

and Cornfields on this side of the River, and by what I understand they mean to do their best, and try for the 2 above mentioned Houses, with the large Cornfield in the bent, namely the field We planted, and which is in a good fence. I desired them not to decieve themselves, but rather to look at some of the other Houses, to which they at last informed me: that in case they could by no means obtain the 2 Houses and Cornfield they pitched upon, they would then satisfy themselves with the 2 opposite Houses, N^o 14 and N^o 15 which are the Houses M^r Zeisberger and Edwards lives in, and likewise with Land over the River, oposite the Vilage.

Two Rangers, Lewis and Hamilton²⁵ have begun to clear Lands back of the Vilage, between 2 and 3 Miles. I am not certain that it is within Your Line, but by the description I have of the Indians of the distance of the spot, I can hardly think otherwise. I have heard, that they have try'd the course by the Compass, and say it will not fall in Your Line, and if it did, they will maintain their right as the Improvers, (tho this I have not heard them say). But be the matter as it will, I think they act very wrong, and besides, they can never be called the Improvers, since some of our Indians has built Sugar Cabbins there, and one had Deadened a Number of Trees, 3 Years ago on the Spot in order to plant Corn there. I have further heard that they shall have said: That they do not look upon a course mentioned acording to the Compass, which is caled a Line, to be a line at all; neither do they see any Body warnd from settling on any Lands hereabouts within such or such a distance. Wheither they actually have said all this, and intend to do what I have mentioned I do not know, but it is what I am told they shall have said and intend to stand to.

What assistance I gave to M^r Fry was a pleasure to me, and I shall always be ready to asist and serve You, when it is in my Power, and had the Indians have had a better

²⁵ Andrew Hamilton, a corporal in Butler's Rangers, who located at Detroit at the close of the Revolution. In 1788 he was recommended by Major Mathews for an allotment of land on the north side of Lake Erie. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XI, 451 and *Essex Hist. Soc., Papers and Addresses*, III, 70 B.