understood, the Regular Troops were to be kept as prisoners of War and the Militia

<sup>29</sup> The Fourth U. S. Infantry had constituted the nucleus of Harrison's force at Tippecanoe, in 1811. It was the only regular regiment in Hull's army. Hull's account of its reception at Urbana in May harmonizes with Askin's account of the esteem felt for it by the militia contingents. See Quaife, *Chicago and the Old Northwest*, 207.

Reg<sup>ts</sup> were to be sent to Cleveland or Sandusky, from whence they were to return home and no[t] serve against the English ag[ain in] this War. of the Regulars I supp[ose]<sup>30</sup> there is not more than 400. these I suppose will be sent to Quebec.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> I crossed the River, we[nt] up to my Father's dined there and then went down to Amherstburgh to see Major Chambers with whom [I] had volunteered to go to River Raizin & Foot of the Rapids. in the Even[ing] I saw General Brock and his Aidencamp Col. M<sup>c</sup>Donnell<sup>31</sup> At Amherstburg M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton was down there also; but as he had embarked and I could not conveniently get on board I did not see him. For want of boats or something else, we could not get off this evening for River Raizin. I saw Major Salmon & young M<sup>r</sup> Rolph M<sup>r</sup> R. had bought a horse for 5 doll<sup>s</sup> some were sold for two doll<sup>s</sup> I understood from the Indians, who took about three hundred on the Day of the Surrender and the day following, on the American Side. they plundered Knagg's<sup>32</sup> house and a few other houses and took a great deal from them. Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> amherstburgh Last night or early this Morn<sup>g</sup> the *Chippawa*, a small Vessel sailed from this, in which was passengers the General and his two Aide-camps,<sup>33</sup> and M<sup>r</sup> Hamilton & M<sup>r</sup> Jarvis.<sup>34</sup> in the afternoon we got off from Capt Elliotts for River Raizin. Major Cambers Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee & his son Alex<sup>r</sup><sup>35</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Apparently the omissions noted in this sentence are due to the defect of the photostatic copy of the manuscript, rather than to the manuscript itself.

<sup>31</sup> Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell, who perished with his chief, General Brock, in the battle of Queenston, Oct. 12, 1812. He was born in Greenfield, Scotland, April 19, 1785, and came to Upper Canada with his father about the year 1792. He was admitted to the bar of Upper Canada in 1808, and in 1812 became attorney-general of the province. At the opening of the war, he became provincial aide-de-camp to General Brock, and in this capacity negotiated with General Hull the terms of the surrender of Detroit. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

<sup>32</sup> Whittmore Knaggs, for whom see *ante*, 120. For a detailed account of his career, see Ross, *op. cit.*, 7 ff. His home, whose plundering is here recorded, stood at the mouth of Knaggs Creek (no longer in existence) in the vicinity of Swain and West Jefferson avenues (P. C. 77). See *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, I, 36.

<sup>33</sup> Captain John B. Glegg of the Forty-ninth Regiment and Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell of the Provincial Militia.

<sup>34</sup> Samuel Peters Jarvis, born, Nov. 15, 1792, lieutenant in the Third York Militia, and son of William Jarvis, for whom see *ante*, 299. At Detroit he was attached to the Forty-first Regiment. He served as lieutenant at Queenston and Lundy's Lane, and subsequently as chief superintendent of Indian affairs. In 1818 he married Mary Bayles, daughter of William Dummer Powell, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 436, and five sons and four daughters were born to them. He died at Toronto, Sept. 6, 1857. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>35</sup> Alexander McKee, son of Captain Thomas McKee and Therese Askin, for whom

Mr Bap<sup>t</sup> Barthe<sup>36</sup> & myself with some others went over in the same boat and landed below Brownstown. Alex M<sup>c</sup>Kee had his [horse] crossed and I had another taken over he had lent me. we waited some time here, for the Indians to join us, at length *Tecompe* with a few others came to us. a Gun Boat commanded by Mr Bender<sup>37</sup> of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> came over—we all that is the Gent[lemen] embarked in the Gun Boat and got under way our horses were sent on by land. when we got near the Point au Roche<sup>38</sup> it blew Rather hard and it was thought dangerous to go round the Point. we therefore put into River Huron but how long we staid here I do not know; for I believe I was a sleep when we left

Thursday Morn<sup>g</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> Got early in the morn<sup>g</sup> to Rocky River.<sup>39</sup> Rained a good deal this Morn<sup>g</sup> & I believe it did last night but I was under cover du[r]ing the night and not exposed to it. We got into two houses that were deser[ted] we made fires in them, and got some breakfast. three other boats were with us here, all under Bender's command. Cap<sup>t</sup> Elliott<sup>40</sup> and his Son Alexr joined us here the[y] came on horseback with a number of Indians we most all got horses and Rode to River Raizin where we arrived about 10 or Eleven O'clock A. M. We went towards the Blockhouse but finding that the Block house was open; and nothing in it we returned to Mr Lasselle's<sup>41</sup> where we got Breakfast

see *B. H. R.*, I, 15, 376. At the outbreak of the war, Alexander was a second lieutenant in the First Lincoln Artillery Company. On June 8, 1813, he was appointed lieutenant in the Indian Department, and on June 25, 1814, was promoted to a captaincy. See Irving, *op. cit.* The date of his birth has not been found, but since his parents were married in April, 1797, he must have been a very youthful officer.

<sup>36</sup> Apparently Jean Baptiste Barthe, who was born in Detroit on Oct. 18, 1779, eldest child of Jean Baptiste Barthe and Geneviève Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 74. He was a first cousin of the diarist, his father being a brother of Mrs. John Askin. He was a lieutenant in the First Essex Militia, and according to Irving, *op. cit.*, died later in the year 1812.

<sup>37</sup> Lieutenant Benoit Bender of the Forty-first Regiment. In a report of Sept. 10, 1812, Colonel Procter states that the boats and engagés of the South West Company had been taken into the public service and Lieutenant Bender had been placed in charge. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 146.

<sup>38</sup> Modern Stony Point in Frenchtown Township, Monroe County, about midway between the mouths of the Huron and Raisin rivers.

<sup>39</sup> Modern Stony Creek.

<sup>40</sup> Apparently the diarist intended to write Captain McKee. X

<sup>41</sup> Presumably Jacques Lacelle, for whom see *ante*, 34.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

some Indians [arrived] while we were here. we were still at Breakfast when a message came to us from M<sup>rs</sup> Anderson<sup>42</sup> begging that we would go and prevent the Indians from plundering her house Major Chambers rode off immediately & I followed him as quick as I could we found the Indians had taken a number of things, and were taking every thing valuable they could get hold of. they paid no attention to us what[ever] when we tried to make them desist. The Hurons were the first to break in & plunder this house and some of them were M<sup>r</sup> Anderson's friends. from this house they went to several other houses and plundered them old M<sup>rs</sup> Knaggs<sup>43</sup> house was among others plundered, some Indians remained about Andersons most all day, taking and destroying things. They emptied some flour out in the yard, which they did not want, Col. Elliott<sup>44</sup> was with us at the time we first went to Andersons to prevent the Indians from plundering, but did not go with us thinking that he would have more influence than Major C-s or myself I went and requested him to go once or twice, I think

<sup>42</sup> At least two (possibly three) John Andersons figure in the history of Detroit and vicinity in the opening years of the century. References to their activities are numerous in both manuscript and printed records in the B. H. Coll., but information sufficient clearly to elucidate their respective careers is wanting. One of them, owner of the home here alluded to, was one of Monroe's foremost citizens in the first quarter of the century. According to Ross, *Hist. of Knaggs Family*, 29-30, he was born near Glasgow, Scotland, Aug. 20, 1771, and came in childhood with his parents to Montreal. The opening of the century found him engaged in trade on the Maumee, where, apparently, he married Elizabeth Knaggs, daughter of George Knaggs and Rachel Schley, for whom see *ante*, 119-20, who was born, Jan. 4, 1772. Some years later, Anderson located at Raisin River (modern Monroe), where he held, in the succeeding years, a number of offices of public trust. In 1805 he was appointed by Governor Hull, colonel of the Second Regiment of Michigan Militia, and in 1811-12 he was U. S. Marshal of the Territory. When in 1812, General Hull was setting out from Urbana on his march to Detroit, he sent to Anderson for transmission to the Indians of the region adjoining Monroe warnings of the vengeance that he would inflict upon them if they should exhibit any hostility to the American cause. The prominence which Anderson acquired in this connection made him the object of their own vengeance upon the downfall of Hull, and he hastily fled to Ohio, finding refuge for some months in Dayton. Meanwhile, his family was left behind in Monroe, and an interesting story is preserved of the heroism of Mrs. Anderson during the massacre of Jan. 22, 1813. Not long after this event, apparently, she found asylum in the home (now vacant) of Solomon Sibley in Detroit, and here, some time prior to December, 1813, Anderson joined her and was appointed by General Cass Sheriff of the Western District of Upper Canada, then conquered territory. After the war, he returned to Monroe, where he resided until his death, July 3, 1840. Whether the Anderson whose career is here described was the same John Anderson who was engaged in the Maumee trade as a partner of John Askin, we have been unable to determine. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Burton, *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 183-84; and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

<sup>43</sup> Rachel Schley Knaggs, widow of George Knaggs, for whom see *ante*, 119-20.

<sup>44</sup> Colonel Matthew Elliot.



twice at last he went. it's true he was unwell; (but I think he might have gone at first as well as last). Yet for all the good he did he might as well have staid where he was. Major C. was much enraged at the behaviour of the Indians, & tried to prevent them from plundering as much as he could. Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee when he joined us did the same. Tecompsé the Indian General as he is called, behaved [I] must say remarkably well. he assisted us very much in trying to prevent the Indians from pillaging; but the Hurons could not be prevented from taking what they wanted some Saucks that had began to plun[der] were stopp<sup>d</sup> by Maj. C. and they ev[en] retur<sup>d</sup> some things they had taken. The Indians took a great number of horses on the River. horses they have taken everywhere, the day of the surrender and the day following I fancy they did not take less than 300 from the people on the Detroit side. Cap<sup>t</sup> Elliot<sup>45</sup> who was sent here with a flag of truce on Sunday last was still here. he found Cap<sup>t</sup> Brush here who commanded a company of Gentlemen from Ohio. and a number of others with him from some of the corps serving in Detroit. when he saw the letter which was from General Hull the contents of which I [do not] know<sup>46</sup> (but suppose it was an order for him to surrender) he said it was a forgery and Elliott was an imposter. he had Cap<sup>t</sup> E. confined and threatened to hang him. some of the Gentlemen in his company interfered and told him they would shoot him if he did. whether he thought it a forgery or not he and all those with him excepting a few sick made off that night not in any order but as fast as they could get off six or seven of them together in this disorderly manner they left the place, many of them taking horses with them that they took from the Inhabitants, who complained very much of them. when we found this party were so far a head of us that it was no[t] probable we could ever overtake [them] and that even if we should they had nothing with them that was worth going after, it was thought advisable to send back the Indians from this place and not allow them to go to the Foot of the Rapids where we

<sup>45</sup> William Elliott, for whom see *ante*, 503.

<sup>46</sup> In surrendering Detroit, Hull had included these Ohio militia. Captain Elliott was sent by Brock to Monroe to acquaint them with the terms of the capitulation. See Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, II, 1017 ff.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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dreaded they would behave in the same shameful manner they had done to day, at this place. some were in consequence of this sent back, and they would have all return<sup>d</sup> had not a scoundrel of the name of Amable Bellair<sup>47</sup> (I think was his name,) come and said that he was from the foot of the Rapids and that when he left it there were 180 Americans there, that had gone from that place about a mile and returned. we hardly credited w[hat?] he said as a Doct<sup>r</sup> Fairfield a very decent looking man had come from that place with a flag of truce, and said that there were none there but a few sick, as I interpreted I told Belair who was a french[man] that if he deceived us he would be hung the scoundrel still insisted on it. I believe it was then determined that what Indians remained should go there; I was not much with them then; and did not know well what was to be done, as Major Chambers had requested me to take charge of a boat that was loaded with arms and take it to Amherstburgh he wrote Col. Procter and I had the dispatches. that night I slept at M<sup>r</sup> Jérôme's<sup>48</sup> where we most all staid, some Americans slept their also, who were much afraid that the Indians would murder them.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> In the morn<sup>g</sup> Major Chambers told me that Cap<sup>t</sup> Elliott would take charge of the boat, and wished me to go with him with a flag of truce to Foot of the Rapids. Doct<sup>r</sup> Fairfield, & a Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull left the River Raizin with us. Cap<sup>t</sup> Hull went in a boat with M<sup>r</sup> Bender, and Fairfield remained with us, at the River aux Loutre. we took a Canadian as an Interpreter in case we wished to speak to the Indians a party of whom were a head of us with Alex<sup>r</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Probably Amable Chulle *dit* Belair. His father Jean Pierre Chulle *dit* Belair, born in 1733 in Avignon, France, came to Canada as a soldier in the La Sarre Regiment, and on Jan. 8, 1759, married at Sault au Recollect, Mary Ann Menard. They subsequently came to Detroit, where Mary Ann Menard was drowned while crossing the river, and was buried in Sandwich, Jan. 1, 1785. Jean Pierre Belair was buried at Raisin River, Nov. 10, 1805.

Their eldest son, Amable, born in 1759, married at Raisin River, on Jan. 19, 1796, Mary Louisa La Pointe, who was born in Sandwich, Aug. 13, 1780. Amable Chulle *dit* Belair was buried in Detroit, Nov. 14, 1821.

Amable Belair had several brothers and sisters, and the family line was numerously represented in Detroit and vicinity. Data derived from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>48</sup> Probably Jean Baptiste Jerome, born in 1762, who married Mary Deliennes *dit* Belanger. They lived at Raisin River, where she was buried on June 1, 1827, and he on June 7, 1832. A daughter, Mary Archange Jerome, was born in Detroit, Feb. 17, 1792. See *ante*, 267.

Elliot.<sup>49</sup> we got to Foot of the Rapids about one or two oClock in the afternoon. the Indians had just began to plunder or began as soon as we got there, but did not take much here except horses. they took several of these. there were no Americans here but a few that were sick, which belonged to the Army, a party of Yankees had passed that place the day before with 200 head of Cattle, but it was thought they had got out of our reach. The Block house here Técompsé had set fire to and was burning when we came here. the Inhabitants complained of Brush's company some of whom had stolen their horses and some other things. we found 77 bbls, pork, 18 of flour & eight or ten of whisky here, which had been left by the American army. found no arms I suppose they were hid and some other things also. The Scoundrel Bellair that had told such a falsehood respecting the American troops being at this place, we were going to take with us to Amherstburgh. I took his pistols from him and we considered him as a prisoner but had no one to Guard him. some Indians begged he might be liberated which was done, and the fellow got his pistols again without my knowledge & I could never see him after. In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup> Bender arrived with the Gun Boat and two other boats we had before this collected all the water craft we could on the River. we had two boat's and some canoes which we began to load, but they were all so leaky except some canoes that we could not make use of them. the Canadians were sett to work and loaded the Gun Boat and two other boats they brought with them after geting all we could in these, we put what we still had to bring with us in five or six canoes. about 11 or 12 OClock at night we left M<sup>r</sup> Baugran's<sup>50</sup> and went down the River with an

<sup>49</sup> Alexander Elliot was a half-blood son of Colonel Matthew Elliot, his mother being an Indian woman concerning whom we have no definite information. Alexander was slain by Indians in December, 1812, and was buried in Sandwich on December 17. Data derived from ms. notes on Elliot genealogy supplied by Miss Julia Duff of Amherstburg, Nov. 9, 1927, and St. John's Church Register.

<sup>50</sup> Presumably Jean Baptiste Beaugrand, whose claim to 640 acres of land near Fort Maimis, a short distance above modern Perrysburg, was recognized by the U. S. government. See William E. Peters, *Ohio Lands and Their Subdivision* (Athens, 1918), 194-95; *Am. State Paps., Pub. Lands*, I, 493. Jean Baptiste Beaugrand, presumably the same individual, was also awarded title to a tract of land on Rouge River (P. C. 454). According to Denissen, *op. cit.*, Francis Beaugrand resided in the diocese of Agen, province of Bordeaux, early in the eighteenth century. His son, Jean Baptiste, born in 1725, migrated to

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Intention of going to the Lake I believe; but after going six or seven miles the men one after another fell asleep & I did the same, whether the boats went a shore or not I cannot say.

Saturday 22<sup>d</sup> In the morning we were on our way down the River I think when we woke a Canadian came down running to us & crying; he and another had been left behind at the Foot of the Rapids, and we had not missed them, till this one joined us. in passing an Indian camp, his comrade was stopp'd and he supp[osed] him murdered by the Indians. a Mounsy Indian was taken from an Indian Camp, into one of the boats, th[at] had just been stabbed by some Indian of a diff<sup>t</sup> nation. we put on shore at Presqu'il where we got a very good boat in which we put what was in the Canoes. we breakfasted here and then left this place this day and night we got beyond the River Raisin. nothing remarkable occurred to day—Sunday 23<sup>d</sup>. In the Morn<sup>g</sup> we got to Point au Roch. the boat I was in was a great way behind the other boats. I then advised Major Chambers to get in an other which we did. we left P<sup>te</sup> au Roch & got to Amherstburgh about 11 OClock AM. breakfasted at Capt Elliotts, then went up to Town. found that Major Chambers mare had been stolen by the Indians during his absence and an Immense number of other horses were taken by them on this side the River. Dined at Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson's then rode up with Maj. C. he went over to Detroit and I went to my Father's. before he left Amherstburgh he had a very serious quarrel with Col. Elliott.

From the 23<sup>d</sup> to this date the 15<sup>th</sup> of September I have kept no journal. after my return from the Foot of the Rapids, I found Colonel Procter was acting as Civil Governor at Detroit & Judge Woodward an American Judge acting as his Secretary. Many things have ocured during this short period which I have forgot; we had news that Chicago was taken by the Indians and no one saved but the Comman<sup>s</sup>

Canada. On Sept. 26, 1763, he married (second) in Ste. Foye, Mary Ann Alain, daughter of Pierre Alain and Margaret Leblanc. Their son, also named Jean Baptiste, was born in Montreal (date unnoted) and evidently came west to Detroit and the Maumee prior to 1796. On July 29, 1802, he married in Detroit, Margaret Chabert, daughter of Francis Chabert and Josette Chêne, for whom see *ante*, 448. They had eleven children, born chiefly in Detroit in the years 1803-20.

Officer and his Wife.<sup>51</sup> The Detachment that came up when I did and to which I belong'd left Amherstburgh a few days ago, also some Grenadiers under L<sup>t</sup> Bullock to return to Niagara. Major Chambers returned also, some some time since by Land. Col. Procter & M<sup>r</sup> Nichol went out to the Foot of the Rapids & returned soon. they went probably to view the Country as they had no forces with them. Cap<sup>t</sup> Muir<sup>52</sup> has been commanding officer at Detroit for some time both my Brothers were doing duty with the Militia there. An auction has been [held] at Detroit where part of the Public property taken at the Surrender was sold. Some Waggon of which there was ab<sup>t</sup> 60 sold very low. they were from 23 to Eighty Dollars many other things went very low also. Indians beseiging Fort Wayne have sent for assistance & for some days past preparations have been making to go to that place. Last night part of the Expedition Left Amherstburgh in a small Vess[el] and in Boats. they are all under the Command of Cap<sup>t</sup> Muir a very Galant Officer. Indians have been going for some days past, & a party of Indians ab<sup>t</sup> 200 in number who arrived here a few days ago from MacKina under the direction of Jn<sup>o</sup> B. Askin, have gone this Morn<sup>g</sup> with Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee young Jn<sup>o</sup> A. is also with them they went off in great style. had a salute from the Garrison which they returned. The Expedition consisted of ab<sup>t</sup> 150 of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> 200 of the Militia & a party of Artillery & ab<sup>t</sup> eight hundred [Indians]. these it was supposed would be joined by a great number of Indians, allready on their way, and before the place. the whole expedition were off this Morng.<sup>53</sup> the Officers Gone are

Cap <sup>t</sup> Muir	} 41 <sup>st</sup>	Alex Askin	} Militia	
M <sup>r</sup> Bernard		W <sup>m</sup> Hands		
M <sup>r</sup> Hales <sup>54</sup>		Cap <sup>t</sup> Elliot		Com <sup>v</sup>
L <sup>t</sup> Troughton R. Ar <sup>v</sup>		Col Caldwell Do Q <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup>		

<sup>51</sup> Chicago was taken, Aug. 15, 1812: Of the 94 white persons in the garrison and community, approximately 53 were slain in the battle and subsequent massacre. Of the 40 survivors, a considerable number perished in captivity. See Quaife, *Chicago and Old Northwest*, 428 ff.

<sup>52</sup> Captain Adam C. Muir, for whom see *ante*, 488.

<sup>53</sup> For an account of Major Muir's expedition against Fort Wayne, see Casselman, *op. cit.*, 93 ff.

<sup>54</sup> Lieutenant Harris Hailes.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Mr Dickson R. Engineers

Cap<sup>t</sup> Jacobs<sup>55</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> Sterling

Jn<sup>o</sup> Pike

J<sup>s</sup>. Little

Nich Little

Cap<sup>t</sup> Caldwell<sup>56</sup>

} Militia

Col. Elliot Indn Dep<sup>t</sup>

Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>o</sup> Kee Do.

Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson Sur<sup>g</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup> Do. Volunteer

The *Salina* took part of the Expedition

DISASTER FORESHADOWED IN DETROIT<sup>57</sup>

Detroit 11 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1812

Dear Sir I am going to send my family to reside at Mr Meldrums. I know not what may be the destiny of this country. my family are dear to my heart. will you receive some money in Keeping for them, and if so, would you prefer to have it in bills on our Government, or Cincinnati Bank notes as to specie there is none here.

Adieu and may God bless you

E. Brush

a line by the bearer

John Askin Esqr

If at any time hereafter you think proper to send for Alice & the children, they will go over.

THIRST OF AMERICAN OFFICERS<sup>58</sup>

Detroit 24 August 1812

Dear Sir Will it be possible for Mr Pattenson to spare Gen<sup>l</sup> Taylor and Col<sup>o</sup> Findlay<sup>59</sup> and my selfe a demijohn of five gallons of wine I think you mentioned he had some at your house.

<sup>55</sup> George Jacob.

<sup>56</sup> Captain William Caldwell, half-blood son of Colonel William Caldwell, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 243-44.

<sup>57</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>58</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>59</sup> James Findley, colonel of the Second Ohio Militia Regiment, was born in Mercersburg, Pa., about the year 1775 and spent his mature life (1793-1835) as a resident of Cincinnati. From 1825 to 1833 he served as U. S. Representative from Ohio. See *Appleton Cyclopaedia of Am. Biog.*

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

I shall be over to see you before I take my departure  
Edmund may remain untill I send for him.

I am Dear Sir your h

E. Brush

John Askin Esquire

In my portable writing desk you will find some papers  
addressed to you

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Straban

*Endorsed:* Detroit 24<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>, 1812 E. Brush to John  
Askin.

CHARGES AGAINST ELIJAH BRUSH<sup>60</sup>

Detroit Sept<sup>r</sup> 1812

Dear Sir I understand by Alice that you have the papers  
that were sent to Pattenson by the return of his vessel.  
M<sup>r</sup> Pattenson on saturday last promised me the perusal of  
them. I likewise understand that it is represented in them  
that I (with some others) was in favour of the capitulation  
than which there never was a greater falshood. as M<sup>r</sup>  
Pattensons vessel will shortly be returning with some more  
of our Citizens I wish for an early perusal of the papers that  
I may have an opportunity of contradicting any representa-  
tions derogatory to my character have therefore sent  
Edmund over for them [and] will thank you to do them up  
carefully and give them to him. he is charged to let no one  
see them. in fact he does not know himselfe what he is  
going after. they will be returned this evening to you or  
M<sup>r</sup> P if an opportunity offers please give Edmund a dollar  
as we have no change in the house wherewith to pay his  
ferreage. if you have laid your hand on Henrys Note you  
may indorse that.

Yours truly

E. Brush

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Present

*Endorsed:* Detroit Septr 1812 E. Brush Esq<sup>r</sup> to John  
Askin.

<sup>60</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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AFFAIRS AT MACKINAC<sup>61</sup>

Michilimackinac 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1812

My Dear Father The situation of the Country has been such that our Correspondance has been interrupted for a length of time, but the Communication being once more open will enable us to resume again. The Changes of Affairs have been great w<sup>h</sup> you thats to say the face of Affairs took a wonderful turn. After your having so large an Army as Gen<sup>l</sup> Hull had & great part of them having partly ravaged your Country & only a handfull of men to engage them at one time a great number of our *Shenaille Ecarte* Canadians & some Indians humbling themselves to Hull and a party of our people were driven back from Moguagon must have sickened many good & loyal subjects. What a happy Change has taken place & your pleasure must have been great to see so many of your Children in defence of their King & Country. I have heard a great deal of James & Alexander previous to Gen<sup>l</sup> Brocks Arrival, they having been exposed several times at the different Skermishes that took place at the Canard, Petit Cote & Moguagon Much praise is given them. It was reported to me that Charles carried a private Soldiers dress fearing that he would be garrisoned below if dressed as a Civilian & that he went back w<sup>h</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Brock. John has no doubt given you an Account of the reasons of my not being down in time to Cooperate w<sup>h</sup> the Gen<sup>l</sup>. the Order, if I may call it an Order was recvd at this post the 12<sup>h</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> at a time that all the Indians were as drunk as Ten Thousand Devils & Detroit was taken on the 16<sup>h</sup> therefore it was impossible for any force to be down in that time & coasting the Lakes. Indeed the Band of Indians which Johnney took down could not be got off sooner I am even surprised they did not turn back when they heard that Detroit was in our possession. When John left this we had every reason to believe that Hull still held his possition at Babys & John was to have landed at Pikes Creek with all his Indians & Crossed the township of Maidston to form a junction with Col<sup>l</sup> Elliott & M<sup>e</sup>Kee or if the Night was propitious he was to have passed in the

<sup>61</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



Night under those Circumstances I thought it most prudent not to write. When Livingston<sup>62</sup> went down w<sup>h</sup> the Prisoners I wrote by him & your not Answering my Letters induces me to believe they were not delivered to you. My Dear Mother must now feel herself once more comfortable & happy having nothing to apprehend from any force that the Yanky's can bring forward. As the Indians have enterrd heartily in the cause they will Keep them off & destroy every settlement as far as Grenville indeed far beyond that place.

I request that you'll have the goodness to send a little flour, for I'm really in greatest want of this Article & will be more so than ever, having no Garden whatever here & during my Absence from S<sup>t</sup> Josephs all my potatoes have been destroyed by the Swine so that I must live entirely on Bread, Pork & Beef The oldest Oxen youll be pleased to get Kill'd, Salted & shipped by the last Vessel, The Hock & Shanks give to your Tenants & hope my Mother will help herself to a Choice piece of Beef. I send per this Vessel a Keg of English salt for to salt the Meat & will account to you for the Salt Petre you purchase & Barrels. Rum or Whiskey Barrels will not answer to salt Meat, please purchase good new Barrels for this purpose or Pork Barrels, Excuse my being so particular for I really have lost so much meat already [illegible] by being packed in bad Casks that I wish Every precaution may be taken. Have the goodness to Inform M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson that a [man] named Alexis Reaume<sup>63</sup> has

62. Robert Ramsay Livingstone served four years as a midshipman on the *Argus*, and eight years as ensign in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Volunteers. He commanded a company of volunteers at the capture of Mackinac in July, 1812, was wounded and made prisoner at Brownstown, and was present at the capture of Detroit. He became a lieutenant in the Indian Department of Upper Canada, April 25, 1814, and captain on Oct. 25, 1814. He was wounded at Fort George, Aug. 17, 1813; assisted in the defense of the *Nancy* at Nottawasaga, Aug. 14, 1814, and was present at the capture of the *Tigress* and the *Scorpion*, the following month. It was he who brought to Mackinac the news of Brock's capture of Detroit. See Irving, *op. cit.*, 210, 213, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*, especially X, 94.

63. Alexis Réaume was born in Sandwich, July 23, 1786. He was a grandson of Pierre Réaume and Susanne Hubert dit Lacroix, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 61, and the son of Bonaventure Réaume and Jeanne Deshêtres, for whom see *ibid.*, 377. Alexis was evidently familiar with the Mackinac region, and seems to have been engaged in trade, as indicated by the present entry, among others. According to John Askin Jr., it was he who brought to Mackinac, May 1, 1815, news of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XVI, 340, and letter of John Askin Jr., printed *post*, 779. Alexis Réaume had numerous connections at Detroit. One of his father's sisters married Pierre Charles Daneau

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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delivered me 3,000 & Odd Lbs of Maple sugar for him which will be Ship'd on Board the Kings Vessel as well as a quantity that a Michael Douseman<sup>64</sup> is to deliver me. The *Caledonia* cannot take a Moccock, being Chartered for the Mich<sup>a</sup> & S. West Furr Comp<sup>y</sup> to take down their packs. The Same Com<sup>y</sup>, I'm told, have now on board the *Caledonia* from 12 to 15,000 lbs Sugar which will be deposited at M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh's or M<sup>r</sup> Crawford will dispose of it himself on his way down, indeed I believe the sugar belongs to M<sup>r</sup> Crawford. what now goes & what is to be sent will lessen the price of this Commodity much. I wish I was ordered to send the quantum now in His Majesty store here & S<sup>t</sup> Josephs which would soon reduce the price, but its to be consumed here. Two other Adventurers I'm told proposes to send down a few moccocks to Barter for Flour. Should you be able to send a few Bags of Oats without putting yourself to any inconvenience whatever they will be very Acceptable. Madelain joins as well [as] Theresse & Julia in fervent prayers for you & My Mothers' Health & our Love to My Sisters & Brothers

Your Dutiful son

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J<sup>r</sup>

Have the goodness to purchase or get purchased two Girths & a Sircingle & Crupper & forward the Acc<sup>t</sup> w<sup>h</sup> the same by first Vessel.

de Muy, son of the commandant of Detroit, and another married, Jacques Duperon Baby. A brother of his father was Claude Thomas Réaume of the British Indian Department, and a cousin was the wife of Jehu Hay, last British lieutenant-governor of Detroit. See *B. H. R.*, I, *passim*.

<sup>64</sup> Michael Dousman (Douseman) was a native of Pennsylvania who is said to have come to Detroit with Wayne's army in the summer of 1796. Friend Palmer, *Early Days in Detroit* . . . (Detroit, 1906), 469. Quite possibly this was not his first appearance in the Northwest, however; he was long prominent in trade at Mackinac, and in a formal protest to Governor Cass, Oct. 30, 1819, justifying his conduct at Mackinac in 1812, he states that he was then "claimed [by the British authorities] as a ci-devant British subject." One may reasonably infer from this that he was a resident of the Northwest prior to the American occupation in 1796. Prior to the War of 1812, Dousman was a partner in the firm of David Stone and Company. Although he regarded himself as an American citizen, the part he played in the capture of Mackinac in 1812, and his subsequent conduct during the war caused the American authorities to question his allegiance, a doubt which Dousman indignantly repelled. See *Wis. Hist. Soc., Proc.*, 1912, pp. 138-39 and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXXVI, 416-19. In the thirties, Dousman was reported to be the wealthiest citizen of Mackinac. He was president of the village in 1824-25 and probate judge of Michilimackinac County from 1833 to 1840. He was the father of John Dousman, who both before and after the War of 1812 was a resident of Green Bay, and of Hercules L. Dousman, for many years a prominent trader and citizen of Prairie du Chien, Wis. See *ibid.*, *passim*, especially XXXVI, 416-19; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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Madelaine requests that the Sewet of the Oxon may be melted & sent in a Bag or some other way in the *Nancy*, *Caledonia* or any other Vessell.

*Endorsed:* Received y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>.

WAR NEWS FROM MONTREAL

Montreal 8<sup>th</sup> October 1812

My dear Old Friend It is so long a time since I heard from you that my anxiety is increased so that I must risk writing, altho it may never reach you. where are you, or where was you when the Great Hull crossed the River. I have frequently inquired about you but could not get any intelgence of you untill a young man came down who used to live with you, I forgot his name, is now at Quebec, who reported that you escaped safe without damage, which gave me much pleasure. we are hour'ly expecting Genr<sup>l</sup> Dearboon with about Ten Thousand of his Troops to attack us. but we are not afeard of thim, as our Canadians are in high Spirits, we have one Regement of Voyageurs, and M<sup>c</sup>. Gillavray is their Colo<sup>l</sup>. the fall is come & expect cold weather will send the americans Home for the Winter. Their Head Quarters are at Platsburg. our old Friend Todd is here and intends staying for the Winter. we are all soldiers here. I expect preferment [before] the Battle being the oldest Captn in the British Militia. the Americans on the opposite side of the river are continually attacking our Boats going up to Kingston. I think it is their intention (if they can) to stop the communication, which they will find a difficult matter to perform. we have near ten thou[s]and men in arms here, and can with ease raise Twenty thousand more, in ten days in case they come over our lines, but we do not intend attacking them on their side. I hope the Cold weather will disperse them for the Winter, and before the Spring they may have a change in their Gove[rn]ment which will produce a peace. what has become of your son in Law my Lawyer. I never hear from him. times are geting very bad. Trade allmost at an end. what changes in the World since you an I first met. it is hard we cannot supose to

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

live to see the end of it. if that evil spirrit Bonepart was to take his departure to the other World before I go, [it] would be a great satisfaction. let me hear from you. I hope you will not be disturbed this winter, as Hulls business has deter'd them. but the Americans to raise the Spirits of their people have published in their Gazets that Gen[e]ral Brock is taken with Detroit, Niagara & all the Country to Kingston. there is a report this day of a British fleet being on the American coast, but I am fearful there is no foundation for it. the English are allways slow in their opperations. my pen is so bad I am afeard you will not be able to read what I write. therefore I have only to say I and my family are well, and wish & pray that you and yours may be allway [illegible]

Your old friend  
Alexander Henry

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Amherstburg Detroit.

*Endorsed:* Montreal Oct 8<sup>h</sup> 1812 Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Esq<sup>r</sup> to  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>h</sup>

OPERATIONS AT NIAGARA

Mountain Near Queenston Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1812

Dear Father Your affectionate favour of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> came to hand the night before last. I am surprised to find by it that very few of the letters I have wrote you since I have been down here, have reached you. the one giving an account of the Battle of Queenston<sup>65</sup> went up in the *Lady Prevost* with some others and some newspapers, and I fancy you must have got them before this. John & William Robertson were both in the Battle and distinguished themselves, William particularly who behaved as galantly as any one engaged that day. Rob<sup>t</sup> Hamilton & Alex<sup>r</sup> were in it also but only in the afternoon, and Alex could not take an active part in it, for he could not ride nor hardly walk on account of boils therefore remained or went with Cap<sup>t</sup> Holcroft who was cannonading the enemy when crossing the River. I had been laying confined to my bed

<sup>65</sup> Fought, Oct. 13, 1812.

three days before the Action with boils and so ill with them that part of the time I could not even sit up in bed to eat my victuals. I was at George Hamilton's when the attack was made and had to get off as well as I could. I remained a short time in Queenston, but finding the enemy were getting the better of us I went to avoid being taken prisoner; an account of the battle is in one of the newspapers I sent you, therefore shall defer saying any thing more about it at present. Soon after it, an armistice was concluded which did not terminate until the 19<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>o</sup>. Our batteries at Fort George the day after it's termination opened on Fort Niagara and a cannonade was kept up all day. some houses were burnt on the other side & about as many at Navy Hall. we lost two men Cap<sup>t</sup> Fry a half pay Officer, and a Soldier of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and I believe the enemy lost but few. Some shots were fired from Queenston over to Lewiston but not returned. from that day we were quiet enough, except now and then a false alarm, until the 28<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>, when 500 of the Enemy came over from Black Rock and landed near the Ferry below Fort Erie about 1 O'clock in the morning most of them unobserved. They fired on our men at the Batteries who had only time to spike the Cannon and make their escape after defending themselves sometime but resistance was useless against such a force. some of the Royal Artillery were killed and some wounded. L<sup>t</sup> King was severely wounded and taken prisoner and is since dead. about 40 of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and some militia attacked the Enemy and drove them once or twice; but at last met with a party from Fort Erie who were coming to our Support but not knowing in the dark friends from foes they fired on each other. M<sup>r</sup> Langout of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> was badly wounded with three balls he commanded a small party of his Reg<sup>t</sup> but the Americans were among them and were supposed to be Indians for they all wore blanket coats, and looked so much like them in the day time that I am not surprised our men were deceived by them at night. The light company of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> who were stationed on the River below the place of attack, met the enemy when marching up to aid the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. They did not know they were the Americans until the word of command was given make ready, take aim. the Officer com-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

manding the 41<sup>st</sup> then attacked them (they were the advanced guard of the Enemy) and he drove them back on their main body. The 41<sup>st</sup> then Retired until day light, for it was allmost impossible to know your Friends from your foes. At day break the Enemy had all retreated and crossed the River, except Cap<sup>t</sup> King Aid e camp to General Smith<sup>66</sup> & 35 men who were taken prisoners. A party of Sailors composed part of the force, who came over. These Scoundrels set fire to some houses of M<sup>r</sup> Douglass's & M<sup>r</sup> Hardison's which were burnt to the Ground. these fellows had to make a precipitate retreat. some were killed and others taken prisoners. we lost nearly eighty men in killed wounded & those taken prisoners. the prisoners have since been exchanged. the 49<sup>th</sup> & the long Point Militia suffered most. After day light the Enemy made an attempt with seventeen boats to come over. we had then about eight hundred men ready to receive them, and when the boats came within musket shot, we pored in such a brisk fire among them that the foremost boats cried out for quarter; but as it was impossible to stop the militia from firing on them, they all turned back. a three pounder was playing on them all the time and giving them plenty Grape or Canister shot. what number the Americans lost in this attempt to cross is not known; but the boats were full when they were coming to this side, and only five, six, or seven were seen to get out of most of them, when they reached the other shore in this and the Affair during the night, the Enemy may have lost about two hundred men. after this failure, a large force was seen to collect and upwards of fifty boats scows &<sup>ca</sup> were filled with men, horses and artillery, all ready to come over. (the enemy it has since been ascertained were then 7000 strong) General Smith then summonsed the Garrison at Fort Erie to surrender; but an answer was sent him to say that we could not think of surrendering the place as we could repel any force he could bring against it and we only had then about fifteen hundred men at the place and hardly Cannon to fire at them which the Enemy knew, and they had at least 16 field pieces and those very fine ones. immediately after

<sup>66</sup> General Alexander Smyth.

he got this Answer instead of coming over, he disembarked all his troops. it's said that part of his Army were so disgusted with him that they endeavoured to kill him and three shots were fired at him. one thing seems certain that he had to fly from his Army. this we have from our prisoners who have returned, from an Inhabitant of the Head of the Lake who made his escape [torn] that side and from Cap<sup>t</sup> Fitzgerald who was over with a flag of truce. two thousand of his Army [illegible] him and hundreds were returning home, all the militia Volunteers are gone and the Army of the Centre as General Smith is pleased to call it, was reduced by desertion & deaths from seven thousand to three thous<sup>d</sup>. I Saw one of this cowardly General's Proclamations lately. he has the Impudence to call Upper Canada part of the United States. it's a good deal like Hull's; but not quite so barbarous this General Smith was to do so much when he came that he had almost alarmed us; but he proves to be even worse than Hull. We have been quite on the alert since this business at Fort Erie and as the desertions and sickness has been very common of late among the militia, our force is much reduced and the duty is become very hard both on the officers and men who remain we have lost a number of militia men by the Pleurisy. they are taken very suddenly and very violently ill, and often die in eight or nine days. numbers of women in the Country have died also lately and what is strange you hardly hear of a Regular Soldier being sick. but they are used to fatigue and are well clad which is not the case with all the militia, but clothing is now given to the flank Companies, some articles for nothing & some at a very low rate. We have a most Galant young Officer here Col Bishopp<sup>67</sup> who commanded at Fort Erie the day General Smith pretended to come over. he does every thing he can

<sup>67</sup> Cecil Bisshopp, eldest son of Sir Cecil Bisshopp, Bart. Born in 1783, he became lieutenant and captain in the First Foot Guards Regiment, Sept. 3, 1803, and subsequently major in the Ninety-eighth Regiment. On May 30, 1811, he was commissioned lieutenant colonel. He possessed a peculiarly engaging personality, a fact attested alike by friend and foe. On July 11, 1813, he commanded a force which raided Black Rock, was wounded, and died of his wounds on July 16. By his brothers officers, his body was conveyed to the little cemetery at Lundy's Lane for burial, and over his resting place a few months later was waged the desperate battle of Lundy's Lane. In 1846 the present tomb was erected by his sisters. Data derived from British army lists; Irving, *op. cit.*, 29; Niagara Hist. Soc. pubs., No. 22, pp. 4-6; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 701.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

to make the militia comfortable, and does not mind a little expense. he has allready ingratiated himself in their favour and he is as much liked by them I believe as General Brock was. We are in great hopes of soon having a peace every thing seems nearly settled between Sir John B. Warren<sup>68</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Monroe. I think the Oxen had better be sold to M<sup>r</sup> Brush at the price you mention, for I should not know what to do with them here. Please give my love to my Dear Mother my Brothers & Sisters. I am

Your dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich

P.S. I am [may] say have been stationed with my Company at & near Chippawaw, I am now on leave of absence for a few days & am spending [torn] here with John Robertson & tomorrow I must return to my duty.

Your affectionate Son

Ch<sup>s</sup> Askin

Please thank Alex for me for the sword he was so kind as to send me. I sent up a few things this fall which I hope you will receive by the *Lady Prevost*.

