

the Price being from 26/ to 30/ N. Y. Curr^y¹⁸ the Gallon & little certainty of getting it here made me drop the Scheme. I'm to have 80 Kegs of W. I. rum of 8 G^a each from Mons^r Barth[e],¹⁹ at 150ⁿ the Keg, this with about 100 Bushells of hull'd Corn, shall go off very early for the Portage.²⁰ Corn in all probabillity will be as hard to be got as Rum. I'm informed from Detroit that it will cost 24/ the Bushell Unhulled & without Bags, but that's not the worst, how to get it here now the Vessells are Stopt, the Kings Vessel will come as usual perhaps, but besides Kings Stores, she has to carry for so many persons, that each can have very little on Board. I myself could [load] her twice, from all this you may judge, how difficult is it to fullfill Contracts, however dont be discouraged, if money or Industry will answer, you shall not be disapointed. Rum I expect for a Certainty by

about sixty miles west of Mackinac, at a point still designated on the map as Patter-son's Point.

18 The subject of the monetary systems employed in the Northwest trade in this period is full of perplexities. Values shifted from time to time, and from place to place at a given time. Even so experienced a trader as Askin required a set of rules for transforming calculations from one currency to another. The sterling shilling was the standard of value, of course; generally speaking, Halifax currency was worth less than sterling, and New York less than, Halifax. In one account of the year 1780 Askin figures Halifax at an advance of 75 to 80 per cent upon sterling, and New York currency at 60 per cent advance upon Halifax.

19 Jean Baptiste Barthe, born at Detroit in 1753, the brother of Askin's wife. He was located at this time at Sault Ste. Marie, where he was engaged in supplying the fur traders. He later lived at Mackinac and Detroit, and following the American occupation of the latter place, in 1796, he elected, like Askin, to remain a British subject and removed to the south side of the river. On December 28, 1778, he married at Detroit Geneviève Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien, having hurriedly returned from Mackinac when an attack by the Americans was believed to be impending. Barthe was buried at Sandwich, June 22, 1827. Geneviève Barthe was buried there July 14, 1847. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

20 Grand Portage, at the western end of Lake Superior, where a nine-mile portage was made between the Lake and a point above the falls on Pigeon River. Practically from the beginning of the British régime in the fur trade until the opening years of the nineteenth century, Grand Portage was the great interior entrepôt of the fur trade conducted by the Montreal merchants in the far Northwest. About the year 1801, however, due to the discovery that Grand Portage was on the American side of the boundary line drawn by the treaty of 1783, the site was abandoned by the British traders in favor of a new location at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River, to which the name of Fort William (in honor of William McGillivray) was presently given.