

PROFFER FOR PURCHASE OF LAND

Dear Sir To informe you that Yesterday there was a gentleman whome I have had a long acquaintance with who is an agent to look out a good tract of land for about fifty Famelys many of them my former [n]labours and they having the opinion of my being a little acquainted in Chuesing Good Stands as well as Settling new cuntry depend on our exploreing and Chuesing And agreeing with some gentleman for a sutable Place for that purpose. Should you wish to give us a reasonable encoragement we will trade with you to liten your taxes and make the rest of your lands of more value. You may depend on oure fidelity of defending your rites if we can Onely agree on the price when we Come to see the lands which we Expect to be in detroit as soon as the winter closes up.

I Am Sir your Most Humble Serv^t

E. Allan⁶²

The River Thames November 29^h 1798

John Askins Esq^r

Addressed: John Askins Esq^r at Detroit

Endorsed: River Thames, Nov^r 29^h 1798 Mr Ebenezer Allan to Jn^o Askin recv y^e 10^h Dec^r Answ^d y^e 15th

62. Ebenezer Allan was the first white resident on the site of Rochester, N. Y., and all real estate titles in the "One Hundred Acre Tract" in the central part of the city derive from him. He was a Tory during the Revolution, and although a man of much energy and force of character, was a hardened villain, whose life story would supply material for more than one dime novel. As a Tory he joined the Indians in various operations against the colonists, in which he gained the reputation of being more bloodthirsty than were the savages themselves. Mary Jemison knew him, and in her life narrative relates horrible deeds which are attributed to him. About the close of the war Allan engaged in trade, being located for a time at Mount Morris, N. Y. In July, 1788, he contracted with Oliver Phelps, one of the proprietors of the Phelps-Gorham land purchase, to build saw and grist-mills at the Genesee Falls. He carried out this agreement, becoming thereby the first settler on the site of Rochester. A few years later he sold his interests here and located once more at Mount Morris. About this same time he procured from Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada a grant of 2200 acres of land in what is now Delaware Township, Middlesex County, Ont. Here he located toward the close of the century (year uncertain). He sold a portion of his grant prior to March, 1799, for 3000 pounds. A condition of the grant required him to build a mill, church, etc. While carrying out these enterprises in the early years of the nineteenth century, he became cramped for funds and resorted to counterfeiting to supply the deficiency. For this offense he was subjected to a long term of imprisonment at Long Point. Apparently he was released prior to 1812, for in July of that year he was seized by the military on a charge of treasonable behavior. He died in 1816, and was buried in Delaware Township.

The details of Allan's private life are sufficiently lurid. Apparently there was no crime in the calendar he was incapable of committing, and of many of the graver crimes he stands accused. He had a choice assortment of wives, white, red, and black; his affection for them