Your affectionate Son

Ch<sup>s</sup> Askin

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Dec<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>h</sup> 1812 Charles to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>h</sup>

OPERATIONS AT NIAGARA

Near Queenston December 14<sup>th</sup> 1812

Dear Father Your affectionate favour of the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> I had the pleasure of receiving a few days ago, and partly answered, but could not go to Niagara therefore missed the opportunity of sending you an answer by the return of the mail. I luckily met with one of Lord Selkirk's men from Beldown [Baldoon] who is kind enough to take charge of

<sup>68</sup> Sir John B. Warren (1753-1822) devoted his life to the British navy, rising to the rank of admiral. Early in 1813 he was given command of the fleet on the North American station, resigning the command the following year. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*



this and says he will leave it at Dolson's for you, as also of another letter I gave him to day which I wrote you two days ago, in which I have given you an account of an Affair which took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> at Fort Erie in which we suffered severely: but our Enemy much more, and the business terminated much to our honour, and in such a manner as to convince the American Nation that Canada is not to be conquered in such an easy manner as they imagined. General Smith sent a Summons to the Com<sup>s</sup> officer at Fort Erie on that day to surrender that Garrison and it's Dependencies. he then had seven thousand men under his Command at Black Rock and Buffaloe, and we had but fifteen hundred at Fort Erie to oppose him, part of them Indians and part militia but an answer was sent him by Col. Bishopp (a very Galant young Officer just from Spain) that he could not think of doing it as he had sufficient force to repel any force he could bring over. Gen. Smith then had part of his Army embarked in sixty boats, scows &<sup>ca</sup> ready to come over, and we were ill prepared to receive him, which he knew very well for most of our Cannon had been spiked by a party of his men or our own that morning, when the party from the other side came and surprised our men, in the Batteries, but Gen. Smith had not courage enough notwithstanding all these advantages to attempt to come over, and immediately on receiving the Answer to his Summons disembarked his troops some of his men yanky like wanted to know from him what he meant by this manœuvre, but he would not condescend to tell them & this gave them such offence that three or four shot it's said were fired at him, and he made his escape. one thing is certain that he is gone, but as great a Coward as I think him I hardly think he has left his Army in the shameful manner he is said to have done. he is one of the most violent General's I think that has been op[p]osed to us this War. if poor Hull is hung for Cowardice I think there is not many of their Generals but should share the same fate. General Van Ranselair I think was a good Officer but he was too liberal and too much of a Gentleman to please his Country. he was obliged to give up the Command and General Smith superseded him. I am Sorry to say the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Naval Department on Lake Ontario have done nothing to boast of this War, and the Americans, unless other Officers & Crews are got for our Vessels will make themselves masters of that Lake next Spring. some merchant Vessels have been taken in Sight of the *Royal George* by small armed American Vessels and no exertion made to save them or rescue them. a Lieu<sup>t</sup> of the British Navy arrived yesterday at Niagara who I believe will have the Command of One, and some others I believe, with a Crew from Halifax are coming, and four Vessels are ordered to be built at Kingston and two at York. There is no doubt but the Enemy will try every means in their power to make themselves masters of both Lakes Ontario & Erie.

No troops I believe are yet on their way here, though it has frequently [been] reported there were, except twenty of the Royal Artillery and an Officer who I believe are now on the road between Kingston & this. they are much wanted here, for though we have 2 Companies of militia Artillery on the lines, it's not enough and men from the 41<sup>st</sup> & 49<sup>th</sup> have sometimes to Assist in manning the Guns. Some troops, I saw in a Montreal paper today are on their march from Halifax to Quebec under the command of L<sup>t</sup> Col. Hamilton of the 100<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>, what number it is not said. I saw English papers as late as 25<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> there is hardly any thing said about the War with the Americans, and I only see an account of one Reg<sup>t</sup> going to Halifax I think its the 97<sup>th</sup>, though there are lists of the reinforcements going to Portugal & Spain. the papers are nearly filled with accounts of Lord Wellington's great victories in Spain and Portugal. a prayer has been ordered to be used throughout the United Kingdom of Eng & Ireland thanking the Almighty for our Successes in Spain particularly for the Victory over the French at the Battle of Salamanca. No more titles can be given Lord Wellington than he already has; for he has Spanish & Portuguese ones enough to fill half a Sheet of paper near. I believe they are now at a loss to know what rewards to make him for his splendid achievements. S<sup>t</sup> Regis a small Town in Lower Canada which was taken some time ago by the Americans, has lately been retaken by us, & a company of Americans were lately taken at a place called River Sable by a party of Militia. General

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Dearborn<sup>69</sup> the Commander in Chief of the American Army, it's said is going against Montreal with 10,000 men. they have not many troops in Lower Canada yet I fancy General Dearborn will meet with a warm reception if he goes there. there are two Reg<sup>ts</sup> raised in Lower Canada since the War one called the Voltageurs & the other the Voyageurs they are fine active Canadians in each. We are flattered notwithstanding the preparations which we are making for War, with hopes of a speedy and honorable peace. Sir John B. Warren is said to [be] at Washington and all differences between the two Country's is settled, except the naturalization of British born subjects who come to America. respecting this our Ambassador and M<sup>r</sup> Monroe cannot agree. \* \* \* \*<sup>70</sup>

Elizabeth Meredith's<sup>71</sup> miniature picture I have got, but do not like to send it now.

Please give my love to my Dear Mother my Brothers & Sisters,

Your Dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin.

P. I wish it was possible to get the pistol you lent M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson

Your Affectionate Son

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

Charles Askin

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Care of Mathew Dolson Esq<sup>r</sup> River Thames Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Queenston Dec<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1812 Charles to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>h</sup> Asnw<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>

NEWS FROM AMHERSTBURG

Amherstburgh Dec<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 1812

My Dear Father I have heard of a Letter from you some days but as yet have not recieved it. I have again sent to the shoemaker for the shoes, and have not been able

<sup>69</sup> For the career of Henry Dearborn, see *Appleton's Cyclopaedia Am. Biog.*

<sup>70</sup> The portion of the letter here omitted deals with various private concerns of the writer.

<sup>71</sup> Daughter of David Meredith and Archange Askin, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 15.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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to get a Tea Pot. We last Evg heard a great deal of News which it was said was conveyed through Charles to you & M<sup>r</sup> Woods. I feel quite anxious to hear of him. I hope you recieved the Letters I returned I lost no time in Enclosing & sending them by M<sup>r</sup> Smith. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than when I can hear from him. from you saying that he did not like that any body but yourself should read his Letters, I did not even allow Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee to do so. We are still much distressed respecting the poor people who are missing, who left this for the vessel there are three from this House, James Blue Jacket Joseph Park & Billy Peck. poor L'esperance is also one of the unfortunate men. we have not heard a word today last Evg Doctor Richardson told me that Robert was gone toward Point au Ple with some other person. until he returns I will have some hopes. how many poor souls sent out of the world without answering any good end & their friends left in the greatest distress. Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee suffers dreadfully with the Rheumatism in the Head, but otherwise much better.

It will afford you the great[e]st pleasure I am sure to hear that your Grandson takes the greatest delight in the Instructions that are given him. Doctor Simms is anxious to have a case of Mathematical Instruments for him. he will himself take proper care of them if you can lend them. he says that the globe being a little out of order is of no consequence. My Dear Father I wish you would do me a favor, which is If you should meet with a favorable opportunity of sending these things, with the Books you mentioned to have the goodness to do so. our Horses are not shod. the Harness was lent to James Blue Jacket as also our Sleigh & we have not a cariole, and if you could lend me a [illegible] Bunk that is if you should have one not in use, I should be very thankful. out of Nine or ten Bedsteads I cannot get one up they have been so shattered from moving during the war. Doctor Simms was quite pleased when Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee told him last evg, that you was a famous hand at Algebra. this is the first Christmass for some years that has past without our seeing each other. I believe my Brothers are determind I shall not see them this year. I hope Brush is getting better. I pity poor Alice with my whole heart. I hope the children are well. Nelly promises

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

to come & see me after christmass. there is not a day passes that I do not think of the Miniature picture that Archange has sent, perhaps my mother has it. There is a Report this morning that a number of Indians are on their way down with scalps, how true, I do not know. I have a cotton shirt, or at least the making of one for my Uncle whenever I can send it up. If my Mother will be good enough to send Captain M<sup>c</sup>Kee' old stockings I will endeavor to get feet into them for I cannot get a pair. Please to offer my dutifull good wishes to my D<sup>r</sup> Mother, Brother Uncle Aunt & [illegible] Barthe.

Your D<sup>r</sup> Affectionate Daughter

T M<sup>c</sup>Kee

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh Dec<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>h</sup> 1812 M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee  
to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> 4<sup>t</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1813

DEATH OF JAMES HENRY

[December 31, 1812]

James Henry has at length fallen a victim to the bottle. he has been in a constant drunken fit for this some time past. he the day before yesterday took a little breckfast in his bed and about 12 oclock (noon) was found d[ead] there. I do not think there is [any] place on the continent of America of the size of Detroit and number of its inhabitants that has produced so many drunkards, I shall try to hurry my children out of it before They ever learn the use of this poisonous liquid.

E. B.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* Detroit Dec<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>th</sup> 1812 E. Brush to Jn<sup>o</sup>  
Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>y</sup> 4<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1813.

SECTION X

LETTERS AND PAPERS, 1813-1820

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## LAND TITLES IN DETROIT

Montreal 15<sup>h</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1813

My dear Friend My last Letter to you was the 10<sup>h</sup> Octb<sup>r</sup> to which Reffer I there mentioned having wrote to Niagara to obtain an order from Gen<sup>l</sup> Brock respecting the Deeds taken in an American boat.<sup>1</sup> his death will have prevented his interfering but I have no doubt Coln<sup>l</sup> Proctor will allow you, or say M<sup>r</sup> Pollard to examine the papers & to detain such as you want, I still recommend keeping possession of the whole as I am convinced what ever may be [the] fate of the Michigan Teritory no upright court of Justice, can take that property from me or M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill. I observe what you say of the Value of my property on both sides of your River I agree with you that at present there is no disposing of Property as you seem to think M<sup>r</sup> Pattison would still give £200 Cash for Smiths farm, if so I wish you to sell it him as this sum will be of more use to me now then a much Larger some time hence. I perticularly remark what you say about M<sup>r</sup> Brush, that you hold his Bond & Mortgage to me for £460 with near 8 years Interest, that the property is more valuable then when he sold it. this will in part depend on the settlement of the Michigan Teritory at Peace. there is Representations gon[e] home praying it may be made Neutral Ground &° I must think it strange M<sup>r</sup> B. has not paid any part of this purchas. he is said to have the means & you think he has the inclination, which I hope may be the Case tho your friend Alex Henry says he has receivd Money for him which he neither can get an Account of nor even an Answer to a Letter. it would be particularly usefull to me could he

<sup>1</sup> The allusion is to the capture at Amherstburg on July 2, 1812, of the *Cuyahoga* on which General Hull had sent his personal baggage, some camp equipment, sick soldiers and several wives of officers from the Maumee Rapids to Detroit. On the vessel, also was Aaron Greeley, who was returning to Detroit from Washington with the titles to certain pieces of real estate in which Todd and James McGill were interested. See *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, V, 54-55.



remit me part of the Interest, for I assure you I am now borrowing Money for my expences.

I showd your Letter to M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & he has Sent me the enclosed Memod<sup>m</sup> of Letters receivd & wrote you which will no doubt be satisfactory. This Warr is most unfortunate for the Canadas, tho it will occasion a great expenditure of money, and your place will feel the benefit of this.

Remember me kindly to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kay [M<sup>c</sup>Kee] & all your family it gives me sinc[e]re pleasure to hear you all enjoy Good health Long my dear friend may it Continue Mine thank God is as good as I can expect but my deafness continues and prevents my enjoying Company. Let me hear from you, & beli[e]ve me My Dear friend

Yours Affect<sup>ly</sup>

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane near Sandwich Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Jan<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>h</sup> 1813 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>h</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> Answ<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>h</sup> April

#### NEWS OF RAISIN RIVER BATTLE

Dear Father, I have the happiness of informing you that the American Army was defeated so effectually that every man was either killed or taken prisoners, with the exception of two only who made their escape. the prisoners 450 in number will arrive today. the only person related to us who has suffered is poor Robert Richardson<sup>2</sup> who received a wound in his knee. Our Regular Officers have suffered much in proportion to their numbers. Gouin<sup>3</sup> wounded in

<sup>2</sup> Robert Richardson, second son of Robert Richardson and Madelaine Askin, was born in Queenston, Sept. 10, 1798. At the opening of the War of 1812, he became a midshipman in the provincial marine. Despite his extreme youth, he joined as a volunteer the expedition against General Winchester at the Raisin River, and the wound he received here alluded to, eventually caused his death, which occurred in Amherstburg, June 7, 1819. See Casselman, *op. cit.*, *passim*, especially, 137-39, and Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> Ensign Claude Gouin of the Second Essex Militia. He was born in Detroit, June 14, 1789, his parents being Joseph Nicholas Gouin and Archange Boyer, and his grandparents Claude Jean Thomas Gouin and Mary Joseph Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 326. Claude Gouin married Margaret Kerby of Detroit. They had two children

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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the Shoulder, & Pierre Badichon<sup>4</sup> killed.

I remain, your Affectionate Son

James Askin

General Winchester is taken prisoner.

OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT AT RAISIN RIVER

Amherstburg 7<sup>h</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1813

Dear Sir It gives me real Satisfaction to be able to Say I think poor Robert now out of danger his health improves and his leg I think wil[l] be saved. he behaved like a little hero in the field and has born[e] his wound like a man. herewith is enclosed a letter from your grandson John<sup>5</sup> who gives you a detail of this whole business. I was near writing a few days ago to M<sup>r</sup> Powell at York respecting the unpleasant situation I am in here as a Majistrate, under the command and controul of Commanding officers who expect every thing to be done as they wish sometimes without either law or reason. if I had I should have Stole Johns letter to give an account of our River Raisin business. the loss has been very severe, indeed ten times more than was necessary. Our men ought either to have been brought up in Contact with the enemy at once (which they might have been before half of them was fairly awake) or else kept at a sufficient distance for the Guard to drive them out. We Succeeded tis true but we have to thank the fears and want of Conduct in the Enemmy, and a kind and protecting providence, much more than our own good conduct. If the Americans had been sold[i]ers, they would have come out when our men were compleatly broke and nearly half of them kill[e]d & wounded, and would have taken or kill[e]d every man. I am sure two hundred men could not then have been got together, and they had 450 all together.

born in Detroit in the years 1822 and 1824, and three born in St. Clair, Mich., in the years 1826-34. Data derived from Irving, *op. cit.*, and Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> Pierre Labadie dit Badichon was a son of Anthony Labadie and Marie, a Chippewa woman, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 46. Pierre was born in 1775 and was baptized in Sandwich, Nov. 17, 1782. He married Ann Purday and they had seven children born in Sandwich in the years 1799-1812. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> John Richardson, eldest son of the writer, for whom see *ante*, 131. The letter here alluded to is printed in Casselman, *op. cit.*, 301-304.

however these observations are only for you I suppose it would be considered high treason to speak out in this way. there is another circumstance which has hurt me more than I can express. That is with respect to some wounded men belonging to the Americans who were left without any proper protection and some of whom I have been informed were the same evening murdered by the Indians. had I been commanding officer I should have considered myself responsible for the lives of every one of them, and within my hearing protection was promised for those poor people. be assured we have not heard the last of this shamefull transaction. I wish to god it could be contradicted. I have only to add that M<sup>rs</sup> R. and all home join in best wishes for you M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and family and I am

Yours very faithfully

R Richardson

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire

*Endorsed:* Amherstburgh Feb<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>h</sup> 1813 Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>h</sup>

FROM CHARLES ASKIN TO JOHN ASKIN

Canborough March 8<sup>th</sup> 1813

Dear Father I have lately had the pleasure of receiving a number of letters from you which I have not yet been able to answer, and two were handed me this morning by Alex<sup>r</sup> who arrived here to day with Edmund Brush, whose Father was obliged to go down to Kingston before he could be allowed to cross the River, for what reason I cannot say. it will be pleasing to you to hear that he met with every attention from General Sheaffe<sup>6</sup> and others and that he was allowed to stay at Queenston and go to Niagara when he pleased, and those who came down under similar cir-

<sup>6</sup> Sir Roger Hall Sheaffe was born in Boston (where his father was serving as deputy collector of the port), July 15, 1763. He became an ensign in the Fifth Foot Regiment, May 1, 1778, from which position he rose to the rank of general in 1828. He served in Canada 1787-97, 1802-11, and 1812-13. Sheaffe succeeded to the command left vacant by the death of General Brock at Queenston, and for his conduct in this battle was created a baronet. From Oct. 20, 1812, to June 18, 1813, he was president and administrator of Upper Canada. In 1810 he married Margaret Coffin of Quebec. He died in Edinburgh, July 17, 1851. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*; Wallace, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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cumstances were hardly allowed to walk the Streets of Niagara.

I am sorry you were so unfortunate as to lose the Oxen you got of me; but hope they may still be found. The horse on the Island I think you got a tolerable good price for, considering he was not broke and that he would be very troublesome to get over. I shall be pleased to hear that he has paid my mother for him, for I had made her a present of him.

I am now accustomed to sleep on hard beds and can do very well without a feather one, therefore would be happy they were sold and the money received for them sent to Johny. I do not think James or Alex good hands for speculators, and do not think they would make much by buying up things here, and taking them up to sell them again. They would spend as much on the road, as they would clear on the goods, it's most probable. I believe Tea is higher here than it is at Sandwich and Salt also. I do not know if green Tea can now be got for 24/ and Onondaga Salt was selling for fifteen dollars a barrel a few days ago and I fancy is now higher. suger is 1/6. such things as these I would advise you if they can be got at Sandwich to lay in a stock of sufficient to last you five or six months, for I really think the prices of all Kinds of goods will rise in the Spring, as what came up last Summer after the Declaration of War cost more to bring up, than what came in Sleights this Winter. I return you thanks for the Traveling case and the Rifle which you have sent down, as also for the books &<sup>ca</sup> in the case. they have not yet got this far, but I know where Alex<sup>r</sup> left them & fancy I shall soon get them.

There is no newspaper printed now at Niagara, and the York papers I think are very poor ones, yet as you desire it I shall get them and endeavour to have them sent regularly to you.

I send up by Alex<sup>r</sup> and Edmund 1 doz desert knives & Forks & a few needles and thread for my mother which she will please accept of. Alex takes up also Elizabeth Merediths miniature picture and some drawings with it.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Please give my love to my Dear Mother my Brothers & Sisters Believe me Dear Father

Your dutiful and affectionate Son  
Charles Askin

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich.

*Endorsed:* Canborough March 8<sup>h</sup> 1813 Charles to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>h</sup>

BATTLE OF FORT GEORGE

Dundass Mills Head of the Lake

June 2<sup>d</sup> 1813

Dear Father Your affectionate letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> was handed me at the 40 Mile Creek without a Cover by a Gentleman from Fort Erie who picked it up some where there, by mere accident, just before he retreated from that. You must no doubt before this have heard of our misfortunes in this Quarter. the loss of Fort George after an action which lasted only fifteen or twenty minutes, and our being obliged in consequence to evacuate the whole of our Fortifications, from that place to Fort Erie, and to destroy an immense quantity of Provision and other kinds of stores on our Retreat. On the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> we commenced cannonading from the five Mile Meadow on some boats going down the River to Niagara, which was kept up on both sides for two or three hours. we recommenced again early the next Morning at some more boats going down; but the Enemy had a much superior Force in Artillery and set fire to Fort George, which was consumed and our troops were obliged to leave it. a great deal was burnt in it, which I am told could have been saved; but very little exertion was made to save anything. on Wednesday everything remained quiet. On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> The morning was very foggy; and the Enemy began to move their fleet and one hundred and fifty boats which they had concealed behind Fort Niagara. two or three thousand of their men landed at the same moment at 2 Mile Run, where they were met by 350 of the Glengary Reg<sup>t</sup> who suffered very much. the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Enemie's Vessels were anchored along our shore from 2 Mile Run on the Lake to nearly where the Ferry was kept in Niagara River; and were po[u]ring such an Immense quantity of Grape on our poor Fellows that they were not allowed to advance to charge them; which they wished to do; until such an immense force had landed that it was thought necessary by General Vincent<sup>7</sup> to order them to retire towards Queenston from that they retreated to Beaver Dams about 12 Mile back in the Country where they were joined by about two hundred of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> under Colonel Bishopp from Fort Erie and by two hundred of the 8<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> who just arrived from Lower Canada. the Army remained at this place all night, and the next day retreated to the forty Mile Creek where they halted and staid two days, after which they marched to the Head of the Lake,<sup>8</sup> where we are now. I was stationed at Fort Erie with part of my Company, the day of the Action and the next day left that with them and retreated along Lake Erie with a small party of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and some of the Women of the Reg<sup>t</sup> and came to mouth [of] Grand River;<sup>9</sup> but left the 41<sup>st</sup> behind for they came on too slow. After a great deal of Fatigue I arrived at the forty Mile Creek<sup>10</sup> on the 30<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> alone; for all my men had stop'd at their homes and I knew if I waited to bring them with me I should probably not be able to join the Army myself, which I was very anxious to do. On my arrival at the Forty I was unfortunately taken with a fit of the ague, which detained me there for a day. the next day I came to this place where part of the Army lies. I am staying at M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kay's who is extremely kind and attentive to me. June 3<sup>d</sup> I yesterday had another fit of the ague but sores are breaking out on my lips today and I am in hopes that I shall soon

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<sup>7</sup> John Vincent, successor of Brock and Sheaffe as commander of the Forty-ninth Regiment. He became a major general, June 4, 1813, and lieutenant general, May 27, 1825. His service in the War of 1812 was terminated by his return to Europe on sick leave in July, 1814. He died in London in 1848. See Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>8</sup> Burlington Bay at the western end of Lake Ontario. The city of Hamilton has since grown up here.

<sup>9</sup> Vicinity of modern Dunnville, Ont.

<sup>10</sup> Forty Mile Creek empties into Lake Ontario at Grimsby. This is approximately twenty miles north of the mouth of Grand River on Lake Erie.

get rid of it. Since writing the above I have heard further particulars of the Engagement at Fort George. The Enemy landed about eight thousand troops, and we had not more than two thousand five hundred to oppose them altogether, and of these there were but a very small proportion of Indians (not one hundred) the Glengary Newfoundland and 8<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> with a few of the militia were the only Reg<sup>ts</sup> engaged with the Enemy, and they suffered much. Two hundred of the 8<sup>h</sup> were killed & wounded, nearly one half of the Glengary Reg<sup>t</sup> were cut off. Cap<sup>ts</sup> Liddle & M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lean were killed and several of the Officers wounded, among which were two of Doct<sup>r</sup> Kerr's<sup>11</sup> sons. the Grenadiers of the Newfoundland Reg<sup>t</sup> went in the action thirty or forty strong; but only 12 came out of it. The Militia behaved as well as the Regular troops & many say better. we have lost in Killed Wounded & Missing about four hundred and fifty men. the Enemy I believe have not lost so many. Notwithstanding they were so superior to us in numbers, they did not give our troops a chance of charging them, for the Moment we advanced they would run down the bank and leave our men exposed to the Grapeshot from their shipping, which swept them off so fast that they were forced to fall back. a Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Lelan<sup>12</sup> of the Militia and M<sup>r</sup> Chew<sup>13</sup> of the Indian Department were killed also. The

<sup>11</sup> Dr. Robert Kerr arrived at Quebec as a hospital mate in September, 1776. He served throughout the Revolution, being surgeon of Sir John Johnson's Royal Regiment of New York from 1779 to 1784. In 1788 he became surgeon in the Indian Department of Upper Canada, which position he held throughout the War of 1812. He married a daughter of Sir William Johnson and Molly Brant. Dr. Kerr died in Albany in March, 1823. See Irving, *op. cit.*

<sup>12</sup> Captain Martin McClellan of the Second Lincoln Militia. His father, William, was a resident of Cherry Valley before the Revolution; he was carried off by Indians, but finally escaped and with his wife and two of his sons made his way to Niagara. The third child (Martin, born in 1771) was taken by the Indians to Ogdensburg, where he was rescued by the whites and sent to join his parents at Niagara. Here he grew up; on Dec. 21, 1804, he married Eliza Grant of Niagara; and here he resided at the time of his death. If the family traditions may be credited, General George B. McClellan of Civil War fame was descended from a branch of the family which remained in the States at the time of the Revolution. See *ibid.*, and Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXV, 306.

<sup>13</sup> William Johnson Chew, brother of John Chew, for whom see *ante*, 528. He was named for Sir William Johnson, under whom his father served as Secretary of Indian Affairs, and was remembered by Sir William in his will. He was storekeeper of the Indian Department at Niagara for several years beginning in 1794. In 1799 he was recommended for appointment as Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Niagara. In February, 1806, Governor Gore asked to have him put on the pension roll because his mind was failing. Data adapted from sketch in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, 694.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

49<sup>th</sup> & 41<sup>st</sup> were hardly engaged at all, and our Artillery did very little. we were fortunate in saving all our Field Pieces. all the Wounded Officers and men fell in the hands of the Enemy among them was Colonel Myers<sup>14</sup> a most Galant Officer and indeed the Principal Officer, in the Field and the 2<sup>d</sup> in Command. The enemy did not pursue us at all; but when the Army got to the twenty Mile creek, there was a false alarm which was the occasion of our destroying a good deal of ammuniton & provission there. I must conclude this, by saying that the Enemy have nothing to boast of in taking Fort George; for they had an immense superiority of force.

June 4<sup>th</sup> I am now just going down to the Camp to celebrate the day, which perhaps may be the last time, for an action I think we shall have in a very short time. two thousand Americans are said to be at the forty, we have a fine field to meet them on where our Army now lays and should they advance we will probably best them; but there will be little use in it if even we should unless we get the Superiority on Lake Ontario, where the chances are much against us for we have but five Vessels and the Americans fourteen. We have just had acc<sup>ts</sup> from Kingston by one of Sir George Prevost's Aide Camp's that an attempt had been made by Sir George with 800 men to take Sacket's harbour aided by Sir Lucas Yeo.<sup>15</sup> our troops landed but the Vessels were becalmed and could not get into the harbour. our troops were met by three thousand Americans, which were drove into their Intrenchments, we took 150 prisoners and 3 pieces of Cannon. we lost three hundred men in this Affair, Col. Grey<sup>16</sup> is said to have been killed

<sup>14</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Myers of the quartermaster general's department. In numerous official dispatches he is commended for zeal and ability. At Niagara he commanded one of the three brigades into which General Vincent's entire force was divided. In the battle of May 27, he was thrice wounded and taken prisoner. He was released from his parole and resumed duty in May, 1814; was made colonel on June 4, 1814; and died, March 3, 1817. See *ibid.*, XV, *passim*; Irving, *op. cit.*; Casselman, *op. cit.*, 65, 119.

<sup>15</sup> Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo, commander-in-chief of the British naval forces on the Great Lakes.

<sup>16</sup> Andrew Gray, lieutenant in the Eighth Regiment, Feb. 25, 1808; captain of the Nova Scotia Fencibles, Aug. 1, 1811. A general order issued after the battle said of him: "In him the army lost an active and intelligent officer." Irving, *op. cit.*



and Major Evans<sup>17</sup> severely wounded. two companies of the 8<sup>th</sup> suffered severely.

Our fate is decided now, for firing was heard on the Lake yesterday and it could be nothing but a fight between our fleet and that of the Enemy. we hope for the best but dread to hear the result of the business, as the chances were so much against us. June 5<sup>h</sup> Our Army I think must soon retreat from this whether they will go to Detroit or towards Kingston we do not know. I mean to follow them if possible. Your affectionate letter of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> I had the pleasure of receiving the day before yesterday. I never had an opportunity of sending up Eclipse, or I should have done it. I am afraid the Americans have got him. Should M<sup>r</sup> Brush return to Detroit and the Americans get possession of this Country I hope he will try and save as much of my property as possible. a great number of our Gentlemen have taken protection from the Enemy since they have come in the Country. I shall keep out of their hands as long as I can. I wish we had Tecumseh here to help us out of our difficulties. I received a letter from Therese a few days ago which I am sorry I have not time now to answer. I delivered the one for M<sup>r</sup> Sutherland which was with it; and he has promised to send her the things she wants you will please tell her. The Americans behaved very well to the Inhabitants of York, except those any way connected with the Indian Department. Poor M<sup>r</sup> Selby<sup>18</sup> died about the time the Enemy landed at York. Poor old M<sup>r</sup> Warren is also dead. I was in the Room when he expired, two or three days before the Action at Fort George. I am sorry to hear of the Death of my Uncle Grant. His Family in this quarter are well.

Please give my love to my Dear Mother, to James, Alex & my Sisters & remember me kindly to my Relations & Friends. Believe me your dutiful & affectionate Son  
 John Askin Esq  
 Charles Askin

<sup>17</sup> Thomas Evans of the Eighth Regiment. He enlisted in the army as an ensign in 1794 and rose to the rank of general in 1855. He was commended by his commander for his conduct at Sackett's Harbor. He married a sister of Charles R. Ogden, attorney-general of Lower Canada, 1833-42, and of Peter Skene Ogden, fur trader.

<sup>18</sup> Prideaux Selby, for whom see *ante*, 102.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

\* \* \*19

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* recv<sup>d</sup> 8<sup>h</sup> June & Answ<sup>d</sup> partly same day

BATTLE OF STONY CREEK

Dundass Mills June 8<sup>th</sup> 1813

Dear Father I wrote you on the 5<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup> at which time We were in a melancholy state, and thought that we should be forced to surrender to a very large force which were in pursuit of us or make a precipitate Retreat. an Action which took place on the sixth Ins<sup>t</sup> which terminated much in our favour has quite altered the face of Affairs, and the appearance of our Vessels which hove in sight last night has put us all in high spirits again. the Enemy were advancing three thousand five hundred strong<sup>20</sup> and were within Six miles of us on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>. They took a strong position and encamped, determined to attack us next morning. General Vincent after geting correct information of their situation, determined on attacking them that night, and marched down with the whole of the 8<sup>th</sup> & 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>ts</sup> with us and one field piece. our force was one thousand strong. we got up to them undiscovered and bayoneted the Centinels, then pushed on with the Bayonet; and took the Enemy by Surprise laying in their Tents. our troops in order to alarm them yelled as much like Indians as they could. this had a bad effect; for it woke the Enemy who would have been skivered otherwise. they kept up a warm fire on our troops for a short time, with musketts and a howitzer, and killed a good many of our men. our brave fellows pushed on took the howitzer and seven<sup>21</sup> field pieces, after which the Americans fled. both

<sup>19</sup> The two paragraphs omitted concern matters of no present-day interest.

<sup>20</sup> As usual in warfare, the strength of the enemy is here over-estimated. The American army numbered 2700 men, but owing to various detachments made in the course of the advance toward Burlington Bay, only about 1400 were present on the battlefield. See Louis L. Babcock, *The War of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier*, Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, XXIX, 85-86.

<sup>21</sup> First written "the field pieces"; the number interpolated in not clear, but seems to be "seven."

their Generals fell in our hands Generals Winder<sup>22</sup> & Chandler,<sup>23</sup> and a number more officers and about one hundred men. several Officers who were taken, after giving their word on honour they would not run away: made their Escape. they lost about two hundred in Killed wounded & prisoners. Our loss has been severe also. we had twenty-two killed on the field, about seventy wounded and thirty prisoners taken. Col. Clark<sup>24</sup> of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and M<sup>r</sup> Drury<sup>25</sup> of the same Reg<sup>t</sup> both mortally wounded, M<sup>r</sup> Taylor<sup>26</sup> of the 41<sup>st</sup> severely wounded (not the M<sup>r</sup> Taylor who was at Amherstburgh) Major Manners<sup>27</sup> of the 49<sup>th</sup> is also wounded but slightly. M<sup>r</sup> Bernard was much hurt by a Fall from his horse who was shot under him. Some officers of the 8<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> were wounded but their names I do not know. the night was dark and occasioned great confusion. General Vincent was missing six or eight hours after the Action and was supposed to be taken; but found his way to us again. for want of horses two of the field

22 William Henry Winder (b. Feb. 18, 1775; d. May 24, 1824) was a native of Maryland, a lawyer, and resident of Baltimore. In July, 1812, he assumed command of the Fourteenth U. S. Infantry, and in March, 1813, became a brigadier general. In May, 1814, he became adjutant and inspector general and was in command at Bladensburg when the British captured Washington. At the close of the war he returned to his law practice. His son, John Henry, after a long career in the U. S. army, joined the Confederacy and during much of the Civil War was commander of the city of Richmond. See *Appleton's Cyclopaedia Am. Biog.*

23 John Chandler (b. 1760; d. Sept. 25, 1841) was a resident of Maine. In earlier life a blacksmith, he later became wealthy. He was a member of the U. S. House of Representatives from 1805 to 1808. An enthusiastic supporter of the war, in 1812 he was made brigadier general. His military experience was very slight. In the battle of Stony Creek he was wounded and captured. He was a U. S. Senator from Maine, 1820-29, and Collector of the Port at Portland, 1829-37.

24 Alexander Clerk (Clerke) of the Forty-ninth Regiment. He became captain and captain lieutenant of the regiment, Dec. 12, 1798. In 1803-1805, he was serving as commandant of Fort St. Joseph in Lake Huron. His wound at Stony Creek was not mortal; he was still in the service several years after the war. See British army lists; Irving, *op. cit.*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, especially XXIII.

25 "Ensign Drury, who carried the King's color of the 49th, was mortally wounded, but struggled forward until he could give it into the keeping of another officer." Ernest Cruikshank, in *Niagara Hist. Soc.*, pubs., No. 3, p. 14.

26 Thomas Taylor, commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-first Regiment, Dec. 13, 1810. At the time of the battle of Fort George, he was serving as adjutant of that post. He had been admitted to the bar in England, and in 1819 was called to the bar of Upper Canada. In 1824, he became judge of the Gore District Court. He died in December, 1837, and was interred in the George Hamilton family burial plot in Hamilton. See *Wentworth County Hist. Soc. Journal and Trans.*, IV, 38-40.

27 Thomas Manners, commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-ninth Regiment, Feb. 2, 1796, and captain on June 23, 1803. See British army lists.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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pieces which were taken were left but a little way from the field of battle. while we were gone for horses, the enemy came and took them off. the Enemy retreated to the Forty.<sup>28</sup> they are said to have left that and are retreating towards Niagara. I dare say the sight of our Fleet does not please them much. There were no Militia in the Engagement, and only four or five Indians. the Indians have behaved shamefully lately, and do us no service whatever. I hope they will do better. I would not give ten Hurons for two hundred of such as we have here.<sup>29</sup> I fancy a stand will be made here now. some works are going to be thrown up. our fleet has brought us a small reinforcement, and some Ammunition the last of which was wanted very much.

I am sorry to say that many of our great men below, I mean about Niagara, went and took protections from the Enemy as soon as they came over.

Please give my love to my Dear Mother & to my Brothers & Sisters, and Believe me

Your dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

P.S. The Action was fought half a Mile this side of Stony Creek.

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich.

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Rob<sup>t</sup> Grant, W<sup>m</sup> Kerby, and five or six more Gentlemen from this Quarter leave this, this Morning to buy cattle & take them to Amherstburgh. they are sent by Government.<sup>30</sup> I send you by them a few old English Papers, which are the only ones I could get.

Your dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

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<sup>28</sup> Site of modern Grimsby.

<sup>29</sup> In a letter to his brother, James Askin, June 15, 1813, the writer said: "There are 300 Indians crossing [here] also from Lower Canada and we look for 500 from your quarter [Detroit]. I hope we may not be disappointed in getting them for the Indians of the Grand River are not worth a Farthing."

<sup>30</sup> For an explanation of this movement, see letter of General Vincent of June 2, 1813, printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 308-309. Robert Grant was a captain in the Second Lincoln Militia. William Kerby's military unit has not been identified. See Irving, *op. cit.*

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich.

*Endorsed:* recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> June Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>h</sup>

CONDUCT OF ROBERT DICKSON'S INDIANS

Mackinac, Juin 23 1813

Ma Cher Mere San doute que vous avez enticipé la joie que nous avons hut de voir Allexandre, malheureusement M<sup>r</sup> Dixson a arrivez deux jours apres lui, ce qui nous a mis dans le trouble et la confussions, mon cher john na pas hut la satisfactions de sasoir une demie journé pour sentertenir avec son frere, il étoit se tourmenté avec les sauvages la maison ne vidait pas du matin au soire, dieu merci ils vienne de partir, ils ont fait bien du homages icit, ils ont tué sis ou sept bête acorne et plussieur mouton la partes est grandes pour ceux qui ont perdu leur vache car il se vend quarante piastre isite. Je supose que le General sera surprit de voir que quatres ou cinq cent hommes au lieu de trois mil quil esperait ces a dire le Lieutenant Colonel Boucherville a dit ici que M<sup>r</sup> D. a promis au Gouverneur de mené aumoins trois mille. je pensait bien qui se tramperait sa nait pas une choses si aisé dasemblé ten de monde en autre des sauvages quil faut ramassé dun coté et de lautre, cepandant M<sup>r</sup> D. dit quil emmené plus quil na promis je ne sait pas sil se trompe ou non, il dit quil auroit put enmené boucoup plus de sauvages mais quil navoit pas de canan ni de provisions, vous pouvez vous jmaginé sil lui fallait boucoup de vivres, lon ma dit que ses sauvages avoit mangé trois cent poche de farine dans trois ou quatres jours. je sait quil avoit quelque fais icit cinq cent minot de Blé-dainde par jour sen conté la gresse le Boeuf et le poison et le sucre, enfin lon ne peu pas avoir aucu'une idé des depances que ses denmené un nombre de sauvages, le magazin sauvages ait vide et boucoup de Marchandise ont etté achetté et tous les fusil du vilages neuf et vieux, et encore ils ne sont pas sastifait, ils ni a jamais de fin a leur demande, ils ont resté ici quatorze jours, selon mon opinion il naroit pas du resté plus que quatre, mon cher john se travaillié sans delait afin de ne pas le retardé, et en trois jours il avoit tout livré, il faut dire aussi quil sait pas passé une journé sans

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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quil aie mouillée depuis son arrivé je nait jamais vue un tems pareil depuis que je suis dans ces païyé icit. je crains boucoup que si vous avez un pareil tems aussi preummeis-saux que les fievre seront bien comune chez vous en autre au Detroit ou il y sont si sujet par tout descriptions ils sont assez mallheureux sans avoir encore la maladie. la Cocluche a etté bien comune icite lhivert dernierre une chose qui na jamais prie lieu dans cet endroit ici a ce que dise les enciens et sa emporte plussieurs anfans, le vieux M<sup>e</sup>donald est bien malade le docteur ne crois quil en revienne cependant il na pas envie de mourir, il y-a cinqant trois ans quil sont marié et le vieux avoit tres bonne mine Chivert dernierre javoit Coutume de la rencontré souvant quant je me promenoit le matin devant dejuenné, la vielle ne paressoit pas suporté son age si bien elle étoit plus lassé que son marie, je ne crois pas que M<sup>d</sup> Soloman vivra longtems elle ait bien foible elle garde son lit depuis quelque tems, et elle na pas autre choses a mangé que ce que le mondes lui envoie, et vous savez que lon doné tarde quant lon attend apres les autres. comme Allexandre a etté un silent observateur de tous ce quel ses passez ici, concequament il peu vous dire tout ce quil a trouvé de plus remarquable sur l'ïls, et le trait quil a remarqué dans les personne quil vué depuis quil est ici, je concluré donc par vous prié de presenté mes amitié a mon cher pere ainsse que mes frere et soeur, excepté M<sup>d</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kee ils sont tout des mauvaise corespondent, car, ils sont tout dans ma dette, je plains pauvre Allice car je crois quel sannui, Adieu ma cher mere que le bon dieu vous conserve mes cher parant est la prierre de votre affectionné

Madelaine Askin

*Addressed:* Madame Askin Strabane

*Translation*

Mackinac, June 23, 1813

My dear Mother: You have no doubt been anticipating our pleasure in seeing Alexander, but unfortunately Mr. Dickson arrived two days after him with only trouble and confusion in store for us. My dear John has not had the satisfaction of even a half day off to visit with his brother,

he has been so plagued with Indians, the house never empty of them from morning to night. Thank God they are now leaving. They have done much damage here, six or seven cattle killed and several sheep. It is a great loss for those who have had their cows killed, as they sell for forty dollars here.

I am thinking that the General will be surprised to see only four or five hundred men instead of the three thousand that he is expecting, or so Lt. Col. Boucherville<sup>31</sup> said here, that Mr. D. had promised the Governor to take out at least three thousand. Mr. Dickson miscalculated in this, I think. It is not an easy matter to muster so many men, especially Indians, who must be gathered in from every quarter. However, Mr. D. says that he is taking out more than he promised. I do not know how true that is. He says that he might have taken many more Indians but that he had neither canoes nor provisions. You can imagine whether there has been any lack of provisions. I am told that the Indians have eaten three hundred bags of flour in three or four days, and I know that he has had sometimes five hundred minots of Indian corn here per day, not counting the pork grease, beef and fish, and sugar. Indeed, no one can have any idea of the expense in taking out a lot of Indians. The Indian store is empty and much of the merchandise has been sold, and all the guns, new and old, in the village. Still they are not satisfied. There is no end to their wants. They were here fourteen days and in my opinion they need not have remained more than four, for my dear John worked constantly so as not to delay them and had everything delivered in three days. I must say, too, that there has not been a day without rain since his arrival. I have never seen such weather since I have lived here. If you are having the same, so damp and foggy, it will be a bad time for the ague, I fear. Then they are so exposed in Detroit, by all accounts, that the people are unfortunate enough, without sickness.

