

ENGAGEMENT OF JOHN HARDOCK, SAILOR

Detroit

District of Hesse

Before François Desruisseaux Bellecour Notary residing at Detroit and the Witnesses under Written Was present John Hardock Sailor Who by thise presents Engages himself as Such to M^r John Drake⁴⁷ residing at River Rouge in the parish of S^te anne, from the first day of the Currant Month of November to the end of the Navigation next year, in the Winter Season he is to do all Kind of work that he is Capable of, as directed by the Said John Drake Such as Cutting Squaring Sawing and Carting Timbers &^e he is to be duly attentive on Board the Vessel he Shall Serve and during the Winter is to take proper Care of all Merchandises peltries Utensils and all other things Committed to his charges, to serve obey and Execute faithfully and diligently all that the Said John Drake or his representatives Shall lawfully order him to do, to beheve himself as an honest and faithful Servant ought, Nor his [is] he to quit the Said John Drake's Service, nor absant himself, under the penalty of the ordinance of the province and of losing his Wages,

In consideration whereof the Said John Drake obliges himself by this presents to pay unto the Said John Hardock the Sum of five pounds N. york Currency for each Month after the Expiration of his time agreeable to each party's Consent promissing &^e Obliging &^e Done at the Said Detroit in the Said Notary's office the Twinty eighth day of November in the year one thousand Seven hundred and ninety two, Signed Sealed and delivered. Signed in the presance of John Askwith⁴⁸

⁴⁷ John Drake lived at the River Rouge and commanded a vessel which plied between Detroit and Mackinac, engaged in the Northwest trade. Jacob Lindley of the Quaker peace delegation which visited Detroit in 1793, reports that Drake had formerly been engaged in the Guinea slave trade, and describes him as "remarkable for using no kind of drink but water." See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, 598, 642-43. In 1798 Drake was living at the River Thames.

⁴⁸ John Askwith was an Englishman who came to Detroit from Montreal in the summer of 1792 under an engagement as clerk, apparently to John Askin. He was a man of some education, and although he early formed a highly unfavorable opinion