

present case I can only advise whats to be done & how I would wish to do with Some of my own in a Similar Situation. the tract of land you elude to is at a Small distance from this. I Know it well, it is not claimed by any person here nor elsewhere to my Knowledge unless congress will not admit of Such purchases, and you are better Situated than I am to take legal advice how to act in order not to have your claim disputed: Could you get it confirmed by the American Government it would not be a hard matter to have it Settled probably, but even that might be better done with you than here, as from your Quarter or I mean the States many are looking out to purchase land but few here. it also happens that adventurers from your Quarter purchase Deeds and run all risks. this in my opinion is the best way to dispose of those sort of Lands I have offered very good tracts for $\frac{1}{4}$ York the acre and give such titles as I hold from the Indians but have not been able to part with any yet however Indian deeds before 83 as yours is, Some Gentlemen of the law Suppose to be good. as you have at York many eminent characters of that profession, your opportunity of having their Sentiments is very easy and I would be thankfull to you to Know what they are. Please observe when I say I would give my right of tracts of Land for $\frac{1}{4}$ the acre I mean large tracts, and give no other than the Indian Deeds, but If Congress admitted those Deeds as good I Would not sell such as small tract as yours under 8/ or 10/. I was last Summer favoured with a letter from your uncle Col. DePeyster dated 18 Jan^y last. I take the liberty of sending you under cover herewith my answer, as being the Safest way of conveyance in my opinion I am &^a

Signed J A

Mr Arent Schuyler DePeyster² New York

Endorsed: Detroit 5 Jan^y 99 John Askin to Arent Schuyler DePeyster Copy

² Arent Schuyler De Peyster, born April 4, 1779, was a nephew of Colonel Arent S. De Peyster, who was commandant at Mackinac and Detroit during the Revolutionary period. His father, being a loyalist, migrated from New York (the ancestral home) to England, where the son was educated at the expense of Colonel De Peyster, who planned to procure a commission for him in his own regiment (the Eighth Foot). Instead, the boy ran away to sea at the age of fifteen, and thus began his life-calling as a sailor. In 1819 he discovered the group of islands in the South Pacific which still bear his name. He married