

was transferred from Detroit to Niagara. John Smith was Major of this Regiment, and his son, David William Smith, was Lieutenant. Smith appointed his old friend, John Askin, of Detroit, as his election agent, and it is to him that the three letters are addressed. The letter of 14th August contains this sentence, which seems to state that the Detroit election came first and that he did not decide to stand for that riding.

"Perhaps I should have done better to have set up for one of the seats in Detroit, as I hear only of Mr. Macomb, who is to be proposed; but I did not then know they would be entitled to vote; besides, were I thrown out on the 20th I might have had a chance on the 28th."

Here follow the letters:—

NIAGARA, 26 July, 1792.

MY DEAR SIR:—The governor's proclamations are arrived, dividing the upper country. The N. county is called Essex, and is bounded on the east by the carrying place from Point au Pins to the river La Tranche (Thames); bounded on the south by Lake Erie, and on the west by the River Detroit to Maisonville's mill; from thence by a line running parallel to the River Detroit and Lake St. Clair, at the distance of four miles, until it reaches the River La Tranche, thence up the said river to where the carrying place from Point au Pins strikes that river. This said county of Essex, with the adjoining county of Suffolk (in which there are no inhabitants) sends one member. Those who have certificates (for lands) only, I understand, can vote. This tract comprehends the new settlers on lake Erie who have generally certificates, Monforton's, company who have none, except they have received them since my departure, and Maisonville's company to the mill; in this last space, there are inhabitants on 12 acres front just above the church, who will vote by reason of their having French deeds "en roture," and those settled on the south side of River La Tranche, a few of whom have certificates, and where I, myself, am a freeholder.

This damned election business seems to bind me to the county, for you know I am not fond of deserting any cause I undertake, and that of the public is most dear to me. Should I be returned without an undue election or the appearance of party or bribery, I shall be most happy, and in that case, I beg an ox be roasted whole on the common, and a barrel of rum to be given to the mob, to wash down the beef. You will draw on me for the amount. I should have great pleasure in helping to frame laws for lands which I have had so much pleasure in laying out. Mr. Pollard, who was appointed sheriff, is returning officer. The writs are issued this day and returnable the 12th September. I depend a good deal on your goodness, favor and affection in this business, and hope I need not make many apologies