<sup>31</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Amable de Boucherville of the Eighth Battalion, Lower Canada Militia. He belonged to a notable Canadian family, and was head of the seignory of Boucherville. He was on the personal staff of Governor Prevost. For his report of his western journey, here alluded to, see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XV, 315-16. He died in November, 1857, aged seventy-seven years. See Irving, *op. cit.*, *passim*.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Whooping-cough was very prevalent here last winter, something that never happened before in this place, so the old residents say, and carried off several children. Old Mr. McDonald<sup>32</sup> is very ill. The doctor thinks that he cannot recover, but he does not want to die. They have been married fifty-three years, and the old gentleman looked so well last winter. I often met him when I would be out walking in the forenoon. The old lady has not seemed to carry her age so well, more worn out than her husband. I do not think that Mrs. Solomon<sup>33</sup> will live long, she is very feeble and has kept her bed for some time now. She has nothing to eat except what people take in and you know how slow they are giving when one waits for another.

As Alexander has been a silent observer of all that has taken place here he will be able to tell you all that he has found worthy of notice in the island, and the peculiarities of the people he has seen since he came. I will therefore conclude asking you kindly to give my love to my dear Father and to my brothers and sisters. With the exception of Mrs. McKee, they are all bad correspondents, for they are all in my debt. I am sorry for poor Alice.<sup>34</sup> Time will hang heavy on her hands, I am afraid.

Farewell, dear Mother. May the good Lord protect you, my dear parent, is the prayer of your loving

Madelaine Askin

### BATTLE OF BEAVER DAMS

10 Mile Creek July 8<sup>th</sup> 1813

Dear Father Your affectionate letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> was handed me by M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Kerby on the field of Battle when six hundred of the Americans under the Command of Col.

<sup>32</sup> John McDonald, assistant barrackmaster prior to the British evacuation of Mackinac in 1796. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 340-41, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 502.

<sup>33</sup> Probably the wife of Ezekiel Solomon, for whom see *ante*, 525. William Solomon, son of Ezekiel, is said to have been of mixed Jewish and Indian blood. This would imply that Mrs. Solomon was an Indian woman. See *Ont. Hist. Soc., Papers and Records*, III, 126 ff.

<sup>34</sup> Mrs. Brush, sister-in-law of Madeline Askin. The allusion is evidently to the absence from Detroit of her husband and son, for which see *ante*, 750.



Bustler<sup>35</sup> were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of Warr, to us. this was on the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>. the Enemy had marched out of Fort George to surprise and take a party we had at the Beaver Dams under L<sup>t</sup> Fitz Gibbon<sup>36</sup> of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> and probably also to attack an advancing party we had at the 10 Mile Creek commanded by Col. De Heran<sup>37</sup> of the 104<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. the Enemy were observed in the Morning on their march by some Indian Scouts, who gave the alarm and about four hundred & fifty Indians who lay at 20 Mile Creek marched off immediately to meet them.<sup>38</sup> I joined them with three more young men of the Country, and in about three quarters of an hour after, we came up to their rear guard which were horsemen and attacked them. after killing several of them, we were then forced to retreat into a woods which was a little distance from us. some Infantry followed us across one or two fields, but we forced them to retreat. they then came along the edge of the woods sheltered by a fence but we also drove them from this. they after this came some distance in the Woods; but we forced them to retire to a wheat field where the Enemy remained nearly two hours firing at us from two field pieces with Canister shot, which Kept the Indians from advancing on them. after a short cessation from firing, the Americans began to retreat but in very good order. the Indians

35 Colonel Charles J. Boerstler of the Fourteenth U. S. Infantry.

36 James Fitzgibbon was a native of Ireland, who after several years' service as a non-commissioned officer in the Napoleonic wars was commissioned a lieutenant in the Forty-ninth Regiment in 1806. He was an enterprising character who in the warfare on the Niagara frontier seems to have enacted the rôle of a ranger leader, having organized a company for scouting service which proved a magnet for adventurous spirits. His outstanding exploit in the war was the capture of Colonel Boerstler's force at Beaver Dams. Fitzgibbon became assistant adjutant general in 1822, and in the uprising of 1837 he commanded the force which defeated the rebels near Toronto. In 1846 he returned to England, where he died in 1863. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and Babcock, *War of 1812*, 93 ff.

37 Peter W. DeHaren, lieutenant colonel of the Canadian Fencibles. He was a veteran soldier, having been commissioned lieutenant in the Sixtieth Regiment, Dec. 30, 1797. He had joined General Vincent shortly before the battle of Beaver Dams, having brought a detachment of several hundred men from Lower Canada. See Irving, *op. cit.*; Matilda Edgar (ed.), *Ten years of Upper Canada in Peace and War, 1805-1815; Being the Ridout Letters with Annotations* (Toronto, 1890), 200.

38 This statement negatives the claim that the British learned of the impending American attack from Mrs. Laura Secord, whose supposed exploit in conveying the warning has caused her to be lionized by the Canadian people. For a discussion of the subject, see Babcock, *War of 1812*, 99 ff.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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followed them and the enemy soon took up a good position for their Guns. while they were doing this L<sup>t</sup> Fitzgibbon joined us with about 45 of the 49<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. these were the first troops who came to our aid. the Americans gave them two or three shots from their field pieces but neither Killed nor wounded a man. Fitzgibbon's party did not fire in return for they were at too great a distance for Musketry to do much execution. The Indians kept firing a few shots, then Fitzgibbon advanced with a flag of Truce and demanded them to Surrender, which after a long parley they agreed to do. while they were settling the terms on which they would lay down their Arms, a party of our Dragoons under Cap<sup>t</sup> Hall, and about two hundred Infantry, under Col. De Heran also joined us. Fitzgibbon who is a most active and deserving Officer gets the whole credit of the business, as he was the person who demanded them to surrender; but the Battle was gained by the Indians for his party as I before said, did not fire a shot. he is one of the most active and deserving Officers we have and has allways been employed in any arduous duty. he was most allways on the rear Guard when we were retreating, and commanded the advance Guard since we have been moving towards Fort George. while the main body of our Troops were at the Forty Mile Creek, he has been with a small party of the 49<sup>th</sup> in Queenston, and then would be at Chippawa, Fort Erie, and flying about in such a manner that the Enemy did not know where to find him he has had some very narrow escapes. his life was saved by M<sup>rs</sup> Kerby and another Woman a short time since. he had by accident met with two of the Enemy's Riflemen when he was alone. they were going to fire on him, but he was in disguise and told them he belonged to their Army, at the same time got near them and seized hold of their Rifles one in each hand and was struggling to get them from them, when one of his Antagonists drew his sword from him, and would have run him through, had not a M<sup>rs</sup> Dufield Kicked it out of the Fellows hand. the Women then threatened to Kill him if he did not surrender, and they both allowed themselves to be taken prisoners. he had hardly got a quarter of a mile from the place with his prisoners when a large

party of Americans, came there, but he got off safe with them. I find by one of your letters that you have understood we have had an engagement soon after the 6<sup>h</sup> June, but there has been none since that except the one on the 24<sup>h</sup>, which I have given the best account of I could but I omitted to mention the loss on both sides that of the Enemy was about 20 Killed and nearly 40 wounded and on the Indians six killed and ten or twelve wounded. The Enemy were Panick struck by a few shot which Sir Lucas Yeo gave them at the Forty and a few shot accompanied with a little yelling from about 20 Indians at the same time they imagined that Gen<sup>l</sup> Proctor and all the *wild* Indians had reinforced us, and that it was a General attack we were going to make on them. they hurried off left their tents, camp Kettles & a number of other things behind them and hardly halted a minute until they got into Fort George. some troops they had at Fort Erie, Chippawa Queenston &<sup>ca</sup> were marched down immediately to Fort George so much alarmed that they hardly dared look behind them at the same time. there was not an Indian nor one of our Soldiers within ten miles of them. had we followed them, we could have taken one half of them or got some of our troops and Indians ahead of them, which could have been done easily by some bye road it's the oppinion of those who saw them on their retreat that the whole of this army which was 5000 strong would have surrendered, but we missed this fine opportunity of geting rid of them and we have lost many others. We have been very fortunate in driving them ahead to Fort George where they are confined and hardly dare venture more than two or three miles indeed there Picket Guard have been driven into the Town, and a number of their men at different times taken prisoner. their Army are said to be very unhealthy. they have eight hundred sick and wounded; but their sick, their Cannon, baggage and most every thing else they have removed to the other side of the River for they are in constant dread of an attack and are continually alarmed.

10 Mile Creek 19<sup>th</sup> July. We have about one thousand men within a Mile of Niagara, and our Head Quarters are now at S<sup>t</sup> Davids about 7 Miles from Fort George. we

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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have good news from our fleet which we expect in a few days. an attack will be made on the Enemy its supposed the moment our Shipping arrives. I am sorry to say that we have lost one of the most Galant Officers in the Country, Colonel Bishopp<sup>39</sup> who died of the wounds he received on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> instant at the Battle of Black Rock where we took 3 brass field pieces and some other Guns. The 41<sup>st</sup> suffered much in this Engagement. Cap<sup>t</sup> Saunders<sup>40</sup> was supposed to have been Killed, but was only wounded he is now a prisoner. M<sup>r</sup> Mompesson was also wounded. Col. Thomas Clark rec<sup>d</sup> a wound in the hand but is doing well. we lost about forty men in Killed wounded & missing. the Enemie's loss I believe was very trifling. Our people brought over an immense deal of stores &<sup>ca</sup> before the Engagement commenced, and could have returned without losing a man; but Col. Bishopp was too Galant a Soldier and would not retire till he had given them Battle. he was one of the last to retire from the Field & was carried in the Boat after receiving a wound in the thigh. His loss is most sadly regretted, he was one of the most Gentlemany men I ever was acquainted with; and the best soldier \* \* \*<sup>41</sup>

We have upwards of three thousand regular Troops here I think. we have the Royals, the King's, part 41<sup>st</sup> 49<sup>th</sup> 104<sup>th</sup> Newfoundland, Glengary Light Infantry and Dragoons from Lower Canada. the 19<sup>th</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Dragoons have not yet arrived. It was not my intention to have sent this scrawl, which I am really ashamed of, but an Indian is going to Amherstburgh and would not wait untill I could write another. you will please not show this to any one, but my Mother & Brothers \* \* \*<sup>42</sup>

There is a report here that Sacketts Harbour is taken: but I do not believe it. Give my love to my Dear Mother, my Brothers & Sisters and Believe me

Your Dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

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<sup>39</sup> For Colonel Bisshopp, see *ante*, 738.

<sup>40</sup> William Caulfield Saunders, commissioned lieutenant in the Forty-first Regiment, Nov. 1, 1797. See British army lists.

<sup>41</sup> The paragraph here omitted consists of a recital of European news.

<sup>42</sup> The sentences omitted deal with unimportant personal matters.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Sandwich

P.S. M<sup>r</sup> Willson of the Field Train Dep<sup>t</sup> died on Friday or Saturday last.

The remainder<sup>43</sup> of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> in this quarter are now on their March for Amherstbergh, and I believe the Light Company of the Newfoundland Reg<sup>t</sup> are ordered up also. I find by a letter from Therese that you supposed me to have been in the Action at Stony Creek: but I was not. the only action I have been in, was on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, which was near Beaver Dams when we took six hundred. the battle lasted three hours & a half. I saw the whole of it.

Your Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

12 Mile Creek July 19<sup>th</sup> 1813

There is a report that Sackett's Harbour is taken, but I do not believe it.

Your Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

July 19<sup>th</sup> 1813

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Strabane Sandwich

*Endorsed:* recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> July

NEWS OF BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

Ma chere Mère Je me suis trouve avec mes amies americains ici et je me suis ainformer de votre flotée. il mont dit que il y a voit beaucoup de monde de tuér dun bord et de lautre mes que Richardson et Comodore Berkly etoit tout les deux presonier et quil etoit a bord de le *Queen Charlotte* que le Comodore avez le Bras Casseé, et que les autres etoit toute a fait a leur aisse. Je men vais travessa a present.

adieu chere mere porte vous bien je suis votre

Effectionnée fille

A Brush

*Addressed:* Madame Askin

<sup>43</sup> This portion of the letter is written on different paper than that which precedes, and apparently at a later time.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

*Translation*

My dear Mother: I am with my American friends here and have asked about your fleet. They say that many were killed on both sides but that Richardson and Commodore Barclay were both taken prisoners and that it was aboard the *Queen Charlotte* that the Commodore received the broken arm, and that the others were quite comfortable. I am leaving now to cross over.

Goodbye, dear Mother, keep well. I remain,  
Your loving daughter,  
A. Brush

NEWS FROM ASKIN FUGITIVES

West Minister Oct<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1813

My Dear Father To relieve the anxiety of your mind & that of my mother I will merely say that we are all well James, Alick, Cap<sup>tn</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee & Alick M<sup>c</sup>Kee are ahead. My Brother Alick has the ague but the people are all very kind. My Alicks Toe is very bad. God Bless you both my most excellent Parents. I wish I could hear how my D<sup>r</sup> Sister Nelly is, & her children.

Your tru[l]ly affe<sup>to</sup> Daughter  
T M<sup>c</sup>Kee

Jane<sup>44</sup> is very anxious to find out how her poor father, & Brother John are.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* recv<sup>d</sup> 25<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

SAFE CONDUCT FOR JOHN ASKIN

Territory of Michigan  
Head Quarters at Detroit  
15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1813

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, BE IT KNOWN:

John Askin Esquire of Sandwich in the Province of Upper

<sup>44</sup> Jane Richardson, daughter of Dr. Robert Richardson. Her father had been captured at the defeat of Barclay's fleet by Commodore Perry on September 10, and her brother John had been captured at the Battle of the Thames, October 5.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Canada having applied to me for protection, the same is hereby granted unto him during his good behaviour, and all Officers and privates of my army are hereby required to observe the same, and to abstain from any acts of violence or outrage towards the said John Askin and his hous[e]hold.

Given under my hand at Detroit the day and year above written

Will<sup>m</sup> Henry Harrison

NEWS FROM ASKIN FUGUTIVES

Head [of] the Lake 23<sup>d</sup> October 1813

Dear Mother, I'm happy to say that Capt<sup>n</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Kee Alex<sup>r</sup> James Johnny & myself are here and all in Good health. Charles & all the Hamiltons and Robinsons are in this neighbourhood House Jane Richardson and Nancy left this the day before yesterday for York where they will be more comfortable than here We are very anxious to know how you are and beg that you may not suffer the least uneasiness with respect to us, as we are as well off as the times will admit of. We have suffered no hardship, but the very unpleasant separation from our parents & friends which I feel in a very great degree. Let my Uncles & relations know that not an hour passes over without my thinking of them. please assure my Dear Friend<sup>45</sup> of my everlasting attachment, & hopes of one Day seeing &c. What satisfaction it would be to hear from you could it be done with propriety.

Y<sup>r</sup> ever tender & affectionate Son  
Alex<sup>r</sup> D Askin

Remember me to all my friends

*Addressed:* M<sup>rs</sup> Askin Strabane

DIFFICULTIES AT MACKINAC

Mich<sup>o</sup> 26<sup>t</sup> Oct 1813

My Dear John, An opportunity offering for Matchedash

<sup>45</sup> The allusion is evidently to the writer's sweetheart. The attachment was interrupted by his untimely death. See *ante*, 423.

affords me an opportunity of writing, merely to describe to your [you] our distressing situation, having only two months provisions & very little prospect of obtaining any. the two Canoes & a boat are now sent to get some at Nautawwaysaugui the season is so far advanced that I dont believe we will be able to get them back. to compleat or crown our situation is that we have a Commandant<sup>46</sup> who is only fit to drive about Miscreants & knows very little or pretends to know the difference between Gentlemen & Blackguards. Of late he is tormenting all about him with orders counter orders & in short creates discontentment & disgust for my part I am quite sick of my situation & was it not that we expect the Enemy & it being the duty of every Loyal Subject to put up with thing[s] untill a day of retribution arrives & untill that day arrives to be united & every nerve exerted to maintain our ground I would resign my situation. There was a Corps of fencibles raised here consist<sup>s</sup> of 50 men & instead of keeping these people to defend our little ground they have been sent away to La Baye with Dickson thats to say the greatest part & the remainder goes for the Pro<sup>s</sup> so that we are left with the Veterans & VolunTERS the latter I really dont believe will fight, being in dread of being tucked up if found in arms. The Indians are num[er]ous but in a day or two will be gone to their wintering Ground. to keep them would be madness, having no provisions. I really & sincerely believe that we will be obliged to eat every horse that is on the Island before spring if we are not taken prisoners this autumn Should

<sup>46</sup> Richard Bullock of the Forty-first Regiment succeeded Captain Charles Roberts as commandant of Mackinac, Sept. 14, 1813. The British army lists disclose that Richard Bullock became a lieutenant in the regiment, Feb. 28, 1796. He served in most of the actions in the Detroit area during the war, being present at Mongaugon, Aug. 9, 1812, and leading the advance guard of Brock's army in the capture of Detroit a few days later. He was with Procter in the latter's Maumee campaign of April-May, 1813, and on his retreat eastward in the autumn, being the only officer of the Forty-first who escaped capture in the Battle of the Thames, Oct. 5, 1813. There is some confusion in the evidence at this point which we have not succeeded in resolving, for Captain Charles Roberts reports that he yielded the command of Fort Mackinac to Bullock on Sept. 14, 1812, and this taken in conjunction with Askin's present letter would seem to preclude the idea that Bullock could have been with Procter's army on the retreat from Detroit to the Thames. A possible explanation may be that there were two officers of the same name in the regiment, whose whereabouts and activities we are unable to distinguish. Richard Bullock, presumably the Mackinac commandant of 1813, was serving as adjutant general of militia at Toronto as late as 1839. Data derived from documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; Casselman, *op. cit.*, *passim*; and British army lists.



the Canoes return w<sup>t</sup> pro & the Enemy leave us alone this fall, in the spring we will with the help of God keep them off[f]. Write me by the Winters Express & let me know where you are & how does matters stand. Your mother & sisters say God Bless you & may you enjoy Health & every Blessing this world affords & am

Your affectionate Father

J. A.

Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin J[r]

My negro wench Madelaine absconded two days ago & I am just informed that Capt Bullock has taken her into his service (if so) he must be a d m n Scoundrel & is beginning similar tricks that Dawson did I can hardly credit the Report, for I cannot think that any man but Dawson would have been guilty of the like I am sorry the sudden departure of his [illegible] is such that I cannot get full proof of his having acted so, for were I certain that he has concealed her after I told him that she was my Slave & shewed him the Act whereby it is expressly mentioned that all those born before 1793 are slaves,<sup>47</sup> I would report him. time will illucedate all things. dont say any thing on this head to any one untill you hear from me again.

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> John B. Askin S<sup>t</sup> Davids or River Thames Recommended to the Care of Duncan Cameron Esq<sup>r</sup> York

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO HIS CHILDREN

Strabane Nov<sup>r</sup> the 12<sup>h</sup> 1813

My Dear Children This Letter though Only directed to three of you, its contents I wish you to make known not only to your sister M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee but likewise to my grand Children and fr[i]ends in the quarter w[h]ere you may be when it reaches you.

First thanks to Almighty God that we, Our Family and connections in this Quarter Enjoy good health though its a sickly time & many people have died. Your Acquaintances the Families of M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Intosh, F. Baby, M<sup>r</sup> Hands M<sup>r</sup>

<sup>47</sup> The allusion is to the act for the restriction of slavery passed by the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada in 1793. It was a compromise measure, which did not interfere with property in slaves existing prior to the passage of the act, but provided that children born to enslaved mothers subsequent thereto should become free upon attaining the age of twenty-five.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Woods & Mr James Babys, are likewise well: I have further to say That notwithstanding the great troubles I have not suffered any loss in property worth mentioning, Nor received the least Insult and am provided with all the necessaries of life for this Winter therefore was it not for the heavy & Unexpected stroke we have met with in the Death of your Dear & much limented Sister Mrs Pattinson at Mr Jacobs on the 12<sup>t</sup> of last Month Our minds would be tolerable Easy & we would Endeavour to bear your Absence, but those two misfortunes Added to Age bears heavy On us yet the Almighty favours us so much as to give us health of Body with Appetite & rest. Mary Pattinson is with Mrs Park, Richard & Ellen with us, all in good health. the last Child is with a good nurse at river Thames. we thought it unsafe to remove her at this Season. I requested Mr Brush to write Mr Pattinson, as I do not wish to keep up any Corrispondence Except with you, when permitted by the Commanding Officer of Detroit so to do. as he Appears very Indulgent to the British under his Authority, Im in hopes to Obtain this favour.<sup>48</sup> Doct<sup>r</sup> Richardson came home some time ago & is well, he says. your Acquaintance poor Johnston was Only slightly wounded & recovered before he came away. We were told by Mr Brice Woods & Cap<sup>t</sup> Shaw that they both seen you & that you were then well, but had been sick: We hope & depend on your suporting all the losses crosses & disapointment you may meet with in this life as becomes Christians, relying On the Almighty's goodness for Our meeting Again in this life when this destructive war will be at an End. We hear Every two or three days from Mr Brush & Allice who with their dear Children are all well.

Mr Barthe having lost a great part of his little property & his Family being in fear, they winter with us & their Company Added to that of Richard & Ellens in some Measure keeps up our spirits.

The Ladies of Mess<sup>r</sup> Marentetes & Themuses Famil[i]es

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<sup>48</sup> For the kindness and liberality exhibited by General Harrison toward the conquered British people, he was long held in grateful remembrance by them and by their descendants. Statement of Harry Maisonville of Windsor to the Editor, August, 1929. See also, William L. Baby, *Souvenirs of the Past* (Windsor, 1896), 119.

are well. If any or all the articles, Johnny was sending me in the *Nancy* or what I wrote to Montreal for are got where you are, take such of them as you stand in need of. Your mother joins in Blessing with your tender Father

J. A.

Charles James or Alexd<sup>r</sup> Askin with the British Army

CAPTURE OF FORT NIAGARA AND LEWISTON<sup>49</sup>

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup><sup>50</sup> I staid last night at M<sup>r</sup> Hills<sup>51</sup> went and took an Inventory of Asa Baker's Cattle, who fled to the Enemy from that retur<sup>d</sup> to Queenston where they were preparing to cross the River, but were disappointed in get[t]ing boats and much against Col. Murray's<sup>52</sup> wish had to give it up. heard that seven pieces of Cannon had been found buried near Fort George, & some few prisoners were taken on Sunday morning at Niagara & Fort Erie. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Rode to Ball's Mills to send down flour there where I staid all night. Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Went up 20 Mile Creek pressed a number of sleighs to take flour & some whiskey down from Balls Mills to S<sup>t</sup> Davids. Rode down to Queenston on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> About 10 oClock at night our troops began to cross the River from near Count De Puissay's to the five mile meadow. the 100<sup>th</sup> crossed first then part [of the] 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> after which the Royals and the remainder of the 41<sup>st</sup> and last the Indians & militia some few militia were over in the first boats, among whom was Cap<sup>t</sup> Kerby<sup>53</sup> who was the first person who landed on the other side. the Grenadiers of the 100<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> pushed on towards Fort Niagara surprised the Enemy's picket at

49 The manuscript is a fragment of the diary (consisting of several pages) kept by Charles Askin. The earlier portion (not reproduced here) details the doings of the writer from December 7-13 inclusive.

50 Dec. 14, 1813.

51 At Beaver Dams, where the detachment of Colonel Boerstler had been captured on June 24, 1813.

52 Lieutenant Colonel John Murray of the 100th Regiment. He was a native of Jamaica and had been an officer in the army since 1792. He later rose to the rank of lieutenant general. He died, Feb. 21, 1832. Irving, *op. cit.*

53 Captain James Kerby of the Second Lincoln Militia Regiment. He was given a sword by the Assembly in recognition of his gallantry at the capture of Fort Niagara. He was subsequently a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada. He died at Fort Erie, June 20, 1854. *Ibid.*

young's Town where they killed several men. Cap<sup>t</sup> Fawcett advanced with the Grenadiers to the Gate of the Fort and fortunately got there just while the Guard were relieving the Sentinels by which means they got in at the Picket as they had got the Countersign from two sentinels whom they had taken. M<sup>r</sup> Dawson of the 100<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> led the forlorn hope but Cap<sup>t</sup> Kerby of the Incorporated Militia was in the Fort before any other officer. while the Grenadiers got in in front the Light Company of the 100<sup>th</sup> under Cap<sup>t</sup> Martin scaled the Works in the rear and got in nearly at the same time with the others. Cap<sup>t</sup> Elliott Q<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> General<sup>54</sup> was with Cap<sup>t</sup> Martin. Fortunately most of the Garrison were sleeping and were so completely surprised that we lost but 6 Men Killed in taking it among whom was L<sup>t</sup> Nowlan of the 100<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. the Enemy made as good a defence as could be expected considering the situation they were caught in and lost sixty-five men most of whom were bayoneted. Col. Murray who commanded the storming party was unfortunately wounded. Cap<sup>t</sup> Leonard the commanding officer of the Garrison was sleeping a few miles from the Fort with his Family. he came very early to the Garrison in the morning but was much surprised to be challenged by a British Sentinel who made a prisoner of him. upwards of three hundred men were made prisoners, a number of whom were of their 24<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup>. just as the first boat load of Indians had reached the other shore, the news of the Fort being taken reached them. They immediately pushed off for Lewiston and General Riall<sup>55</sup> with the Royals and the 41<sup>st</sup> marched to the same place. there were but about sixty artillery at that place who toke to their heels as soon as they heard the yells of the Indians. about 12 or 13 of the Enemy were killed at Lewiston, several of them Inhabitants of the place. unfortunately there was Liquor in most of the houses & notwithstanding the exertions of the Officers of the Indian Dep<sup>t</sup> the Indians soon got intoxicated and were outrageous several men of the Regular

<sup>54</sup> Captain G. A. Eliot of the 103rd Regiment.

<sup>55</sup> Sir Phineas Riall. He had been commissioned a major general on June 4, 1813. He subsequently attained the rank of general. He died in Paris, Nov. 10, 1850. Irving, *op. cit.*

troops got drunk also. the Indians plundered the houses then set fire to them. the poor Inhabitants, Men, Women and Children we were obliged to keep a strong Guard over to prevent them from being killed by the Indians, one of whom killed a young Boy. Indeed the Indians got so drunk that they did not know what they were about. two of their own Indians were killed by them and one of the 41<sup>st</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Caldwell was shot through the thigh by one of them and young M<sup>c</sup>Dougall had his arm broke by another who struck him with a Tomyhawk. Indians, Regulars & Militia were plundering every thing they could get hold of. immense quantities of things were brought over from that place to Queenston at youngstown there were one or two stores from which every thing was taken by the Plunderers. I have never witnessed such a scene before & hope I shall not again.

DEATH OF JAMES MCGILL

Montreal 3<sup>d</sup> febr<sup>y</sup> 1814

John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup>

My dear friend I wrote you the 30<sup>th</sup> Decemb<sup>r</sup> informing you of the death of our mutual friend M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill & that he had bequeathed you all his lands on the American side of Detroit [River.] at our advanced age we must expect to experience the loss of friends & relatives, and you have lately felt this in the loss of M<sup>rs</sup> Pattison and I am told M<sup>r</sup> Brush, in both of which I sinc[e]rely condol with you & M<sup>rs</sup> Askin. you have a pleasing consolation that tho Death may deprive you of your Children yet in your numerous family none has by their conduct caused you pain. I have a long Letter from M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kay [McKee] which I will answer. I wish I could serve her.

the death of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill and your advanced time of Life occasions my appointing M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright of Kingston my attorney perticularly for my property in Upper Canada & as the death of M<sup>r</sup> Brush will make it necessary for you to take some steps for securing payment of my property sold him in 1805 which was £460 York with Interest, as the property is improved his Executors or Heirs may keep it on

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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paying or securing the payment of what is due me. if you take it back for me it may be proper to consider the propriety of selling it immediatly, and if not sold for sufficient to pay me, M<sup>r</sup> Brush Estate must make up the deficiency, or of keeping it untill a More favorable time for disposing of it, and in recommend[ing] this respecting my property sold M<sup>r</sup> Brush, I suppose the same mode may be per[s]ued respecting that of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills sold him indeed by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills Will this part may become yours. I will send you an extract of his Will respecting you.

M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright is Just Leaving this for Kingston I send this by him to forward. with kind remembrance to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin bel[e]ve me My Dear friend

Yours Senc[e]rily

Isaac Todd

PS if I am obliged to quit this Country or other accident happen me you will correspond with M<sup>r</sup> Cartwright respecting my property in your care

I now send extract from M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gills Will respecting his bequest to you

*Addressed:* John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> Strabane near Sandwich Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal Feb<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1814 Isaac Todd Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7 June

I give and devise all and every [one of] the Lands and Tenements situated within the Territories of the United States of American to me belonging or to which I am in any manner entitled not exceeding in quantity sixteen hundred acres, to John Askin of Strabane his Heirs and Assigns for ever:

Provided always that if the said last mentioned land and tenements should exceed sixteen hundred acres in quantity then and in that case I give and devise all and every such lands and tenements so exceeding and over and above the said quantity of sixteen hundred acres to Robert Reynolds step Father of the said James M<sup>c</sup>Gill Desriviers, his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

*Endorsed:* Extract from the Will of the late James M<sup>c</sup>Gill, Esq<sup>r</sup>

TROUBLES OF GEORGE MELDRUM<sup>56</sup>

Dear Sir It's so long since We have had any corospondence that I do not know how to begin first give me leave to Condole with you for the loss of your Daughter M<sup>rs</sup> Pattison as well your Anxiety for your Sons as for [my] part mine have troubled me much and have intirely let every thing on the Farm go to Distruction and my Situation is such that I dare not direct them as to my self I was three months on my back by the Calash wheel going over my foot which had most cut if off but thank God I made a great cure of [it] by sopyknit Root which surprised all the Docters and M<sup>rs</sup> Meldrum since the month of July have not had three Days at one time health Myself for this month past I have been very unWell but am now little recovered We are most reduced to Starvation for the Indian[s] whilst I was on my back killed all my pigs to the number of thirty four Oxen ten sheep all our Fowls and burned our hen house and like to have sett the house in fire and I could [not] let my sons interferr as the Indians knew and reproached them being Yankies and was not able to go out myself We now eat Rye bread for want of better and our Porke which I chans'd of Getting last fall is most out and the worst of all no money to gett more M<sup>rs</sup> Park keeping back the papers of the Copartnership is the occasion of being reduced so low as also the occasion of great loss to Co partnership there is M<sup>r</sup> Boyer who bog<sup>t</sup> a House [from] M<sup>r</sup> Parke he is dead and as I am told hase made over the house to an other which may cause a loss to the Co. with sundrei losses which I can not help for want of Companys books & papers Inclosed you have a Note of sundrie papers of M<sup>r</sup> Frasers and also mine as M<sup>rs</sup> Brush goes over in a day or two you can deliver them to Her I will thank you if [you] can let me have five or six Quarts of salt as I have not a pint in the House I woud be thankful to you if [you] coud inform me where the Martins that bog<sup>t</sup> Sag[*uinah*] sloop lodged the Iron or if they

<sup>56</sup> From the original copy in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

tooke it away M<sup>rs</sup> Meldrum Joins me with Compelements  
to M<sup>rs</sup> Askin and am with great respect Your sincere Friend  
and well wisher

I am, Sir Your Most Obed Serv<sup>t</sup>  
George Meldrum

Detroit 29<sup>th</sup> March 1814

John Askin Esquire

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Detroit March 29<sup>th</sup> 1814 M<sup>r</sup> Geo. Meldrum  
Jno<sup>o</sup> Askin Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>

CONDITIONS AT MACKINAC

Michilimackinac 1<sup>st</sup> May 1815

My Dear Father, Your esteemed favour of the 17<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>  
per M<sup>r</sup> Reaume<sup>57</sup> afforded Madelaine & myself the greatest  
pleasure we have been bless<sup>d</sup> with since the commencement  
of this unjust declaration of War. I am truly happy to  
learn that all our Relatives, Friends & connections are well  
and that you have not suffered as was reported to me.  
James wrote me from York that he intended to proceed to  
Sandwich for M<sup>r</sup> Pattinsons children. by yours I'm glad  
he has reached you & by the next trust he will be married  
to the Young Lady<sup>58</sup> he so long has sigh'ed for. In March  
last I wrote M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee & enclosed a draft on D. Davids  
for £25 H<sup>x</sup> C<sup>y</sup> in her favour & hope she has received it in  
time to relieve her wants—

<sup>57</sup> Alexis Réaume, for whom see *ante*, 732.

<sup>58</sup> He married Frances Godet *dit* Marentette on Oct. 10, 1815. The bride was born in Sandwich, Nov. 19, 1796. She was a descendant in the sixth generation of Nicholas Godet, who was born in Ige, province of Perche, France, in 1583. He married Frances Gadois, a native of the same place, and migrating to New France, became a resident of Montreal. Here he was slain by the Iroquois, and was buried, Oct. 25, 1657. Jacques Godet, a grandson of Nicholas, born, Oct. 13, 1673, was in Detroit on business as early as 1708, although his place of residence was always Montreal. He married at Three Rivers, Nov. 4, 1698, Margaret Duguay *dit* Marentette, daughter of Jacques Duguay *dit* Marentette, and Jane Baudry *dit* St. Martin. Their youngest child, Francis Godet *dit* Marentette was born in Montreal, March 6, 1720. On Sept. 8, 1755, he married in Detroit Jane Parent, daughter of Laurence Parent and Jane Cardinal. The fourth of their thirteen children was Dominic Francis Godet *dit* Marentette, who was born in Sandwich, May 16, 1763. He married, Oct. 20, 1788, Mary Louisa Robert Navarre, daughter of Robert Navarre and Mary Louisa Marsac, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 36-37. Dominic Godet was buried in Sandwich, April 22, 1808; Mary Louisa Navarre was buried in Detroit, May 15, 1851. They had nine children; the fifth child was Frances who became the bride of James Askin. Data adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*



Reaume has given me a great [deal] of information respecting my old acquaintances about Sandwich &c &c You have been far more fortunate than we have been on the score of cheapness of things. Flour was selling at 20\$ the Cw<sup>t</sup> Rum at 32\$ p<sup>r</sup> Gallon, Butter 1\$ Beef  $\frac{1}{2}$ \$ p<sup>r</sup> lb Potatoes 3\$ Bush<sup>l</sup> Salt 1\$ Corn 10 & 12\$ Bush<sup>l</sup> Maple Sugar from 1/ to 1/3 H<sup>x</sup> per lb The latter Commodity will fall in price I hope before an opportunity offers for your Quarter—None of the Indians are arrived consequently the moment the Market is open I will procure what you want at the lowest rate its sold at. This letter goes by a dispatch sent by our Commandant & is to return immediately you can write by their return for I have desired them to put ashore for your Letter. If you possibly can send me half a Doz<sup>a</sup> Sheep in the course of the Summer to S<sup>t</sup> Josephs draw on me for the amo<sup>t</sup> thats to say I want 6 Ewes & 1 Ram—I have not tasted Mutton for two Years past & wish much to raise a stock. Per an Express arrived from York this day I got a letter from John dated the 4<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup>—he was well & states M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kee being at Robert Hamiltons—The Schooners *Scorpion* & *Tygriss* arrived here on the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> with Full Cargos of Irish Pork & Flour for the Garrison. They<sup>l</sup> had 18 M<sup>o</sup> Pro<sup>s</sup> on the Island before this last Supply arrived & as we have to leave this & settle an other place there will not be too much to treat our Indian allies with. I learn that there is a number of Pedlars on Board the *Mink* & *Mary* with Whisky for Trade. I really am afraid they have been rather premature in coming to this before the Indians have been spoken to & fully satisfied as to the mode of their future dependance I trust in God that no accident may happen to any of the poor Wretches—Per the opportunity that takes the sheep I request you will send a good breeding Sow w<sup>th</sup> Pig & young Boar. there is not any to be had at this place. The Indians destroyed all that was on the Island fortunately I saved two Cows & one horse.

Since Gen<sup>l</sup> Harrison took Amherstburg I have only wrote you two Letters I dare not venture any more being fearful that they might have Fallen into the Enemy's hands & have caused your being suspected of carrying on a Correspondance & proven injurious to yourself & family—By the York Express which arrived this day I'm sorry to learn that the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

New Found land Reg<sup>t</sup> is to go down by the Grande River. our adopted Daughter Theresse who was married to Ensign OBrien of that Reg<sup>t</sup> will have to go down with her Husband. Its a great pity their route was not *via* Amherstburg it would have afforded her an opportunity of seeing some of her Friends. When an opportunity offers to her Uncles the Roberts or Roberre have the goodness to desire them to notify Theresses Father of his Daughters marriage with a decent Sober & well educated Young man, who was formerly in the Comm<sup>e</sup> & volunteered his Services to Sackets Harbour—on his having distinguished himself as a brave man got a Com<sup>n</sup> he is a distant relation of M<sup>rs</sup> England<sup>59</sup> born in Lymerick Ireland has a Brother at Kingston L<sup>t</sup> in the Field train at 15/ p<sup>r</sup> day & an other Brother Lieu<sup>t</sup> in the Royal Navy at Home—

\* \* \* \* \* \*60

Your dutiful Son  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jr

\* \* \* \* \* \*61

John Askin Esquire Strabane

*Endorsed:* Mich: May 1<sup>st</sup> 1815 Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Jun<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin Senior Recv<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Recv<sup>d</sup> May 11

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 9<sup>th</sup> May 1815

My dear Old Friend It is three days since I had the pleasure of receiving yours of the 21 February. where could it have been so long on the road. I think before this we should have a regular post to your place, but you have been so long separated from us that your place is forgotten,

<sup>59</sup> Wife of Colonel Richard England, last British commandant of Detroit. See *B. H. R.*, I, 444. Mrs. England was a daughter of James O'Brien of Ennistyen, a cadet of the family of the Marquis of Thomond. *Dic. Nat. Biog.* According to O. M. Spencer, Ensign Edward James O'Brien of the Detroit garrison in 1792, who is noted *ante* was a brother of Mrs. England.

<sup>60</sup> The paragraph here omitted conveys greetings to various relations and friends.

<sup>61</sup> A postscript, here omitted, concerns trivial personal matters.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

however we are blessed with another peace, which I hope may continue, as long as I live, but we live in a time that such Wonderfull things happens, that we cannot say what may come to pass. Boneparts return to France, will cause another General War in Europe, which I am afraid will extend to America, as they do not approve of the peace. I received a letter a few day[s] ago from our old friend Todd. he was then at Bath taking the Mineral Waters, and says if his leg gets better he will return to this Country, as he has no friends in any other. I expect he will come by New York. It is not only him whom old Age deprives of friends. I must say that I experience every day the want of Old acquaintance. they are all Dead. there is only one alive in Montreal that was here when I came. I know but very few. what do you think of our Beaver Club which commenced in 1786 and consisted of 16 member[s], and I the only one alive. our late Friend M<sup>c</sup>Gill was the last, and a great loss he was to Montreal. he allways continued friendly to the last, and was much regreted. I was happy to hear he was so friendly to you. his sudden Death deprived him of doing more good to those who wanted it. several who he mentiond to me shortly before his death—for he had no idea of going off half an hour before he died. M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Gill is left comfortable, but young Deriviere<sup>62</sup> will it is said have £60.000. My dear friend are we never to meet in this World. I think it would do you much good to come down. Could I be spared from my business I would go on purpose to say we Meet once more. Old Age should not prevent me having that pleasure, but necessity at my time of life obliges me to be attentive in procuring Necessarys. M<sup>rs</sup> Henry & my Daught[er] Julia has enjoyd uncommon Health. I have only one Daughter & one son living one was killd in the North west the other died in the West Indies, being a Midshipman in the Navey. we are subject to many misfortunes in the world, but our hope is that we will be more happy in the next. the great Ruler of the World orders all for the Best. we must depend on him for our suport in this life, and hope for his protection in the Next, where you & I may meet in these regions of Happiness

62. François DesRivières, eldest son of Mrs. McGill by her first marriage.

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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in the Next. that period must soon come. it gives me great pleasure to hear you and M<sup>rs</sup> Askin enjoy Health, and that you have Escaped the ravages of War. poor M<sup>rs</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kee sufferd much while she was here with her unfortunate Husband. he had no command over himself. Continually deranged with Liquor. if he had lived, Government could have no ralyance on him. I wish she was with you. I sent by M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Intosh, a keg with some Tea Coffee & Sugar for you, and have never heard from him what he has done with it. I wish you would enquire of him, as I supose he sold it not suposing while the war continued to be able to convey it to you. as the communication is now open I hope to hear from you frequently. with the most sincere wishes & prayers of me & Mine for you M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & all yours—remain ever

My dear Askin your old freind  
Alexander Henry

N B enclose a Newspaper with all the News.

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Sandwich Detroit

*Endorsed:* Montreal 9<sup>th</sup> May 1815 Alexander Henry  
Esq<sup>r</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin.

