

Endorsed: River Huron Apr 13^h 1786 M^r Heckenwelder to Jn^o Askin recv^d 15 [torn] & Answ^d same day N^o 7

FROM JOHN HECKENWELDER TO JOHN ASKIN

Huron River Apr 17th 1786

Dear Sir, At length Captⁿ Understund³¹ arrived at the Mouth of the River, and is now at my House. I am not at present positive what quantity of Corn will be taken, but We have agreed to send 400 Bags down, and in case it could not be all loaded to leave the remainder at Tuckers.³² The Barrel of Pork, Hog and other things belonging to You I will also send likewise Mine and M^r Zeisbergers Fowles. You will see what is sent by the Account, and what is left with M^r Cornwell, I will acquaint You of when I come down, which will be I hope in a few Days, as We are getting ready to go off as quick as possible. I am very sorry that You was Disappointed in getting the Number of Petiagers, and had it not been, that the Mouth of the river had been shut up for a few Days with Ice, I would have sent such of our People down who would have behaved better. I think I may venture to assure You now, that there are 7 large and well made Petiagers at this place, which no one is to have but You. I send 2 of my Tables by the Vessel and leave one for the Use of the House. Likewise I believe the two fishing canoes will be stowed in the Boat, which if so, You will please to present to the Major and Adjutant Arden. I can assure You We are very sensible of the manifest

³¹ Capt. James Underston. In 1796 he was living at Grosse Ile.

³² William Tucker was a native of New Jersey who was captured by Indians in boyhood, apparently about the beginning of the French and Indian War, and by them brought into the region of the upper lakes. After some years' captivity he was released, and thereafter lived at or near Detroit until his death, March 7, 1805. He is said, although on doubtful authority, to have conveyed to Major Gladwin the first information of Pontiac's designs in 1763. In the summer of 1773 he journeyed to Virginia and there married, which would seem to indicate that he had retained some connection with former friends and relatives. During the Revolution he served in the British Indian Department at Detroit, being listed in 1783 as interpreter to the Ottawa. In 1780 he received from the Chippewa an extensive grant of land on the Huron River, removing his family thither in 1784. He thus became one of the first permanent settlers of this region. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, especially VI, 359-61.