

more to add Except the Compliments of the Family & Remain

Dear Sir Yours

Mr Vigoe¹⁹

Endorsed: Detroit March 15th 86 From John Askin to Mr Vigoe

(Copy)

OWNERSHIP OF MORAVIAN LANDS²⁰

Relative to what is marked N° on Mr Greeleys²¹ Map of the Upper River aux Hurons that falls into lake Sinclair

19 Francis Vigo was a native of Mondovi, Sardinia, where he was born in 1747. He entered the Spanish army and served at Havana and New Orleans. Leaving the service, still a young man, he engaged in trade at St. Louis, then in Spanish Louisiana. Here Vigo prospered, and on the advent of George Rogers Clark in the Illinois country used his wealth freely to promote the enterprises of the American leader in his warfare against the British. Not until 1876 were these advances repaid to his heirs, and largely in consequence of this defalcation by the American government, Vigo's later career was beset with financial embarrassment. He died in poverty, March 22, 1836, having passed his later career at Vincennes, Indiana. He was engaged in the Indian trade for many years, and became heavily indebted to Askin, the discharge of which the latter sought vainly to procure. For an account of Vigo's service to Clark and claim against the government for compensation, see "A Centennial Lawsuit," by C. C. Baldwin in *Western Reserve and Northern Ohio Hist. Soc., Tracts*, No. 35 (Cleveland, 1876).

20 This document, undated, is substantially the same as one printed in *Am. State Papers, Pub. Lands*, I, 550, under date of Nov. 30, 1810. It was prepared by Askin as representative of James McGill and Isaac Todd, in support of their effort to secure validation of their claim to ownership of the Moravian lands at the hands of the Board of Land Commissioners of Michigan Territory.

21 Aaron Greeley was born in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, April 25, 1773. In early manhood he went to Canada, whither certain of his mother's relatives, who were Tories in the Revolution, had preceded him, and here for about a dozen years he engaged in surveying and in colonizing a township of land, in the latter connection building sawmills and gristmills, laying out roads, and bringing in settlers. In 1803 he married Margaret Rogers, a niece of Robert Rogers, the famous ranger, and about the year 1806 removed from Canada to Detroit, where he resumed his calling of surveyor. He surveyed the private claims awarded by the Board of Land Commissioners in the period 1806-10, making in the latter year the map of them here alluded to. In 1811 he went to Washington on business connected with his surveys, and remained until the early summer of 1812; while there, in response to his representations, Congress passed an act validating his surveys of the private claims at Detroit, regardless of their conformity with the awards of the Commission. Greeley returned to Detroit in time to be taken prisoner by General Brock, and soon thereafter he conveyed his wife and children to Hopkinton, New Hampshire, where they found asylum during the war. After its conclusion, Greeley returned to Detroit and resumed his surveying operations, dying, while thus engaged, in the Raisin River region in April, 1820. His wife and children, at the close of the war, returned to their former Canadian home in Haldimand Township; here they remained permanently,