### DEATH OF JOHN ASKIN

Ma tres Cher Mere: Voira Combien je me suis faite de résolutions enfin de prandre ma plume pour lui offrir les consollations que sa situation afligent demande, mais que vous dire—je ma plume refuse de trassé ce que je voudroit exprimer, oui ma tres chere et afligé mere parsonne ne sens plus le poix de votre malleur que nous, vous avez perdu le plus Cherri des mari et nous avont perdu le plus tendre des pere, nos larmes ne nous le rendera pas, il faut donc se soumettre a la volonté de bon dieu, il vous la voit donné et il lui a plut de le reprandre. Consolé vous donc ma chere mere il vous unira encore une fois, dans cet ter Celeste ou vous ne seré jamais Separré, voyez combien le dieu de bonté vous a menagé dans votre afflition il vous la flessé jusqua ce que vos enfans pouvoit aller vous joindre pour vous consoler dun malleur dans le quel il participe auten

que vous mon cher John est presque inconsolable viola  
trois mois quil enticipoit ce fatal Coup la derniere lettre  
a étté reçu avec des larmes de joie il avoit esperence de le  
voir jusqua quel-que jours passé quil a vue quil etoit im-  
possible pour lui de descendre enfin une melancolie senpara  
de lui et il me disoit que jamais il ne voirait son pere cetoit  
pourtan la Seule Chose quil demandoit a dieu, mais quil  
sen toit quel-que malleur il y-avoit trois jours quil navoit  
presque pas mange quant la Barque est arrivé qui nous  
aprit le malleur quil avoit si longtems prevu. il ne pui pas  
écrire et il ma prie de tacher de la faire je crains que vous  
auré auten de peine a le lire que jai a lécrire ce nait quau  
traver de mes larmes que je tache de vous offrir du con-  
solation que nous sommes privé dans cet endroit ou nous  
avons que des etrangers que non pas la consideration de  
lessé un home deux heurs chez lui nenporte dans quel  
affixion il puise etre tel est sa situation et il faut quil se  
soumet adieu ma chere mere que le bon dieu vous benise  
ainssi que mes frere et soeur est la prierre de votre affec-  
tionné fille

Madelaine Askin

*Addressed:* Madame Askin. Strabane, Par Capt<sup>a</sup> Keith  
[note in another writing under address] a Mocok Sugar for  
M<sup>rs</sup> Askin

*Translation*

My dearest Mother: How many times have I had it in  
mind to take up my pen and offer you the consolaton due  
to your great sorrow. But what can I say? My pen refuses  
to trace the words I wish to express. Yes, dearest, afflicted  
Mother, no one can appreciate the weight of your sorrow  
more than we. You have lost the most beloved of husbands  
and we the tenderest of fathers. Our tears will not bring  
him back to us, and we must then submit to the will of  
Almighty God. He gave him to us and it has pleased Him  
to take him back. Console yourself then, dearest Mother.  
He will bring you together again in that blessed land where  
you will never be separated. See with what love He has  
spared you in your affliction. He had compassion for you

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

that it came only when your children could be with you to comfort you in a grief which He feels as much as you.

My dear John is almost inconsolable. For three months now he has anticipated this fatal blow. The last letter was received with tears of joy. Up to quite recently he had hoped to see him. Then at last he realized that it was impossible for him to go down and he was beside himself with grief. He said to me that he would never see his father. Nevertheless it was his only prayer, but how oppressed he was with some trouble. For three days he has not eaten, then came the boat that brought us the painful intelligence he has so long foreseen. He can not write and has begged me to try to do so, but I fear you will have as much difficulty to read it as I have to write. It is only through my tears that I try to offer you any comfort. How alone we are in this place! Only strangers about us who are not thoughtful enough to leave a man to himself even for two hours, no matter how great his sorrow. That is his situation and he must bear it. Adieu, dearest Mother. May God bless you and my dear brothers and sisters is the prayer of your affectionate daughter,

Madelaine Askin

*Addressed:* Madam Askin, Strabane, by Captain Keith<sup>63</sup>

### WILL OF JOHN ASKIN<sup>64</sup>

1—I commit my soul to Almighty God hoping through the merits and sufferings of his dearly beloved son our Saviour Jesus Christ to partake of happiness everlasting in the world to come.

2—I commit my body to the dust from whence it came to be buried in such manner as my directions to Doctor Richardson will show, avoiding all unnecessary expenses and vain pomp.

<sup>63</sup> Captain William Keith, probably at this time skipper of the schooner *Tiger*. He lived for some years in Detroit, where for a time (prior to 1823) he was commander of the revenue cutter *A. J. Dallas*. In 1821, he was one of a committee of seven citizens of Wayne County appointed to promote the candidacy of Judge Woodward for the delegacy in Congress. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*, and entries in Solomon Sibley papers.

<sup>64</sup> Reprinted from an exemplified copy, filed, Oct. 6, 1891, in the Probate Court of Wayne County (P. C. File 16980). The original document was admitted to the Surrogate Court of Essex County, Ont., Dec. 5, 1815, and was recorded in L. 169, p. 102, P. R.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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3—After my funeral charges and other expenses incurred during my sickness are paid I next desire that all debts due by me in law or equity be honestly and fairly discharged.

4—That the remainder of my property of every kind or nature whatever, real, personal or mixed whether in upper Canada, the United States of America, or any other country or place whatsoever becomes the property of my dear wife Archange Askin during her widowhood and while she lives as such for her use and at her entire disposal without her or her property being answerable in any manner for what she may have done with the same, whether employed for the purpose of relieving any of my children who may fall into distress or any other purpose she may think necessary, knowing her sentiments relative to those in distress and almost every other matter to correspond with mine.

6—and lastly: I constitute and appoint my dear wife, Archange Askin my sole executrix to put this my last will and testament in force according to the true intent and meaning thereof, judging it unnecessary to nominate or appoint any other executor, knowing I have many relatives and friends capable, willing and ready to assist her if necessary and being at the same time persuaded that none of my children nor their husbands will find fault or oppose what have willed to be done.

7—This article should have been inserted before I will the whole of my property of every kind whatever that may remain at the death of my wife to be equally divided between the whole of my children without exception and if any of them should die before my wife his or her share to be equally divided between his or her children, or if there are none to her or his husband or wife and in default of all these such share to go to my surviving children in equal proportions.

8—In order that it may not hereafter be doubted that this will contains my real intentions, and I have written it with my own hand and signed and sealed it at Strabane near Sandwich this eleventh day of Nov. 1808.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Codicil

Dated—1811.

I John Askin of Strabane near Sandwich in the Western District of Upper Canada do make this Codicil as part of my will and testament that is to say that the whole of my late Catherine Askins children whether Robertsons or Hamiltons are to have equally amongst them their late mothers share which is the same as any of her brothers or sisters and not before fully expressed in the 7th article of my will it being only said then that such of my children who died before my wife that his or her children should have her or his share whereas I should have said and it was my intention that the children of any of my children though they might have died before I made my will was on the same footing as the children of those who died after.

CONDITIONS AT ST. JOSEPH<sup>65</sup>

St Joseph aout 4 1815

Ma tres Cher Mere nous sommes dans une si grande Confusion que a peine puis je trouvé un moment pour vous adressé quel-que ligne—voilà quinze Cens sauvages que mon Cher John habille depuis que nous sommes arrivés ici et il en arrive encore tous les jours imaginé vous comme je suis tourmenté la maison ne vide pas, et comme nous sommes les seuls ici conséquemment tous les allant et les venant rest a diné avec nous nous n'avons pas encore déjeuné seuls et nous n'avons jamais moins de quatre ou cinq personnes a diné avec nous, enfin je n'ai pas encore nettoyé ma maison ni dépacté le tier de mon butain, ainsi vous ne serez pas surprise de ne pas recevoir les sarviète que je me proposoit de vous envoyer car je ne sait pas où il sont, je crains que nous perdrons du butain car il mouille si souvent et la maison et les hangars sont si humide que tous moi—notre Commandant rend le service si pénible que a peine les personnes peuvent résister il a fait perdre l'esprit a M<sup>r</sup> Monck notre Commissaire de tel façon qu'il s'en alla dans le bois le 28 du mois passé et il n'a pas été retrouvé que hier au soir je crois que

<sup>65</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



mon Cher john navoit pas moins de deux cens sauvages employez pour le Cherché et apres tous ces un soldat quil la trouvai, le pauvre home est bien doux ces suelement ses afaire qui le dérange il a ten fait de chose sur des ordres verbal pour eviter de se créle avec la Commandant et apres tous il ne pouvoit pas le Contenté, et sa lui a dérangé lesprit jai étté obligé darette décrire pour recevoir ce pauvre M<sup>r</sup> Monck de celui que je vient de vous écrire il na pas lesprit dérangé mais il est mélancolie et il a la vue bien égarré et il paroît etre dans une grande Inquiétude il a dit quil a souvent vue les sauvages mais quil les a toujours évité il est venu me voir jai réusit a le fair mangé une bouché il la fait seulement pour mobligé, car parsonne ne pouvoit le fair mangé sa me Surprand apres avoir étté sept jours sans avoir prit aucune nourriture que de leau, il vas a ses afaire come avant, jesper que le Colonel le fera descendre ces un bon home je crains quil ne reviendra jamais de cet melancolie, sa paroît etre dans la famille il y a un de ses frere qui ses tué avec un pistolet il y a quel qu'année—et ces évident quil vouloit se lessé mourir car devant que de partir il avoit écrit sa lettre d'adieu il navoit auc'une armes avec lui mais je supose quil vouloit se lessé mourir de faim car quant le soldat la trouvé il na pas voulet sen vénir se sont les oficir quil lon amené, il a bien mégrit mais il na pas perdu sa force—il faut que je finise car voila encore quelqu'un qui viénne fait moi donc le plaisir de dire a thérèse que si je peu je lui ècriré devant que cet Barque parte et si elle part trop vite il faudra quel mexcuse jusqua la première occation—fait lui sil vous plait mes amitié ainssi qua Allice et mes frere adieu ma cher mere que le bondieu vous Benise est la prierae de votre affectionné

Madelaine Askin

*Translation*

St. Joseph, August 4, 1815

My dearest Mother: We are in such confusion that I can scarcely find a moment to write you a line. You might have seen fifteen hundred Indians that my dear John has clothed since we arrived here and still they come, every day. You

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

can imagine how I am plagued with them. The house is never empty and as we are the only people here everyone coming and going stops to dine with us. Not once have we been alone at breakfast and there are never less than four or five with us for dinner. In fact I have not had time to unpack a third of our things, so you will not be surprised that you have not received the napkins I promised to send you for I do not know where they are. I am afraid that we shall lose some of our stuff. There is so much rain that the house and sheds are damp and things get mouldy.

Our Commandant<sup>66</sup> makes the service so hard that scarcely anyone can stand it. He has driven Mr. Monck,<sup>67</sup> the commissary, crazy. On the 28 of last month he went off into the woods and was not found until yesterday evening. My dear John must have had two hundred Indians out hunting for him, and after all it was a soldier who found him. The poor man is quite harmless. It is only his work that bothers him, and he tried to have things done by verbal orders so as not to conflict with the Commandant, but nothing proved satisfactory and it affected his mind.

I have had to stop writing to receive poor Mr. Monck. What I said about him being crazy is not true. He is melancholy and looks very wild and seems to be in great trouble. He says that he often saw the Indians but that he hid from them. He came to see me and I have succeeded in persuading him to eat a mouthful. He did it just to oblige me for no one else has been able to make him eat—strange, too, after having been seven days with nothing but water. He is going on with his work as usual but I hope the Colonel will send for him to go down. He is a good man. I am afraid he will never recover from this melancholy. It seems to be in the family. One of his brothers shot himself some years ago, and he evidently intended killing himself for he left a farewell letter. He had no weapons and perhaps thought he would starve to death, for when the soldier found him

<sup>66</sup> This was Lieutenant Colonel Robert McDouall of the Eighth Regiment, commandant at Mackinac from the spring of 1814 until the evacuation the following year. Although Mrs. Askin's letter is written at St. Joseph, the garrison was almost immediately established on Drummond Island, where it remained until 1828. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*, especially XVI, 714.

<sup>67</sup> G. W. Monck, assistant deputy commissary general at Mackinac from June, 1815, until the removal of the garrison to Drummond Island. See *ibid.*, XVI and XXIII, *passim*.

he would not come until the officers went and got him. He is very thin but not weak.

I must stop for there is another person coming. Please say to Therese that if I can I shall write to her before this vessel sails, but if it goes too soon for me she must excuse me until the next opportunity. Give her my love, also Alice and my brothers. Adieu, dear Mother, may God bless you is the prayer of

Your Affectionate  
Madelaine Askin.

BURIAL OF JOHN ASKIN JR.

Sandwich 2<sup>d</sup> February 1820

Madam Enclosed is an account for four yards Black Cloth, furnished for the purpose of making a Pall, for your late Husband.<sup>67</sup> the Pall was deposited with me by M<sup>r</sup> James Askin, & can be had on application. I am Madam

Your very humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
James W. Little<sup>68</sup>

Estate of the Late John Askin D<sup>r</sup> To James W Little  
1820 January 3<sup>d</sup>

To 4 yards of Black Cloth furnished for a Pall to M<sup>r</sup> J<sup>s</sup>  
Askin 68/

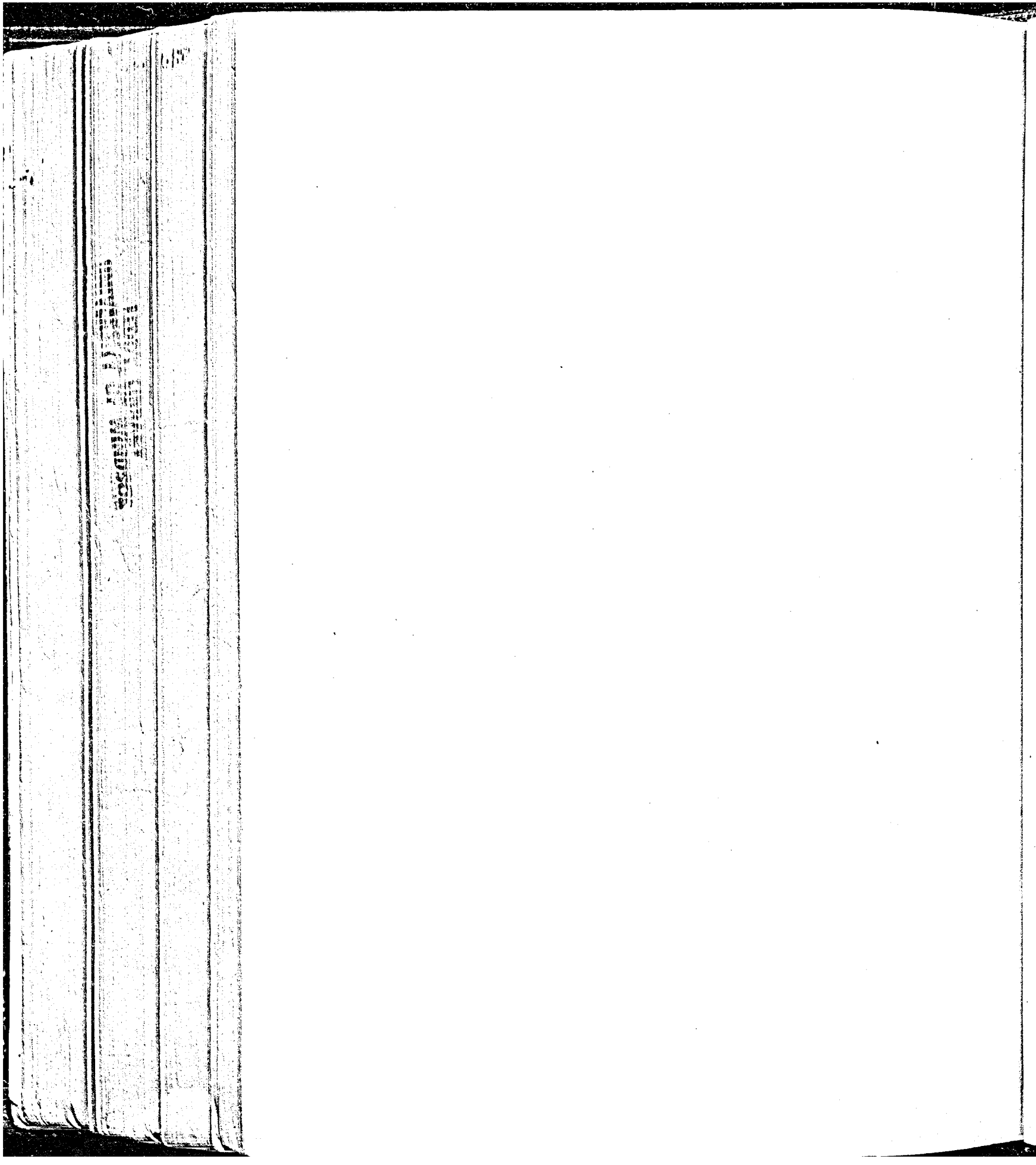
S 13 12 New Yk Currcy  
Sandwich 2<sup>d</sup> February 1820

*Addressed:* M<sup>rs</sup> Askin Amherstburg

67 John Askin Jr. died in Amherstburg, Jan. 1, 1820, and was buried in Sandwich, January 3. Burial certificate in St. John's Church Register.

68 James W. Little was the fourth child of John Little and his wife Elizabeth, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 305, and a brother of Eleanor Little, wife of John Kinzie, for whom see *ibid.*, 305-306. James Little was a resident and merchant of Sandwich in the period subsequent to the War of 1812. On Jan. 4, 1819, he married there Catherine McGregor of Sandwich, daughter of John and Mary (or Martha) McGregor. A daughter, Jane, was born to them, Oct. 5, 1819. See St. John's Church Register, and Burton, Forsyth-Kinzie-Little genealogy.

INDEX



## INDEX

- ABBOTT, —, share of money due Miamis Co., 419, 440, 477-78, 519.
- ABBOTT, James, I, mentioned, 254-55; money due Miamis Co., 137, 503-504; sketch, 113; death, 310. *See also* Miamis Co.
- ABBOTT, James, II, sketch, 254; share of money due Miamis Co., 489-90; land commissioner, 705. *See also* Miamis Co.
- ABBOTT, James Whistler, birth, 255.
- ABBOTT, Mary, wife of William Hands, mentioned, 112.
- ABBOTT, Robert, mentioned, 133, 254; petitions to create Territory of Michigan, 455.
- ABERCROMBY, Sir Ralph, sketch, 352.
- ACHIN, Andrew, mentioned, 189.
- ACHIN, Francis, *dit* Catin, I, sketch, 189.
- ACHIN, Francis, *dit* Catin, II, identified, 189.
- ACHOAKIGIQUE, signs deed, 11.
- ACT for the Relief of Persons Imprisoned for Debt, 319.
- ACT of April 25, 1808, 603.
- ADAMS, sketch, 695.
- ADHÉMAR, Mary Joseph, *dit* St. Martin, wife of Alexis Laframboise, sketch, 225.
- ADHÉMAR, Patrick, sketch, 428.
- ADHÉMAR, Toussaint Anthony, *dit* St. Martin, mentioned, 225, 345-46, 428; letter, 36-37; sketch, 37; business relations with Gamelin, 150, 282-84; debt to Askin, 367.
- ADYE, Lt. Ralph Willet, sketch, 540.
- AGO, signs deed, 12.
- AGRICULTURE, celery, 147, 472, 572, 605-606; potatoes, 211-12, 572, 605-606; pumpkins, 337; roses, 337; Spanish beans, 337; hemp, 353-55, 596; cotton, 408-409; clover, 436-37, 605-606; timothy, 436-37, 605-606; oxen used for plowing, 480; harvest, 527; raspberries, 554; prickly ash, 555; spruce, 565; cherries, 565; pine, 565; cabbage, 572, 605-606; turnips, 572, 605-606; cranberries, 578, 584; apple trees, 583-84, 605-606; echallots, 584; garlic, 584; tree onion, 584, 605-606; currants, 597-98; grapes, 597-98; beets, 605-606; carrots, 605-606; cucumbers, 605-606; melons, 605-606; oats, 605-606; radishes, 605-606; spinach, 605-606; huckleberries, 609; corn produces two crops, 695.
- AGUE, mentioned, 753.
- AIDE, Cecilia, *dit* Créqui, wife of George Cottrell, mentioned, 464.
- AIDE, Jean, *dit* Créqui, sketch, 464.
- AIDE, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Créqui, sketch, 464.
- AINSE, Joseph Louis, sketch, 173.
- AINSE, Sarah (Sally), sketch, 101.
- ALAIN, Mary Ann, wife of Jean Baptiste Beaugrand, sketch, 727.
- ALAIN, Pierre, mentioned, 727.
- ALEXANDER of Russia, battle with Napoleon, 510.
- ALLAN, —, mentioned, 488, 561, 585.
- ALLAN, Ebenezer, letters, 157, 297-98; sketch, 157-58; recommended to Henry, 196; offers to buy Cuyahoga Purchase shares, 297-98; suit against, 612; prisoner, 711-12.
- ALLAN, Capt. James, sketch, 264; assists at Dr. Harffy's funeral, 377.
- ALLAN, William, mentioned, 308; sketch, 300.
- ALLCOCK, Judge Henry, sketch, 260; returned to office, 302; fails of reelection, 351; in England, 442; chief justice of Lower Canada, 506.
- ALLEGRAIN, Mary Joseph Charlotte, wife of Louis Vesina, sketch, 279-80.
- ALLEN, —, mentioned, 520; debt to Askin, 34.
- ALLEN, Deodat, marriage, 496.
- ALLEN, Susan Randolph, wife of Charles Jouett, sketch, 472.
- ALLISON, Susanne, wife of Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, sketch, 306-307.
- ALLISON, Capt. Thomas, sketch, 306-307.
- ALOIRE (Alloir, Aloir, etc.), Jean Baptiste, *dit* Lapiere, sketch, 532.
- ALOIRE, Marie Magdelene, birth, 532.
- AMBROISE, —, lawsuit, 379.
- AMERICAN Fur Co., rivalry with British, 500.
- AMHERST, Jeffrey, Baron, signs capitulation of French, 273-74.
- ANCRUM, Maj. William C., Moravian land claims, 309-10, 327-29, 664-66; sketch, 310; letter, 327-29.
- ANCRUM, Mrs. William, mentioned, 310.
- ANDERSON, John, mentioned, 327, 370, 648; letters, 134, 267, 362-63; sketch, 723. *See also* Anderson, John, and Co.
- ANDERSON, John, and Co., activities, 62-64, 134, 159-61, 237-38, 292, 334, 362-63, 380, 390-91.
- ANDREWS, Colin, mentioned, 219.
- ANDREWS, Elizabeth, wife of Capt. James Andrews, mentioned, 19.
- ANDREWS, Capt. James, sketch, 19.
- ANQUEQOAD, signs deed, 12.
- ANIGROTHE (Anicratte), Jean, mentioned, 323.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- ANNE MARY (Molly), Moravian Indian, debts, 336.
- ANNETTE, wrecked, 148-49, 174-76; salvaged, 255-56.
- ANTAYA, Angelica Peltier *dit*, see Peltier, Angelica, *dit* Antaya.
- ARMSTRONG, John, carpenter partnership, 50-51.
- ARMY, militia: duty, 67-68; arms, 70; shortage of officers, 78-80; regulations, 179-80, 240-41, 546, 552-53, 595; commissions, 308, 548-49; uniforms, 521-22; meeting at church time, 563-64, 587; mustered, 565-66, 585-86; dismissed, 597; preparedness measures, 703; regular army: drinking, 165; desertion, 316-18; pay, 635, 644. See also War of 1812.
- ARPEL, defined, 512.
- ARTELL, —, mentioned, 315.
- ASKIN, Adelaide (Alice), wife of Elijah Brush, mentioned, 88, 112, 174, 185, 193, 211, 214, 281, 301, 344, 352, 374, 378, 385, 410, 459, 461, 480, 486, 488, 499, 517, 529, 539, 542, 566, 581, 584, 609, 657, 677-78, 708, 729, 743, 763, 773, 778, 790; fashions, 128; sketch, 370; land claims, 520, 623; garden, 598; letter, 769.
- ASKIN, Alexander David, mentioned, 111, 378, 459, 480, 486, 499, 511, 520, 529, 540, 551, 577, 582, 609, 628, 658-59, 644, 677, 708, 739, 750-51, 756; tuition, 155, 357, 426; sketch, 243; witness, 533; studies law with Brush, 556, with Elliott, 600; letters, 599-601, 675-76, 770; service in War of 1812, 710, 728, 731, 735; visits Mackinac, 761-63; ague, 769.
- ASKIN, Archange, wife of David Meredith, mentioned, 105, 107, 118, 139, 174, 250-51, 428, 521, 523, 528, 708, 742-43; letters, 57-60, 71-74, 83-90, 95-98, 127-29, 183-85, 491-92, 541-43; husband's death, 626-27; financial aid from John Askin Jr., 635, 643, from Todd, 706; financial difficulties, 639-40, 642-43.
- ASKIN, Catherine, wife of Samuel Robertson (first), and Robert Hamilton (second), mentioned, 58, 73, 87, 599, 719; death, 96, 174; children inherit from Askin, 787.
- ASKIN, Charles, mentioned, 260, 332, 336, 352, 378, 380, 388, 390, 480, 486, 494, 498-99, 526, 583, 609, 626, 628, 645, 662, 668, 674, 677-78, 731, 743, 770; education, 155-56, 353, 357; sketch, 211; agent for Robertson, 427; witness, 448; land, 449, 664; business ventures, 466-67, 469, 482, 525, 668-69; surveyor, 512; letters, 527-30, 547-48, 567-68, 595-96, 697-99, 703-704, 735-42, 750-60, 763-68; captain of militia, 567; manager of Hamilton estate, 637; journal during War of 1812, 711-29, 774-76.
- ASKIN, Ellen Phyllis (Nelly), wife of Richard Pattinson, mentioned, 88, 131, 174, 378, 388, 486, 488, 499, 517, 529, 537, 554, 577, 743, 769; tuition, 357; land claim, 520; marriage, 600, 604; death, 773, 776, 778.
- ASKIN, James, Sr., father of John Askin, 341.
- ASKIN, James, mentioned, 352, 486, 499, 551, 554-55, 565, 577, 596, 600, 609, 628, 631, 639, 664, 671, 676-77, 699, 751, 756, 770, 790; tuition, 155, 357; land, 449; letters, 537-40, 566-67, 748-49; captain of militia, 710; service in War of 1812, 731; marriage, 779.
- ASKIN, Jean Baptiste (Johnny), mentioned, 378, 554, 565, 572, 574, 585, 590, 605, 627, 630-31, 640, 646, 655-66, 689, 770, 773, 780; sketch, 342; imprisoned, 576-77; assistant commissary and barrack-master, 636, 643; letter, 651-52; Mississippi expedition, 658, 661, 669, 688, 691, 694; salary, 697; service in War of 1812, 728, 731.
- ASKIN, John, mentioned, 30, 57, 59, 60, 83-84, 86, 88-89, 97, 102, 118, 129, 131, 157, 258, 301, 499-500, 528, 691, 693, 721, 723, 763; land: speculation, 5-8, 27-28, 68-70, 101-102, 144-47, 166-68, 297-98, 311-12, 320, 330, 333, 453-54, 470-71, 508, holdings, 16-17, 39-41, 102-104, 176, 197-200, 309-11, 327-29, 395-96, 448-49, 459-61, 484, 512, 530-33, 613, 619-20, 622, 676-77, claims, 29, 122-24, 161-63, 238-39, 300-301, 314, 446-47, 526-27, 647-48, 658, 664-66, plea for Crown lands, 90-91, certificates, 223, 228-29, 232-37, 241-42, 245-46, 307-309, 496-98, U. S. ruling on claims, 472-74; sketch, 8-10; executor for: Askwith, 15-16, Weston, 25, Knaggs, 119-20, Harffy, 376; attorney for: Bird, 19-21, Adhémar, 36-37, Hembrow, 77; letters, 22-23, 29, 46-50, 65-68, 78-80, 100-102, 120-23, 144-47, 150, 156, 159-68, 171-72, 176, 179-80, 187-90, 195-96, 203-209, 212-14, 218, 224-25, 227-29, 231-33, 245-48, 260-63, 274, 279-87, 292-93, 300-301, 307-10, 312-20, 327, 329-30, 333, 338-39, 341-42, 347-49, 354, 360, 369-74, 378-80, 385-87, 390-92, 395-96, 403-407, 409-13, 426-28, 434-35, 439-40, 453-54, 459-67, 469-76, 478-84, 496-98, 501-503, 507-15, 519-21, 526-27, 545-

## INDEX

- 49, 551-53, 564, 581-82, 611-13, 619-20, 622-24, 626-28, 637-44, 646-48, 656-59, 662-66, 670-72, 686-88, 704-10, 772-74; business relations: North West Co., 24-25, money due, 33-35, 207, Todd and McGill, 40-42, 64-67, 135, 144-47, 160, 176-78, 314, 459-61, 465, 467, 505, 514, 611-15, 624, 646-48, McTavish, Frobisher and Co., 66, Vincennes, 99-100, 136-37, 182-83, 201-203, 253-54, 279-85, 344-47, 367-68, 396-98, 410-11, 413-14, 439-40, 489-90, 503-504, 621-24, 651, shipping: ferry, 129-30, *Annette*, 148-49, 174-76, 255-56, *Sagui-nah*, 333, 370-71, 379-80, 399-401, 445, 481, 495, Robert Hamilton, 148-49, 245-47, 289-90, Daly, 152-53, 165-66, U. S. government, 163-64, logging, 186-88, 208-209, Bond and Dodemead, 196-97, Charles Morison, 214-15, 225-26, salt spring, 221, 228, Traxellar, 262-63, Thomas Smith, 285-89, Mackinac, 290-91, Cartwright, 313, distillery, 314, 361, debts, 339-40, 459-61, 465, 481-83, 505, 581-82, mercantile speculations, 707-708, *see also* Anderson, John, and Co., Ft. Malden, McGill, James and Andrew, and Moravian Mission; friendship with Col. England, 47-53; militia service, 67-68, 78-80, 179-80, 522, 552-53, 565-66, 570-71, 585-86, 597, 619; Strabane, 71, 317, 347-48, 373; loyalty to England, 120-21, 707, 709-10; education of children, 155-56, 294, 357; philosophy, 167-68, 514, 640; employees, 206, 607-608; public offices, 257, 370, 374, 444, 545, 683; relatives, 341; wedding anniversary, 471; church affiliation, 549, 563-64; education, 743; Harrison's safe conduct, 769-70; death, 784-85; will, 785-87.
- ASKIN, John, Jr., mentioned, 46, 73, 79, 88, 98-99, 129, 145-46, 160, 204, 255, 265, 338, 389, 520, 552, 599; land speculation, 5-8, 27-28, 68-70, 234, 564-65, 636, 664-66; witness, 64, 448-49; Chippewa grant, 102-104; letters, 140-41, 550-51, 553-55, 565-66, 568-70, 572-74, 577-78, 583-85, 588-94, 604-10, 628-31, 635-37, 644-46, 648-50, 655-56, 659-62, 668-73, 678-79, 688-89, 694-97, 731-34, 770-72, 779-81; business, 174, 627, 630-31, 633, 639-46, 691-92; collector of customs at Amherstburg, 348, 379; at St. Joseph, 369, 398-99, 534, 545, 550-51, 553-55, 606, 629, 636, 638, 761-62, 788-89; financial aid to Archange, 635, 643; quarrel with: Dawson, 652, 655-56, Cawdell, 692-93; capture of Mackinac, 713; death of father, 785; death and funeral expenses, 790.
- ASKIN, John Alexander, marriage, 562.
- ASKIN, Julia, mentioned, 697, 733; identified, 671.
- ASKIN, Madelaine, wife of Robert Richardson, mentioned, 58, 73, 87, 96, 129, 209-10, 278, 574, 590, 686, 705, 748; Crown lands, 90; letter, 131-32; marriage, 174; at St. Joseph, 355-56, 368; death, 675-76, 678, 693.
- ASKIN, Therese, wife of Thomas McKee, mentioned, 29, 46-49, 52, 57-60, 65, 73, 84, 90, 96, 98, 107, 109-10, 118, 129, 135, 173, 183, 209, 218, 318, 352, 422, 508, 517, 539, 541, 639, 671, 676, 679, 721, 747, 756, 763, 768, 772, 776, 779-80, 783; sketch, 102; marriage, 127; letters, 111-12, 742-44, 769.
- ASKIN, Therese, wife of Ensign — O'Brien, mentioned, 590, 697, 733; identified, 670-71; marriage, 781.
- ASKWITH, John, sketch, 14; estate, 14-16, 34, 99-100; land speculation, 27-28.
- ASOGOUW, signs deed, 12.
- ASSOGOUA, signs deed, 12.
- ASSUMPTION Church (Sandwich), mentioned, 101.
- ASTOR, John Jacob, organizes South West Co., 37, 554; fur trade, 275, 653.
- ATWATER, Catherine, mentioned, 647.
- ATWATER, Clinton Edward, mentioned, 647.
- ATWATER, Reuben, I, mentioned, 647.
- ATWATER (Attwater), Reuben, II, sketch, 647; collector of customs, 666-67; land commissioner, 705.
- ATWATER Street (Detroit), named, 647.
- AUBERT de Gaspé, Philippe, sketch, 307.
- AUDRAIN, Margaret, wife of George Hoffman (first), and Col. Samuel Wells (second), sketch, 27.
- AUDRAIN, Peter, mentioned, 27, 77, 121, 194, 475; public offices, 8, 104, 119-20, 142-44, 472, 705; sketch, 14; witness, 153; letter, 580-81; friendship for Askin, 580; signs petition, 682.
- BABY, —, mentioned, 64, 123, 232, 234, 378, 486, 502-503, 510, 512, 645, 718; land, 241, 497; property seized by Hull, 710.
- BABY, François, mentioned, 651, 772; sketch, 67; letters, 67, 585-86; militia duty, 67-68, 70, 78-80, 350-52, 565-66, 585-87; magistrate, 357-58.
- BABY, Jacques, *dii* Duperon, mentioned, 651, 684, 773; marriage, 733.
- BABY, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 279, 651; sketch, 79; militia rank, 548.



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- BABY, Susanne, wife of William Caldwell, mentioned, 34.
- BABY, Therese, wife of John Casety (first), and Thomas Allison (second), death, 306; husband's estate, 431-34; sketch, 432. *See also* Williams and Casety.
- BABY house, located, 718.
- BACKWELL, William, mentioned, 261, 264, 268, 273, 334; sketch, 217.
- BACON (Baken), David, sketch, 312-13; commended to Ottawa, 312; tuition bill, 357; letter, 361-62.
- BACON, Leonard, identified, 313.
- BADICHON, —, debt, 555.
- BADICHON, Mrs., *see* Barthe, Charlotte.
- BADICHON (Badishon, Badischon), Anthony Labadie *dit*, *see* Labadie, Anthony, *dit* Badichon.
- BADICHON, Pierre Labadie *dit*, *see* Labadie, Pierre, *dit* Badichon.
- BADON, —, land claims, 529.
- BAIRD, Jane, wife of Toussaint Dubois, sketch, 203.
- BAISCHE, Charles de la, Marquis de Beauharnois, grants land, 530.
- BAKER, Ann, wife of Joseph Eberts, sketch, 656-57.
- BAKER, Asa, mentioned, 774.
- BAKER, William, sketch, 656.
- BALDOON, 404, 446. *See also*, Douglas, Thomas.
- BANDIGAIKAWA, signs deed, 27.
- BANK of Detroit, sketch, 534.
- BANK of Michigan, organized, 562.
- BARBEAU, Jane, wife of Jean Baptiste Vallé, sketch, 177.
- BARCLAY, Commodore R. H., taken prisoner, 769.
- BARKLE, Mary, wife of James Abbott, property in Detroit, 479.
- BARON, Michael Catin *dit*, *see* Catin, Michael, *dit* Baron.
- BARROIS, Agatha Lootman *dit*, *see* Lootman, Agatha, *dit* Barrois.
- BARROIS, François Lootman *dit*, *see* Lootman, François, *dit* Barrois.
- BARROIS, Marie Anne Lootman *dit*, *see* Lootman, Marie Anne, *dit* Barrios.
- BARROIS, Mary Lootman *dit*, *see* Lootman, Mary, *dit* Barrois.
- BARSALOUX, —, estate, 622.
- BARSTO, —, recommended as magistrate, 521.
- BARTHE, —, mentioned, 73, 209, 213, 335-37, 353, 459, 570, 577, 584, 602, 699, 744; land claims, 122-23; militia commission, 338; slave, 357-58; poverty, 626; loss of property, 773.
- BARTHE, —, Sr., mentioned, 661.
- BARTHE, Mrs. —, mentioned, 577, 584, 699.
- BARTHE, Charles Andrew, sketch, 533.
- BARTHE, Charlotte, wife of Louis Réaume (first), and Anthony Louis Descomps *dit* Labadie (second), mentioned, 585, 609, 626, 636, 641, 646, 659-60, 696.
- BARTHE, Jean Baptiste, I, mentioned, 609; sketch, 722.
- BARTHE, Jean Baptiste, II, sketch, 722.
- BARTHE, Louis, mentioned, 190, 538-39, 609, 627, 629, 638; work at Pinery, 236.
- BARTHE, Louis Theophile (Louison), mentioned, 584, 627; sketch, 533.
- BARTHE, Marie Archange, wife of John Askin, mentioned, 29, 37, 46-49, 52, 57, 65, 73, 102, 107, 109-11, 118, 122, 131-32, 134-35, 137, 140, 182-83, 185, 193, 205, 211, 214-15, 221, 226, 229, 234, 238, 242, 247, 249, 251-52, 259-60, 293, 301, 303, 310, 315, 317, 326, 338, 344, 352, 368, 377, 382, 385, 388, 390, 393, 395, 398-99, 403, 407-408, 415, 425, 443, 447, 471, 479, 486, 488, 491-92, 494, 498, 506, 510, 517, 519, 522, 527, 529, 534, 543-44, 547, 550-51, 553, 555, 563, 565, 568, 570, 573-74, 578, 581, 584, 587, 593, 596, 602, 604, 607, 622, 626-27, 631, 637-39, 641-42, 646, 652-54, 661, 664, 671, 673, 676, 679, 687, 694, 696, 703, 709-10, 722, 732, 739, 742, 744, 747, 750, 752, 759, 767, 773, 776-77, 779, 783; garden, 228, 337, 409, 472, 598; gifts, 353, 677, 695, 699, 751; illness, 427; Brush farm, 460-61; burned, 678; executrix for husband, 786.
- BARTHE, Mary Felicity (Phyllis), wife of Daniel Mercer, mentioned, 58, 98, 127, 139, 184, 492, 523; death of husband, 541.
- BARTHE, Therese, wife of Alexander Grant, mentioned, 58, 60, 73, 87, 98, 117, 337-38, 342, 350, 382, 407, 485-86, 521, 541, 553, 587; birth of daughter, 247; responsibilities, 389; rudeness of Brush, 390; illness, 498; rents farm, 517; visits Askins, 519-20; death, 674, 676.
- BARTHELTH, —, shoemaker, 459.
- BARWIS, Capt. —, of *General Hunter*, mentioned, 696.
- BASSETT, Maj. Henry, mentioned, 19.
- BATES, —, carpenter, 444.
- BATES, Edward, identified, 256.
- BATES, Frederick, mentioned, 114; letter, 255-56; sketch, 256; judge of Territory of Michigan, 456.
- BATES, Tarleton, mentioned, 114.
- BATTLE of: Beaver Dams, 763-68, Cape Vincent, 97, Fort George, 752-56.

