

packs the past [winter] which I fully intended to send you in payment of what I owe, but those people did me a great wrong. They got the first two cartloads that you sent. But I have sworn never again to trust any man, white or black. Will you kindly send an order for payment from Charles Drouillard?⁴⁷ He owes me yet 177 [pounds] of roe-buck skins, and will not pay, neither in peltrie, nor skins, nor pork.

I should tell you that Mr. Coon⁴⁸ has written to the savages not to let any white man put up buildings. I do not know if that is by the major's order, or just his own. If the savages have asked that no more rum be sold at Sandusky then it is Mr. Elliot's⁴⁹ orders and Mr. Coon has done it only

⁴⁷ On the Drouillard family see *ante*, 183. Charles Bonaventure Drouillard was born at Detroit, Aug. 11, 1756, son of Jean Baptiste Drouillard and Charlotte Bigres *dit* Fauvel, and grandson of Jean Drouillard and Elizabeth Rapin. Charles married at Sandwich, Oct. 19, 1778, Mary Louisa Quesnel, daughter of James Quesnel and Margaret Morel de la Durantaye. He was engaged in trade at Sandusky as early as 1782, as evidenced by the fact that his second son, Alexis, was born there March 5, 1782 and not baptized until July 14, 1784. Charles Drouillard married (second) Mary Langlois, widow of Stephen Robidou, at Detroit, May 4, 1818. Denissen, *op. cit.*

⁴⁸ Abraham Coon, or Kuhn, was a white captive who lived among the Wyandot of Sandusky, and according to some statements became a war chief. However this may be, he exercised considerable influence over his associates, and if not formally attached to the British Indian Department, was evidently subject to its control. According to Gov. William Walker of Kansas, Coon was taken captive in western Pennsylvania about the year 1770. He is said to have exerted his influence over the Wyandot in favor of making peace with General Wayne in 1795. A descendant of Coon, John Coon, was the first person to be legally executed in what is now the state of Kansas, being convicted of murder by the Wyandot council and shot on the present site of Kansas City, Kansas. See Heckenwelder's *Narrative*, 368-69.

⁴⁹ Matthew Elliot was a native of Ireland who came to America as a young man in 1761. He served in Bouquet's expedition for the relief of Fort Pitt in 1763. For many years thereafter he was engaged in the Indian trade or the government service, or both, with headquarters at Pittsburgh. By the opening of the Revolution he was conducting rather extensive trading operations, and had acquired much influence over the Indians of the Ohio Valley. Probably by reason of his government employment, Elliot remained loyal to the king, and in the autumn of 1776 set out with two or three followers and a considerable train of goods for Detroit. En route his goods and slave were seized by the Indians, but Elliot himself reached Detroit in safety. There, however, he incurred the suspicion of disloyalty and was arrested and sent down to Quebec by Governor Hamilton. On being released, he made his way back to Pittsburgh, where he associated with other loyalists and became known as a dangerous character. On March 28, 1778, Elliot again sought refuge at Detroit, in company with Alexander McKee and Simon Girty. This time he won the confidence of the British authorities and was soon employed in the Indian Department. Throughout the remainder of the Revolution he was an active leader of Indians in the warfare in the West, participating in almost every important expedition in the Ohio region during the war. He led 300 Indians in the defeat of Colonel Crawford's expedition, aided in the slaughter of the Kentuckians at the Blue Licks, served with Hamilton