

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 recev<sup>d</sup> 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 though 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)

ARBITRATION OF CLAIM AGAINST FRANCIS VIGO  
Vincennes 28 march 1809John 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 encreased 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

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>o</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>o</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.

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 M<sup>r</sup> 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>er</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>r</sup> John McGregor, Angus M<sup>c</sup>Intosh, William Park & George Meldrum meet

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 Copy & 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 supose you have been raceing, & 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

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 Vigos 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 famelly 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>

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 received every thing you mention having sent us & for which we are very thankful. what you sent for others have been delivered & Mr<sup>s</sup> Badeshon is to send you every fall 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 fall will go in the *Nancy*. I went to Sandwich yesterday & agreed with Mr Pattenson to order from the Riv. Trenché 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 Mr 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.

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, oweing 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 Crainberry 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 Ccopy 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 Gallerneau, 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.

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>

S<sup>t</sup> 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.

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 opportunities 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>o</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 Hospitatily due to strangers.

H<sup>e</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.*

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 Mississippi which will be forwarded when received.

I'm sorry to find that Edwards does not succeed in raising Hoggs. 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>12</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>1</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 Galarno 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

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 oppinion 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 verry propper 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

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 &° 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 meeting 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

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> near Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Montreal Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>h</sup> 1809 Isaac Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill 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>

S<sup>t</sup> 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>x</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 cevelity 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.*

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>y</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 verry 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>s</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 Pr Brig Gen<sup>l</sup>  
Hunter F[?] Rolette Lieut & Com<sup>n</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.

12. 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

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>e</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. Hallifax 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 unreasonableness 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 admitted 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 impropriety 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.

I do agree with you in opinion that notwithstanding the goodness of Mr Brush's heart, & good I believe it to be he has been neglectfull in Mr Peltiers suit with Mr Lacells indeed I have found all the Lawyers more or less so, which is very inexcusable. Mr 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 Mr 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 Mr Rollette when [he] arrives from Fort Erie. Never send Letters to Mr 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 Mr 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 Mr 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 Mr 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> Mrs Bادهchon 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 Mr<sup>s</sup> Badison

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

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

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>rs</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>o</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>o</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*.

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>ce</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,

& 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 Lieve 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*.

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 Mr Brush & Mr 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 Mr 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[f] the front of each Since I began this Letter the bearer Mr 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 Mr 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>a</sup> M<sup>o</sup>Gill Coppy The Original sent per La Belle the 22<sup>d</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1809  
Isaac Todd & James M<sup>o</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.

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>o</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>v</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>v</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 & 1/2 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>o</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>o</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>to</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.

Expecting the pleasure of hearing from you by M<sup>r</sup> DuBois and remain, D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>t</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> Bazadone 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 difference 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>te</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.

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>a</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 Alledg'd 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

## AMERICAN CONQUEST OF FUR TRADE

Montreal 26 February 1810

My dear Old friend I received 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 frienly 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.

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 Esplenade 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 himselfe 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

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>

St 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. Collr.*, XXIII, 279-81.

Cap<sup>t</sup> Dawson who Commanded here previous to the 24<sup>h</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

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. Aalice & 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.

27 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 Mississipi 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>e</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.

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>e</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>e</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 oweing 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>oa</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 M<sup>r</sup> 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 M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>In-tosh would exclude me from that indulgence. M<sup>r</sup> 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 M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>In-tosh 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 M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Leod<sup>31</sup> arrives. Per the *Caledonia* I send a Mocock of Sugar for M<sup>rs</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 M<sup>r</sup> Pattinson, he having a number as mentioned by you in a former letter. Make the best bargain you can and let M<sup>r</sup> 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 M<sup>r</sup> David to ship my Plough & Shear if the plough is not made no matter about that part I want the shear. Let M<sup>r</sup> 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.

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> Ins<sup>t</sup> which states that he was to leave Makina on the 11<sup>th</sup> for the Mississipi 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>g</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*.

*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 whilest 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

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 Agreem<sup>t</sup> with Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>o</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.

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

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 &° & 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

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.

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.

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>r</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 very 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 of[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 voyageing. 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 preferred any other way of acquiring a livelehood 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 Wabojeeg, 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>y</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>c</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>g</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>g</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, Theresa & Julia<sup>44</sup> present their Love to you & all join in best wishes for your Prosperity & believe me to be

41 Santlaw Rawson, for whom see *ante*, 661.

42 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*.

43 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.

44 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

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

*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[l]y 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*.

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>

S<sup>t</sup> 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 provissions 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 verry 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

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>o</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>o</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

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.

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.

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 yourselve. 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 myselve 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>o</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.

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>te</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>o</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 Côté  
 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 Seck  
Sean B. Deauring

Rich. Smyth

Wm Brown

Archibald Menier

James Richmond

John Darrille

Robert Wagoner

David ~~Wagoner~~ Ketchel

Joseph Campbell  
Joseph Thibault

Augustus Lopez

James Van Dyck

Amos J. Equinore

Septile Bellange

Richard H. Jones

Henry C. Jones

Peter Dubran

John G. Gault

Charles Gault

Marguerite Gault

J. P. Gault  
J. Doherty

SOME EARLY DETROIT AUTOGRAPHS  
Signatures to memorial concerning Detroit commons

*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 Louigny 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 Dennissen, *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-grandson. 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 Adélaïde Dequindre, daughter of Antoine Dequindre and Catherine Desrivières de la Morandière, 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 Desrivières de la Morandière, 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 Dupéron, 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 François 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

## 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.

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.

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 Governm<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[l]th, 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>o</sup>Gill Esq<sup>r</sup> Montreal

*Endorsed:* Copy of a Letter from John Askin Esquire to James M<sup>o</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>o</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 returnd from the Mississipi 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 thats 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>o</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.

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, j'ai 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 aujourd'hui et demain. M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Givraye ainssi que M<sup>r</sup> Gregré et M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Kay son revenue de fort William il sont venue nous voir en allant et en revenant M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>e</sup>Gilvraye a ofert tous ses sarvice ainssi que M<sup>r</sup> Gregré a mon cher john: je crois en concequance 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>e</sup>Gilvraye el mourut le meme jour que son mari lessa Montreal pour aller la retrouvé vous savez sandoute

quel etoit allé en Engleterre 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 concequance d'un rume quil avoit atrapé, et come il Indulge boucoupe son appetit il etoit devenue nessaire 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 pièce 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. Johnny 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 effet seroit hut, il fut chez M<sup>r</sup> William et parla de poésie et meme il pretit tout ces piece quil avoit écrit 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 affair 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 crois que lintention de cela étoit seulement pour avoir un pretext 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 effet il parla de cela et mon cher John [torn] de reponce, et come vous voiré que cet pièce a été [torn]

Afin il ait tem que je change de propos seulement pour vous marquer la surprise dans lequel Jai été d'aprendre il-y-a quelque tems passé que Docteur Richardson faisait

la court a M<sup>o</sup>l M<sup>e</sup>Gregor trois mois apres la mort de pauvres Madelaine, et j'ai aprise 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 avions 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.

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

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 Sioux. 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.

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>o</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>n</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>l</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 shipyard 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 *dû* 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.

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>rs</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> Josephes 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.

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 & 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)  $5\frac{1}{4}$  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.C<sup>o</sup> to send a Vessel to the East Indian loaded with furr<sup>s</sup> 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  $1\frac{1}{2}$  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.*

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