## INDEX

- Raisin River, 748-50, Sackett's Harbor, 755, Stony Creek, 757-59.
- BAUDRY, Jane, *dit* St. Martin, wife of Jacques Duguay *dit* Martintette, mentioned, 779.
- BAUDRY, Jean, *dit* Desbuttes *dit* St. Martin, mentioned, 193.
- BAUDRY, Mary Archange, *dit* Desbuttes *dit* St. Martin, wife of Angus McIntosh, mentioned, 368, 578.
- BAZADONE, François, letter, 408-409.
- BAZADONE, Laurent, letter, 650-51; sketch, 651.
- BEAGAM, James, buys lot, 533.
- BEAUBIEN family, sketch, 114, 683.
- BEAUBIEN, —, mentioned, 370.
- BEAUBIEN, Angelica Cuillierier *dit*, *see* Cuillierier, Angelica, *dit* Beaubien.
- BEAUBIEN, Catherine Brillant *dit*, *see* Brillant, Catherine, *dit* Beaubien.
- BEAUBIEN, Catherine Trotier *dit*, *see* Trotier, Catherine, *dit* Beaubien.
- BEAUBIEN, Geneviève Cuillierier *dit*, *see* Cuillierier, Geneviève, *dit* Beaubien.
- BEAUBIEN, Jean Baptiste Cuillierier *dit*, *see* Cuillierier, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Beaubien.
- BEAUBIEN (Bobien), Jean Marie, mentioned, 609-10.
- BEAUBIEN, Louis Antoine, mentioned, 113; sketch, 114.
- BEAUBIEN, Mary Joseph Cuillierier *dit*, *see* Cuillierier, Mary Joseph, *dit* Beaubien.
- BEAUFIT, Louis, sketch, 241.
- BEAUGRAND, Francis, identified, 726.
- BEAUGRAND (Baugran), Jean Baptiste, I, sketch, 726-27.
- BEAUGRAND, Jean Baptiste, II, sketch, 727.
- BEAUHARNOIS, Marquis de, *see* Baische, Charles de la.
- BEAUREGARD, Mary Frances Davignon *dit*, *see* Davignon, Mary Frances, *dit* Beauregard.
- BEAVER Club, mentioned, 782.
- BEQUET, Pierre, mentioned, 448.
- BEQUET, Therese, wife of Isidore Chêne, mentioned, 113; sketch, 448.
- BELANGER (Bellangé), Jean Baptiste, signs document, 682; sketch, 685.
- BELANGER, Mary Deliennes *dit*, *see* Deliennes, Mary, *dit* Belanger.
- BELANGER, Philip, sketch, 685.
- BELANGER, Pierre, sketch, 685.
- BELANGER, Valentin, sketch, 685.
- BELAIR, Amable Chulle *dit*, *see* Chulle, Amable, *dit* Belair.
- BELAIR, Jean Pierre Chulle *dit*, *see* Chulle, Jean Pierre, *dit* Belair.
- BELLAIRE, —, steals flagpole, 657.
- BELLE ISLE, deeded to the Macombs, 479.
- BELLE RIVER, located, 101.
- BELLECOUR, Francis Xavier Trotier *dit*, *see* Trotier, Francis Xavier, *dit* Bellecour.
- BELLECOUR, Mary Magdelene Trotier *dit*, *see* Trotier, Mary Magdelene, *dit* Bellecour.
- BELLEPERCHE, Frances, wife of Joseph Pouget, mentioned, 260.
- BELLESTRE (Belestre, Bellêtre), François Marie Picoté (Piquotée), Sieur de, grants land, 345, 531.
- BELLESTRE, Mary Ann Picoté de, wife of Louis Césaire Dagneau de Quindre, mentioned, 123.
- BELLETT, —, land claims, 529.
- BEN, Askin's slave, 582-83.
- BENALQUE (Benac), Joseph Stephen Porlier *dit*, *see* Porlier, Joseph Stephen, *dit* Benalque.
- BENDER, Lt. Benoit, identified, 722; service in War of 1812, 725-26.
- BENNET, Moneso, mentioned, 407.
- BENOIT, Étienne, *dit* Livernois, I, sketch, 511.
- BENOIT, Étienne, *dit* Livernois, II, sketch, 511.
- BENOIT, Paul, *dit* Livernois, sketch, 511.
- BENTINCK, William Henry Cavendish, Duke of Portland, mentioned, 389.
- BERGAND, —, debt, 345.
- BERNARD, —, service in War of 1812, 728; injured, 758.
- BERNARD, Alexander, mentioned, 188.
- BERNARD, William, sketch, 188.
- BERNARD, *see also*, St. Bernard.
- BERTHELET, Antoine, sketch, 532.
- BERTHELET, Francis, marriage, 532.
- BERTHELET, Francis, *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- BERTHELET, Henry, *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- BERTHELET (Berthelot, Berthellet, Bertholott), Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 694; sketch, 469-70.
- BERTHELET, Olivier, identified, 532.
- BERTHELET, Pierre, *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- BERTHELET, Therese, *dit* Savoyard, wife of Jacques Lacelle, mentioned, 34.
- BERTRAND, Simon, witness, 322-33.
- BEZER, Jacques, II, sells land, 557.
- BIGGAR, Mary, wife of Robert Hamilton, II, marriage, 599.
- BIGGS, William, mentioned, 651.
- BIG KNIFE, mentioned, 538, 663.
- BIGRAS, Mary Joseph, *dit* Fauvel, wife of Francis Le Beau, mentioned, 133.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- BIGUET, Étienne, *dit* Nobert, sketch, 259.
- BIGUET, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Billet, sketch, 259.
- BILLET (Billiet), François, mentioned, 261, 264; sketch, 259.
- BILLET, Jean Baptiste Biguet, *dit*, *see* Biguet, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Billet.
- BINEAU (Beneau), Roger, land owner, 41.
- BINEAU, Therese, wife of Joseph Valade, mentioned, 278.
- BIRD, Capt. Henry, mentioned, 33; sketch, 17; letter, 17-21.
- BIRD, Henry, witness, 19.
- BISHOP, Ann, wife of John Whistler, sketch, 362.
- BISHOP, Sir Edward, mentioned, 362.
- BISSHOPP, Col. Cecil, sketch, 738; service in War of 1812, 740, 753; killed, 767.
- BISSOT, Francis, mentioned, 28.
- BISSOT, Mary, wife of Claude Porlier, sketch, 28.
- BLACKWOOD, Thomas, letter, 176-78; trade difficulties, 176-78; sketch, 178.
- BLAKE, Dr. Charles, mentioned, 21; attorney for Bird, 17-19.
- BLAKE, Col. John, commands in Montreal, 65.
- BLANEY, Sergt. —, service in War of 1812, 717.
- BLEAKLEY (Blakeley), Josiah, mentioned, 202, 216-217, 230; sketch, 569.
- BLEAMIRE, Maj. William Bird, identified, 528.
- BLONDEAU, Geneviève, wife of Toussaint Adhémar *dit* St. Martin, mentioned, 37.
- BLONDEAU, Marie Madelaine, wife of Pierre Joseph Céloron de Blainville, sketch, 284.
- BLUE Jacket, mentioned, 34.
- BLUE Jacket, James, mentioned, 743.
- BLUE Jacket, Mary, wife of Jacques Lacelle, sketch, 34.
- BOATS, value of, 370-71, 399; construction, 152-53. *See also* individual boats.
- BOCQUET, Father Simple, mentioned, 32.
- BODIER, Mary, wife of Jacques Gaillard, identified, 194.
- BOERSTLER (Bustler), Col. Charles J., service in War of 1812, 764.
- BOLTON, Col. Mason, mentioned, 19.
- BONAPARTE, Napoleon, mentioned, 151, 167, 181, 220, 331, 407, 437, 442, 488-89, 500, 510, 513, 515, 541, 543, 735, 782.
- BOND, Lewis, sketch, 196-97.
- BOND, William, sketch, 392.
- BOND Lake (Ont.), named, 392.
- BONDY, —, mentioned, 258.
- BONDY, Mary Therese, wife of Gabriel GODFROY, sketch, 562.
- BONHOMME (Bonhomne), —, mentioned, 631, 639.
- BONNEAU, Jeanette, wife of Toussaint Dubois, mentioned, 202.
- BORDEAU, Veronica, wife of Simon Campau, mentioned, 479.
- BOSSERON, François, sketch, 281; estate, 345-46, 367.
- BOSTWICK, Col. Henry, identified, 712.
- BOUCHER, Margaret, wife of Toussaint Toupin, Sieur Dusault, sketch, 193.
- BOUCHERVILLE, Lt. Col. Pierre Amable de, mentioned, 568, 570; sketch, 762.
- BOUCHETTE, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 522, 532.
- BOUCHETTE, Mary Joseph, wife of Henry Berthelet *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- BOUCHETTE, Sophie, wife of William Elliott, sketch, 503.
- BOUCHETTE, Therese, wife of Thomas Hypolite Des Rivieres (first), and Robert Reynolds (second), sketch, 522.
- BOULLARD, Jane, wife of Francis Berthelet *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- BOURBON, House of, hold upon France.
- BOURGERY, Mary, wife of Louis Robert *dit* La Pomerai, sketch, 197.
- BOURGINIONE, —, value of house, 307.
- BOYER, —, mentioned, 190, 253; buys house, 778.
- BOYER, Archange, wife of Joseph Nicholas Gouin, mentioned, 748.
- BOYER, Therese, wife of Jean Baptiste Casse *dit* St. Aubin (first), and François Guillaume Dagneau de Quindre, Sieur de la Picanier (second), sketch, 123.
- BRADLEY, Stephen R., mentioned, 647.
- BRADY, Prudence, wife of Richard Smyth, sketch, 667.
- BRANT, Joseph, sketch, 140; letters, 311-12, 330; Cuyahoga Purchase, 320, 330, 333.
- BRANT, Molly, mentioned, 303, 754.
- BREVOORT, Henry B., sketch, 695.
- BREVOORT, Mary Ann, birth, 695.
- BREVOORT Farm, origin, 695.
- BRIAN, —, mentioned, 464.
- BRICKS, price, 197; clay at Ecorse River, 288.
- BRIDPORT, Viscount, *see* Hood, Alexander.
- BRIGHAM, Lucy M., wife of Abraham C. Truax, sketch, 685.
- BRILLANT, Catherine, *dit* Beaulieu, wife of Antoine Meny, mentioned, 464, 480.
- BRILLIAU, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Lesperance, mentioned, 323.
- BROCK, Sir Isaac, mentioned, 216, 280, 455, 589, 753, 771; sketch, 698; service

## INDEX

- in War of 1812, 714-21, 731, 735; death, 721, 747; succeeded by Sheaffe, 750.
- BROOKS, Cornelia Eleanor, wife of William Robertson, mentioned, 249; death, 297.
- BROW, —, mentioned, 677.
- BROWN, Dr. David, mentioned, 344.
- BROWN, Dr. William, mentioned, 517; sketch, 234-35; money due, 486; debt, 611; signs petition, 682.
- BRUSH, Alfred E., mentioned, 385.
- BRUSH, Charles, sketch, 539; death, 543.
- BRUSH, Charles R., marriage, 281; sketch, 539.
- BRUSH, Edmund Askin, mentioned, 410, 730, 750-51; sketch, 385.
- BRUSH, Elijah, mentioned, 281, 327, 380, 385, 390, 409-11, 423, 426, 453, 481, 485, 488, 490, 495, 499, 514-15, 517, 520, 534, 539, 552, 563, 571, 574, 577, 581-83, 606, 609, 627, 629, 636-38, 653, 658-59, 663, 678, 720, 729, 739, 756, 773; sketch, 370; characterized, 371, 374, 546, 641; attorney for: Askin, 390-91, 475-76, 513, Henry, 404-405, 500-501, 515, 543-44, 546, 625, Williams and Casety, 413-14, 458, 462, 632-33, Warren, 438, Cuyahoga Syndicate, 470-72, Robertson, 486, Todd and McGill, 545-46, 734; land: holdings, 406, 459-61, 526, 530-33, 633-34, 685, claims, 664-66; letters, 440-41, 471-72, 497-98, 654-55, 676-77, 729-30, 744; debts, 465, 497, 598, 610-12, 622-23, 646-47, 676-77, 705, 747; illness, 657, 743; service in War of 1812, 709, 724, 726, 730, 750-51; death, 776.
- BRUSH FARM, sale, 459-61, 530-33.
- BUCKWOOD, —, mentioned, 151.
- BUFFALO, skins used, 626, 628, 638, 661.
- BUISSON, Louis, mentioned, 499; sketch, 292.
- BUISSON, Coursolle and Co., debts, 292.
- BULLOCK, Capt. Richard, service in War of 1812, 719, 727; sketch, 771; steals slave, 772.
- BUNBURY, Capt. Joseph, sketch, 326-27.
- BUNTON, Robert, mentioned, 138.
- BURBANK, Capt. Jesse, mentioned, 564-65, 573, 578, 583, 628, 659; sketch, 537.
- BURGOYNE, Gen. John, mentioned, 362.
- BURKE, Father Edmund, mentioned, 112; sketch, 32-33; letter, 43.
- BURLINGTON BAY, located, 753.
- BURNET, Col. —, mentioned, 602.
- BURNET, Jacob, letter, 182-83; sketch, 183.
- BURNET, Lt. John, sketch, 487.
- BURNET, Dr. William, identified, 183.
- BURNETT, —, mentioned, 254.
- BURNS, —, agent for Selkirk, mentioned, 402, 404.
- BURNS, Col., —, mentioned, 602.
- BURNS, Alexander, sketch, 376.
- BURNS, Dr. David, sketch, 510.
- BURNSIDE, Dr. I—, assistant surgeon at St. Joseph, mentioned, 670, 695.
- BURR, Aaron, mentioned, 480.
- BURRELL, —, mentioned, 112.
- BURTON, Gen. —, mentioned, 506.
- CABAINSE, signs deed, 27.
- CADIAU, —, debt of Askin, 410.
- CADONET, Ursula, wife of Jean Baptiste Cascaguette, mentioned, 627.
- CADOTTE family, sketch, 606.
- CADOTTE, Jean Baptiste, supersedes Askin, 606.
- CADWALLADER, Gen. John, mentioned, 602.
- CALASH (*calèche*), definition, 118.
- CALDWELL, —, wounded, 776.
- CALDWELL, Thomas, marriage, 34.
- CALDWELL, Col. William, mentioned, 34, 217, 269, 306, 729; sketch, 173; pall-bearer for Harffy, 376; loss of 2000 acres, 494; service in War of 1812, 709, 728.
- CALDWELL, Capt. William (Billy), identified, 729.
- CALLAHAN (Calahan, Callaghan), Hugh, mentioned, 244; sketch, 237-38.
- CAMDEN, Earl of, *see* Pratt, John Jeffreys.
- CAMERON, Duncan, mentioned, 630, 670, 672, 772; sketch, 589.
- CAMPAU family, sketch, 684.
- CAMPAU (Campeau), —, mentioned, 383; sells sugar, 459.
- CAMPAU, Anthony, mentioned, 188, 511.
- CAMPAU, Jacques, mentioned, 432; sketch, 684.
- CAMPAU, Jane, wife of Étienne Benoit *dit* Livernois, sketch, 511.
- CAMPAU, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 14.
- CAMPAU, Jean Louis, mentioned, 684.
- CAMPAU, Joseph, mentioned, 464; partnership with John R. Williams, 383; witness, 434; sketch, 684.
- CAMPAU, Judith, wife of John Grant, 342.
- CAMPAU, Mary Archange, wife of John R. McDougall, sketch, 479-80.
- CAMPAU, Mary Cecilia, wife of Thomas Williams (first), and Jacques Lauzon (second), sketch, 383, 432; husband's estate, 431-34. *See also* Williams and Casety.
- CAMPAU, Mary Joseph, wife of William Bernard, sketch, 188.
- CAMPAU, Mary Therese, wife of Toussaint Chêne, sketch, 14.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- CAMPAU, Mary Therese, wife of Charles Andrew Barthe, sketch, 533.  
 CAMPAU, Simon, mentioned, 479.  
 CAMPAU and Williams, established, 383.  
 CAMPBELL, John, mentioned, 569; identified, 608; duel, 608-609.  
 CANTEBURY, Francis, mentioned, 144.  
 CAOUSA, Charles Chêne *dit*, *see* Chêne, Charles, *dit* Caousa.  
 CARDIN, François Louis, notary at Mackinac, 101-102.  
 CARDIN, Véronique, wife of Charles Sanguinet, marriage, 101.  
 CARDINAL, Jane, wife of Laurence Parent, mentioned, 779; sketch, 683.  
 CARLETON, Sir Guy (Lord Dorchester), mentioned, 19, 48, 220; sketch, 8; Askin's memorial to, 8-10; shipwrecked, 52.  
 CARMEL, Antoine Levasseur *dit*, *see* Levasseur, Antoine, *dit* Carmel.  
 CARMEL, Mary Charlotte Levasseur *dit*, *see* Levasseur, Mary Charlotte, *dit* Carmel.  
 CARQUEVILLE, Josephte Drouet de, wife of John Porteous, mentioned, 704.  
 CARTWRIGHT, —, mentioned, 232, 238, 246, 375; land certificate, 241.  
 CARTWRIGHT, Richard, mentioned, 45, 223, 510-11; sketch, 16; letter, 313; business with Askin, 144-47, 313; death of son, 699; executor for McGill, 776-77.  
 CARTWRIGHT, Thomas Robison, mentioned, 510-11.  
 CASCAGUETTE, Angélique, wife of Pierre Galerneau, sketch, 627.  
 CASCAGUETTE, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 627.  
 CASETY, John, sketch, 397; debt, 515. *See also* Williams and Casety.  
 CASS, Lewis, mentioned, 385, 456, 683, 722.  
 CASSE, Jean Baptiste, *dit* St. Aubin, mentioned, 123.  
 CASSE, Magdelaine, *dit* St. Aubin, wife of Pierre Nicholas Robert, sketch, 198.  
 CASSE, Mary Ann, *dit* St. Aubin, wife of Louis Renaud, mentioned, 683.  
 CASTLEREAGH, Viscount, *see* Stewart, Robert.  
 CATIN, Francis Achin *dit*, I, *see* Achin, Francis, *dit* Catin, I.  
 CATIN, Francis Achin *dit*, II, *see*, Achin, Francis, *dit* Catin, II.  
 CATIN, Michael, *dit* Baron, sketch, 189-90; logger, 208-209.  
 CAWDELL, James M., sketch, 692; quarrel with Askin, 692-93; goes to Burmuda, 697.  
 CÉLORON de Blainville, Jean Baptiste, sketch, 284.  
 CÉLORON de Blainville, Pierre Joseph, sketch, 284.  
 CÉLORON Island, named, 284.  
 CHABERT (Shabert), Col. —, mentioned, 194.  
 CHABERT, Daniel de Joncaire de, mentioned, 113; sketch, 101.  
 CHABERT, Francis de Joncaire de, mentioned, 727; sketch, 113-14; marriage, 448.  
 CHABERT, Margaret de Joncaire de, wife of Alexis Maisonville, sketch, 101.  
 CHABERT, Margaret de Joncaire de, wife of Jean Baptiste Beaugrand, II, sketch, 727.  
 CHABOLLEZ (Chabouillez), Charles, clerk and storekeeper at St. Joseph, 398-99 534, 545, 553-54.  
 CHABOLLEZ, Marie Marguerite, wife of Simon McTavish, sketch, 24.  
 CHABOT, Count —, mentioned, 606, 608.  
 CHAMBERS, Maj. Peter Latouche, sketch, 711; service in War of 1812, 712-15, 717, 721, 723-25, 727-28.  
 CHANAZART, Margaret, wife of Louis Gaillard, sketch, 194.  
 CHANDLER, Gen. John, sketch, 758.  
 CHAPOTON, Catherine, wife of Antoine Dequindre, sketch, 684-85.  
 CHAPOTON, Jane, wife of Paul Dumouchel, sketch, 279.  
 CHAPOTON, Jean, mentioned, 279.  
 CHAPOTON, Louisa Clothilda, wife of Jacques Godfroy, mentioned, 601.  
 CHAPOTON, Louis, mentioned, 684.  
 CHAPOTON, Mary Catherine Angélique, wife of George Meldrum, mentioned, 409, 778-79.  
 CHARLO, mentioned, 255; land claims, 529.  
 CHARLOTTE Augusta Matilda, Princess Royal, marriage to Frederick, Prince of Würtemberg, 107.  
 CHARLOTTE Sophia, Queen, birthday celebrated, 588.  
 CHARTIER, Jane, wife of Antoine Berthelot, sketch, 532.  
 CHARTIER, René, mentioned, 532.  
 CHASE, Judge Samuel, impeachment trial, 454-55.  
 CHAUVIN, Helene, wife of Regis Loisel, sketch, 177.  
 CHAWINABAI, signs deed, 27.  
 CHENIQUY (Chennequy, Chiniquy), —, imprisoned, 577; at St. Joseph, 592-93.  
 CHÈNE family, sketch, 14, 448.  
 CHÈNE, —, mentioned, 370.  
 CHÈNE, Charles, mentioned, 448.

## INDEX

- CHÈNE, Charles, *dit* Caousa, mentioned, 14, 188.
- CHÈNE, Elizabeth, wife of George Lyons (first), and George Knaggs (second), marriage, 120.
- CHÈNE, Isidore, mentioned, 113; sketch, 448.
- CHÈNE, Mary Catherine, *dit* Labutte, wife of Charles Stanislas Dagneau de Quindre *dit* Fontenoy, sketch, 123.
- CHÈNE, Mary Josette, wife of Francis de Joncaire de Chabert, mentioned, 727; sketch, 113-14, 448.
- CHÈNE, Toussaint, sketch, 14.
- CHESAPEAKE, attack by *Leopard*, 566, 595.
- CHEVALIER, Constance, wife of Joseph Ainse (first), and François Louis Cardin (second), mentioned, 102.
- CHEW, John, mentioned, 754; identified, 528.
- CHEW, Joseph, identified, 528.
- CHEW, William Johnson, sketch, 754.
- CHEWENISIE, signs deed, 26.
- CHICAGO, massacre of 1812, 727-28.
- CHIMONDOQUE, signs deed, 12.
- CHIPPEWA, *see* Indians.
- CHITTENDEN, Benjamin, mentioned, 370.
- CHOATTS and Sanford, debt to Askin, 34.
- CHOISER, —, debt, 650.
- CHRISTIANCY, Sen. Isaac P., marriage, 562.
- CHRISTIE, Gen. Gabriel, mentioned, 506; identified, 181.
- CHULLE, Amable, *dit* Belair, sketch, 725; service in War of 1812, 725-26.
- CHULLE, Jean Pierre, *dit* Belair, sketch, 725.
- CHURCH of England, pew regulations, 32.
- CHURCH of the Huron, *see* Assumption Church.
- CICOTTE, Francis of Assisi, sketch, 636; rents Peltier farm, 640.
- CICOTTE, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 636.
- CICOTTE, Zacharias, mentioned, 636.
- CLAMORGAN, Jacques, sketch, 216.
- CLAMORGAN, Loisel and Co., mentioned, 569; debts, 216-17, 230.
- CLARK, —, mentioned, 438.
- CLARK, Daniel, Sr., mentioned, 138, 231.
- CLARK, Daniel, Jr., letter, 137-38; sketch, 138-39; money due, 143-44.
- CLARK, George Rogers, mentioned, 113, 197, 281, 284, 439, 651.
- CLARK, Jane Isabella, wife of Col. Samuel Smith, sketch, 376.
- CLARK, Col. Thomas, mentioned, 387-88, 550; sketch, 302-303; builds Kentucky boat, 343, 353; attorney for Ogilvie, 567; trade in flour, 568; wounded, 767.
- CLARK, William, attorney for Ogilvie, 567.
- CLARKE, —, comes to Niagara, 382.
- CLARKE, Capt. —, militia duty, 389.
- CLARKE, James Freeman, identified, 455.
- CLARKE, Samuel, mentioned, 382.
- CLARKE, Dr. Samuel, marriage, 455.
- CLARKE, Thomas Alexander, mentioned, 302.
- CLAUS, Daniel, mentioned, 350.
- CLAUS, Col. William, mentioned, 572, 600, 607; sketch, 350.
- CLEAVELAND, Moses, founds Cleveland, 46.
- CLEMENS, Christian, sketch, 495-96; performs marriage ceremony, 675.
- CLEMENS, Garret, sketch, 495.
- CLENCH, Joseph, marriage, 33.
- CLENCH (Clinch), Ralph, sketch, 33; election to Parliament, 302.
- CLERK (Clerke, Clark), Col. Alexander, mentioned, 344; sketch, 758.
- CLEVELAND (O.), founded, 46.
- CLINTON, Sir Henry, mentioned, 23.
- COATES, Mrs. Ann, tavern keeper, 291.
- COATES, John, sketch, 291.
- COCHRANE, Thomas, identified, 441.
- COCKBURN, Archdeacon —, mentioned, 487.
- COCKBURN, Elizabeth, wife of Henry Procter, sketch, 487.
- COFFIN, Margaret, wife of Sir Roger Hall Sheaffe, sketch, 750.
- COLT, —, mentioned, 148.
- COMMERCIAL Company for the Discovery of Nations of the Upper Missouri, organized, 33; Clamorgan's rôle, 216.
- CONNECTICUT Western Reserve, Buffalo Creek meeting, 46; Indian title, 190-91.
- CONNELLY, Catherine, birth, 495.
- CONNELLY, John, sketch, 495.
- CONNELLY, Will, mentioned, 495.
- CONNOLLY, —, carpenter, 444.
- CONNER, —, mentioned, 477.
- CONNOR, Richard, mentioned, 613; trouble with Indian lands, 206-207; sketch, 310; Moravian lands, 310, 329; sells land to Clemens, 496.
- COOPER, Lt. Robert, mentioned, 217.
- CORNWALL, John, mentioned, 258; sketch, 103; Chippewa grant, 102-104.
- CORNWALL, Capt. Richard, sketch, 463.
- CORNWALLIS, Lord Charles, second Earl and first Marquis, mentioned, 251; sketch, 58.
- COTÉ family, sketch, 685.
- COTÈ, Antoine (Joseph), witness, 322-23; signs document, 682; sketch, 685.
- COTÉ, Prisque (Priscus), I, sketch, 685.
- COTÉ, Prisque, II, signs document, 682; sketch, 685.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- COTTRELL (Cotteral), —, marriage to Eleanor Grant reported, 676.  
 COTTRELL, George, sketch, 356; marriage, 464.  
 COUILLARD, Mary, wife of Francis Bissot, mentioned, 28.  
 COURVILLE, Michel, sketch, 292.  
 COUTURE, Mary, wife of Gabriel Jacques Godfroy, mentioned, 601.  
 COUVILLON, Jean Baptiste, witness, 322.  
 COUVILLON (Couvillion), Margaret, wife of Jean Anigrothe (first), and Simon Drouillard (second), signs marriage contract, 322; sketch, 323.  
 COWAN, Capt. David, mentioned, 360, 388-89, 564, 585; sketch, 151; testifies, 222; letter, 375-78; executor for Harffy, 502.  
 COWAN, George, death on *Speedy*, 441.  
 COWAN, Mary, wife of William Smith, sketch, 280.  
 COWELL, Capt. Robert, mentioned, 356; house burns, 368; sketch, 344.  
 COX, Lt. Col. —, mentioned, 540.  
 COX, Thomas, sketch, 19.  
 COX and Greenwood, mentioned, 52, 109.  
 COZENS, —, hatter, comes to Detroit, 332.  
 CRADOCK (Craddock), Lt. Hedges, identified, 590.  
 CRAIG, Sir James Henry, mentioned, 606; identified, 602.  
 CRAIGNOIR, —, mentioned, 390.  
 CRAWFORD, Lewis, mentioned, 590, 592, 628, 691-93, 733; sketch, 576; characterized, 584.  
 CRAWFORD, Redford, duel with Campbell, 608; goes to the Mississippi, 661; death, 688.  
 CRÉQUI, Jean Aide *dit*, see Aide, Jean, *dit* Créqui.  
 CRÉTI (Creaty, Créqui), Jean Baptiste, sketch, 464.  
 CREVIER, Father Joseph, mentioned, 111.  
 CROGHAN, Col. George, mentioned, 262, 495, 645, 716.  
 CROOKS, Joan, wife of William Procter, mentioned, 711.  
 CROOKS, Ramsay, mentioned, 711.  
 CROOKS, Capt. William, sketch, 711; service in the War of 1812, 713.  
 CROOKSHANK, Miss —, mentioned, 486.  
 CROOKSHANK, Rachel, wife of Dr. James Macaulay, sketch, 351.  
 CROSS, Capt. Joseph, identified, 577.  
 CROWN lands, regulations, 22-23, 29, 90-91, 100-102.  
 CRUICKSHANK (Cruckshank), Robert, creditor of Williams and Casety, 431, 433.  
 CRUICKSHANK and Arnoldie, mentioned, 633.  
 CUILLERIER, Angelica, *dit* Beaubien, wife of Claude Cyprian Porlier, sketch, 28.  
 CUILLERIER, Geneviève, *dit* Beaubien, wife of Jean Baptiste Barthe, I, sketch, 722.  
 CUILLERIER, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Beaubien, I, mentioned, 114; sketch, 683.  
 CUILLERIER, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Beaubien, II, sketch, 683.  
 CUILLERIER, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Beaubien, III, signs document, 682; sketch, 683.  
 CUILLERIER, Mary Joseph, *dit* Beaubien, wife of Claude Jean Thomas Gouin, sketch, 748.  
 CURRY, Charles, mentioned, 276, 671; arbitrator, 537.  
 CURRY, Peter, sketch, 43-44.  
 CUSTOMS, duty on liquor and tea, 287, 403; first inspector appointed for Detroit, 287; at St. Joseph, 648; collections in Detroit, 666-67.  
 CUTLER, Manasseh, mentioned, 457.  
 CUYAHOGA, captured by British, 747.  
 CUYAHOGA Purchase, participants and extent, 5-8; contemplated sale, 68-70, 272, 297-98, 311, 320, 325, 330, 333, 453, 458, 462, 465-66, 470-71.  
 CUYLER, Lt. Col. Abraham, sketch, 221; letter, 218-21; advised against business in Detroit, 247-48.  
 CUYLER, Cornelius, mentioned, 221; sketch, 220.  
 DAINE, John, mentioned, 459-60; witness, 449.  
 DALY (Daily, Dealy), William, mentioned, 149, 159; contract with Askin, 152-53, 165-66, 187.  
 DANEAU, Pierre Charles, Sieur de Muy, marriage, 732-33.  
 DARRAGH, Capt. Archibald, sketch, 673.  
 DAVID, —, makes plow, 659-60; property siezed by Hull, 710.  
 DAVID, Dr. —, at St. Joseph, 590.  
 DAVID, Charlotte, mentioned, 645.  
 DAVID, D—, mentioned, 779.  
 DAVID, Moses, sketch, 645.  
 DAVID, Stone and Co., mentioned, 733.  
 DAVIGNON, Mary Frances, *dit* Beaugard, wife of Jean Francis (Phénon) Toupin *dit* Dusault, sketch, 194.  
 DAWSON, Ensign Erwin, mentioned, 640; identified, 635.  
 DAWSON, Capt. Thomas, mentioned, 640-41, 772, 775; sketch, 635; quarrel with Askin, 606, 652, 655-57, 670.  
 DAWSON, Mrs. Thomas, mentioned, 693.  
 DEAN, Maj. —, negotiations for Cuyahoga Purchase, 453-54, 462; fraud discovered, 465-66.

## INDEX

- DEARBORN, Gen. Henry, expected at Montreal, 734.
- DEBT, imprisonment, 319-20, 326-27, 329-30, 348-49, 557-58, 560-61; collection, 344-47, 431-34, 489, 501-503, 505, 513; lenity to soldiers, 348-49; proposed regulations, 477-78; method of payment, 550.
- DEDINE, ———, mentioned, 538, 566; land claims, 529.
- DEDINE, Mrs. ———, mentioned, 529.
- DEHAREN, Col. Peter W., sketch, 764; service in War of 1812, 764-65.
- DEJEAN, Philip, indictment, 526.
- DELIENNES, Mary, *dit* Belanger, wife of Jean Baptiste Jerome, sketch, 267, 725.
- DELISLE, Catherine, wife of Jean Aide *dit* Créqui, sketch, 464.
- DELISLE, Louis, mentioned, 464.
- DELLARD, Mary Anne, wife of Jean Baptiste Prudhomme *dit* Nantais, mentioned, 685.
- DELORME, Francis Fafard *dit*, *see* Fafard, Francis, *dit* Delorme.
- DELORME, Margaret, wife of René Chartier, mentioned, 532.
- DELORME, Mary Magdelaine Fafard *dit*, *see* Fafard, Mary Magdelaine, *dit* Delorme.
- DELORME, Pierre Lucian Simon *dit*, *see* Simon, Pierre Lucian, *dit* Delorme.
- DELORME, Ursula Simon *dit*, *see* Simon, Ursula, *dit* Delorme.
- DEMOCRATIC Free Press, founded, 384.
- DENKEY (Denke, Dencke), Christian Frederick, mentioned, 336-37; sketch, 303-304; letter, 381-82; on Harsen's Island, 381-82.
- DENKEY, Mrs. Christian Frederick, missionary activities, 304.
- DE PEYSTER, Col. Arent S., mentioned, 18, 33, 172, 221, 262; sketch, 174; performs marriage ceremony, 283, 432; letters, 382-83, 407-408; baptises John R. Williams, 383.
- DE PEYSTER, Arent Schuyler, land claims, 171-72; sketch, 172-73.
- DE PEYSTER, Mrs. Arent Schuyler, mentioned, 173-74, 382, 407, 478-79.
- DEPUIS, Jane, wife of Philip Robert, sketch, 197.
- DEQUINDRE, *see also* Quindre.
- DEQUINDRE family, sketch, 123.
- DEQUINDRE, Adelaide, wife of Joseph Campau, sketch, 684.
- DEQUINDRE, Maj. Antoine, signs petition, 682; sketch, 684-85.
- DEQUINDRE, Antoine (Dagneau), sketch, 684.
- DEQUINDRE Farm, 684.
- DEQUINDRE Street, named, 684.
- DERENZY (Derenzie), Capt. William, mentioned, 629; sketch, 584.
- DERINEAU, Louis, debts, 212-14.
- DESBUTES, Jean Baudry *dit*, *dit* St. Martin, *see* Baudry, Jean, *dit* Desbutes *dit* St. Martin.
- DESBUTES, Margaret, *dit* St. Martin, wife of Louis Joseph Toupin, sketch, 193.
- DESBUTES, Mary Archange Baudry *dit*, *dit* St. Martin, *see* Baudry, Mary Archange, *dit* Desbutes *dit* St. Martin.
- DESCOMPS, Margaret, *dit* Labadie, wife of James May, mentioned, 563.
- DESCOMPS, Mary Joseph, *dit* Labadie, wife of Charles Chêne *dit* Caousa, mentioned, 14.
- DESCOMPS, Mary Joseph, *dit* Labadie, wife of Whittmore Knaggs, marriage, 120.
- DESERTION, from British army, 49, 316-18, from U. S., 115-21.
- DES GRANGES, Louisa, wife of Louis Delisle, mentioned, 464.
- DESGRANGES, Zulime, alliance with Clark, 138-39.
- DESHÊTRES, Jeanne, wife of Bonaventure Réaume, sketch, 732.
- DES RIVIÈRES, François, mentioned, 178, bequest from McGill, 782.
- DES RIVIÈRES, James McGill, mentioned 777; identified, 522.
- DES RIVIÈRES, Thomas Hypolite, sketch, 522.
- DESSALINES, Emperor, mentioned, 529.
- DETROIT, Hamtramck commands, 49; prohibition, 49; British subjects, 112-14; needs army, 115; first mayor, 165; incorporated, 370, 374, 680; fire of 1805: reconstruction, 456, 474, 497-98, 526, fire, 479, 481; taxes, 484; society, 537-40, 590; War of 1812, 566, 570-71, 716-20, 728; business 647, 676-77; customs, 667-67; commons, 680-83; intemperance, 744. *See also* education.
- DETROIT, captain's expense account, 43-45.
- DICKSON, ———, mentioned, 96, 502, 600; service in War of 1812, 729.
- DICKSON, Robert, mentioned, 211, 572, 609, 688, 694; sketch, 428-29; letter, 428; purchase of *Saguinah*, 482; debts, 485, 505, 514-16, 526; difficulties with Wilkinson, 499-500; avoids customs, 696; service in War of 1812, 713, 761-62.
- DICKSON (Dixon), Thomas, mentioned, 140, 407, 446, 485, 487, 517, 527, 590, 656, 688; marriage, 266; sketch, 428.



BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- DICKSON, William, I, mentioned, 445-46, 567, 637; sketch, 302, 428; duel with Weekes, 481.
- DICKSON, William, II, identified, 429.
- DILLON, Peter Joseph, sketch, 244-45; letter, 244-45; contract, 294-96.
- DILLON, Mrs. Peter Joseph, mentioned, 245.
- DISTILLERY, in Detroit, 310-11; Askin to erect, 314; operation, 361; equipment, 390.
- DIXON, Lt. —, quarrel with Askin, 670.
- DOBIE (Dobé), Richard, mentioned, 181.
- DODEMEAD, Ann, wife of Samuel T. Dyson (first), and Charles Jackson (second), sketch, 539.
- DODEMEAD, Elizabeth, wife of Charles Jouett, marriage, 472.
- DODEMEAD, James, signs petition, 682; sketch, 683.
- DODEMEAD, John, mentioned, 539, 683; sketch, 5; land, 5-8, 68-70, 479; signs petition, 113, 682; sues Col. Strong, 165, 204; buys bricks, 196-97.
- DOLSEN, —, absconds, 192; land claims passed, 260.
- DOLSEN, Elizabeth, wife of James Forsyth, sketch, 639.
- DOLSEN, Isaac, mentioned, 639.
- DOLSEN (Dolson), Matthew, mentioned, 159, 742; sketch, 315.
- DONOVAN, —, mentioned, 264; death, 499.
- DONOVAN, Matthew, mentioned, 390, 396; sketch, 155-56; tuition bill, 155, 426; misconduct, 265-66; letters, 265-66, 423-24.
- DONOVAN, Richard, mentioned, 502; sketch, 77; witness, 77, 503.
- DORCHESTER, Lord, *see* Carleton, Sir Guy.
- DORR, Melvin, marriage, 409.
- DOTY, James D., mentioned, 197.
- DOUGHTY, William, mentioned, 566.
- DOUGLAS, —, mentioned, 438.
- DOUGLAS, Sir Howard, sketch, 542.
- DOUGLAS, Thomas, Earl of Selkirk identified, 404; trouble at Baldoon, 446; Red River colony, 589, 660.
- DOUGLASS, —, house burned, 737.
- DOUSMAN, Hercules L., identified, 733.
- DOUSMAN, John, identified, 733.
- DOUSMAN (Douseman), Michael, sketch, 733.
- DOYLE, Maj. —, in Montreal, 65.
- DOYON, Louisa, wife of Jean Baudry *dit* Desbutte *dit* St. Martin, mentioned, 193.
- DRAKE, Capt. John, sketch, 33; letters, 155, 361.
- DRAKE, Roderick, marriage, 217.
- DRING, Sarah Jane, wife of William Macomb, mentioned, 283; property, 479.
- DROUILLARD family, sketch, 323.
- DROUILLARD, Charles, sketch, 683-84.
- DROUILLARD, Jean, mentioned, 323.
- DROUILLARD (Drouilliard), Jean Baptiste, witness, 322.
- DROUILLARD (Drouilliard), Joseph, witness, 322-23.
- DROUILLARD, Josette, wife of Jean Baptiste Rousson, witness, 323.
- DROUILLARD (Drouilliard), Louis Baptiste, witness, 322-23.
- DROUILLARD, Louisa, wife of Louis Lognon, sketch, 683-84.
- DROUILLARD, Mary Elizabeth, wife of Jean Vallé *dit* Versailles, mentioned, 685.
- DROUILLARD, Pierre, mentioned, 323.
- DROUILLARD (Drouilliard), Simon Amable, witness, 322; sketch, 323.
- DROUILLARD, Simon, II, sketch, 323; marriage contract, 323-25.
- DRURY, Ensign —, killed, 758.
- DUBOIS, —, buys land, 512.
- DUBOIS, Dorothea, wife of Étienne Biguet *dit* Nobert, sketch, 259.
- DUBOIS, François, loses Askin's boots, 500.
- DUBOIS, Fred T., identified, 203.
- DUBOIS, James, mentioned, 203.
- DUBOIS, Jesse K., identified, 203.
- DUBOIS, Louis, debts, 284.
- DUBOIS, Nicholas, debts, 284.
- DUBOIS, Thomas, mentioned, 203.
- DUBOIS, Toussaint, mentioned, 280, 282, 397, 421, 651; sketch, 202-203; business relations with Askin, 253-54, 345-46, 367, 419; Vigo's debts, 503-504, 518-19, 621.
- DUBOIS County (Ind.), derivation of name, 203.
- DUBORD, Pierre, winterer, 206.
- DUCHÊNE, Magdelene Gastinon *dit*, *see* Gastinon, Magdelene, *dit* Duchêne.
- DUDEVOIR, Mary Joseph, wife of Laurence Eustache Gamelin, mentioned, 282.
- DUELING, mentioned, 528; White *vs.* Small, 277-78; Lacelle *vs.* Williams, 383-84; Dickson *vs.* Weekes, 481; Crawford *vs.* Campbell, 608-609.
- DUFAUX, Father François Xavier, mentioned, 111; sketch, 32.
- DUFF, —, mentioned, 572, 591, 594, 644.
- DUFF, Alexander, I, mentioned, 444, 527, 594; attorney for Bird, 21; sketch, 338; slave, 389; death, 626, 628.
- DUFF, Alexander II, birth, 528.

