

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDACY OF DAVID W. SMITH

Niagara. 26. July, 92

My dear Sir! The Governors proclamations are arrived dividing the upper Country. The 18^h County is called Essex, & is bounded on the East by the Carrying place from point au pins, to the River la tranche¹⁹—bounded on the South by Lake Erie, & on the west by the River Detroit to Maisonvilles Mill; from thence by a line running parralel to the River Detroit & Lake S^t Clair, at the distance of 4 miles, until it meets the River la tranche—thence up the said River to where the Carrying place from point au pins strikes that River. This said County of Essex, with the adjoining County of Suffolk (in which there are no Inhabitants) sends one Member. those who have certificates, only, I understand can vote. this tract comprehends the new settlers on Lake Erie who have generally certificates. Monfortons Company, who have none except they have rec^d them since my departure—& Maisonvilles Company to the Mill; in this last Space there are Inhabitants on 12 acres front just above the Church, who can vote by reason of their having french deeds, “En Roture” & those settled on the South side of R. la tranche, a few of whom have certificates, & where *I* myself am a *freeholder*! This damned Election business seems to bind me to the County, for You know I am not fond of deserting any Cause I undertake, & that of the public is most dear to me.

Should I be returned without an undue Election, or the appearance of party or bribery, I shall be most happy, & in that Case I beg an Ox may be roasted *whole* on the common & a barrel of Rum, be given to the Mob, to wash down the Beef. You will draw on me for the Amount. I should have great pleasure in helping to frame Laws, for Lands which I have had so much pleasure in laying out. Mr Pollard who is appointed Sheriff, is returning officer. The writs are issued this day & returnable the 12 Sep^r

¹⁹ That is, the River Thames. For a general account of this election, see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, V, No. 2.