

where they may not perish for want of the necessaries of Life." He says that when he was sent up to the Detroit Country, he could not "suppose or even entertain the least surmise that my long and past services should be so little regarded by the Government as first to order me with a numerous and helpless family into the heart of a wilderness near one thousand miles from the seat of Government and then cut me off from all support and leave my infants to suffer." This must have been effective, as we find him in 1793 engaged in surveys on the River Thames and giving estimates for repairs at Detroit.

As his name does not appear amongst those retaining their British allegiance on the evacuation of Detroit in 1796, it would appear that he became an American citizen. We find his name on the voter's roll at the election held January 14th and 15th, 1799 at Detroit, and he was subpoenaed as a witness on the trial by the Court of Common Pleas for Wayne County, October 23rd, 1800, of "a contested election of George McDougall, Esq."

He had in 1795 with others purchased land from the Ottawas which came in for some animadversions from Col. England, the Commandant at Detroit. In 1797 he with two others procured a deed of a considerable territory lying near Lake St. Clair from six Chippewa Chiefs—the witnesses to the deed certifying that it was "signed, sealed and delivered the same being first read and fully explained to the Chiefs who were perfectly sober." The consideration was Six thousand "dollars or bucks" paid at or before the delivery of the deed, but the grantees McNiff, James May and Jacob Harsen, agreed in addition, to deliver one hundred dollars or bucks in clothing or other necessaries, yearly for ten years, provided the grant is confirmed by the United States, and also every year for thirty years, one-half bushel of Indian Corn for every farm of 200 acres improved on said tract of land and then every year for 960 years one quart of corn for every farm—the chiefs, their heirs and tribes to have the privilege of hunting, fishing, fowling, planting corn, building huts and making sugar on any part of the tract not enclosed.

John Askin is also found acting under special power of attorney.

He was born about 1741 at Strabane near Belfast, in Ireland, the descendant of an Erskine who had emigrated from Scotland and whose name was thus corrupted. He served in the British army at Ticonderoga and afterwards went into business in the then far Northwest as an Indian Trader. As early as 1773 he was Commissary at Michilmackinac and continued there till about 1780 when he had a falling out with Sinclair, the Commandant. He had business interests at Sault Ste. Marie also.

In 1775 he lost some £700 worth of property, furs, which were ordered by Colonel Caldwell, the Commandant at Niagara to be thrown overboard in Lake Erie for fear they should be captured by the Americans; and some of his property in Montreal—14 puncheons of rum—