## INDEX

- DUFF, James, birth, 528.  
 DUFF, Robert, birth, 528.  
 DUFF, Rev. William, mentioned, 338.  
 DUFF, William, mentioned, 565, 573, 696; sketch, 527-28.  
 DUFFIELD, Mrs. —, saves Fitzgibbon's life, 765.  
 DUFOUR, Catiche, wife of Joseph Drouillard, witness, 323.  
 DUFRESNE, —, mentioned, 42, 46, 160.  
 DUFROS, Mary Louisa, wife of Ignatius Gamelin, mentioned, 28.  
 DUGGAN, Thomas, mentioned, 398; sketch, 368; store-keeper, 368-69.  
 DUGUAY, Jacques, *dit* Marentette, mentioned, 779.  
 DUGUAY, Margaret, *dit* Marentette, wife of Jacques Godet, sketch, 779.  
 DUHAMEL, Mary Angelica, wife of Jean Baptiste Bouchette, mentioned, 532.  
 DUMAS, Parentt and Co., mentioned, 482.  
 DUMOUCHEL (Demouchell, Desmouchelle, Dimouchelle, etc.), Bernard, *dit* La-roche, sketch, 278-79.  
 DUMOUCHEL, Louis Joseph, sketch, 279.  
 DUMOUCHEL, Louis Vital, sketch, 279.  
 DUMOUCHEL, Paul, I, sketch, 278-79.  
 DUMOUCHEL, Paul, II, sketch, 279.  
 DUNCAN, —, mentioned, 539, 566.  
 DUNCAN, Admiral Adam, sketch, 129.  
 DUNDAS, Henry, Viscount Melville, mentioned, 589.  
 DUNHAM, Capt. Josiah, sketch, 537.  
 DUPERON, Jacques Baby *dit*, *see* Baby, Jacques, *dit* Duperon.  
 DUPLESSY, François Xavier Moreau *dit*, *see* Moreau, François Xavier, *dit* Duplessy.  
 DURETTE (Duret, Durett), Antoine, sketch, 683.  
 DURETTE, Charles, sketch, 683.  
 DURETTE, Jacques, sketch, 683.  
 DURETTE, Jean Baptiste, I, sketch, 683.  
 DURETTE, Jean Baptiste, II, signs petition, 682; sketch, 683.  
 DURETTE, Jean Baptiste, III, goes to West Point, 683.  
 DURHAM, —, captured by French, 109.  
 DUSAULT, Sieur, *see* Toupin, Toussaint.  
 DUSAULT (Dusaut, Dusau), Jean Francis (Phénon) Toupin *dit*, *see* Toupin, Jean Francis (Phénon), *dit* Dusault.  
 DUVAL family, sketch, 132-33.  
 DUVAL, Ignatius Joachim Thuot *dit*, *see* Thuot, Ignatius Joachim, *dit* Duval.  
 DUVAL, Mary Louisa, wife of Pierre Edmund Thuot, sketch, 132.  
 DUVAL, Thomas Ignatius Thuot *dit*, *see* Thuot, Thomas Ignatius *dit* Duval.  
 DYSON, Jane, mentioned, 539.  
 DYSON, Capt. Samuel T., mentioned 537, 672; sketch, 539; debt, 552.  
 DYSON, Samuel T., II, mentioned, 539.  
 EAST India Co., arrangement with North West Co., 698.  
 EASTMAN, Jonathan, sketch, 537.  
 EBERTS, Dr. Herman, sketch, 113, 656-57.  
 EBERTS, Dr. Joseph, sketch, 656-57.  
 ECHAWET, signs deed, 26.  
 EDUCATION, tuition, 155-56, 294-95, 357, 423-24, 426; house offered for school, 243-44; schoolmaster's contract, 294-96; curriculum, 294, 357, 361-62; tutors, 378; Hamilton children go to Scotland, 637.  
 EDWARDS, —, tenant of John Askin Jr., farm troubles, 593, 627, 630, 638-39, 644-45, 650, 679.  
 EDWARDS, William, mentioned, 243; sketch, 304.  
 ELECTIONS, in Upper Canada, 298-303.  
 ELLIOT, —, mentioned, 645.  
 ELLIOT, Alexander, sketch, 726.  
 ELLIOT, Col. Matthew, mentioned, 593, 726; sketch, 173; dismissed from Indian Department, 273; candidate for representative, 299; militia duty, 389, 521-22, 709; slave, 389; service in War of 1812, 723-24, 727, 729, 731.  
 ELLIOT, Capt. Matthew, Jr., mentioned, 716; service in War of 1812, 721.  
 ELLIOTT, Capt. —, mentioned, 585; service in War of 1812, 725, 728.  
 ELLIOTT, Capt. G. A., service in War of 1812, 775.  
 ELLIOTT, Robert, birth, 503.  
 ELLIOTT (Allet), Capt. William, mentioned, 461, 600; sketch, 503; attorney for Monforton, 561; service in War of 1812, 724.  
 ELLIS, Sally P., wife of Jacob Kingsbury, sketch, 673.  
 ELORA (Ont.), founded, 212.  
 EMBARGO Act, 601-602, 625.  
 EMSLEY, John, sketch, 78, 308.  
 ENGLAND, Lt. Col. Richard G., mentioned, 18, 35, 65, 781; sketch, 9; leaves Detroit, 42, 46-47; letters, 47-48, 51-53, 107-10; captured by French, 72, 107-108; member of Land Board, 683.  
 ENGLAND, Richard, Jr., sketch, 107.  
 ENGLAND, living expenses, 20; political conditions, 20, 58, 71-72, 105-108, 128-29, 181, 184, 220, 250-51, 275-76, 331, 437, 541; indifference to War of 1812, 741.  
 ERMATINGER, Charles Oakes, sketch, 645.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- ERMATINGER, Edward, identified, 645.  
 ERMATINGER, Francis, identified, 645.  
 ERMATINGER, George, mentioned, 645.  
 ERMATINGER, Lawrence Edward, mentioned, 645.  
 ERNEST, Capt. Matthew, mentioned, 257, 461, 480, 486, 512; sketch, 114; commissary, 164; letter, 287; inspector of revenue, 287; engages schoolmaster, 294-96; disappears, 521.  
 ERSKIN, James, search for brother, 341.  
 ERSKINE, David Montagu, Lord, sketch, 602; influence upon land law, 602-603.  
 ERSKINE, Thomas, Lord, mentioned, 602.  
 ESTÈVE, Mary Magdelene, wife of Jean Chapoton, mentioned, 279.  
 ETGOMINUS, signs deed, 12.  
 EVANS, Gen. Thomas, sketch, 756.  
 EWING, —, mentioned, 512.
- FAFARD, Francis, *dit* Delorme, sketch, 225.  
 FAFARD, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Laframboise, mentioned, 225; witness, 322-23.  
 FAFARD, Mary Magdelaine, *dit* Delorme, wife of Prudent Robert *dit* Lafontaine, sketch, 198.  
 FAGO, —, estate, 515.  
 FAIRFIELD, Dr. —, service in War of 1812, 725.  
 "FAMILY Pact," 300.  
 FASHIONS, 60, 86-87, 128, 185.  
 FAUVEL, Mary Joseph Bigras *dit*, see Bigras, Mary Joseph, *dit* Fauvel.  
 FAWCETT, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 775.  
 FEARING, Paul, Congressional delegate, 681.  
 FEARSON, Felicity, wife of George Johnston, mentioned, 45.  
 FEARSON, Capt. John, mentioned, 436, 459-60, 565, 583, 639, 679; sketch, 45; operates *Saguinah*, 333, 399-401; sale of *Saguinah*, 507-508; goes to Chicago, 630-31; commands the *Ellen*, 668; winters at St. Joseph, 672.  
 FEARSON, Mary Julia, wife of William Whistler, mentioned, 45.  
 FEARSON, Victoria, wife of William Watson, mentioned, 45.  
 FERÉ's mill, 123.  
 FERRY, M—, land claims, 122.  
 FERRY, Askin's license to operate, 129-30.  
 FIELD (Fields), Capt. Daniel (Donald), mentioned, 76, 663; sketch, 68.  
 FINDLEY (Findlay), Col. James, sketch, 729.  
 "FIRELANDS," granted by Congress, 453-54.
- FISH, white, 554, 574, 583, 592; scarcity at St. Joseph, 569; salmon, 578; trout, pickerel, sturgeon, and muskellunge used by Indians, 589, 591.  
 FISHER, defined, 118.  
 FITZGERALD, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 738.  
 FITZGIBBON, Lt. James, sketch, 764; service in War of 1812, 764-65.  
 FLAGG, Elizabeth, wife of Stanley Griswold, sketch, 456.  
 FLEET, James, sketch, 222; letter, 222-23.  
 FLEMING, Capt. William, sketch, 376.  
 FLOURNOY, —, mentioned, 356.  
 FONTENOY, Charles Stanislas Dagneau de Quindre *dit*, see Quindre, Charles Stanislas Dagneau de, *dit* Fontenoy.  
 FORSYTH, Alice Marion Sophia, wife of Maj. Thomas Hunt, mentioned, 281.  
 FORSYTH, Ann, mentioned, 718.  
 FORSYTH, Duncan Chambers, birth, 718.  
 FORSYTH, Elizabeth, wife of George Nelson, marriage, 718.  
 FORSYTH, George, birth, 718.  
 FORSYTH, James, mentioned, 718; sketch, 639.  
 FORSYTH, Jane C., wife of Charles R. Brush, marriage, 281.  
 FORSYTH, John, connection with North West Co., 180. See also Forsyth, Richardson and Co.  
 FORSYTH, Margaret (Margarethe) Eleanor, birth, 718.  
 FORSYTH, Maria, wife of Benjamin Kercheval, birth, 281.  
 FORSYTH, Robert, I, sketch, 280-81.  
 FORSYTH, Robert, II, identified, 281.  
 FORSYTH, Thomas, mentioned, 211, 292; sketch, 639.  
 FORSYTH, William, I, mentioned 639, 718; sketch, 280; property in Detroit, 479.  
 FORSYTH, William, II, sketch, 718.  
 FORSYTH, William, III, baptism, 718.  
 FORSYTH, Richardson and Co., mentioned, 52, 257, 280, 311, 497, 635, 643-44, 657; letter, 444-45.  
 FORT Belle Fontaine, established, 673.  
 FORT Dearborn, built, 362.  
 FORT Lernoult, surrenders, 719-20.  
 FORT Malden, construction, 83, 217-18, 222, 224-25, 257-59, 264-65, 268-70, 273-74, 318-19.  
 FORT Niagara, captured, 774-76.  
 FORTY Mile Creek, located, 753.  
 FOURNIER, Antoine, mentioned, 132.  
 FOURNIER, Mary, wife of Pierre Thuot, sketch, 132.  
 FOURTH U. S. Infantry, in War of 1812, 720.

## INDEX

- FRANCE, political conditions, 20, 437; war with England, 58, 97, 105-109, 128-29, 181; suspected of plan to invade Northwest, 115-16; ceded Louisiana, 139.
- FRANCOEUR, —, logger for Askin, 208-209.
- FRANCOEUR, Augustin, wreck of *Annette*, 174-76.
- FRASER, James, mentioned, 19, 268, 414, 778; sketch, 314; attorney for Williams and Casety, 394-95, 397-98, 431-33, 631-33; drunkenness, 396; illness, 404, 410; wife destitute, 458; letters, 582-83, 631-33; troubles with Galerneau, 627, 630-31, 633, 639, 641, 657; sells land, 663.
- FRASER, Mrs. James, insane and destitute, 458.
- FRECHETTE, Father Pierre, mentioned, 32.
- FREDERICK, Prince of Würtemberg, marriage to Charlotte Augusta Matilda, Princess Royal, 107.
- FRENCH Canadians, in War of 1812, 709-10.
- FRENCH bushel, defined, 402.
- FRERO, —, mentioned, 355.
- FROBISHER, —, mentioned, 570, 653; illness, 662; friendship with Henry, 674.
- FROBISHER, Benjamin, mentioned, 691.
- FROBISHER, Joseph, mentioned, 331, 625, 691; sketch, 24; retires from North West Co., 274-75.
- FRY, Capt. —, killed, 736.
- FRY (Frey), Lt. Phillip R., sketch, 328.
- FULLER, —, mentioned, 714.
- FULLER, Sarah, wife of William Hull, sketch, 455.
- FUNERAL, cost of, 25, 790; of Dr. Harffy, 375-78.
- FUR trade, 181, 275, 297, 334, 374-75, 499-500, 516, 543; insurance, 135; Embargo and Non-Importation acts, 602.
- FURNITURE, dimensions for table, 475.
- GADOIS, Frances, wife of Nicholas Godet, sketch, 779.
- GAILLARD (Galliard, Gailliard), Jacques, identified, 194.
- GAILLARD, Louis, sketch, 194.
- GAILLARD, Louis Jean, sketch, 194; mill farm, 194, 197-200.
- GAINES, Gen. E. P., marriage, 138.
- GALERNEAU (Gallerneau, Galerno), Pierre, I, sketch, 627; difficulties with Askin, 627, 630-31, 633, 639-41, 657.
- GALERNEAU, Pierre, II, birth and death, 627.
- GAMBLE, Isabella Elizabeth, wife of Dr. John Gamble, sketch, 377.
- GAMBLE, Jane Smith, baptized, 377.
- GAMBLE, Dr. John, sketch, 377.
- GAMBLE, Mary Ann Allan, wife of Lt. Col. John S. Sinclair, sketch, 377.
- GAMBLE, Sarah Hannah Bois, wife of Dr. James Geddes, marriage, 377; at St. Joseph, 554.
- GAMELIN family, sketch, 282.
- GAMELIN, Ignatius, mentioned, 28.
- GAMELIN, Joseph Antoine, sketch, 282.
- GAMELIN, Laurence Eustache, mentioned, 282; granted land, 530.
- GAMELIN, Louisa Michelle, wife of Joseph Stephen Porlier *dit* Benalque, sketch, 28.
- GAMELIN, Mary Catherine, wife of Joseph Antoine Gamelin, marriage, 282.
- GAMELIN, Paul, mentioned, 36; sketch, 282; estate, 150, 254, 282-84, 344-45, 367, 398.
- GAMELIN, Mrs. Paul, husband's estate, 150, 254, 282-84.
- GAMELIN, Pierre, sketch, 282; debts, 398.
- GANEAU, Gabriel, land grant, 6.
- GARDNER, Allan, Lord, mentioned, 488.
- GARNER, Lt. —, service in War of 1812, 712.
- GASTINON, Magdelene, *dit* Duchêne, wife of Jean Baptiste Aide *dit* Créqui, sketch, 464.
- GAUTIER, —, mentioned, 173.
- GEDDES (Geddis), Dr. James, marriage, 377; at St. Joseph, 554.
- GEE, —, of Mackinac, business with Askin, 482.
- GENERAL WILKINSON, built, 495.
- GEORGE, slave of Askin, mentioned, 563.
- GEORGE III, celebration of birthday, 479.
- GIASSON, Jacques, I, sketch, 227.
- GIASSON (Giassen, Geasson), Jacques, II, mentioned, 333, 334, 428, 569; sketch, 227; letter, 227; in Montreal, 396; debt to Askin, 405. *See also* Giasson and Berthelet.
- GIASSON and Berthelet, Askin's business with, 292, 469.
- GIBBON, Lt. —, at St. Joseph, 670, 695.
- GILKISON (Gilkinson), Capt. William, mentioned, 342, 436, 551, 601; sketch, 212; marriage, 339, 386; appointed ensign and adjutant, 594; machine for hackling hemp, 596.
- GILLESPIE, George, mentioned 604, 694; sketch, 602.
- GILLESPIE, Moffat and Co., mentioned, 64.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- GIRARD, Catherine, wife of Alexander Bernard, mentioned, 188.
- GIRARD, Frances, wife of Charles Durette, sketch, 683.
- GIRARDIN, Charles Francis, mentioned, 241; sketch, 113.
- GIVENS, Capt. James, sketch, 589; Askin's quarrel with Dawson, 652.
- GIYAR, —, mentioned, 631.
- GLEGG, Capt. John B., identified, 721.
- GOBINET, Elizabeth, wife of Paul Benoit *dit* Livernois, sketch, 511.
- GODDARD, Mrs. —, mentioned, 19.
- GODET, Dominic Francis, *dit* Marentette, sketch, 779.
- GODET, Frances, *dit* Marentette, wife of James Askin, sketch, 779.
- GODET, Francis, *dit* Marentette, sketch, 779.
- GODET, Geneveva, wife of Jean Baptiste Campau, mentioned, 14.
- GODET, Jacques, sketch, 779.
- GODET, Nicholas, sketch, 779.
- GODFROY family, sketch, 601.
- GODFROY, —, land owner, 41.
- GODFROY, Gabriel, I, sketch, 562.
- GODFROY, Gabriel, II, sketch, 601.
- GODFROY, Gabriel Jacques, mentioned, 601.
- GODFROY, Jacques, mentioned, 601.
- GODFROY, Mary Angelica, wife of Zacharias Cicotte, mentioned, 636.
- GODFROY, Susanne, wife of James McCloskey, sketch, 562.
- GOLDSMITH, Eliza, wife of John Small, sketch, 277.
- GONZALES, Simon, mentioned, 231; sketch, 137; debts, 137-38, 142-44.
- GORDON, James, identified, 296.
- GORE, Lt.-Gov. Francis, mentioned, 534, 545-46, 560-61, 606, 629, 635, 642, 691, 709, 754; lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, 506; sketch, 534; kindness to Grant, 587; dismisses Askin from military service, 619; befriends John Askin Jr., 652, 656; returns to England, 698-99.
- GOSQOAME, signs deed, 11.
- GOUIE, Robert, sketch, 349; dealings with Hunot Sr., 435-36; letter, 435-36; confiscates Askin's skins, 482; Askin's suit against, 501-503.
- GOVIN, Ensign Claude, sketch, 748-49.
- GOVIN, Claude Jean Thomas, sketch, 748.
- GOVIN, François, sells P. C. 17, 684.
- GOVIN, Joseph Nicholas, mentioned, 748.
- GOVIN, Therese, wife of William Park, mentioned, 778.
- GOUYOU Mary Louisa, wife of Michael Catin *dit* Baron, sketch, 189-90.
- GOYAU, Marie Madelaine, wife of Louis Vital Dumouchel, sketch, 279.
- GRAETER, Christian, sketch, 230.
- GRAETER (Gratier, Greater, Grattor), Frederick, sketch, 230; debts, 230, 257, 311.
- GRAHAM, Felix, mentioned, 37; second marriage, 73.
- GRANT, Capt. —, mentioned, 264.
- GRANT, Commodore Alexander, mentioned, 47, 57, 59-60, 107, 109, 111, 117, 132, 145, 151, 156, 173, 181, 185, 212, 221-22, 248, 252, 255, 257, 259, 263-64, 268, 315, 331, 341, 357, 373, 378, 382, 407, 498, 519-21, 527-29, 534, 541, 545, 551, 594, 662; sketch, 21; land claims, 122, 479, 654; misplaces Askin's papers, 223, 228-29, 231-38, 245-46, 300; letters, 233-37, 241-42, 337-38, 350-52, 388-90, 485-89, 492-94, 498-99, 505-506, 510-11, 516-18, 587-88, 594, 597, 601-602; militia duty, 234, 348-49, 587, 594, 597; adopts child, 342; William Robertson's debt, 427; as lieutenant-governor, 485-89, 492-94, 506, 516-17, 523; family affairs, 671, 675-76, 678; death of wife, 674; death, 750.
- GRANT, Alexander, II, mentioned, 486, 511, 520, 553; education, 155, 389; sketch, 357-58; legacy from McTavish, 424.
- GRANT, Ann (Nancy), wife of Simon Maillet, mentioned, 527; marriage, 675.
- GRANT, Archange, wife of Thomas Dickson, mentioned, 527, 590, 656.
- GRANT, Christina, birth, 193.
- GRANT, Eleanor (Ellen, Nelly), wife of George Jacob, mentioned, 537, 678, 697; marriage, 676.
- GRANT, Eliza, wife of Martin McClellan, sketch, 754.
- GRANT, Elizabeth, wife of James Woods, mentioned, 552, 675; sketch, 373.
- GRANT, Isabella, wife of William Gilkinson, sketch, 212, 339; marriage, 386.
- GRANT, Lt. Col. Jasper, sketch, 597.
- GRANT, Jean Cameron, wife of William Richardson, mentioned, 378; sketch, 247.
- GRANT, John (Jean), mentioned, 378, 389; sketch, 342; leases farm, 517.
- GRANT, John, of Lachine, mentioned, 511.
- GRANT, Maria Julia, wife of William Robison, mentioned, 378, 671.
- GRANT, Phillis (Felicity), wife of Alexander Duff, mentioned, 389, 485, 527; sketch, 338.
- GRANT, Robert, sketch, 193.
- GRANT, Capt. Robert, mentioned, 759.

## INDEX

- GRANT, Therese, wife of Dr. Thomas Wright, mentioned, 58, 73, 87, 252, 342; in West Indies, 47; in England, 127; sketch, 181; death, 331.
- GRANT, William, sketch, 218; debts, 218-19.
- GRAVERAT, Gerrit, mentioned, 221; sketch, 219.
- GRAVERAT and Visger, debts, 219.
- GRAY, —, mortgage on Harffy's house, 377.
- GRAY, Lt. Andrew, killed, 755.
- GRAY, Robert Isaac Dey, solicitor general, drowned on *Speedy*, 441.
- GREELEY, Aaron, agent for land claims, 664-66; sketch, 666; surveyor, 687; capture by British, 747.
- GREEN, Maj. James, mentioned, 350-51; sketch, 304-305.
- GREENE, Gen. Nathanael, mentioned, 18, 540.
- GREENVILLE Treaty, mentioned, 474; Indian land grants, 30.
- GREGORY, John, mentioned, 66, 688; sketch, 691.
- GREGORY, McLeod and Co., mentioned, 275.
- GRIFFIN, John, judge of Territory of Michigan, 455.
- GRIFFITHS, Joseph, witness, 19.
- GRIMSBY (Ont.), located, 759.
- GRISWOLD, Stanley, sketch, 455-56.
- GROESBECK, William, sketch, 381.
- GRUMMETT (Grumment, Grummond, Grummut, etc.), Timothy, identified, 149; wreck of *Annette*, 174-76.
- GUEVREMONT, Mary Frances, wife of Alexis Maisonville, sketch, 101.
- GUILBERT, Elizabeth, *dit* Laframboise, wife of Pierre Thuot, sketch, 132.
- GUILLEMIN, Marie Charlotte, wife of Joseph Amable Trotier *dit* Des Rivières (first), and James McGill (second), mentioned, 178, 293, 527; death of son, 522, of husband, 782.
- GUY, Joseph, letter, 525; birth, 526.
- GUY, Pierre, sketch, 526.
- HAILES (Hales), Lt. Harris, mentioned, 728.
- HALDIMAND, Sir Frederick, mentioned, 19, 221, 273, 473; sketch, 20.
- HALIBURTON, Mrs. William (Ann—), wife of John McKinzie (second), and William Forsyth (third), mentioned, 718; sketch, 639.
- HALL, Capt. —, mentioned, 573, 584; military service, 594, 765.
- HAMEL, Ursula, wife of Pierre Lucian Simon *dit* Delorme, mentioned, 685.
- HAMILTON, —, service in War of 1812, 712-14, 716, 720-21.
- HAMILTON, Lt. Col. —, brings soldiers from Halifax, 741.
- HAMILTON, Maj. Gen. Alexander, mentioned, 240, 637, 642, 663-64.
- HAMILTON, George, mentioned, 539, 663, 736; illness, 151; sketch, 719.
- HAMILTON, Lt.-Gov. Henry, mentioned, 19, 113, 146, 282, 284; indicted, 431, 526; surrender, 448.
- HAMILTON, Robert, I, mentioned, 42, 45-46, 131, 145, 179-80, 193, 209-11, 216, 227, 231, 236-37, 245-47, 286, 350, 356, 372-74, 382, 428, 534, 545-47, 553, 568, 590, 596, 715, 719; sketch, 33; death of wife, 96, 129; letters, 148-49, 151-52, 223-24; 238-39, 289-90, 424-25, 441-43, 446-47, 598-99; second marriage, 174; land certificates, 241-42; distillery, 310-11; death of second wife, 598-99; death, 620, 625.
- HAMILTON, Robert, II, mentioned, 590; marriage, 599; service in War of 1812, 735.
- HAMILTON, William, service in War of 1812, 714.
- HAMILTON (Ont.), founded, 719.
- HAMMOND, George, peace negotiations in Vienna, 108.
- HAMTRAMCK, Col. John Francis, sketch, 49; slaves, 347.
- HANDS, William, mentioned, 79, 112, 135, 230, 257, 314, 772; sketch, 42; letter, 357-58; sheriff, 369-70; service in War of 1812, 728.
- HANKS, Lt. Porter, mentioned, 211, 673; sketch, 537-38.
- HARDISON, —, house burned, 737.
- HARFFY, Dr. William, mentioned, 111, 174; sketch, 109; letters, 147, 217-18, 249, 255, 257-59, 261-65, 268-70, 306-307, 317-18; illness, 204, 373; promotion, 306; death and funeral, 375-78; debt to Donovan, 423; estate, 502.
- HARFFY, Mrs. William, draft on husband, 268.
- HARLEQUIN, wrecked, 356-60.
- HARMAR, Gen. Josiah, mentioned, 673.
- HARPSICORD, first in Detroit, 255.
- HARRIS, James, Earl of Malmesbury, Paris mission, 72.
- HARRISON, William Henry, mentioned, 114, 183, 202, 280-81, 304, 439, 487, 490, 651, 720, 780; land, 345, 367; ball for, 390; letters, 503-504, 518-19; plea for leniency to Vigo, 503-504, 518-19; gives Askin safe conduct, 769; courtesy to British, 773.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- HARROW, Capt. Alexander, mentioned, 389, 464, 548, 550; sketch, 186; letters, 186, 191; provisions loggers, 186-88, 190-91; price of house, 261; appraiser, 444.
- HARSEN, —, suit against Harffy estate, 502.
- HARSEN, Bernardus, mentioned, 313.
- HARSEN'S Island, Moravian mission, 381-82.
- HARVEY, John, sketch, 465; letter, 475-76; title to Reeder farm, 475-76, 511; financial troubles, 527, 647.
- HASTINGS, Francis Rawdon, Earl of Moira, sketch, 540; mentioned, 541.
- HATHAWAY (Haghtaway), —, mentioned, 508.
- HATT, Capt. Samuel, identified, 717.
- HATTON, Maj. William, letter, 619.
- HAY, —, part owner of *Ottawa*, 360.
- HAY, Gov. Jehu (John), mentioned, 78, 662; sketch, 58; marriage, 733.
- HAY, Pierre Henry, mentioned, 28; sketch, 662-63.
- HAYTER, Elizabeth, wife of Dr. James Macaulay, sketch, 351.
- HAZEL, Edward, sketch, 18; occupies Bird's house, 18, 20-21.
- HEALD, Capt. Nathan, mentioned, 27.
- HECKENWELDER, John Gottlieb, mentioned, 164, 243.
- HELM, Capt. Leonard, mentioned, 281.
- HEMBROW (Hembro, Embro), John, mentioned, 461; sketch, 50; carpenter partnership, 50-51; rents land, 75-77.
- HEMPSTEAD, Stephen, mentioned, 143.
- HENRY, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 714.
- HENRY, Alexander, mentioned, 166-68, 196, 371-72, 395-96, 404-405, 410-11, 453-54, 461-62, 509-10, 513, 543-44, 633; sketch, 5; land speculation, 5-8, 27-28, 68-70, 453-54, 470-71; letters, 180-82, 274-76, 296-97, 324-25, 330-32, 374-75, 393-95, 431-34, 458-59, 462-63, 500-501, 515-16, 653-54, 673-75, 734-35, 781-83; philosophy, 330-31; business with: Williams and Casety, 397, 431-34, Lindsay, 425, Brush, 747; friendship for Askin, 624-25; age, 675.
- HENRY, Alexander, "the younger," sketch, 180.
- HENRY, Mrs. Alexander, mentioned, 332, 375, 544, 653, 674, 782.
- HENRY, James, mentioned, 114, 158, 414, 486, 532, 720; sketch, 305; public offices, 386, 464; agent for Fraser, 458; signs petition, 682; entertains General Brock, 718; death, 744.
- HENRY, James, Indian captive, mentioned, 164; sketch, 158.
- HENRY, John Joseph, mentioned, 305.
- HENRY, Julia, mentioned, 782.
- HENRY, Maria, wife of Charles Rouleau, sketch, 305.
- HENRY, Matthew, death, 305; sketch, 414.
- HENRY, Moses, mentioned, 305.
- HENRY, R—, money due, 395.
- HENRY, Dr. Stephen Chambers, comes to Detroit, 305.
- HENRY, William, sketch, 305, 414.
- HERBINE, Catherine, wife of Michael Yax, mentioned, 103.
- HERKIMER, Jacob, death on *Speedy*, 441.
- HERKIMER, Mary, wife of Neil McLean (first), and Robert Hamilton (second), mentioned, 131, 152, 425, 442, 447, 547; birth of daughter, 373; death, 598.
- HEWARD, Hugh, mentioned, 261, 316; sketch, 249; secretaryship, 300; shipwrecked, 303; letters, 304-306, 332; death and will, 391-92.
- HEWARD, Mrs. Hugh, mentioned, 332; leaves Detroit, 305; death of husband, 391-92.
- HICKLEY, Sarah, wife of Jesse Burbank, sketch, 537.
- HICKMAN, Anna, birth, 601.
- HICKMAN, Capt. Harris Hampden, marriage, 455; sketch, 601.
- HICKMAN, Sarah, birth, 601.
- HICKS, Agnes, wife of Edward Hazel, given house by Bird, 18.
- HICKS, Judith, wife of Henry Ramsey, given house by Bird, 18.
- HILL, —, mentioned, 774.
- HINN, Capt. —, mentioned, 109.
- HOCQUART, Gilles, grants land, 530.
- HOFFMAN, —, mentioned, 577.
- HOFFMAN, Anna, wife of Christian Hoffman, mentioned, 27.
- HOFFMAN, Christian, mentioned, 27.
- HOFFMAN, George, sketch, 27-28; register, 104, 329; recorder, 448-49.
- HOFFMAN, George Washington, mentioned, 27.
- HOLCROFT, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 735.
- HOLMES, Maj. —, defeat at Mackinac, 669.
- HOLMES, Hugh, letters, 153-54, 207-208; sketch, 154-55; debts, 207.
- HOLMES, Dr. William, sketch, 306.
- HOOD, Alexander, Viscount Bridport, mutiny of crew, 106.
- HOPE, Lt.-Gov. Henry, mentioned, 309, 328.
- HOPKINS, James, mentioned, 414.
- HORN, Elias, mentioned, 76.
- HORNER, Archibald, signs petition, 682; sketch, 683.

## INDEX

- HORNER, Elizabeth, wife of Archibald Horner (first), John Walker (second), and Elias Pattee (third), sketch, 683.
- HORNER, Mariah, mentioned, 683.
- HORNER, Sarah, mentioned, 683.
- HORRACE, servant of Brush, mentioned, 597.
- HORSES, price, 721.
- HOUDE, Michael, mentioned, 323.
- HOWARD, Gen. Benjamin, mentioned, 292.
- HOWARD, Capt. Lewis, death, 538; at St. Joseph, 670; sketch, 672.
- HOWELL, Nathaniel, mentioned, 599.
- HUBERT, Marie Angélique, wife of Jacques Giasson, I, mentioned, 227.
- HUBERT, Susanne, *dit* Lacroix, wife of Pierre Réaume, sketch, 732.
- HUDSON'S Bay Co., mentioned, 589.
- HUGHES (Hughs), Maj. —, mentioned, 181.
- HULL, Abraham, death, 455.
- HULL, Gen. Andrew, mentioned, 647.
- HULL, Ann Binney, wife of Harris Hampden Hickman, mentioned, 455; sketch, 601.
- HULL, Isaac, identified, 455.
- HULL, Julia, wife of Joseph Wheeler, mentioned, 455.
- HULL, Rebecca, wife of Dr. Samuel Clarke, mentioned, 455.
- HULL, Gen. William, mentioned, 258, 305, 409, 486-88, 517, 539, 562, 591, 647, 673, 695, 713, 720-21, 723, 731; sketch, 455; plan for Detroit, 474; governor of Michigan Territory, 474; character, 481, 526-27, 709; debts, 598, 611; marriage of daughter, 601; housing problem, 677; service in War of 1812, 709-11, 724-25, 734-35, 738, 740, 747.
- HUNOT (Hunault, Hunaud) family, sketch, 12.
- HUNOT, Gabriel, I, difficulties with Gouie, 435-36.
- HUNOT, Gabriel, II, mentioned, 17, 46; sketch, 12; land holdings, 12-14, 39-40; debts, 34, 202, 475, 501-503, 622; loss of Askin's packs, 482.
- HUNT, Elizabeth Cass, wife of Edmund A. Brush, sketch, 385.
- HUNT, Henry Jackson, mentioned, 281.
- HUNT, Gen. John E., mentioned, 385.
- HUNT, Col. Thomas, mentioned, 281; sketch, 253.
- HUNT, Maj. Thomas, marriage, 281.
- HUNT, William, mentioned, 362.
- HUNTER, John, mentioned, 220.
- HUNTER, Lt.-Gov. Peter, mentioned, 223, 231, 234, 237, 242, 257, 290, 300, 307, 348, 399, 470, 506, 548; sketch, 220; commander-in-chief in Canada, 301; favoritism in granting claims, 314; army contracts, 318-19; friendliness towards Askin, 350; death, 486; character, 493.
- HUNTER, William, mentioned, 220.
- HUNTINGTON, —, mentioned, 270.
- HUNTINGTON, Benjamin, I, mentioned, 190.
- HUNTINGTON, Benjamin, II, letter, 190-91; sketch, 190.
- HUNTINGTON, Daniel, identified, 190.
- HUNTINGTON, Jedidiah V., identified, 190.
- HUNTINGTON, Samuel, declines judgeship of Territory of Michigan, 455; sketch, 456.
- HUSTLER, Rachael, indentured to Wallen, 276-77.
- HUSTLER, Sergt. Thomas, daughter indentured, 276-77.
- HUTCHINS (Hutchings), William, mentioned, 217; letter, 133-34; sketch, 134.
- ILER, Jacob, mentioned, 76.
- ILLINOIS Territory, organized, 456.
- INDENTURE, *see* law.
- INDIANA Territory, slavery, 347; collection of debts in, 505, 513.
- INDIANS, land grants, 5-8, 12-14, 27-28, 30, 60-62, 102-104, 171-72, 176, 311-12; rum, 154; debts, 187, 335-36, 448-49, 695; white aggressions, 206-207; missionaries among, 312-13 (*see also* Moravian Mission); influence of Shawnee Prophet, 568-69; use of fish, 589, 591; need of charity, 589; service in War of 1812, 708, 711 *ft.*, 714, 716-18, 720-28, 731-32, 740, 744, 759, 761-62, 764-66, 775-78; steal child, 754. *See also* individuals.
- INNIS, Robert, mentioned, 258, 261; partnership with Grant, 193; sketch, 249; shipwrecked, 303; debts, 314.
- INSURANCE, on furs, 135.
- IREDELL, Abraham, mentioned, 123; surveyor, 29, 145, 162-63, 171; sketch, 101; candidate for representative, 299-300; death, 521.
- IREDELL, Mrs. Abraham, mentioned, 171.
- IRELAND, sympathetic towards French invasion, 128; union with England, 184; political conditions, 250-51.
- IRONSIDE, George, sketch, 399.
- IRVINE, Col. —, mentioned, 18.
- JACKMAN, William, mentioned, 154.
- JACKSON, —, mentioned, 247.
- JACKSON, Ann, birth, 539.



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- JACKSON, Charles, marriage, 539.
- JACOB (Jacobs), Capt. George, mentioned, 211, 729, 773; sketch, 521.
- JACOB, Monique, wife of Charles Askin, sketch, 211.
- JACOB, Moravian Indian, debts, 336-37.
- JARVIS, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 714.
- JARVIS, Maria Lavinia, wife of George Hamilton, sketch, 719.
- JARVIS, Samuel Peters, sketch, 721.
- JARVIS, William, mentioned, 486, 719, 721; sketch, 299-300; candidate for representative, 299; on Land Board, 307-309.
- JEANNES, Mary Ann, wife of Francis Achin *dit* Catin, II, mentioned, 189.
- JEFFERSON, Thomas, mentioned, 256, 331, 472; creation of Territory of Michigan, 455; friendship with Woodward, 456.
- JEMISON, Mary, mentioned, 157.
- JEROME (Gearome), Jean Baptiste, sketch, 267, 725.
- JEROME, Mary Archange, wife of Hubert Lacroix, birth, 267, 725.
- JERVIS, Sir John, mentioned, 97; victory over Spain, 106.
- JOE, servant of Brush, mentioned, 472.
- JOHN R. Street (Detroit), named, 384.
- JOHNSON, Andrew, identified, 140.
- JOHNSON, Ann (Nancy), wife of Daniel Claus, mentioned, 350.
- JOHNSON, Elizabeth, wife of Ralph Clench, sketch, 33.
- JOHNSON, Sir John, mentioned, 350, 606, 754.
- JOHNSON, Sir William, mentioned, 33, 303, 350, 754.
- JOHNSTON, Capt. —, mentioned, 517.
- JOHNSTON, Capt. —, secretary to Indian Department, 528.
- JOHNSTON, —, mentioned, 664; wounded, 773.
- JOHNSTON, George, mentioned, 45, 525; sketch, 669.
- JOHNSTON, Jane, wife of Henry R. Schoolcraft, sketch, 669.
- JOHNSTON, John, sketch, 669.
- JOHNSTON, Lewis, sketch, 669.
- JOHNSON, General Washington, letter, 253-54; sketch, 254; Askin's attorney, 279-85.
- JOMEIN, Catherine, wife of Jacques Durette, sketch, 683.
- JONES, —, mentioned, 601.
- JONES, Augustus, sketch, 311-12; Cuyahoga Purchase, 320, 325, 330, 333; letter, 325.
- JONES, George Wallace, identified, 439.
- JONES, John Rice, I, sketch, 439; attorney for Miamis Co., 439-41, 477-78, 489.
- JONES, John Rice, II, identified, 439.
- JONES, Obediah, judge of Illinois Territory, 456.
- JONES, Rev. Peter, sketch, 311-12.
- JONES, Richard Hall, signs petition, 682; sketch, 685.
- JOSEPH Campau Avenue (Detroit), named, 684.
- JOUETT, Charles, sketch, 472.
- JUDICATURE Bill, passes Lower House, 594.
- JUIN, Jeanne, wife of Bernard Dumouchel *dit* Laroche, sketch, 278.
- KANE, Sergt. —, mentioned, 88.
- KAY, Alexander, identified, 431-32.
- KAY, John, identified, 431-32.
- KAY, William, identified, 431-32.
- KAYSHAYMEKOQUAN, finds anchor, 609.
- KEITH, Capt. William, sketch, 785.
- KELSEY, Elizabeth, wife of William Searl, sketch, 217.
- KENNEDY, John, mentioned, 154.
- KENT and Strathern, Edward Augustus, Duke of, comes to Canada, 242, 290; sketch, 290.
- KENTUCKY boat, described, 343; successful use, 353.
- KERBY, Mrs. —, saves Fitzgibbon's life, 765.
- KERBY, Capt. James, identified, 774; service in War of 1812, 774-75.
- KERBY, Margaret, wife of Claude Gouin, sketch, 748.
- KERBY, William, mentioned, 759, 763.
- KERCHEVAL, Benjamin, marriage, 281.
- KERR, —, wounded, 754.
- KERR, Mary Margaret, wife of Thomas Clark, mentioned, 303.
- KERR, Dr. Robert, sketch, 754.
- KEWAIDENAHAM, signs deed, 27.
- KING, —, mentioned, 677.
- KING, Lt. —, wounded and imprisoned, 736.
- KING, Capt. —, prisoner, 737.
- KINGSBURY, Col. Jacob, sketch, 672-73.
- KINZIE, John, mentioned, 790; administrator, 280; marriage, 718.
- KINZIE, John H., birth, 718.
- KNAGGS, —, mentioned, 238.
- KNAGGS, Elizabeth, wife of John Anderson, mentioned, 238; sketch, 723.
- KNAGGS, George, I, mentioned, 360, 723; sketch, 119-20; estate, 119-20.
- KNAGGS, George, II, marriage, 120.
- KNAGGS, James, birth, 120.
- KNAGGS, Rebecca, wife of Capt. Joseph May, marriage, 120; sketch, 360-61.

