

affair claiming the very same sum in quite another manner. What answer Clamorgan gave M^r Bleakley is more than I Know, in fact I imagine he gave him none. if M^r Todd agrees even to pay on this sum in proportion to his receipts from Clamorgan & C^o it will be doing a great deal, tho the amount must be small indeed. I am Sir

Your very Obed. Sev^t

James Swan

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Mich June 22^d 1799 M^r Jm^s Swan to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 30th wrote him 21st Oct^r Montreal

FROM DR. HARFFY TO JOHN ASKIN

Malden June 28, 1799

D^r Sir I received the China Safe, all parties are Satisfied, and part of the Syrup of punch is drank, for which my thanks are due. the letters are all put on board; but they whar too late until the *Thames* arrived. the three letters which came down with her I received, & have attended to part of one. M^r Backwell⁴⁶ cannot say with Certainty that he can take the whole, half he thinks he can promise; if more I will let you know. The Common red wine, *alias* Black Strap if good, Serle⁴⁷ will take payable in Pork, but as he has not quite a Barrel at present he can Send 100, or 150, at the usual price, the remainder almost immediately after. Hutchins is down the Lake, *Money hunting*. Caldwell also says he will get a Bill. if it should be agreeable to you to close with Serle, he wishes you would send it down *in my Name*, that it may not appear to Park, who in matters

⁴⁶ William Backwell was commissioned captain lieutenant in the Royal Engineers on Aug. 15, 1794. In June, 1798, he arrived at Amherstburg to take charge of the engineer department and therewith assumed direction of the further work on the erection of the fort. His management of affairs was highly commended by Captain Hector McLean, who seems not to have approved of his predecessor, Lieutenant Robert Cooper. No indication of the duration of his stay here has been found. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, *passim*, and British army lists.

⁴⁷ William Searl (so spelled in formal documents which he signed by making his mark) was an innkeeper in Amherstburg. The document printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 102, seems to indicate that he was still keeping a house of entertainment there as late as 1820. He was of English origin, having married Elizabeth Kelsey in St. George, Hanover Square Parish in Middlesex County, Dec. 31, 1776. A daughter, Ann Searl, born about 1789, married Roderick Drake of Amherstburg, July 8, 1816. See St. John's Church Register, *passim*.