

as we intend, to set off as soon as the Lake is clear of Ice) know of no better method, than to lay the matter before the Major of Detroit cet. of whom we are fully persuaded to believe, that he will act impartial, and do Us justice. We therefore being acquainted with You, beg of You, to lay the case before him, and inform him; that We have lived here three Years and an half, that, when we settled first here, we found ourselves in a Wilderness, but by the Industry of about Sixty dilligent hands, have built a small Villige, consisting of 24 log Houses, besides Stables and other small Buildings. That we have cleared Lands, made fences, Gardens, cet. that We therefore cannot think otherwise, than that We ought to have liberty to sell our Labour (We do not mean to sell the Lands but the Labour done on them) and that we therefore beg of the Major to permit Us to do so, as we shall want what little we shall get, to help Us where We shall settle again. Perhaps the next thing then would be, to put up an Advertisement that People might see that not only the Improvement is for sale, but that likewise it is by permission of the Comandant which would be a great encouragement to the buyer. M^r Dolson who is here at present, and the bearer of this Letter, has a notion of buying it, but he says also, he could not do it without the Majors permission. I am convinced You will, Sir, act in our behalf as much as lies in Your power, and if You have any proposals to make to Us, concerning the matter, such shall be readily accepted, in the mean time I am

Dear Sir Your most Obedient Humble Serv^t
John Heckenwelder

P. S. If You have an answer to send to me, M^r Dolson thinks he will have an Opportunity of forwarding it to me in the corse of a few Days, and as I know of no Indian going to Detroit for the present, You will greatly oblige me in sending the Letter to him.

J. H.

long prominent in Detroit. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Zeisberger's *Diary*, *passim*; and mss. in William Robertson Papers, in the Burton Hist. Coll.