

provided for the former, and when officers are wanting the L^t of the county is to blame. When I mention these matters to Some of the council in this Quarter the answer I get is, that it's understood I should be obeyed when I give orders to the militia. my ideas are very different except in cases where the laws directs, for was I [acting] as Judge in any case where a militia man refused what the law had not exacted he should do, I would acquit him. If in your opinion the defects I suppose exist & [you] think it right to move at next Sessions for an amendm^t it is well. If not I have nothing further to urge. It is however painful to me as a militia officer not to be able to put the [into] execution such orders as I may receive from the president or any other in his Stead, thro the L^t of the county. I am &^a

(Signed) J A

Endorsed: Detroit 24 Jan^y 99 John Askin to Hamilton
Copy

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 25 January 1799

Dear Askin I received your several letters and observe what you say respecting Trade at your post it is nothing new when money is gaind one or two years in a post they must loose five business is much the same here all Trades overdone from your information, I have alter'd my plan and sold off all my importations at cost & charges, so am again free living on stock which goes very fast, and [what] the next will be [I] cannot say. the new North West Company is going on it will be a considerate [considerable] struggle but I know who will gain. the one party is a new rais'd corps without discipline, the other old veterans. I cant find one man of experience that has the least knowledg in the North consern'd. Forsyth does the business here and Sharp at the portage. I thank you for the [me]morandum &^a you sent me, I did not mean that my Nephew¹⁴ should have settled at Sagana or the Indian Country but

¹⁴ This was Alexander Henry who is commonly known as "the younger" by way of distinguishing him from his uncle. He seems to have entered upon the fur trade this same year. He was drowned in the lower Columbia in April, 1814, along with Donald McKenzie. Most of the intervening years were spent by Henry in the far Northwest. His extensive journals, edited by Elliott Coues, were published in New York in 1893.