

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO DAVID DUNCAN

Detroit April 28^b 1786

Sir Agreeable to what we Settled between Us I now send the Vessell to fetch the Pork &^{ca}. I also send an Other Vessell to Assist in taking the Moravians to their former Place of Aboad. I had Some Intentions of Sending some Goods and Establishing a House at the Cayagen [Cuyahoga] but as reports have prevailed here that you were going to Send Goods Into the part of the Country where we Trade and Carry off[f] some of Our Traders best furs least I might be Suspected to have a Hand in any Contraband or Underhand Trade is the reason why I have not sent Anything. for My part I am convinced you would not Undertake a Bussiness that would hurt your in the Oppinion of the Commanding Officer here who Appears desirious to Serve you & to Whom I Mentioned that I couled not think you wouled Engage in any Bussiness that wouled draw on you his displeasure. I forsee that you may do a great deal of Bussiness in the Provisiion way here. the Settlem^t is quite out of Cattle & M^r Caldwell³⁹

³⁹ Captain William Caldwell was born at Castle Caldwell, Fermanagh County, Ireland. He migrated to America and shortly prior to the Revolution was living in western Pennsylvania. He remained loyal to the Crown, joined Bird's Rangers under Lord Dunmore in 1775, and served in Butler's Rangers from May, 1776, until July, 1784. He was an active and able partisan leader and over the western Indians he acquired an influence which remained unshaken until his death. He led the Indians in many battles with the Americans along the western frontier, two of his more notable exploits being the defeat of Colonel Crawford and the Battle of the Blue Licks, both in 1782. At the close of the Revolution, Caldwell located at Detroit where, in partnership with Matthew Elliot he engaged in trade. In 1787 the firm failed, having liabilities of £18,000 and assets of only about one-tenth this sum. In 1784, Caldwell and a group of associates procured from the natives a grant of land seven miles square at the mouth of Detroit River, on the northern portion of which they founded the town which was subsequently named Amherstburg. The same year, Caldwell obtained a grant beginning some four miles east of the river's mouth and extending about fifteen miles along the north shore of Lake Erie, which was settled by loyalists and disbanded soldiers; it was known as New Settlement, and was the nucleus of the subsequent townships of Colchester and Gosfield. In 1783 Caldwell married Susanne, daughter of Jacques Duperon Baby; to them five sons and three daughters were born. Caldwell and several of his sons bore prominent parts in the War of 1812. The father was captain of Caldwell's Rangers from 1812 until May 8, 1814, when he was transferred to the Indian Department with the rank of deputy-superintendent. He died at Amherstburg about the year 1820. Besides his regular family, Caldwell had a son whose mother was a Potawatomi woman. This son, known in history as Billy Caldwell, also bore an active part in the War