## INDEX

- KNAGGS, Whittmore, marriage, 120; house plundered, 721.
- KYLE, James, wife dies, 422.
- LABADIE, —, mentioned, 648
- LABADIE, Anthony, *dit* Badichon, sketch, 573.
- LABADIE, Margaret Descomps *dit*, see Descomps, Margaret, *dit* Labadie.
- LABADIE, Mary Joseph Descomps *dit*, see Descomps, Mary Joseph, *dit* Labadie.
- LABADIE, Pierre, *dit* Badichon, sketch, 749.
- LA BALAINE, André, mentioned, 586.
- LA BELLE, —, mentioned, 648.
- LABERGE, Mary Bibiana, wife of Jean Baptiste Durette, I, sketch, 683.
- LA BUTTE, —, militia duty, 553.
- LABUTTE, Mary Catherine Chêne *dit*, see Chêne, Mary Catherine, *dit* Labutte.
- LACELLE family, sketch, 34.
- LACELLE, Antoine, sketch, 150.
- LACELLE, Jacques, III, mentioned, 34.
- LACELLE (Lasselle, Laselle), Jacques, IV, mentioned, 160, 722; sketch, 34; duel with Williams, 383-84; suit against Peltier, 636.
- LACELLE, Mary Ann, wife of Thomas Caldwell, marriage, 34.
- LACROIX (Lacroi), Dominic (Domq), mentioned, 524.
- LACROIX, Hubert, marriage, 267.
- LACROIX, Susanne Hubert *dit*, see Hubert, Susanne, *dit* Lacroix.
- LADEROUTE, —, debt to Askin, 345.
- LADEROUTE, Mary Seguin *dit*, see Seguin, Mary, *dit* Laderoute.
- LAFITTE, Jane, wife of Valentin Belanger, sketch, 685.
- LAFLEUR, Basil, logger, 188-90, 208-209.
- LAFOND, Charles, mentioned, 197.
- LAFONTAINE, —, pays for house, 204.
- LAFONTAINE, —, *dit* Marion, winterer, deserts, 227.
- LAFONTAINE, François, sketch, 34.
- LAFONTAINE, Prudent Robert *dit*, see Robert, Prudent, *dit* Lafontaine.
- LA FOREST, Archange, sketch, 323.
- LA FOREST, Guillaume, mentioned, 323.
- LAFOY, Augustin, signs petition, 682; sketch, 684.
- LAFRAMBOISE (Laframboies), Alexis, mentioned, 291; sketch, 225.
- LAFRAMBOISE, Elizabeth Guilbert *dit*, see Guilbert, Elizabeth, *dit* Laframboise.
- LAFRAMBOISE, François, sketch, 225.
- LAFRAMBOISE (Laframboize), Jean Baptiste Fafard *dit*, see Fafard, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Laframboise.
- LAJUMODIÈRE, Maria Amable, wife of John Fearson, mentioned, 672; sketch, 45.
- LALOR, Dorothea, wife of John Connelly, sketch, 495.
- LAMB, Sarah, wife of Reuben Atwater, sketch, 647.
- LAMBERT, Joseph, property difficulties 375.
- LAND, belonging to Crown, 9-10, 21-23, 90-91, 100-102; price, 27-28, 40, 76; 183, 316, 397, 459-61, 467, 509, 530-33, 634, 644, 654, 687, 747; Indian grants, 30, 60-62, 102-104, 171-72; title validation, 122-24, 144-47, 161-63, 232-35, 245-46, 260, 307-10, 327-29, 496-98, 520, 526-27, 545, 571, 610-16, 664-66, 705; certificates, 241; cost of house, 307; "Firelands," 453-54; Congressional regulations, 454, 472-74, 580-81, 603; Canadian grants, 493-94, 516; fee for claims, 529; Canadian disagreement with U. S. laws, 611-13; laws of Michigan Territory, 687-88. *See also* Cuyahoga Purchase.
- LANGOUT, —, wounded, 736.
- LANSING, Anna, wife of Abraham Ten Eyck, mentioned, 684.
- LAPAGE, —, miller, mentioned, 443.
- LAPIERRE, Jean Baptiste Aloire *dit*, see Aloire, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Lapierre.
- LAPIERRE-LAPOMERAI, Pierre Robert *dit*, see Robert, Pierre, *dit* Lapierre-Lapomerai.
- LAPLANTE, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 420.
- LA POINTE, Mary Louisa, wife of Amable Chulle *dit* Belair, sketch, 725.
- LA POMERIAS (Lapomeraye, La Pomerai), Louis Robert *dit*, see Robert, Louis *dit* La Pomerai.
- LAPRARIE, Mary Piedalu *dit*, see Piedalu, Mary, *dit* Laprarie.
- LA ROCHE, —, mentioned, 600.
- LAROCHE, Bernard Dumouchel *dit*, see Dumouchel, Bernard, *dit* Laroche.
- LAUGHTON, Ann, wife of Walter Roe, sketch, 75.
- LAUGHTON, John, sketch, 657.
- LAUZON (Lauson), Jacques, marriage, 383, 432.
- LAUZON, Mary Frances, wife of Francis Meloche, mentioned, 511, 532.
- LAW, deeds, 5-8, 40-41, 530-33; estates, 15-16, 119-20, 431-34; power of attorney, 17-21; contracts, 24-25, 152-53, 294-95, 323-25, 399-401; indentures, 50-51, 62-64, 276-77, 607-608; lease, 75-77; citizenship, 115-21, 742; ferry license, 129-30, for inn, 160; debts, 137-38, 212-14, 228-29, 267,

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- 319-20, 326-27, 329-30, 348-49, 477-78, 501-503, 505, 513, 557-58, 560-61; mortgage, 253; Canadian judicial system, 373; duel, 383-84; arbitration, 441, 537, 562, 621, 623-24, 651; Judicature Bill, 594; training in Canada, 600; dissatisfaction with U. S. in Canada, 610-16; traffic regulations, 703; wills, 777-78, 785-87. *See also* lands.
- LE BEAU, Francis, mentioned, 133.
- LE BEAU, Isabelle, wife of — Drouillard, witness, 323.
- LE BEAU, Lisette, wife of Ignatius Joachim Thuot *dit* Duval, sketch, 133.
- LE BLANC, —, millwright, debts, 319.
- LEBLANC, Margaret, wife of Pierre Alain, mentioned, 727.
- LEBLANC, Mary Ann, wife of Joseph Robidou, mentioned, 259.
- LECLERC, Mary Louisa, wife of Louis Joseph Dumouchel, sketch, 279.
- LE DUC, —, buys land from Askin, 512.
- LEE, —, mentioned, 671.
- LEE, Capt. William, mentioned, 438; sketch, 192-93.
- LEE, Dr. William, sketch, 344.
- LEES, John, identified, 544.
- LEES, John, Jr., sketch, 544.
- LEFEBVRE, Magdelene, wife of Prisque Coté, sketch, 685.
- LE FRANC, —, buys land from Askin, 512.
- LE GROS FUSIL, Ottawa chief, 551.
- LEITH (Leath), George, mentioned, 52, 173, 205, 276, 313; sketch, 73; visits Detroit, 310.
- LEITH and Co., mentioned, 230.
- LEONARD, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 775.
- LEOPARD, attack upon *Chesapeake*, 566, 595.
- LESEUR, Marie Ann, wife of Pierre Levasseur, mentioned, 339.
- L'ESPERANCE, —, mentioned, 743.
- LESPEANCE, Jean Baptiste Brilliau *dit*, *see* Brilliau, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Lesperance.
- LESTER and Managh, bankruptcy, 543.
- LETOUR, —, carpenter, debts, 319.
- LEVASSEUR, Antoine, *dit* Carmel, mentioned, 14.
- LEVASSEUR, Felicité, wife of William McCoskry, sketch, 339.
- LEVASSEUR, Magdelene, wife of Jacques Amable Peltier, mentioned, 591, 606.
- LEVASSEUR, Mary Charlotte, *dit* Carmel, wife of Joseph Réaume, sketch, 259-60.
- LEVASSEUR, Pierre, mentioned, 339.
- LEWISTON (Ont.), captured, 774-76.
- LIDDLE, Capt. —, killed, 754.
- LINCOLN, Abraham, mentioned, 203.
- LINDSAY, William, partnership with Henry, 425.
- LIQUOR, price, 159-60, 167, 262, 353, 604, 780; forbidden to army, 165; spruce beer, 661. *See also* merchandise.
- LISA (De Lisa), Manuel, sketch, 143.
- LITTLE, Eleanor, wife of Daniel McKillip (first), and John Kinzie (second), mentioned, 790; sketch, 34; marriage, 718.
- LITTLE, Elizabeth —, wife of John Little, mentioned, 790.
- LITTLE, Elizabeth, wife of William McCrae, sketch, 386.
- LITTLE, James, service in War of 1812, 729.
- LITTLE, James W., bill for John Askin Jr.'s funeral, 790; sketch, 790.
- LITTLE, Jane, wife of Robert Forsyth, sketch, 281.
- LITTLE, John, mentioned, 718, 790; sketch, 386.
- LITTLE, Margaret (Margarethe), wife of William Forsyth, sketch, 718.
- LITTLE, Nicholas, service in War of 1812, 729.
- LITTLE Otter, mentioned, 30.
- LIVERNOIS, Étienne Benoit *dit*, *see* Benoit, Étienne, *dit* Livernois.
- LIVERNOIS, Joseph, I, sketch, 511; buys land from Askin, 511.
- LIVERNOIS, Joseph, II, sketch, 511; buys land from Askin, 511.
- LIVERNOIS, Paul Benoit *dit*, *see* Benoit, Paul, *dit* Livernois.
- LIVINGSTON, Henry Brockholst, letter, 60-62; sketch, 62.
- LIVINGSTON, Robert, identified, 62.
- LIVINGSTON, William, identified, 62.
- LIVINGSTONE, Robert Ramsay, sketch, 732.
- LOFTUS, Gen. William, sketch, 57; in Ireland, 98.
- LOGNON, Louis, signs petition, 682; sketch, 683-84.
- LOGNON, Pierre, sketch, 683.
- LOGNON Farm, 683.
- LOISEL, Regis (Registré), sketch, 177.
- LONDONDERRY, Marquis of, *see* Stewart, Robert.
- LOOP, Peter, Jr., witness, 51.
- LOOTMAN, Agatha, *dit* Barrois, wife of Jean Baptiste Réaume, mentioned, 198.
- LOOTMAN, François, *dit* Barrois, mentioned, 683.
- LOOTMAN, Marie Anne, *dit* Barrois, wife of Jean Baptiste Cuillierier *dit* Beaubien, mentioned, 114; sketch, 683.

## INDEX

- LOOTMAN, Mary, *dit* Barrois, wife of Robert Navarre, I, sketch, 695.  
 LORANGER *dit* Maisonville line, sketch, 101.  
 LORANGER, Alexis, *dit* Maisonville, *see* Maisonville, Alexis.  
 LORANGER (Lorange), Alexander (Alexis, Elexis), debts, 267; imprisoned for debt, 326-27, 329-30; letter, 326.  
 LORRAIN, Charles, winterer, 206.  
 LOTTERY, price of ticket, 430, 508.  
 LOUIS Philippe, Duke of Orleans, reconnoitres Niagara region, 116.  
 LOUISIANA, ceded to France, 139.  
 LOUVIGNY, Pierre Jean Baptiste Testard, Sieur de Montigny de, *see* Testard, Pierre Jean Baptiste, Sieur de Montigny de Louvigny.  
 LOWRIE (Lawrie), Peter, sketch, 72.  
 LUDWIG (Lodwick), Moravian Indian, mentioned, 187; debts, 335.  
 LUSIGNAN, Marie Magdelene, wife of François Xavier Trotier *dit* Bellecour, mentioned, 533.  
 LYON, Benjamin, sketch, 291.  
 LYON, Thomas, marriage, 667.  
  
 MCCALL, Capt. Daniel, identified, 715.  
 MCCALL, Donald, sketch, 715.  
 MCCALL, Capt. Duncan, identified, 715.  
 MCCALL, Ensign James, identified, 715.  
 MCCAN, Lt. —, mentioned 242; land grant, 234.  
 MACAULAY, Dr. James, mentioned, 499; sketch, 351.  
 MCCLACHLAN, —, school teacher, debts, 191-92.  
 MCCLELLAN, Gen. George B., ancestry, 754.  
 MCCLELLAN, Capt. Martin, sketch, 754.  
 MCCLELLAN, William, mentioned, 754.  
 MCCLINTOCK, James, identified, 341.  
 MCCLINTOCK, William, debt, 34.  
 MCCLOSKEY (McClosky), James, sketch, 562.  
 MCCORMICK, Arthur, sketch, 378.  
 MCCOSKRY, Alfred, mentioned, 339.  
 MCCOSKRY, Felicité, mentioned, 339.  
 MCCOSKRY, Bishop Samuel A., mentioned, 339.  
 MCCOSKRY (McCroskey, McCoskrey, McCostrie), William, mentioned, 342; surtor for Isabella Grant, 337-39, 386; sketch, 339.  
 MCCRAE, Alexander, identified, 386.  
 MCCRAE, Ann, birth, 386.  
 MCCRAE, Eliza, birth, 386.  
 MCCRAE, George, birth, 386.  
 MCCRAE, Thomas, I, Askwith's tailor bill, 14-15; sketch, 386.  
 MCCRAE, Thomas, II, sketch, 386.  
  
 MCCRAE, William, identified, 386.  
 McDONALD, John, identified, 763.  
 MACDONELL, Allan, sketch, 351.  
 MACDONELL (McDonnel), Angus, sketch, 351; death on *Speedy*, 441-42.  
 McDONELL, James, sketch, 171.  
 MACDONELL, Lt. Col. John, sketch, 721.  
 McDONELL, Ronald, sketch, 134.  
 McDONNELL, —, mentioned, 529.  
 McDOUALL, Lt. Col. Robert, commandant at Mackinac, 789.  
 McDOUGALL, —, wounded, 776.  
 McDOUGALL, Lt. George, mentioned, 479.  
 McDOUGALL (MacDougall), George, mentioned, 479; sketch, 134; fight with Huntington, 190; letters, 193-95, 197-200; buys farm, 197-200, 204.  
 McDOUGALL, John Robert, mentioned, 708; deeds Belle Isle to Macombs, 479; sketch, 479-80.  
 McDOUGALL Avenue (Detroit), named, 480.  
 McDOUGALL Farm, origin, 480.  
 McGILL, —, mentioned, 517; reads Harfy's funeral service, 376.  
 McGILL, Andrew, mentioned, 178; marriage, 425; sketch, 483. *See also* McGill, James and Andrew.  
 McGILL, James, mentioned, 219, 318-19, 370, 394, 399, 406-407, 422, 458, 484, 496-500, 513-15, 520, 526-27, 534, 544, 563, 607, 619-20, 624, 642, 653, 657, 671, 674, 686-88, 708-10; sketch, 8; land speculation, 68-70, 168, 425, 453-54, 470-71, 526-27, 575, 664-68, 676-77, 705-706; trade difficulties, 177; friendship for Askin, 347-48, 513-14, 704-705; letters, 485, 505-506; 667-68; money due, 505, 514-16, 523; connection with Reynolds family, 522; death and will, 776-78, 782. *See also* McGill, James and Andrew, and Todd and McGill.  
 McGILL, James and Andrew, mentioned, 246; letters, 206, 334-35; business with Askin, 231-32, 256, 292, 481-83.  
 McGILL, Capt. John, mentioned, 241, 486, 493; sketch, 234; letter, 359.  
 McGILLIVRAY, William, mentioned, 534, 629, 653, 688; sketch, 606; death of wife, 674, 692; friendship for John Askin Jr., 691-92; colonel of Voyageurs, 734.  
 McGILLIVRAY, Mrs. William, death, 674, 692.  
 MCGREGOR, Ann, wife of Robert Richardson, mentioned, 750; marriage, 686, 693.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- McGREGOR, Catherine, wife of James W. Little, sketch, 790.
- McGREGOR, Col. Gregor, mentioned, 173, 502-503, 527, 645, 686; sketch, 65; debts, 395, 405; transactions with Dubois, 397; mortgage on Monforton property, 557; property seized by Hull, 710.
- McGREGOR, James, mentioned, 372.
- McGREGOR, Jane, birth, 790.
- McGREGOR, John, mentioned, 405, 790; sketch, 372; Vigo's debt to Miamis Co., 621, 623-24.
- McGREGOR, M——, mentioned, 610.
- McGREGOR, Mary (Martha), wife of John McGregor, mentioned, 790.
- McGREGOR, Susanne, wife of William Duff, sketch, 527-28.
- MACGREGOR, Messrs., Montreal firm, 334, 505.
- McGREGOR mill, 707.
- McHENRY, James, rules of War Department, 240-41.
- McINTOSH, Mrs. ——, mentioned, 772.
- McINTOSH, Alexander, mentioned, 645, 689, birth, 76.
- McINTOSH (Mackintosh), Angus, mentioned, 259, 283, 300, 307, 499, 537-38, 565, 573, 583, 594, 602, 628, 650, 658-60, 688, 733, 783; sketch, 75-76; executor, 75-77; money due, 356, 489-90, 621, 623-24; pallbearer for Harffy, 376; house burned by Mrs. Fraser, 458; goes to Scotland, 478; property, 479. *See also* Miamis Co.
- McINTOSH, Duncan, birth, 76.
- McINTOSH, James, mentioned, 445; sketch, 263.
- McINTOSH, William, mentioned, 283, 651; sketch, 281; attorney for: Askin, 282, 367-68, 396-98, 405, 410-11, 413, 419-21, 439-41, 475, 477-78, 501-503, 513, 518-19, 621-24, Miamis Co., 489-90, 503-505; letters, 344-47, 367-68, 396-98, 477-78, 621-22; business in Vincennes, 344-47; characterized by Vigo, 419-21.
- McKAY, ——, mentioned, 574, 594, 606, 688, 692, 753.
- McKAY, Col. Aeneas, marriage, 283.
- McKAY (Mackay), Alexander, sketch, 585.
- McKAY, H——, mentioned, 550.
- McKEE, Col. Alexander, mentioned, 18, 67, 70, 111, 173, 310, 470, 639; sketch, 9; militia duty, 78-79; death, 192, 209; succeeded by Claus, 350; land claims, 494.
- McKEE, Alexander, II, mentioned, 769-70; sketch, 721-22; mathematics, 743; service in War of 1812, 722.
- McKEE, James, mentioned, 769; sketch, 112.
- McKEE, Marie Anne (Nancy), mentioned, 770; sketch, 539.
- McKEE, Capt. Thomas, mentioned, 111, 12, 129, 209, 258, 306, 350, 352, 399, 437, 521, 539, 551, 593-94, 600, 663, 676, 678, 708, 721, 770; sketch, 102, 173; letters, 117-18, 521-22; death of father, 192; illness, 318, 743; misconduct, 422, 783; partner in Cuyahoga Purchase, 453-54, 458, 465; militia duty, 470, 493-94, 521-22, 528, 548, 553; Huron lands, 494; debts, 639, 649-50, 671; service in War of 1812, 722, 724, 728-29, 731.
- McKENZIE, ——, mentioned, 670.
- MACKENZIE, Sir Alexander, mentioned, 691; sketch, 274-75; knighted, 375 expedition to Pacific, 585.
- McKENZIE, Donald, death, 180.
- McKENZIE, Roderick, mentioned, 177.
- McKILLIP, Daniel, mentioned, 718.
- MACKINAC, surrendered to British, 713 shortage of provisions, 770-72.
- McLEAN, Capt. ——, killed, 754.
- McLEAN, Lt. Archibald, sketch, 715 service in War of 1812, 717.
- McLEAN, Catherine, wife of Louis Vesina, sketch, 280.
- McLEAN, Capt. Hector, mentioned, 36, 217, 274, 307, 317, 376; sketch, 273.
- McLEAN, Mrs. Hector, death, 273 grave, 377.
- McLEAN, Neil, mentioned, 715.
- MACKLEM, James, sketch, 315-16; letter, 316.
- McLEOD, Archibald Norman, mentioned, 691; identified, 660.
- McLEOD, Margaret, wife of Duncan Cameron, sketch, 589.
- McLEWES, ——, mentioned, 251.
- McMICHAEL, ——, characterized, 192.
- McMURRAY, ——, marriage, 525.
- McNEAL, ——, at Greenville, 202.
- McNEEL (McNeal), Daniel, I, signs petition, 682; sketch, 684.
- McNEEL, Daniel, II, identified, 684.
- McNEEL, John, identified, 684.
- McNEEL, Margaret, wife of Daniel McNeel, I, sketch, 684.
- McNIFF, Catherine, wife of Patrick McNiff, mentioned, 537-38.
- McNIFF, Eleanor, wife of Jonathan Eastman, sketch, 537.
- McNIFF, Margaret, wife of Porter Hanks, sketch, 538.
- McNIFF, Patrick, mentioned, 113-14, 122, 190, 537-38; sketch, 5, 464; land speculation, 5-8, 27-28, 68-70; letters 30-31; judge, 38-39, 277.

## INDEX

- MCNIFF, Robert, sketch, 464.  
 MACOMB family, sketch, 283.  
 MACOMB, —, shipwrecked, 303.  
 MACOMB, Mrs. —, mentioned, 374.  
 MACOMB, Alexander, mentioned, 19, 283; sketch, 18; care of Therese Wright, 342, 351-52; ownership of Belle Isle, 479.  
 MACOMB, Gen. Alexander, mentioned, 173; marriage, 283.  
 MACOMB, Anne, wife of Col. Aeneas Mackay, mentioned, 283.  
 MACOMB, Catherine, wife of Gen. Alexander Macomb, mentioned, 283.  
 MACOMB, David Betton, marriage, 283.  
 MACOMB, John Gordon, mentioned, 283.  
 MACOMB, Sarah, wife of Arent Schuyler De Peyster, II, sketch, 173.  
 MACOMB, William, mentioned, 21, 50, 173, 370; sketch, 75-77, 283; ownership of Belle Isle, 479; debts due Miamis Co., 489-90.  
 MCQUEEN (McGuin, Maguire), Alexander, sketch, 377.  
 MCQUEEN, Grace, wife of Alexander McQueen, sketch, 377.  
 MCQUEEN, Mary Flora, birth, 377.  
 MCQUEEN, William, birth, 377.  
 MCTAVISH, Simon, mentioned, 691; sketch, 24; break with Mackenzie, 274-75; educates Alexander Grant Jr., 357; death and estate, 421, 424; effect of death upon North West Co., 444.  
 MCTAVISH, Frobisher and Co., contract with Askin, 66.  
 MADELAINE, slave of John Askin Jr., mentioned, 772.  
 MADISON, James, mentioned, 456, 472.  
 MAHIMAK, signs deed, 27.  
 MAHINGAN, signs deed, 26.  
 MAIL, transportation, 72, 86, 105, 164, 207, 280, 341-42, 397, 648, 653, 671-73.  
 MAILLET (Mayez), Simon, elopement, 675.  
 MAISONVILLE, —, Jr., mentioned, 79; agent for Askin, 150; militia duty, 553.  
 MAISONVILLE, Alexis, mentioned, 48-49, 140, 193, 207, 237, 337, 407; sketch, 7, 101; witness, 7, 40, 104; land holdings, 122-24, 314; goes to York, 350; financial misfortunes, 479; letter, 586; militia duty, 586.  
 MAISONVILLE, Harry, mentioned, 101.  
 MALMESBURY, Earl of, *see* Harris, James.  
 MANNERS, Maj. Thomas, identified, 758.  
 MANSION House, mentioned, 591.  
 MARCHAND, Father Jean Baptiste, sketch, 111.  
 MARENTETTE, Dominic Francis Godet *dit, see* Godet, Dominic Francis, *dit* Marentette.  
 MARENTETTE, Frances Godet *dit, see* Godet, Frances, *dit* Marentette.  
 MARENTETTE, Francis Godet *dit, see* Godet, Francis, *dit* Marentette.  
 MARENTETTE, Jacques Duguay *dit, see* Duguay, Jacques, *dit* Marentette.  
 MARENTETTE, Margaret Duguay *dit, see* Duguay, Margaret, *dit* Marentette.  
 MARIE, mistress of Anthony Labadie *dit* Descomps, mentioned, 749.  
 MARIETTA (Ohio), founded, 457.  
 MARION, —, Lafontaine *dit, see* Lafontaine, —, *dit* Marion.  
 MARRIAGE, French contract, 323-25.  
 MARSAC, Mary Louisa, wife of Robert Navarre, II, mentioned, 779; sketch, 695.  
 MARSHALL, —, mentioned, 140.  
 MARTIN, —, quarrel with Lt. Williams, 696.  
 MARTIN, —, buys *Saguinah*, 778.  
 MARTIN, Capt. —, service in War of 1812, 775.  
 MARTIN, Widow —, property, 449.  
 MARTIN, Hugh R., mentioned, 671.  
 MARTIN, Margaret, *dit* St. Jean, sketch, 323.  
 MARY, sketch, 258.  
 MATCHIQUIS, mentioned, 407.  
 MATHEWS, Col. —, mentioned, 602.  
 MATHEWS, Maj. Robert, mentioned, 75.  
 MAY, Ann, wife of Peter Francis Audrain (first), and James B. Whipple (second), mentioned, 562.  
 MAY, Elizabeth Ann, wife of Jacques Godfroy, sketch, 601.  
 MAY, James, mentioned, 113, 241, 390, 410, 464, 552, 562, 582, 601, 651; sketch, 102; judge, 104, 142; debt, 165; wreck of *Harlequin*, 360; purchases windmill, 406; petitions for Territory of Michigan, 455; arbitrator, 537; letter, 561-63; sells lot, 684.  
 MAY, Capt. Joseph, marriage, 120; death, 358; sketch, 360-61.  
 MAYNE, Capt. William, mentioned, 46-47, 83, 273; sketch, 35-36.  
 MAYRITTE, Jean, mentioned, 323.  
 MEASURES, minot, French bushel, Winchester bushel, 402; arpent, 512.  
 MEDICINE, quinine, 491; elk skins, 539.  
 MELDRUM, George, mentioned, 114, 177, 178, 216, 299, 406, 409, 460, 651, 687; sketch, 17; note, 219; engages schoolmaster, 294-96; ownership of *Saguinah*, 399-401, 507-508; Vigo's debt to

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- Miamis Co., 621, 623-24; loyalty, 708; letter, 778-79; home plundered, 778. *See also* Meldrum and Park.
- MELDRUM, Mary Ann, wife of William McDowell Scott (first), and Melvin Dorr (second), sketch, 409.
- MELDRUM and Park, mentioned, 135; build mills, 194; ownership of *Saguinah*, 333, 370-71, 379-80; letter, 380; property in Detroit, 479; business, 778.
- MELOCHE, Catherine, wife of Louis Chapoton, mentioned, 684.
- MELOCHE, Francis, mentioned, 511, 532.
- MELOCHE, Mary Frances, wife of Pierre Berthelet *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- MELOCHE, Mary Therese, wife of Joseph Livernois, I, sketch, 511.
- MELVILLE, Viscount de, *see* Dundas, Henry.
- MENARD, Catherine, wife of Jacques Campau, mentioned, 432; sketch, 684.
- MENARD, Mary Ann, wife of Jean Pierre Chulle *dit* Belair, sketch, 725.
- MENY, Antoine, mentioned, 464, 480.
- MENY, Cecilia, wife of Jean Baptiste Créti, sketch, 464.
- MENY, Geneveva, wife of Lambert Thibault (first), and John R. McDougall (second), sketch, 480.
- MENY, Mary, wife of Jean Baptiste Brilliau *dit* Lesperance (first), Michael Houde (second), and Simon Drouillard (third), sketch, 323.
- MERCER, Charlotte, mentioned, 184.
- MERCER, Capt. Daniel, mentioned, 73, 242, 252, 486, 521, 528; stinginess, 89; in Uxbridge, 492; gout, 523; death, 541, 547.
- MERCHANDISE, price of: men's clothing, 14-15, corn, 24, 159, 186, 336, 591, 780, flour, 24, 225, 286, 386, 403, 415, 430, 447, 674, 707-708, 780, tea, 148, 751, whisky, 159, 403, 554, 780, rum, 262, 604, 780, jewelry, 160, pork, 160, 186, 211, 430, 674, 780, timber, 186, beef, 186, 318, 780, maple sugar, 214-15, 225, 698, 751, 780, bricks and tile, 262, cider, 262, 435, bread in England, 331, tools, 336, ox, 628, wheat, 674, wagon, 728, butter, 780, potatoes, 780, salt, 751, 780, mutton, 780; whisky, 148, 353, pay for Indians, 551, refused by Indians, 568-69; rum, diluted, 159; blankets, 160; candle wick, 160; salt, 221, 336, 353, 507; corn, 262, 343 (from Niagara), 402; wheat, 262; Harffy's order, 268; cider, 353; duty on provisions, 403; scarcity at St. Joseph, 604-605; maple sugar, 609, 733; sugar exchanged for flour, 639; potash, 674; timber, 674; U. S. embargo on tea, 698.
- MEREDITH, Anne, mentioned, 59, 542; education, 72, 89, 97.
- MEREDITH, Col. David, mentioned, 73, 87-88, 118, 183-85, 287, 428, 431, 523, 568, 742; sketch, 57; illness, 71, 83-84, 88-89, 127; military service, 95 ff., 105-107, 128, 174, 491, 528, 540-41; letters, 105-107, 126, 250-52, 540-41; death, 626; estate, 642-43.
- MEREDITH, David, Jr., mentioned, 59, 542; education, 72, 89, 97, 541; commissioned, 643.
- MEREDITH, Elizabeth, mentioned, 542; education, 491-92; miniature, 742, 751.
- MERRITT, Thomas, sketch, 711-12.
- MERRITT (Merrit), William Hamilton, service in War of 1812, 711-12.
- MESSACAR, Abraham, identified, 713.
- METAY, Mary Frances, wife of Francis Deslauriers (first), Francis Bertrand (second), and Jean Baptiste Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien (third), sketch, 683.
- MIAMIS Co., money due, 346, 367, 413-14, 419, 437-40, 477-78, 489-90, 513, 518-19, 621, 623-24. *See also* entries under various partners.
- MICHIGAN, sketch, 258.
- MICHIGAN Territory, officers appointed, 455-56; debt law, 505; land laws, 687-88; as neutral ground, 747.
- MICHLIMACKINAC Co., mentioned, 569; sketch, 554; storehouse at St. Joseph, 590; protest against Embargo and Non-Importation acts, 602; charters *Caledonia*, 733.
- MILITIA, *see* army.
- MILLER, James, mentioned, 675-76.
- MILLS, Capt. William, mentioned, 437, 444, 550, 555, 583-84, 591, 594; sketch, 215-16.
- MILNES, Sir Robert Shore, sketch, 220.
- MINOT, defined, 402.
- MIRANDA, Francisco, mentioned, 529.
- MISSIONARY, Bacon on Harsen's Island, 312-13. *See also* Moravian Mission.
- MISSISSAUGA, Cuyahoga Purchase, 5-8.
- MISSISSIPPI Territory, collection of debts in, 505.
- MISSOURI, first book published by Frederick Bates, 256.
- MITCHELL, Dr. David, I, mentioned, 291, 569, 576, 583, 606, 646, 658, 660-61, 673; sketch, 173.
- MITCHELL, David, II, mentioned, 569.
- MITCHELL, Jessie, wife of Lewis Crawford, mentioned, 590; marriage, 576; birth of twins, 583.
- MOIRA, Earl of, *see* Hastings, Francis Rawdon.

## INDEX

- MOMPESON, —, wounded, 767.
- MONCK, G. W., identified, 789; nervous breakdown, 789-90.
- MONFORTON, William, sketch, 434; letters, 557-58, 560-61; imprisoned for debt, 557-58, 560-61.
- MONROE, James, mentioned, 472, 739, 742.
- MONTIGNY, Sieur de, *see* Testard, Pierre Jean Baptiste, Sieur de Montigny de Louvigny.
- MONTREAL, fire in 1803, 394; growth and trade, 653, 674; attack by Gen. Dearborn expected, 742.
- MORAN (Morin), —, a mason, debt, 549-50.
- MORANDIÈRE, Catherine Desrivières de la, wife of Antoine Dequindre, sketch, 684.
- MORAVIAN Mission, trade with Askin, 153-54, 158-59, 164, 186-87, 335-37; members, 243; arrival of Denkey, 303-304; lands bought by Askin and Ancrum, 309-10, 327-29, 613; on Harsen's Island, 381-82; title of property, 497.
- MOREAU, François Xavier, *dit* Duplessy, sketch, 533.
- MORISON, Charles, mentioned, 257; sketch, 214; letters, 215, 224-26, 290-92, 414-16.
- MORRIS, —, mentioned, 246.
- MORRISON, James, mentioned, 181.
- MORRISON, Mary, wife of Conrad Seek, sketch, 683.
- MORTIMER, Benjamin, sketch, 243; letters, 243, 303-304.
- MOSES, Charlotte, indentured, 607-608.
- MOTT, Mary, wife of John R. Williams, sketch, 384.
- MOUNSEY, Capt. Paul, sketch, 249; estate, 261.
- MOUNT Clemens (Mich.), founded, 496.
- MOY, house of Angus McIntosh, 367.
- MUIR, Capt. Adam C., mentioned, 590; sketch, 488; commands at Detroit, 728.
- MUIR, Mrs. Adam C., mentioned, 590.
- MURRAY, Anne, wife of William Dummer Powell, mentioned, 140, 568.
- MURRAY, Jane, wife of John Dodemead, mentioned, 539, 683.
- MURRAY, Lt. Col. John, identified, 774; service in War of 1812, 774-75.
- MURRAY and Sansom, creditors of Williams and Casety, 431.
- MUY, Sieur de, *see* Daneau, Pierre Charles.
- MYERS, Lt. Col. Christopher, sketch, 755.
- MYERS, Martin Theophilus, mentioned, 268; sketch, 218.
- NADEAU family, sketch, 358.
- NADEAU (Nadau), Jean Baptiste, fight with slave, 357-58.
- NANANNIE ou Kuvainin, signs deed, 27.
- NANGUI (Nangi), signs deed, 104, 381.
- NANTAIS, Jean Baptiste Prudhomme *dit*, *see* Prudhomme, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Nantais.
- NANTAIS, Margaret Prudhomme *dit*, *see* Prudhomme, Margaret, *dit* Nantais.
- NAUDOET, signs deed, 12.
- NAVARRE, —, mentioned, 194.
- NAVARRE, Mary Catherine, wife of Henry B. Brevoort, sketch, 695.
- NAVARRE, Mary Frances, wife of George McDougall, mentioned, 479.
- NAVARRE, Mary Louisa Robert, wife of Dominic Francis Godet *dit* Marentette, sketch, 799.
- NAVARRE, Robert, I, sketch, 695.
- NAVARRE, Robert, II, mentioned, 779; sketch, 695.
- NEAGLES, John, mentioned, 181.
- NEGAONIQUE, signs deed, 12.
- NEGROES, used as soldiers in Detroit, 566, 570.
- NELLES, Henry William, sketch, 711.
- NELLES, Maj. Warner, sketch, 711.
- NELSON, —, carpenter, 444.
- NELSON, George, marriage, 718.
- NELSON, Horatio, Lord, reported dead, 151; victory, 181, 500.
- NELSON, Capt. Jonathan, sketch, 34; buys wood for garrison, 205.
- New London Co., plan to buy Cuyahoga Purchase, 453-54.
- NEWSPAPER, published in Niagara, 239; 582.
- NIAGARA (Ont.), newspaper, 239.
- NICHOL, Robert, mentioned, 75, 158, 372, 387, 714; sketch, 41; witness, 102, 104; business relations with Robert Hamilton, 148-49, with Askin, 187, 214, 227-28, 354, 385-87, 403, 429-31, 434-38, 507-508, with Clark, 303; letters, 191-93, 210-12, 221-22, 226, 301-303, 342-44, 353-54, 383-85, 401-404, 421-31, 436-38, 445-46; disapproval of cosmetics, 436; charter of *Saguinah*, 445-46; public funds, 703; service in War of 1812, 728.
- NIGOUCHEWAY, signs deed, 11.
- NIGQUANI comme, signs deed, 12.
- NIQUIQUE, signs deed, 12.
- NOBBIN, runs away, 561-62.
- NOBERT, Étienne Biguet *dit*, *see* Biguet, Étienne, *dit* Nobert.
- NON-IMPORTATION ACT, objection of fur traders, 602, 694.
- NORTHUMBERLAND, Duke of, *see* Percy, Hugh.



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- NORTH West Co., mentioned, 212, 286, 585, 589, 629, 658-60; business with Askin, 24-25, 34; organization, 180, 444, 691; break between McTavish and Mackenzie, 274-75; control of lake shipping, 482; goods seized by U. S. customs, 515; tobacco output, 649; proposes road from Yonge Street to Matchedash Bay, 688; contract with East India Co., 698.
- NORTON, —, debts, 179.
- NORTON, Capt. John, mentioned, 508; sketch, 372; service in War of 1812, 712-13.
- NOWLAN, Thomas, offers to manage *Saguinah*, 495; letter, 495.
- OBRIAN, Mrs. —, daughter of Joseph Frobisher, fatally burned, 331.
- O'BRIEN, Ensign —, marriage, 671.
- O'BRIEN, Ann, wife of Richard G. England, mentioned, 48-49, 52, 72-73, 107-109; sketch, 781.
- O'BRIEN, Ensign Edward James, mentioned, 781; sketch, 50.
- O'BRIEN, James, mentioned, 781.
- O'BRYAN, Capt. —, in Montreal, 65.
- OCHAISIE, signs deed, 104.
- OCHICHALK, signs deed, 27.
- OGDEN, Charles R., mentioned, 756.
- OGDEN, Peter Skene, mentioned, 756.
- OGETONICUT, death on *Speedy*, 442.
- OGILVIE, Mrs. —, marries William Robertson, 392.
- OGILVIE, John, sketch, 64; William Robertson's estate, 567; agent for North West Co., 629.
- O'HARA, Gen. James, mentioned, 414; sketch, 148; army contractor, 305.
- OHIO, troops in War of 1812, 720, 724.
- O'KEEFE, —, mentioned, 538.
- OKIA, mentioned, 30; signs deed, 26.
- OLIVER, —, mentioned, 19, 539.
- OMISSASS, signs deed, 104.
- OPPELT, Gottfried Sebastian, sketch, 243; letter, 270, 335-37.
- OPPELT, Mrs. Gottfried Sebastian, mentioned, 337; at Goshen, 243.
- O'REILLY, Anne, wife of D. W. Smith, mentioned, 78, 122, 124; sketch, 22.
- O'REILLY, John, mentioned, 22.
- ORLEANS, Duke of, *see* Louis Philippe.
- OTHESNEESA, signs, deed, 27.
- OTTAWA, *see* Indians.
- OUBEQUEGYATE, signs deed, 12.
- OUQUESOS, signs deed, 11.
- OXEN, for plowing, 480.
- PACCAN (pecan), definition, 118.
- PACKARD, Benjamin, marriage, 203.
- PACIFIC Fur Co., mentioned, 585.
- PAINE, Thomas, mentioned, 305.
- PALMER, Joseph, repairs *Harlequin*, 360.
- PANGMAN, Peter, mentioned, 691.
- PARÉ, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 14.
- PARÉ, Mary Frances, wife of Antoine Levasseur *dit* Carmel (first), and Tous-saint Chêne (second), sketch, 14.
- PARENT family, sketch, 548.
- PARENT, Maj. —, mentioned, 548.
- PARENT, Geneveva, wife of Jean Baptiste Cuillierier *dit* Beaubien, II, sketch, 683.
- PARENT, Jane, wife of Francis Godet *dit* Marentette, sketch, 779.
- PARENT, Laurence, mentioned, 779; sketch, 683.
- PARK, Mrs. —, mentioned, 773.
- PARK, Joseph, mentioned, 743.
- PARK, William, mentioned, 173, 195, 299, 379, 409, 497, 534, 613, 651; sketch, 17; characterized, 217-18; Miamis Co., debts, 419, 489-90, 621, 623-24; letters, 443-44, 588; windmill, 443-44; appraiser, 444; debts, 465; militia duty, 552; illness, 687.
- PARKE, Judge Benjamin, mentioned, 281.
- PARKER, Gerrard, Ogilvie and Co., mentioned, 64, 393, 427.
- PARKS, Beaumont, assistant of David Bacon, 362.
- PARK's mill, mentioned, 717.
- PARLIAMENT (Canadian), eligibility to, 299.
- PARRES, —, mentioned, 675.
- PATERSON, Capt. —, mentioned, 517.
- PATRICK, —, mentioned, 676.
- PATTEE, Rev. Elias, marriage, 683.
- PATTINSON, Ellen, mentioned, 773.
- PATTINSON, Mary, mentioned, 773.
- PATTINSON (Pattenson), Richard, I, mentioned, 237, 470, 499, 537-38, 574, 609, 626, 660, 672, 679, 729-30, 732, 742; sketch, 140; furs lost, 303; land, 467, 509, 564, 663, 747; militia duty, 553; marriage, 600; owner of the *Ellen*, 688; birth of daughter, 678; death of wife, 773.
- PATTINSON, Richard, II, mentioned, 773.
- PECHE River, located, 101.
- PECK, William, mentioned, 743.
- PELL, —, suit against Ruland, 613.
- PELLETIER, —, leaves Vincennes, 345.
- PELTIER, Mrs. —, mentioned, 679.
- PELTIER, Angelica, *dit* Antaya, wife of Antoine Campau, mentioned, 188.
- PELTIER, Archange, wife of John Whipple, sketch, 591.
- PELTIER, Felicity, wife of Peter Tallman (first), and Francis of Assisi Cicotte (second), mentioned, 640, 679; sketch, 636.

