

Memoralists Trading House being burnt last year Above Fort Miamis which tho of no great Value Added to the Many other Losses he has Sustained leaves him with a Numerous Family at an Advanced time of Life in an Embarrassed Situation. Therefore your Ex Memorialist has jointly with an old Friend of his M<sup>r</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> Henry Petioned for a Township on the North Side of Lake Erie, which if your Ex. thought proper to Grant might serve as a retreat in his old days to him His Family & Connections and which is the first Lands your Pet[it]ioner has Ever Applied for, all Others he holds & appears on the maps are Purchases. And your Memorialist as in Duty Bound will Ever Pray

Detroit May 28 1795

Signed John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>

#### SYNDICATE FOR PROMOTION OF CUYAHOGA PURCHASE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS that Whereas Patrick M<sup>c</sup> Niff Surveyor, John Askwith Notary Public, Israel Ruland<sup>s</sup> Silversmith, John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup>, and

8 Israel Ruland was born on Long Island, May 2, 1758. Probably Gerrit Graverat was responsible for his coming to Detroit; at any rate on July 27, 1773, Ruland, then a boy of fifteen, apprenticed himself to Graverat until he should reach the age of twenty-one. When this period arrived, he was operating as a trader in the Wabash region with headquarters at Vincennes. He supported actively the American cause on the advent of Clark in the Illinois country, and seems to have been particularly active in efforts to relieve American captives who had been carried to Detroit and vicinity. In 1781 he signed, as a resident of Vincennes, a petition of remonstrance to the Virginia government against the exactions of Clark's successors in the Illinois. The present document indicates that he had established himself at Detroit prior to 1795. Ten years later he was living at Raisin River settlement, where he served on the first grand jury of Monroe County in 1805. He died shortly prior to June 18, 1817, at which date his son, Isaac, was in Detroit, engaged in settling claims against the estate of his lately deceased father. Ruland married the widow of Hugh Smith, of Vincennes, a few months after the death of her husband. In 1805 he entered into an agreement with Solomon Sibley whereby the latter was to prosecute at Washington his claim for a grant of land to compensate him for property losses sustained by reason of his flight from Canada as a refugee during the Revolution. This document affords the only clue we have found to his history prior to his appearance in Indiana as a trader. In 1799 Col. David Strong, in a letter to Sibley requesting the latter to exert his influence with Governor St. Clair to procure for Ruland a licence to trade with Blue Jacket's tribe of Indians, recited that Ruland was an honest man "and one that has done great service to many poor prisoners who have been brought into this country [i. e. Detroit], and paid sums of money for the redemption of many, for which he never got any compensation, and which has reduced him very much." See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, IV, 319 and X, 355-56; *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, VIII, 433; and mss. in Burton Hist. Coll., *passim*.