

EXCHANGE OF FLOUR FOR MAPLE SUGAR

Michilimackinac 21^t June 1799

Dear Askin Your favour of the 6^h instant came to hand the 17^h. I am happy to learn that your eyes are getting better & that your family are Well.

When the flour Arrives, I will do the best I can to exchange it for sugar, or dispose of it to the best advantage on your Accot, Sugar by the two or three thousand Weight has lately been Sold here at 12 Sols P lb The demand for it at present seems to encrease. I should have been glad you had Mentioned the price of baggs & the freight of the flour here, Which Would have been a guide for me to dispose of it. I [t]hink if Sugor can be had at the above price, the flour might be exchanged for it at cost & charges.

I am Sorry to hear of the death of Our Old friend John Porteous,⁴² but it is a debte that you & I must soon discharge. We have Nothing New here. please Make my kind compliments to Madam Askin & all your famely. And am With esteem. Dear Sir,

Your Very hum^{le} Servant,
Charles Morison

N. B. I wrote you a few lines p the *Thames*
John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit. P the *Nancy* Cap^t Mills⁴³

Endorsed: Mich. June 21st 1799 M^r Charles Morrison
to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 30^h

⁴² John Porteous was a native of Perth, Scotland, who came to Detroit in 1762 and thereafter for many years was engaged in the northwest trade. Some of his papers (including a partial journal of Pontiac's siege of Detroit) are in the B. H. Coll.; others are in the library of the Buffalo Historical Society; while the great bulk of his lifetime accumulation of papers seems to have been destroyed about half a century ago. Porteous had a number of partners at various times. The one here mentioned has not been identified. About the outbreak of the Revolution he withdrew from the western country and during the British occupation of Philadelphia had a store in that city. He also engaged in privateering (against the "rebel" commerce). After a number of removals, Porteous, about the year 1789, located in Little Falls, New York, where he became an American citizen, and died in 1799. Considerable concerning his activities has been published; see Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VI, 47-71 and 84 ff.; Ontario Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VI, 20-36; *Michigan History Magazine*, VIII, 126-33. Information adapted from these sources and from mss. in B. H. Coll.

⁴³ William Mills was a native of Blyton in Lincolnshire, England, who for many years was a captain on the upper lakes. He was skipper of the *Nancy* as early as 1793, and as late as November, 1805. In 1796 he was one of the residents of Detroit who formally