

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

ORDER IN FAVOR OF MORAVIANS

Detroit April the 27^h 1786

M^r David Duncan³⁷

Sir Please pay to M^r Bull³⁸ for the Use of the Christian Indians the Sum of Two hundred Dollars being for their Improvements at the Huron River which Place to Account of

Sir your most obedient Humble Servant

John Askin

200 Dollars

Endorsed: Pittsburgh June 27th 1786 Rec^d of Duncan & Wilson the Contents of the with[in] Bill in full

John Bull

M^r John Askins Draft for 200 Dollars

³⁷ David Duncan of the firm of Duncan and Wilson of Pittsburgh. They were engaged extensively in trade, their operations extending to Detroit, Vincennes, and other places. When Caldwell and Elliot failed at Detroit in 1787 they assigned their available assets to local creditors, leaving Duncan and Wilson, from whom they seem to have procured large numbers of cattle and considerable quantities of goods, wholly unsecured. In this connection Duncan charged Caldwell with having sent Indians to steal horses of the former, in order to avoid the necessity of paying for them. In 1787 Duncan reported that he was engaged in supplying all the U. S. posts and offered to assist John Askin in collecting debts due him by persons living at Vincennes. A copy of Duncan's will, made in Pittsburgh, Dec. 20, 1791, is in the Burton Hist. Coll. Besides his widow, Margaret, he left two sons (Samuel and David) and three daughters (Hanna[h], Mary and Margaret). In addition to considerable personal property, the will disposed of his residence in Pittsburgh and a plantation "on the hill," apparently in this vicinity. Information from manuscript letters of Duncan and others in Burton Hist. Coll.

³⁸ John Bull was a Moravian who in 1783 was delegated by General Benjamin Lincoln to proceed to Oswego and Niagara to inform the Indians that peace had been concluded between Great Britain and the American States, and to urge the natives to cease hostilities. At the same time Ephraim Douglass was sent on a similar mission to the Indians of the Ohio and Detroit areas. Both missions were largely frustrated through the action of the British commandants at Detroit and Niagara, who took the peace commissioners into custody and prevented them from delivering their messages. Douglass was brought in to Detroit, and from there forwarded, under custody, to Niagara and Albany. Bull, on the contrary, was forwarded from Niagara to Detroit, at which place he is stated, by the only authority we have found on the subject, to have been permitted to join the colony of his fellow religionists on Huron River (near Mount Clemens). It seems evident from Askin's letter to Duncan that he was still with them (now in Ohio) in 1786. See C. M. Burton, "Ephraim Douglass and His Times," in *Magazine of History*, Extra No. 10 (New York, 1910), 34; and Howard L. Osgood, "Indian Affairs in Western New York at Close of Revolution," ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.