## INDEX

- PELTIER, Jacques Amable, mentioned, 583, 591, 609, 659-60, 679; debts, 636; rents farm to Cicotte, 640.  
 PELTIER, Jean Francis, mentioned, 511.  
 PELTIER, Mary Ann Angelica, wife of Anthony Campau (first), and Étienne Benoit *dit* Livernois, II (second), sketch, 511.  
 PELTIER, Mary Frances, wife of Jean Baptiste Paré, mentioned, 14.  
 PELTIER, Mary Madelaine, wife of John Askin Jr., mentioned, 73, 88, 234, 487, 551, 564-65, 570, 573-74, 577-78, 584, 590, 593, 604, 607, 609, 626-27, 629, 631, 636, 638, 641-42, 646, 650, 652, 656, 661, 670, 673, 678-79, 689, 694, 696-97, 733-34, 772, 779; letters, 132-33, 576-77, 691-93, 761-63, 784-85, 788-90; moves to St. Joseph, 550, 553-55; kindness to Mrs. Crawford, 583; goes to Detroit, 657-59; death of husband, 790.  
 PERCY, Hugh, Duke of Northumberland, honors D. W. Smith, 517.  
 PERRY, Commodore Oliver H., mentioned, 695.  
 PETERBORO (Ont.), named, 716.  
 PETERS, Hannah Owen, wife of William Jarvis, sketch, 300.  
 PETERS, Rev. Samuel, mentioned, 300, 719.  
 PEYROAX, Capt. —, mentioned, 436.  
 PHELPS, Oliver, mentioned, 157.  
 PICANIER, Sieur de la, *see* Quindre, François Guillaume Dagneau de, Sieur de la Picanier.  
 PICOTÉ, François Marie, *see* Bellestre, Sieur de.  
 PIEDALU, Mary, *dit* Laprarie, wife of Thomas Ignatius Thuot *dit* Duval, sketch, 133.  
 PIETOU, Frances, wife of Andrew Achin, mentioned, 189.  
 PIKE, John, service in War of 1812, 729.  
 PIKE, Zebulon, mentioned, 211; expedition to Northwest, 500.  
 PILET, Jacques, land granted, 531.  
 PILKINGTON, Capt. Robert, sketch, 388-89; fortifies Fort Miamis, 543; business venture at Johnstown, 669.  
 PILKINGTON Township, colonized, 389.  
 PIMAQUE, signs deed, 12.  
 PINFOLD, Capt. —, mentioned, 109.  
 PIQUETTE, Jean Baptiste, signs petition, 682.  
 PISINACK, —, land claims, 529.  
 PITT, William, mentioned, 106, 108, 331; war policy, 72.  
 PLAYTER, George, sketch, 351.  
 POINT AU ROCHE, *see* Stony Point.  
 POLLARD, Edward, sketch, 510.  
 POLLARD, Richard, mentioned, 112, 139, 173, 288, 503, 747; sketch, 37; becomes rector, 369, 374; letters, 438-39, 550, 563-64.  
 POPHAM, Sir Horne, mentioned, 541.  
 PORLIER, Claude, sketch, 28.  
 PORLIER, Claude Cyprian, sketch, 28.  
 PORLIER, Joseph Stephen, *dit* Benalque sketch, 28; location of land, 512.  
 PORLIER, Stephen, baptism, 28.  
 PORTAGE, Yonge Street to Matchedash Bay, 688.  
 PORT HURON (Mich.), first lots platted by John Thorn, 262.  
 PORTEOUS, John, sketch, 215.  
 PORTEOUS, John., sketch, 704.  
 PORTEOUS, Mary Charlotte, sketch, 704.  
 PORTER, —, mentioned, 138, 654.  
 PORTLAND, Duke of, *see* Bentinck, William Henry Cavendish.  
 POSTAGE, from England, 56.  
 POTAWATOMI, *see* Indians.  
 POTAWATOMI Village, given to Navarre, 695.  
 POTHIER, —, mentioned, 525, 694.  
 POTHIER, Jean Baptiste Toussaint, sketch, 37.  
 POTHIER, Louis Toussaint, mentioned, 37.  
 POTHIER, Toussaint, mentioned, 569.  
 POUGET, Cecilia, wife of Paschal Réaume, sketch, 260.  
 POUGET, Joseph, mentioned, 260.  
 POUNAL, Sir G —, mentioned, 425.  
 POUPARD, Angelica, wife of Jean Baptiste Cicotte, mentioned, 636.  
 POWELL, Jeremiah, sketch, 528-29.  
 POWELL, Mary Bayles, wife of Samuel Peters Jarvis, sketch, 721.  
 POWELL, Judge William Dummer, mentioned, 303, 315, 432, 499, 529, 721, 749; sketch, 34; in England, 109; letter, 139-40; opinion on land claims, 161-62; attorney for Williams, 384; son imprisoned, 568; Askin's land claims, 658.  
 POWERS, —, shipwrecked, 303.  
 PRATT, John Jeffreys, Earl of Camden, mentioned, 488.  
 PRESCOTT, Gov.-Gen. Robert, mentioned, 234, 273; sketch, 220.  
 PREVOST, Sir George; attempt to take Sackett's Harbor, 755.  
 PRINCE, —, debt, 191.  
 PRINCE, James, debt, 191.  
 PRINCE, Col. John, execution of prisoners, 503.  
 PROCTER, Augusta Margaret, birth, 487.  
 PROCTER, Frances Sarah, birth, 487.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- PROCTER, Gen. Henry A., I, mentioned, 197, 235, 280, 409, 488, 685, 695, 711-12, 717, 722, 747, 771; sketch, 487; service in War of 1812, 725, 766; civil governor of Detroit, 727-28.
- PROCTER, Henry, II, birth, 487.
- PROCTER, Sarah Anne, baptised, 487.
- PROCTER, Lt. William, marriage, 711.
- PROHIBITION, in Detroit, 1796, 49.
- PRUDHOMME, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Nantais, mentioned, 685.
- PRUDHOMME, Margaret, *dit* Nantais, wife of Jean Baptiste Belanger, sketch, 685.
- PRUDHOMME, Mary Jane, wife of Jean Baptiste Raoul, mentioned, 193-94.
- PTOLOMÉE, Angelica, wife of Pierre Robert, *dit* Lapierre-Lapomerais, sketch, 197-98.
- PUCE River, located, 101.
- PUISAYE, Joseph Geneviève, Comte de, mentioned, 774; sketch, 151.
- PURDAY, Ann, wife of Pierre Labadie, *dit* Badichon, sketch, 749.
- QUESNEL, Mary Louisa, *dit* St. Remy, wife of Charles Drouillard, sketch, 683-84.
- QUIMFERS, Charlotte, mistress of James Henry, mentioned, 305.
- QUINDRE, *see also* Dequindre.
- QUINDRE, Charles Stanislas Dagneau de, *dit* Fontenoy, sketch, 123.
- QUINDRE, François Guillaume Dagneau de, Sieur de la Picanier, sketch, 123.
- QUINDRE, Louis Césaire Dagneau de, mentioned, 123.
- QUIOUGOUSHQUIN, mentioned, 407.
- QUOUQIXE, signs deed, 12.
- RACEY, —, service in War of 1812, 713.
- RAE, John, grandfather of John Askin, 341.
- RANDALL and Whitney, mentioned, 22.
- RAOUL, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 193.
- RAOUL, Mary Jane, wife of Jean Francis (Phénon) Toupin *dit* Dusault, sketch, 193-94.
- RAPIN, Elizabeth, wife of Jean Drouillard, mentioned, 323.
- RAVIER, Frances, wife of Francis Berthelot, mentioned, 532.
- RAWSON, Santlaw Gustavus, sketch, 661; assistant commissary of St. Joseph, 670.
- RÉAUME family, sketch, 259.
- RÉAUME, Agatha, wife of Isidore Robert, sketch, 198.
- RÉAUME, Alexis, mentioned, 779-80; sketch, 732-33.
- RÉAUME, Bonaventure, sketch, 732.
- RÉAUME, Charles, sketch, 28.
- RÉAUME, Charlotte, wife of Pierre Charles Daneau, Sieur de Muy, mentioned, 732.
- RÉAUME, Claude Thomas, mentioned, 733.
- RÉAUME, Hyacinthe, sketch, 259.
- RÉAUME, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 198; sketch, 449.
- RÉAUME, Joseph, sketch, 259-60.
- RÉAUME, Marie Julie, wife of Jehu Hay, mentioned, 662; characterized, 59.
- RÉAUME, Paschal, sketch, 260.
- RÉAUME, Pierre, sketch, 732.
- RÉAUME, Susanne, wife of Jacques Baby, *dit* Duperon, land holding, 41, 684.
- REEDER Farm, title difficulties, 465, 475-76.
- RENAUD, Antoine, debt, 347.
- RENAUD, Louis, mentioned, 683.
- RENAUD, Margaret, wife of Antoine Durette, sketch, 683.
- RENAUD, Mary Ann, wife of Jean Baptiste Durette, II, sketch, 683.
- RENT, house at St. Joseph, 355; River Rouge farm, 619; office, 666.
- REYNOLDS, Jean Charlotte McGill, birth, 522.
- REYNOLDS, Reuben, witness, 51.
- REYNOLDS, Robert, sketch, 522; bequest from McGill, 777.
- REYNOLDS, Thomas, mentioned, 174, 263, 431, 522, 601; sketch, 34; construction of Ft. Malden, 83, 218, 222, 249; letters, 222, 273; commissary, 224-25, 255, 258, 261, 264-65, 268-69, 273-74, 317, 389-90; pall-bearer for Harffy, 376.
- RIALL, Sir Phineas, service in War of 1812, 775.
- RICHARD, Father Gabriel, mentioned, 562.
- RICHARDS, Peter, deserts, 222.
- RICHARDSON, Jane, wife of Robert Rist, mentioned, 670, 676, 678, 686; sketch, 131; father and brother captured, 769.
- RICHARDSON, John, mentioned, 356, 368, 749; sketch, 131; tuition, 357; service in War of 1812, 719, 729, 769.
- RICHARDSON, John, mentioned, 534. *See also* Forsyth and Richardson.
- RICHARDSON, Dr. Robert, mentioned, 246-47, 308, 359, 426-28, 499, 553, 565-66, 569, 573, 584, 594, 607, 626, 628, 641-42, 652, 655, 691, 727, 743, 748-49, 773, 785; sketch, 131; marriage, 174; letters, 209-10, 277-78, 355-56, 368-69, 685-86, 749-50; goes to St. Joseph, 344, 355-56; military promotion, 548-49; death of wife, 676, 678; marries Ann McGregor, 685-86, 693; service in War of 1812, 729, 769.

## INDEX

- RICHARDSON, Robert, II, mentioned, 743; sketch, 748; wounded, 749.
- RICHARDSON, William, marriage, 247.
- RIGAULT, Pierre François, Marquis de Vaudreuil, capitulation, 473.
- RIST, Robert, marriage, 131.
- RIVARD family, sketch, 28.
- RIVARD, Antoine, I, mentioned, 28.
- RIVARD, Antoine, II, sketch, 28.
- RIVARD, Jean Baptiste, sketch, 28.
- ROBERT family, sketch, 449.
- ROBERT, Isidore (Guemon), mentioned, 449; sketch, 198.
- ROBERT, Louis, *dit* LaPomerai (La-pomeraye, La Pomerai), sketch, 197.
- ROBERT, Mary Louisa, wife of Jean Francis Peltier (first), and Jean Louis Campau (second), mentioned, 511, 684.
- ROBERT, Michael, sketch, 197.
- ROBERT, Philip, sketch, 197.
- ROBERT, Pierre, *dit* Lapierre-Lapomerai, sketch, 197-98.
- ROBERT, Pierre Nicholas, sketch, 198.
- ROBERT, Prudent, *dit* Lafontaine, sketch, 197-98.
- ROBERT, Regina Susanne, wife of Gregor McGregor, mentioned, 527.
- ROBERTS, Capt. Charles, mentioned, 469; takes Mackinac, 538, 713; succeeded by Bullock, 771.
- ROBERTSON, —, mentioned, 550.
- ROBERTSON, David, mentioned, 72.
- ROBERTSON, John, mentioned, 426; business, 385-86; letter, 387-88; gift from William Robertson Sr., 393; executor for William Robertson, 547; service in War of 1812, 735, 739.
- ROBERTSON, Elizabeth Lucy, wife of Henry Ronalds, mentioned, 340; trouble with father, 387-88.
- ROBERTSON, Prince, account, 212.
- ROBERTSON, William, I, mentioned, 48-49, 52, 59, 65-67, 73, 88, 230, 245, 257, 260-61, 314, 337-38, 341, 347, 378, 396, 465, 510, 563; sketch, 5; land speculation, 5-8, 68-70, 167, 260-61, 289, 315, 664-66; debts, 34-35, 486; witness, 41; marries, Mrs. Ogilvie, 64, 392; business affairs 72, 339-41, 390-93, 427; attorney for Todd and McGill, 74-75; salt spring, 228; letters, 243-44, 248-49, 339-41; offers his house for school, 243-44; death of wife, 297; illness, 350-51; misconduct, 387-88, 422, 425-26, 467, 492, 523; death, 547; estate, 552, 567.
- ROBERTSON, William, II, mentioned, 151, 310; business troubles, 385-86; goes to England, 387-88, 392-93; letter, 392-93; gift of £1000, 393; executor for William Robertson, 547, 552, 567; service in War of 1812, 735.
- ROBIDOU, Joseph, mentioned, 259.
- ROBIDOU, Mary Teresa, wife of François Billet, sketch, 259.
- ROBINS, —, mentioned, 529, 538-39, 566.
- ROBINSON, —, mentioned, 276.
- ROBINSON, Christopher, sketch, 23.
- ROBINSON, John Beverley, mentioned, 75.
- ROBINSON, Capt. Peter, sketch, 716.
- ROBINSON and Martin, mentioned, 671.
- ROBISON (Robertson), Capt. Thomas, sketch, 510-11; death, 520.
- ROBISON (Robertson), William, mentioned, 378; sketch, 671.
- ROCHESTER (N. Y.), early settlers, 157.
- ROCKY River, *see* Stony Creek.
- RODMAN, Catherine, wife of William Hamilton Merritt, sketch, 712.
- ROE, John James, birth, 75.
- ROE, Maria Ann, birth, 75.
- ROE, Walter, mentioned, 146, 179, 218, 238, 242; sketch, 75; register, 104; money due, 192; surveyor, 260-61; letter, 279-80; candidate for representative, 299-300; incompetence, 314-15.
- ROE, Walter Thomas, birth, 75.
- ROE, William, birth, 75.
- ROLETTE, F—, mentioned, 637.
- ROLLETTE, —, mentioned, 641.
- ROLPH, Lt. George, identified, 712; service in War of 1812, 721.
- ROMAIN, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Sanscraint, sketch, 7; interpreter, 7, 14.
- ROMAN Catholic Church, relation to state, 43. *See also* Assumption Church and Ste. Anne's Church.
- RONCELAY, Mary, wife of Antoine Fournier, sketch, 132.
- ROSE, Sir George Henry, American mission, 595.
- ROUGH (Reuff), Capt. James, mentioned, 657, 671; sketch, 258-59, 434.
- ROULEAU, Charles, marriage, 305.
- ROUSSIN, Frances, wife of Pierre Lognon, sketch, 683.
- ROUSSIN, Jean, mentioned, 683.
- ROUSSON, Jean Baptiste, witness, 322-23.
- ROWLAND, Thomas, mentioned, 537.
- RULAND (Rulland, Rulund), Israel, mentioned, 30, 197, 297, 599; sketch, 5; land speculation, 5-8, 27-28, 68-70; debts, 34, 422, 534, 610; suit against, 612-13.
- RUSCUM River, located, 101.
- RUSSELL, Peter, mentioned, 70; sketch, 23; letter, 121; receiver general, 516-17.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- SAGUINAH, repairs and operation, 333, 339-401, 481; sale, 370-71, 379-80, 507-508; chartered by Nichol, 445; Nowlan's offer to manage, 495.
- St. AUBIN, Jean Baptiste Casse *dit*, *see* Casse, Jean Baptiste, *dit* St. Aubin.
- St. AUBIN, Magdelaine Casse *dit*, *see* Casse, Magdelaine, *dit* St. Aubin.
- St. AUBIN, Mary Ann Casse *dit*, *see* Casse, Mary Ann, *dit* St. Aubin.
- St. BERNARD, *see also* Bernard.
- St. BERNARD, Joseph, sketch, 188; logger for Askin, 189-91; lawsuit, 379.
- St. CATHERINE (Ont.), founded, 712.
- SAINT CERNY (Saint Cernie, Cencirnie), Antoine, sketch, 278.
- St. CLAIR, Gen. Arthur, mentioned, 49, 183, 197, 305, 339, 362; in Detroit, 310; incorporation of Detroit, 680.
- St. CLAIR, Arthur, Jr., identified, 182.
- St. COSME family, sketch, 7.
- St. COSME, Dominic, birth, 7-8.
- St. COSME, Pierre Laurence, sketch, 7-8.
- St. COSME, Rose, wife of James May, mentioned, 601.
- St. CROIX, Lt. —, mentioned, 636.
- St. GEORGE, Lt. —, service in War of 1812, 717.
- St. GEORGE, Col. Thomas B., service in War of 1812, 717-18.
- St. JEAN, Margaret Martin *dit*, *see* Martin, Margaret, *dit* St. Jean.
- St. JOHN, —, service in War of 1812, 712.
- St. JOHN's Church (Sandwich), need of wardens, 438-39.
- St. JOSEPH, wild life, 570, 574; described, 589; living conditions, 589, 649.
- St. LOUIS, —, debts, 329.
- St. MARY, Étienne, mentioned, 253, 280, 397; property, 368.
- St. MARTIN, Jane Baudry *dit*, *see* Baudry, Jane, *dit* St. Martin.
- St. MARTIN, Jean Baudry *dit* Desbuttes *dit*, *see* Baudry, Jean, *dit* Desbuttes *dit* St. Martin.
- St. MARTIN, Margaret Desbuttes *dit*, *see* Desbuttes, Margaret, *dit* St. Martin.
- St. MARTIN, Mary Archange Baudry *dit* Desbuttes *dit*, *see* Baudry, Mary Archange, *dit* Desbuttes *dit* St. Martin.
- St. MARTIN, Mary Joseph Adhémar *dit*, *see* Adhémar, Mary Joseph, *dit* St. Martin.
- St. MARTIN, Toussaint Anthony Adhémar *dit*, *see* Adhémar, Toussaint Anthony, *dit* St. Martin.
- St. REMY, Mary Louisa Quesnel *dit*, *see* Quesnel, Mary Louisa, *dit* St. Remy.
- StE. ANNE's Church, erected after fire, 533.
- StE. MARIE, Felicity, wife of Antoine Rivard, sketch, 28.
- SALARIES, 319, 671, 697; winterers, 206, 227, 661; engagés, 274; secretary to governor, 305; shoemakers, 371, 671; boat captain, 400; president of Council, 523; in Montreal, 625; collector of customs, 666.
- SALMON, Capt. —, mentioned, 86.
- SALMON, Maj. George C., identified, 714; service in War of 1812, 721.
- SALSTAUNSTAL, —, mentioned, 17.
- SAM, slave of Thomas McKee, mentioned, 551; 590, 639.
- SAMUEL, Moravian Indian, debts, 335.
- SANDWICH (Ont.), site considered, 101.
- SANGUINET, Charles, marriage, 101.
- SANSCRAINTÉ, Jean Baptiste Romain *dit*, *see* Romain, Jean Baptiste, *dit* Sanscrainte.
- SAQUIMAINT, signs deed, 11.
- SARGENT, Winthrop, sketch, 114-15; grants Askin ferry license, 129-30.
- SAUCIER, Geneveva, wife of Joseph St. Bernard, sketch, 188.
- SAUCIER, Joseph, mentioned, 188.
- SAUNDERS, Capt. William Caulfield, identified, 767.
- SAUVAGE, Catherine, wife of Charles Chêne, mentioned, 448.
- SAUVAGE, Marie Anne, wife of François Lootman *dit* Barrois, mentioned, 683.
- SAVOYARD, Francis Berthelet *dit*, *see* Berthelet, Francis, *dit* Savoyard.
- SAVOYARD, Henry Berthelet *dit*, *see* Berthelet, Henry, *dit* Savoyard.
- SAVOYARD, Pierre Berthelet *dit*, *see* Berthelet, Pierre, *dit* Savoyard.
- SAVOYARD, Therese Berthelet *dit*, *see* Berthelet, Therese, *dit* Savoyard.
- SAWYER, Daniel, mentioned, 113; sketch, 114.
- SCHENECTADY boat, speed, 46.
- SCHIEFFELIN, Jonathan, sketch, 62; Philadelphia mission, 181; imprisoned, 668.
- SCHLEY, Rachel, wife of George Knaggs, mentioned, 360; sketch, 119-20; house plundered, 723.
- SCHOOLCRAFT, Henry R., marriage, 525.
- SCOTT, Judge —, mentioned, 664.
- SCOTT, Mary, wife of Robert Grant, sketch, 193.
- SCOTT, Mary, common-law wife of Robert Forsyth, sketch, 281.
- SCOTT, Thomas, mentioned, 506; sketch, 486.
- SCOTT, Dr. William McDowell, sketch, 409.
- SEABURY, —, mentioned, 259.

## INDEX

- SEARL, Ann, wife of Roderick Drake, birth, 217.
- SEARL (Serle), William, sketch, 217.
- SEATON, Maitland and Co., failure, 275.
- SECORD, —, service in War of 1812, 713.
- SECORD, Mrs. Laura, myth, 764.
- SEEK, Conrad, sketch, 682-83.
- SEEK, Nicholas, sketch, 682-83.
- SEGUIN, Mary, *dit* Laderoute, wife of Francis Achin *dit* Catin, sketch, 189.
- SELBY, Prideaux, mentioned, 111, 317, 350, 480, 635, 641, 643, 650, 657, 670, 678; sketch, 102; candidate for representative, 299; agriculture, 353, 437; friendliness toward John Askin Jr., 638; death, 756.
- SELKIRK, Lord, *see* Douglas, Tomas, Earl of Selkirk.
- SEMPLE, Gov. Robert, death, 660.
- SENSEMAN, Gottlob, mentioned, 153-54, 164, 243, 262; letters, 158-59, 186-87; death, 270.
- SERVANT, duties, 509-10; indenture, 276-77, 607-608.
- SHAND, Col. Alexander, identified, 252.
- SHARP, George, mentioned, 75, 204-205, 252, 310; sketch, 15; North West Co., 180; death, 276; business with Gamelin, 282-84.
- SHARP, John, murder, 442.
- SHAW, Capt. —, mentioned, 773.
- SHAW, Maj. Gen. Aeneas, mentioned, 249, 261, 263, 265, 486, 493, 499; sketch, 241-42; identified, 660.
- SHAW, John, identified, 41; delivers bricks, 423, 426.
- SHAWNEE Prophet, *see* Tenskwatawa.
- SHEAFFE, Sir Roger Hall, mentioned, 584; sketch, 750; succeeded by Vincent, 753.
- SHEARS (Spears), Capt. —, mentioned, 109.
- SHEPHERD, —, buys corn, 133.
- SHERRARD, Capt. Thomas Ormsby, mentioned, 659-660; replaces Dawson at St. Joseph, 635, 652, 655; sketch, 652-53; quarrel with Lt. Williams, 696.
- SHIPLY, —, mentioned, 166.
- SHORT, —, shoemaker, 462.
- SIBLEY, —, daughter mentioned, 517.
- SIBLEY, Henry H., mentioned, 165.
- SIBLEY, Solomon, mentioned, 62, 176, 198, 254, 370, 372, 645, 648, 723; sketch, 165; representative for Wayne County, 319-20; letter, 454-57; Washington mission, 454-57, 465, 473, 562; attorney for Askin, 687.
- SIMARD, Magdelene, wife of Pierre Tremblay, sketch, 103.
- SIMCOE, Gov. John Graves, mentioned, 10, 18, 23, 33, 48, 157, 242, 299, 311, 376, 388-89, 589, 712; sketch, 9; letter, 32; lieutenant-governor of Santo Domingo, 72-73, 109; unfairness to Askin, 100.
- SIMMS, Dr. —, teaches Alexander McKee, II, 743.
- SIMON, —, mentioned, 137.
- SIMON, Pierre Lucian, *dit* Delorme, mentioned, 685.
- SIMON, Ursula, *dit* Delorme, wife of Pierre Belanger, sketch, 685.
- SIMPSON, —, mentioned, 160.
- SINCLAIR, —, mentioned, 254.
- SINCLAIR (Sinclear), Lt. Col. John Sutherland, sketch, 376-77.
- SINCLAIR, Gov. Patrick, mentioned, 291.
- SINGLETON, Capt. —, mentioned, 16.
- SLAVERY, 389, 639; Indiana Territory, 347; Upper Canada, 357-58, 389, 582-83, 772; Michigan Territory, 561-62; growing disapproval of, 582.
- SLOCUM, Giles B., marriage, 685.
- SMALL, Charles, identified, 277.
- SMALL, John, sketch, 277; duel with White, 277-78; clerk of Council, 308.
- SMITH, —, mentioned, 435, 643, 675, 743; sells land to Askin, 508-10.
- SMITH, Capt. —, delinquent militia returns, 78-79.
- SMITH, —, tavernkeeper on St. Clair River, 463-64.
- SMITH, David W., mentioned, 29, 77-78, 121, 145-46, 223, 231-32, 241, 245; letters, 21-23, 35, 90-91, 123-24, 325-26; sketch, 22; goes to England, 234; Small-White duel, 277-78; returns to Canada, 300-301; speaker of Legislative Council, 350-51; executor for Hugh Heward, 391; second marriage, 487; favored by Duke of Northumberland, 517.
- SMITH, Hugh, mentioned, 197.
- SMITH, Major John, mentioned, 327; sketch, 350.
- SMITH, Mrs. John, mentioned, 78, 122, 124, 228-29, 301, 316, 326; goes to England, 234; sketch, 350.
- SMITH, Col. Samuel, mentioned, 356, 359, 369; sketch, 376.
- SMITH, Thomas, mentioned, 223; debts, 285-89, 610, 612-13; sketch, 286; letters, 288-89, 298-300; political views, 298-300; captain of militia, 299; land, 687, 706.
- SMITH, William, sketch, 205; letter, 348-49.
- SMITH, William, sketch, 280; militia duty, 586.
- SMUGGLING, 379, 606.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- SMYTH, Gen. Alexander, inefficiency in War of 1812, 737, 740.
- SMYTH, Jane, wife of Thomas Lyon, marriage, 667.
- SMYTH, John, birth, 667.
- SMYTH, Martha, wife of Jeremiah V. R. Ten Eyck, marriage, 667.
- SMYTH (Smith), Richard, sketch, 667; justice of the peace, 667; signs petition, 682.
- SNOW, mentioned, 590-91, 673.
- SNYDER, —, farm, 122.
- SOCIETY, balls in Ireland, 184; in Detroit, 537-40, 590; at St. Joseph, 593.
- SOCIETY of Cincinnati, 457.
- SOI à Bardeau*, defined, 396.
- SOLOMON, Ezekiel, mentioned, 763; sketch, 525.
- SOLOMON, Mrs. Ezekiel, illness, 763.
- SOLOMON, Lewis, mentioned, 525.
- SOLOMON, William, mentioned, 763; sketch, 525.
- SOUTADE, signs deed, 12.
- SOUTH West Co., mentioned, 569, 572, 584, 630, 691, 722; organized by Astor, 37; at St. Joseph, 554, 592, 604; Non-Importation Act, 694; charters *Caledonia*, 733.
- SPAIN, capture of ships by Jervis, 106; cedes Louisiana to France, 139.
- SPARKMAN, John, mentioned, 174; sketch, 368.
- SPEEDY, wrecked, 441-42.
- SPROAT, Col. Ebenezer, sketch, 457.
- SPROAT, Sarah Whipple, wife of Solomon Sibley, sketch, 165.
- STEAMBOAT, mentioned, 669.
- STEDMAN, John, sketch, 303.
- STERLING, —, mentioned, 615.
- STERLING, William, service in War of 1812, 729.
- STIEUBEN, Frederick William, Baron von, mentioned, 455.
- STEWART, Robert, Marquis of Londonderry, Viscount Castlereagh, mentioned, 488.
- STONY Creek, located, 194, 722.
- STRABANE, *see* Askin, John.
- STREET, Samuel, I, mentioned, 211; identified, 302.
- STREET, Samuel, II, identified, 302; partnership with Clark, 303.
- STRONG, Col. David, mentioned, 49, 166, 234; sketch, 165; sued by Dodemead, 204.
- STUART, Rev. John, mentioned, 155.
- STUART, Robert, mentioned, 470.
- SUMNER, Dr. Cyrus, identified, 713; service in War of 1812, 714.
- SUPPON (supon, sepon), defined, 459.
- SUTHERLAND, —, mentioned, 346, 756.
- SUTTON, Mary, sketch, 537.
- SWAN, James, sketch, 177; letter, 216-17; agent for Todd, 229-30, 257.
- SWAYZIE, Isaac, sketch, 302.
- TACHE, signs deed, 12.
- TAGUE, —, debt to Williams and Casety, 394.
- TALBOT, Col. Thomas, sketch, 712; service in War of 1812, 713, 715.
- TALLMADGE, Elizabeth, wife of Deodat Allen (first), and Christian Clemens (second), sketch, 496.
- TALLMADGE (O.), founded by Bacon, 313.
- TALLMAN, Lt. Peter, mentioned, 574; marriage and death, 636.
- TALLON, Capt. Joseph, identified, 717.
- TAXES, 587; Detroit, 1805, 484.
- TAYLOR, Gen. —, mentioned, 729.
- TAYLOR, Lt. Thomas, sketch, 758.
- TECUMSEH (Tecompse), service in War of 1812, 722, 726, 756.
- TEN EYCK, Abraham, mentioned, 684.
- TEN EYCK, Conrad, signs petition, 682; sketch, 684.
- TEN EYCK, Jeremiah V. R., marriage, 667.
- TENSKWATAWA (Shawnee Prophet), influence, 568-69, 572.
- TESSIER, Mary Louisa, wife of Paul Dumouchel, I, sketch, 278-79.
- TESTARD, Pierre Jean Baptiste, Sieur de Montigny de Louvigny, mentioned, 146, 246, 663; member of Land Board, 683.
- THAIN, Thomas, sketch, 629.
- THAMES River Settlement, 509.
- THEMUS, —, land claims, 529.
- THIBAUT (Teabeau), —, mentioned, 64.
- THIBAUT, Joseph, signs document, 682; sketch, 684.
- THIBAUT, Lambert, mentioned, 480.
- THORN, John, plat of Port Huron, 262.
- THORN, Capt. William, mentioned, 659; sketch, 262.
- THORN, William, II, mentioned, 262.
- THORNTON, Col. —, mentioned, 636.
- THORPE, Robert, sketch, 506-507.
- THUOT, Ignatius Joachim, *dit* Duval, sketch, 133.
- THUOT, Pierre, sketch, 132.
- THUOT, Pierre Edmund, sketch, 132.
- THUOT, Thomas Ignatius, *dit* Duval, sketch, 132-33.
- TIFFIN, Edward, resigns from Senate, 455.
- TODD, Andrew, mentioned, 36, 99, 137; sketch, 33; business affairs, 34-35, 143-44, 216, 465, 523, 575; estate, 257; befriends John Johnston, 669.

## INDEX

- TODD, Isaac, mentioned, 33, 137-38, 173, 181, 202, 223, 274, 296, 331, 394, 458, 567, 587, 606-607, 624, 626, 628, 635-37, 640, 653, 657, 708, 710, 734, 782; sketch, 17; letters, 42, 45-46, 64-65, 135, 229-31, 256-57, 310-11, 398-99, 421-23, 522-23, 533, 574-75, 610-11, 614-15, 674, 747-48, 776-78; land: speculation, 68-70, 167, 453-54, 470-71, 526-27, holdings, 664, 687, claims, 664-66, 704-706; executor for: Andrew Todd, 144, McTavish, 424-26, McGill, 776-77; business with, Clamorgan, Loisel and Co., 177-78, 216-17, distillery, 310-11, money due, 522-23; daughter, 422, 692; illness, 500, 505, 515, 522-23, 543; friendship for Askin, 513-14; ire at U. S. laws, 610-11; age, 675. *See also* Todd and McGill.
- TODD, William, mentioned, 523.
- TODD and McGill, mentioned, 15-16, 35, 56, 74, 88, 94, 110, 127, 185, 252, 492, 543; letters, 74-75, 602-604, 633-35; land: holdings, 198-99, 406, 409-10, 463, 484, 533, 611-15, 619-20, 633-34, claims, 307-309, 496-97, 508-10, 664-66, 747; business in Detroit, 314, 571, 646-48; Brush's debt, 598, 622-23. *See also* Askin, business relations with Todd and McGill.
- TORCHON, defined, 583.
- TORONTO, fortification, 703.
- TOUPIN, Francis, identified, 193.
- TOUPIN, Jean, Sieur Dusault, identified, 193.
- TOUPIN, Jean Francis (Phénon), *dit* Dusault, sketch, 193-94; land difficulties, 193-95, 198-200.
- TOUPIN, Louis Joseph, sketch, 193.
- TOUPIN, Toussaint, Sieur Dusault, sketch, 193.
- TOWNSHEND, Marquis, mentioned, 57.
- TRAVEL, 52, 71; routes, 694.
- TRAXELLAR (Trexeler), Peter, mentioned, 337; identified, 262.
- TREATY of Amiens, signed, 384.
- TREMBLAY (Tremblé) family, sketch, 103.
- TREMBLAY, Geneveva, wife of Joseph Saucier, mentioned, 188.
- TREMBLAY, Louis Michael, sketch, 103.
- TREMBLAY, Magdelene, wife of Jean Baptiste Aloire (first), and Hyacinthe Desjardins (second), sketch, 532.
- TREMBLAY, Margaret, wife of Guillaume La Forest, mentioned, 323.
- TREMBLAY, Pierre, sketch, 103.
- TRENTON (Mich.), named, 685.
- TROTIER, Catherine, *dit* Beaubien, wife of Jean Cuillierier, sketch, 683.
- TROTIER, Francis Xavier, *dit* Bellecour (François Desruisseaux Bellecour), mentioned, 533; sketch, 7; notary, 7, 14, 38-39, 322.
- TROTIER, Joseph Amable, *dit* Des Rivières, death of son, 522.
- TROTIER, Mary Joseph, wife of Antoine Rivard, mentioned, 28.
- TROTIER, Mary Magdelene, *dit* Bellecour, wife of François Xavier Moreau *dit* Duplessy (first), and Louis Theophile Barthe (second), sketch, 533.
- TROUGHTON, Lt. Felix, service in War of 1812, 728.
- TRUAX, Abraham C., signs petition, 682; sketch, 685.
- TRUAX, George B., death, 685.
- TRUAX, Sophia Maria Brigham, wife of Giles B. Slocum, mentioned, 685.
- TRUAXTON (Mich.), *see* Trenton.
- TRUDEAU, Jean, mentioned, 99.
- TRUDEAU, Zenon, sketch, 99.
- TRUE (Trew), Capt. Arthur, mentioned, 584, 593.
- TUBERCULOSIS, death from, 699, 704.
- TURCOTE, Pierre, winterer, deserts, 227.
- TURKEY, war against France, 181.
- TYLER, John, mentioned, 22.
- TYLER, Mary, wife of D. W. Smith, sketch, 22.
- UNDERSTON, Capt. James, sketch, 25.
- UNITED Empire Loyalists, land holdings, 234, 516.
- UNITED STATES, land claims, 309, 472-74, 476; political conditions, 384, 594. *See also* land, laws, and War of 1812.
- VALADE, Joseph, mentioned, 278.
- VALADE, Mary Therese, wife of Antoine Saint Cerny, sketch, 278.
- VALLÉ family, sketch, 177.
- VALLÉ, Jean, *dit* Versailles, mentioned, 685.
- VALLÉ, Jean Baptiste, mentioned, 216; sketch, 177.
- VALLÉ, Mary Elizabeth, *dit* Versailles, wife of Philip Belanger, sketch, 685.
- VANDEBURGH, Henry, sketch, 138.
- VANIER, Mary Geneveva, wife of Pierre Becquet, mentioned, 448.
- VAN RENSSELAER, Gen. Solomon, superseded by Smyth, 740-41.
- VAN RENSSELAER, Stephen, mentioned, 685.
- VAUDREUIL, Marquis de, *see* Rigault, Pierre François.
- VAUDRY, Ursule, wife of Pierre Gamelin, mentioned, 282.
- VESINA, Charles, identified, 280.
- VESINA, Jean, birth, 280.



## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

- VESINA (Vessina, Vesinat, Vezina, Vis-  
cenau), Louis, I, sketch, 279-80.
- VESINA, Louis, II, sketch, 280.
- VERSAILLES, Jean Vallé *dit*, *see* Vallé,  
Jean, *dit* Versailles.
- VERSAILLES, Mary Elizabeth Vallé *dit*,  
*see* Vallé, Mary Elizabeth, *dit* Ver-  
sailles.
- VICTORIA, Queen, mentioned, 290.
- VIGER, Margaret, wife of Pierre Berthe-  
let, *dit* Savoyard, sketch, 532.
- VIGO, Francis, mentioned, 443, 460;  
letters, 99-100, 136-37, 201-203, 418-  
21; sketch, 100; debts, 182-83, 201-203,  
346, 367, 397, 405, 410-11, 413-14, 418-  
21, 433, 439-41, 477-78, 489-90, 501,  
503-504, 513, 518-19, 621, 632, 651;  
business relations with Askin, 280-81,  
284; friendship of Harrison, 503-504,  
518-19; characterized, 504.
- VINCENNES (Ind.), lawsuits, 482.
- VINCENT, Gen. John, sketch, 753; service  
in War of 1812, 755, 758, 764.
- VISGAR, —, suit against Robertson,  
427.
- VISGER, Jacob, arbitrator, 537.
- VISGER, John, sketch, 219; debts, 247-48.
- VOLTAGEURS, service in War of 1812, 742.
- VOYAGEURS, service in War of 1812, 742.
- VOYER (Voyez), Joseph, mentioned, 241;  
sketch, 14, 113.
- WABECHIN, signs deed, 11.
- WABECHIQUE, signs deed, 11.
- WABKENINE, murdered, 140.
- WABOJEEG, mentioned, 669.
- WALKER, John, marriage, 683.
- WALLEN, Elias, sketch, 276.
- WALSH, Dr. —, mentioned, 436.
- WAR of 1812, preparations in Detroit,  
566, 707, along Detroit River, 570-71,  
in Canada, 703, at Fort Malden, 707;  
anticipated in Queenston, 567, on St.  
Joseph, 572, in Montreal, 574, in De-  
troit, 580, in Canada, 600-602; land  
as cause, 574-75; along Detroit River,  
709, 716; at St. Joseph, 731; activities  
in Montreal, 734-35; near Niagara  
735-42; Battle of Raisin River, 748-50,  
of Fort George, 752-56, of Sackett's  
Harbor, 755, of Stony Creek, 757-59,  
of Beaver Dams, 763-68; Charles As-  
kin's diary, 711-29, 774-76; desertions,  
738; capture of Fort Niagara and  
Lewiston, 774-76.
- WARREN, —, mentioned, 163.
- WARREN, John, mentioned, 290, 438,  
537; sketch, 42; letter, 360, death, 756.
- WARREN, Sir John Borlase, destruction  
of Brest fleet, 181; identified, 739;  
efforts to gain peace, 742
- WASHINGTON, George, mentioned, 455;  
death, 276.
- WASHINGTON (D. C.), captured by Brit-  
ish, 539.
- WASSON's Son, signs deed, 104.
- WATSON, William, mentioned, 45.
- WAWAYACHTERIN, mentioned, 407.
- WAYNE, Gen. Anthony, mentioned, 49,  
146, 190, 197, 249, 362, 455, 589, 673;  
ruling on Indian land grants, 30;  
Greenville Treaty, 474.
- WEAVER, —, mentioned, 443.
- WEEKES (Wicks), William, sketch, 480-  
81; attorney for Askin, 502; trouble  
maker, 506.
- WELCH, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Welch,  
mentioned, 203.
- WELCH, Margaret (Peggy), wife of Ben-  
jamin Packard, mentioned, 203.
- WELCH, Thomas, identified, 203.
- WELLESLEY, Arthur, Duke of Welling-  
ton, victories in Spain, 741.
- WELLINGTON, Duke of, *see* Wellesley,  
Arthur.
- WELLS, Rebekah, wife of Capt. Nathan  
Heald, mentioned, 27.
- WELLS, Col. Samuel, marriage, 27.
- WELLS, Capt. William, mentioned, 27.
- WENTWORTH, Arabella, wife of Francis  
Gore, returns to England, 698.
- WESHEBANWAI, signs deed, 104.
- WEST, Benjamin, mentioned, 305.
- WESTBROOK, —, prisoner, 713.
- WESTERN Reserve, *see* Connecticut  
Western Reserve.
- WESTON, Amos, sketch and burial, 25.
- WESTON, Mrs. Amos, mentioned, 24.
- WHEELER, Gen. Joseph, identified, 455.
- WHEELER, Joseph, marriage, 455.
- WHIPPLE, —, mentioned, 636.
- WHIPPLE, Abraham, mentioned, 457.
- WHIPPLE, Catherine, wife of Ebenezer  
Sproat, sketch, 457.
- WHIPPLE, Capt. John, sketch, 591.
- WHISTLER, Eliza, wife of Joseph Clench,  
mentioned, 33.
- WHISTLER, Capt. John, mentioned, 254;  
sketch, 362; debts, 380, 390-91.
- WHISTLER, Sarah, wife of James Abbott,  
sketch, 254-55.
- WHISTLER, Col. William, mentioned, 33;  
marriage, 45; birth, 362.
- WHITANESSA (Withanessse, Wittanessa),  
signs deed, 104, 381; complaint against  
Connor, 206-207.
- WHITE, David, creditor of Thomas  
Williams, 431-33.
- WHITE, James, mentioned, 19.
- WHITE, John, sketch, 277-78; duel, 277-  
78.
- WHOOPIING cough, at Mackinac, 763.

## INDEX

- WILKINS, Gen. James, tannery in Detroit, 305.  
 WILKINS, Gen. John, mentioned, 114.  
 WILKINSON, Alexander, identified, 712; service in War of 1812, 713, 716, 719.  
 WILKINSON, Eliza, wife of — Taylor (first), and Thomas Dickson (second), marriage, 266.  
 WILKINSON, Gen. James, mentioned, 138; letters, 30, 115-17; curb on British trade, 499-500.  
 WILLARD, Eliza, wife of Reuben Atwater, sketch, 647.  
 WILLIAMS, —, mentioned, 714.  
 WILLIAMS, Lt. —, mentioned, 659, 692-93, 695; stationed at St. Joseph, 670; quarrel with Sherrard and Martin, 696-97.  
 WILLIAMS, John, mentioned, 384.  
 WILLIAMS, John R., mentioned, 447; sketch, 383-84; duel, 383-85; father's estate, 431-34, 458, 462, 631-33.  
 WILLIAMS, Nathan, sketch, 113.  
 WILLIAMS, Thomas, mentioned, 37, 288; sketch, 383, 432; estate, 398, 631-33. *See also* Williams and Casety.  
 WILLIAMS and Casety, estate, 394, 397, 431-34, 515; debts of Vigo, 405, 411, 413-14, 420, 503-504, 513, 519. *See also* Williams, Thomas, and Casety, John.  
 WILLSON, —, death, 768.  
 WILMOT, Alan, mentioned, 630; sketch, 211; goes to Mackinac, 214.  
 WILSON, —, farmer, mentioned, 15.  
 WILSON, Margaret, wife of John Hembrow, sketch, 50.  
 WILSON and Ormsby, mentioned, 414.  
 WINCHESTER, Gen. James, mentioned, 488, 748; taken prisoner, 749.  
 WINCHESTER bushel, defined, 402.  
 WINDER, John Henry, identified, 758.  
 WINDER, Gen. William Henry, sketch, 758.  
 WINTERERS, arrangements and pay, 206.  
 WISWELL (Wisewill), Oliver, sketch, 263.  
 WITHERELL, Judge James, mentioned, 562.  
 WOLVES, mentioned, 627.  
 WOMEN, land grants, 516.  
 WOOD, Ann, wife of William Henry, mentioned, 305.  
 WOOD, Bryce (Brice), mentioned, 594, 773.  
 WOODS, James, mentioned, 461, 492-93, 498, 522, 550, 552, 585, 593-94, 743, 773; sketch, 372-73; militia duty, 553; buys lot, 644; rôle in Askin's quarrel with Dawson, 657.  
 WOODS, Robert Stuart, sketch, 373.  
 WOODRUFF, —, mentioned, 712.  
 WOODWARD, Augustus Elias Brevoort, mentioned, 488, 785; sketch, 456-57; plan for Detroit, 456; secretary to Procter, 727.  
 WOODWARD Avenue (Detroit), named, 457.  
 WORTHINGTON, Mary, wife of David Betton, marriage, 283.  
 WORTHINGTON, Gov. Thomas, mentioned, 283.  
 WRIGHT, Therese, wife of Robert Nichol (first), and Capt. — Boyd (second), mentioned, 527; sketch, 342; returns to Canada, 352.  
 WRIGHT, Dr. Thomas, mentioned, 252; in West Indies, 47; sketch, 181; land certificates, 246; land grant petition 234; dies in Jamaica, 331.  
 YAX, Cecilia, wife of Louis Michael Tremblay, sketch, 103.  
 YAX, Michael, mentioned, 103.  
 YEO, Sir James Lucas, identified, 755; service in War of 1812, 766.  
 YIEGH, —, mentioned, 711-12, 714.  
 YORK, Frederick Augustus, Duke of, mentioned, 251, 273, 602.  
 YORK, *see* Toronto.  
 ZEISBERGER, David, mentioned, 303-304; sketch, 243.  
 ZEISBERGER, Mrs. David, mentioned, 243, 304.