

them & from the great encouragement I give cannot fail of making a Speedy Settlement I am &c

J Askin

Capt D W Smith Niagara

Endorsed: April 25th 1796 To D. W. Smith 5th Reg^t Niagara

GUARDIANSHIP OF CROWN LANDS

Niagara 2^d May 1796

Dear Sir; M^r Robinson⁴¹ the Surveyor of the woods is at Kingston. should he come up, I will represent to him your wishes of being empowered to be a Guardian to the Reserves. perhaps your leasing them at a very low rent could be the most eligible plan, particularly if you could get them for 21 years, which you could have on an application to M^r Russel.⁴² People might formerly take possession & these were used to plead Occupancy, but I apprehend it would be a foolish experiment now the Government is organized. I am at present much hurried, as you may suppose, so that I hope you will not expect much from me except business.

However at all times be assured of the good wishes of this family & believe me truly yours

D W Smith

John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

From: Sur. Gen. Office U. C.

Endorsed: Niagara May 2^d 1796 Cap^t D. W. Smith to Jn^o Askin Rec^d y^e 19^h & Answ^d y^e 20^h

⁴¹ Christopher Robinson was a native of Virginia and a graduate of William and Mary College. At the outbreak of the Revolution, he remained loyal to the Crown, and served on the British side during the war. At its close, he took refuge in Nova Scotia, where he obtained a grant of land. He subsequently removed to Lower Canada, and in 1792 to Upper Canada, where he was appointed surveyor of woods and forests by Governor Simcoe. He also served in the provincial legislature from 1796 until his death in York (Toronto), Nov. 2, 1798. See Wallace, *op. cit.*

⁴² Peter Russell (Russel) was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1733. He was educated at Cambridge, and in 1778 became a captain in the Sixty-fourth Regiment. He served in America as assistant-secretary to Sir Henry Clinton, taking part in the campaign against Charleston in 1779-80. He returned to England at the close of his military service, and in 1792 returned to Canada, having been appointed by Governor Simcoe Receiver-General of the province of Upper Canada. On Simcoe's withdrawal in 1796, Russell, as President of the Council, succeeded to the governorship, retaining the position until 1799. He died at his home in Toronto, Sept. 30, 1808. See sketch in *Simcoe Papers*, I, 129; Wallace, *op. cit.*