

if neglected might eventually prove a loss. he has great interest among the Mohawks hunting towards the Scioto which may prove favorable in recovering the debts. I need not say more; your good sense perhaps may induce you to act with some policy although the apparent profits arising on this adventure within this two months past may put you out of patience as well as myself. you will hear from me very soon, I am in the mean time

Dear Sir Your most obidient and very humble Servant
T Smith

Jn^o Askin Esqr

Addressed: To John Askin Esq^r Detroit pr M^r Norton

Endorsed: Foot of the rapids the 3^d April 1793 M^r Tho^s Smith to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 5th Answ^d [illegible]

COMPLAINT AGAINST AMERICAN SPY

Personally appeared before me John Askin Esquire one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the western district, John Miller of Detroit Mariner and voluntarily declared on Oath that a man who lately came from the American States and calls himself William Erwin,⁹ came to his house one evening about the Tenth of March last and asked leave to stay there all night; that after some conversation he said to Miller you are a great fool to stay here, if you will come with me I will make a Gentleman of you. I am come lately from the American States and intend returning there soon and that on Millers telling him he had no inclination to leave this Country he said well if you will not go to the States, will you go round the works with me? I wish to know the weakest part of the Fort. That Miller replied he would not; on which Erwin told him that if he would not go with him he would go himself. That Miller then said if he went out of his house that night he should not return. That this and such conversation had continued till between Twelve and one

⁹ Irvin, or "Irvine," was confined by Colonel England and sent down to Niagara for such action as the governor might think proper to take concerning him. Colonel England regarded him as "too worthless a Fellow in every respect to be employed as a Spy." See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 587.