

Addressed: William Ancrum Major¹¹ Commandant ect:
at Detroit

Endorsed: Recorded in the Land office at Detroit in
Liber E, folio 12 &°

By me Geo Hoffman Register
N° 4 B

SALE OF MORAVIAN VILLAGE

River Huron Feb^{ry} 27th 1786

Dear Sir, I would fain have mentioned to You sooner, that I had recieved the 30 lb Coffee by M^r Dolson,¹² but had no propper Opportunity. Now I am to ask Liberty of You in proposing a way, which We think perhaps easiest and best concerning our Improvement, but it is rather to ask Your advice in the matter. We are told, that there are both French and English People watching for Us to leave the place, who immediately intend to go in Our Houses, and make themselves masters of our Labour, without the smalest reward. We therefore, considering our circumstances, (and that We have but a short time to stay, if we,

parents to Maine in 1751. There he became a Moravian and in 1767 he removed to Bethlehem. He spent many years in missionary service. After the removal from Michigan he followed the converts to Fairfield, Ontario, where he remained until the settlement was overrun by General Harrison's army in 1813. Young then retired to Litiz, where he died in 1826. Zeisberger, *op. cit.*

¹¹ William Ancrum was commissioned captain in the Thirty-fourth Regiment, May 25, 1772, and attained the rank of major, Nov. 11, 1789. He succeeded Colonel De Peyster in the command of Detroit in the spring of 1784, remaining here until the spring of 1786. In the spring of 1801 he was in London, from which place he wrote to Askin about the Moravian land claim near Mount Clemens. In the British army lists his name is spelled "Ancram," although he himself wrote it "Ancrum." In the list for 1804 "William Ancrum" reappears as paymaster of an infantry regiment in the King's German Legion—whether he is identical with the former Detroit commandant we have been unable to determine.

¹² Matthew Dolsen was a member, during the Revolution, of Butler's Rangers, and it is probable that he first came to Detroit in this connection. In 1781 he purchased from Gregor McGregor a lot within the fort, and in the deed he is described as a resident of Detroit. In 1789 he is described in another indenture as a tavern keeper at Detroit. The delegation of Quakers who visited Detroit in 1793 in the capacity of peace commissioners lodged with Dolsen, and seem to have conceived a real friendship for him. In like manner he cultivated friendly relations with the Moravians and enjoyed their confidence over a period of years. It seems probable that Dolsen later removed to the Thames River region, where he obtained a grant of land from the local Land Board in the spring of 1792. Dolsen's descendants were