

that the Lord Lieut^s will take place; & I believe the General Cry is against it.

My interest shall be exerted to get you the Command of a troop. His Excellency approves of Horse in all the Districts, & circular Letters are gone to the Militia Commandants on the Subject, Col Englands recommendation would certain[ly] have weight, & should be sent as soon as possible, & the like recommendation from Col M^cKee, who would surely give it, will I conceive seal your wishes, & confirm the Appointment.

My Appointment of Surveyor General, is merely temporary.

The family say God bless you, & send you & yours long life, believe nobody wishes it More than

D W Smith

Endorsed: Answ^d y^e 3^d Nov^r

FROM DAVID W. SMITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Niagara 28 Oct^r 1792.

Dear Sir: I have had a good deal of Conversation about your light troop; I think the Governor wishes it much; but I would by no means have You neglect to procure the recommendation of Col^s England⁴⁵ & M^cKee. I fear there is no power in this Country to put the Capⁿ of Militia on pay, or Even to pay for their Arms at present. Your Rifle is very good I think; but not altogether calculated for light Horse; it is rather too heavy, & want Rings &c^a as on all light horse Carbines.

I beg You will improve on the idea among my Constituents of My having a Grant of 1400 Acres within the Counties, & that I shall build thereon, & make some kind of

⁴⁵ Lieutenant Colonel Richard England of the Twenty-fourth Regiment was the last British commandant of Detroit, serving here in 1791 and again from 1793 until the end of the British régime in 1796. Colonel England subsequently attained the rank of lieutenant general in the British army. A son, also named Richard, born at Detroit in 1793, served with distinction in the Crimean War and attained the rank of general. He died in 1883. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*