

hereof and to finish on the eighteenth day of September, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, dwell, continue, and abide with the said John Askin and him diligently and faithfully serve, during the said term in keeping the Books of accounts of him, the said John Askin, and in such other business and affairs as he, the said John Askin, shall think proper to employ him; and therein from time to time and at all times during the said term, do, observe, and fulfil the lawful and reasonable commands of the said John Askin, without disclosing the same, or the secrets of his employment business, or dealings, to any person or persons, whatsoever, nor shall nor will embezzle, purloin, or wilfully waste any of the goods, wares, monies, or merchandise of the said John Askin that may be intrusted to the care of the said Robert Nichol as his Clerk, in consideration of which true and faithful service on the part and behalf of the said Robert Nichol to be done and performed, the said John Askin, does for himself, his executors and administrators, covenant, promise, & agree to and with the said Robert Nichol, his executors and administrators, that he the said John Askin shall and will pay and allow him, the said Robert Nichol, the sum of Fifty Pounds, New York Currency, for each year's service, and shall and will find and provide for the said Robert Nichol, good and sufficient diet, washing, and lodging. In Testimony whereof, the said parties have to these presents, interchangeably set their hands and affixed their Seals at Detroit, aforesaid in the Western District and Province of Upper Canada, the day, month, and year first above written.

"Robt. Nichol. (Seal.)

"John Askin. (Seal.)

"Signed, sealed, and delivered
in the presence of
"Alexis Maisenville.
"W. Roe."

During the above named period of three years the headings and many of the entries in Askin's ledgers and other books of account are in the bold, round, legible handwriting of Nichol.

In the blotter, under date of April 7th, 1796, there is an entry in his own hand of sundry articles of merchandise taken by Robert Nichol "on adventure" to the River Thames, amounting in all to £112.16.3.

His name appears as witness to a deed of a large tract of land from the Chippewa nation of Indians to John Cornwall, John Askin, and John Askin, jr., dated April 3, 1797.

In September of the same year, Nichol appears to have been sent to Cincinnati, to obtain the advice of Arthur St. Clair and retain him as counsel for Askin in some obscure dispute with the civil officials of the United States at Detroit. St. Clair wrote as follows: