

to have it enregistered, for which much trouble & interruption is given to me. I have once before been called before the Court about this matter, & Asked if I did so or not So clear do I feel that I had *not only* a right to do So, but also even advise Subjects to continue under the British Gover^{mt} (which I however did not meddle in), had I been so disposed, that I most certainly acknowledged not only my doing So but that I was perfectly right, & *that it* was in conformity to the treaty.

J A

Endorsed: Detroit 97 Aug^t 26 J Askin to D. W. Smith Esq^r Niagara

ADVICE FROM GOVERNOR RUSSELL CONCERNING
CITIZENSHIP DISPUTE

West Niagara 5 September 1797

Sir Mr Smith has just sent to me your letter of the 26^h Ult^o & the Copy of the Summons for your Appearance before the General Quarter Sessions of the County of Wayne & a Copy of the Letter from the British Inhabitants of Detroit to Peter Adrain Esqr.

I am extremely sorry that I do not feel myself competent to give you the advice you desire, as your place of Residence is without the Power of my Jurisdiction. Nor do I see any possibility of even the British Minister's Interference, until you are able to State to his Excellency the Nature of the Offence you have given to the Government of the United States and the Sort of Notice which has been taken of it. This I presume to advise you to do without loss of Time immediately from Detroit as the quickest mode of communicating with his Excellency.

I am Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

Peter Russell

John Askin Esqr British Merch^t at Detroit

Endorsed: West Niagara Sep^r 5^h 1797 Petter Russell Esq^r Administering the Govern^t to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^o 15^h Sep^r