

are proper subjects & recommended for Location by a Magistrate. if the Certificates already obtained that way have been got or sold surreptitiously; those concerned will certainly be disappointed. In regard to your project with Messieurs Randall & Whitney,³⁸ I can say but little think it better therefore to say nothing.

My mother & M^{rs} Smith³⁹ beg their Comp^s to greet all yours, I saw your Daughter at York a few days ago, she is well. believe me dear Sir very faithfully & truly Yours

D W Smith⁴⁰

To John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit

From: Survey Gen. Office U C

Endorsed: Niagara April 17^h 1796 Cap^t D.W. Smith to Jn^o Askin Rec^d y^e 19^h & Answ^d y^e 20^h May

TRESPASSERS ON CROWN LANDS

Detroit April 25th 96

My Dear Sir I beg leave to trouble you with a Line to Say that I beg you will send me some authority from the Person authorised to give it to prevent People from Settling or otherwise making use of the Lands reserved to the Crown on the Rivers Ruscum, Pucos Peches, & Belle River, this will be very usefull to both, first to the Government in preventing People from Cutting choise Timbers on these Lands or making Settlements on them which in time it might be difficult to remove, & next to me, in keeping off large herds of Cattle Which no fence can resist & injuring Very much the Poep^le Who are Settling on my Lands, for my part I have no other Views than what I mention in requesting to have charge of them. I have Land adjoining to the reserves on all the rivers & am erecting Houses on

³⁸ The allusion is to the Cuyahoga purchase of Askin and associates, for which see *B. H. R.*, I, 545-48, *et passim*; and *ante*, 5-8.

³⁹ In 1788, Smith married Anne, daughter of John O'Reilly of Ballykilchrist, County Longford, Ireland, who died in 1798. They had eight children. He married (second) in 1803, Mary, daughter of John Tyler of Devizes, England, by whom he had one daughter. W. Stewart Wallace (ed.), *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, 1926).

⁴⁰ For sketch of the career of David W. Smith, see *B. H. R.*, I, 407; also sketch in Wallace, *op. cit.*