

J VATTAS³⁴ Captⁿ Reg^t Tenth
Commdt of said Fort & Garrison &^c &^c

Endorsed: July 1774 [*In Vattas' handwriting:*] M^r John Askin [*In Askin's handwriting:*] Cap^t Vattas's permission for a Settm^t near Michilimackinac.

DIARY OF JOHN ASKIN AT MACKINAC, 1774³⁵

1774

April the 16th the lake first broke up a little.

19th I sett the first potatoes same day the first Wild Ducks was brought to the Fort

20th I began to harrow my Ground at the farm

22nd Sowed some pease at the farm the first Geesse killed by my Brother

23^d the large Boat taken out of the Fort by my Man. M^r Boyez³⁶ Sewed Pease

26^h The lake now passable in Boats

27th Some Ice returned, Sowed Buck Wheat at the farm & Sett the first potatoes there

Apr^l the 28th M^{rs} Ainsse³⁷ went in a Boat for the Grand Traverse or to meet the Ottaways; Sowed Parsnips & Sett Potatoes at the farm also sowed Oates

to England, coming back in 1774 as captain general and governor of Massachusetts. He was unable to stay the course of revolution, and, although again appointed commander-in-chief of the forces in America in August, 1775, he was superseded by General Howe a year later and in October, 1776, returned to England, where he died in 1787. In December, 1758, Gage married, in America, Margaret Kembal, daughter of Peter Kembal, president of the provincial council of New Jersey. To them five daughters and six sons were born. One son, born in 1777, was long an admiral in the British navy. See *Dictionary of National Biography*.

34 John Vattas was made captain in the Tenth Regiment, May 5, 1760. He commanded the post of Mackinac in the interval between the commands of Captain George Turnbull and Major De Peyster, or about the years 1772 to 1774. On Jan. 13, 1776, he received the commission of major in the regiment. See British army lists.

35 From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

36 Probably Charles Boyer (Boyez), for whom see *post*, 93.

37 The Ainsse family had been established at Mackinac for several decades before 1774. August 30, 1741, Joseph Ainsse married there Constance Chevalier. After