

now Please present my best wishes with those of M^{rs} Askin to my good friend M^r Leith I'm always happy to hear he is well

I have only to add that M^{rs} Askin & all my family Join in every wish that may tend to your happiness & welfare & believe me with &^a

Signed J Askin

Geo Sharp Esq^r Montreal

Endorsed: Detroit 22^d april '99 John Askin to George Sharp Copy

FIREWOOD FOR GARRISON AT DETROIT

Detroit 25 April '99

Sir This minute Captain Nelson has been here to let me Know, that If you will furnish 200 Cords of fire wood for the use of this Garrison and deliver it on the new Wharf which he has made, he will pay you the Same price he gets himself which he says is 18/ N Y Currency and he wants Your answer immediately. If you have 400 Cords now ready or can get it Soon I would advise you to accept of his offer which Seems Very fair, but recollect If you do So, you must turn your thoughts to that business and no other for there must not be any disappointment as the Money is Sure and good. I think you Should prefer this to getting rails or any other matter I expect your answer by the 1st opportunity, or If you can come yourself So much the better.

(Signed) John Askin

M^r William Smith³⁶ River Ruscom

Endorsed: Detroit, 25 April '99 John Askin to William Smith River Roscom Copy

³⁶ Documents among the Askin papers (mss.) show that William Smith was a tenant of Askin living on land at Ruscom River (which empties into Lake St. Clair) in this period. Smith was active in supplying firewood for the Detroit market and on Jan. 11, 1799, he bought "a Very large Bateau" from Askin agreeing to pay therefor the equivalent of £100 New York Currency in wood delivered at the current market price. In the summer of 1801, Askin had Smith imprisoned for failure to pay his debts, and rejected the debtor's pleas for his enlargement. Data derived from Askin papers (mss.) in B. H. Coll.