

Sign'd James M^cHenry

To Louis Boufet⁶⁴ }
 James May } Esquires
 Joseph Voyer }
 Charles Fra^s Gerardin }

Endorsed: Sec^{ty} of War. Answer to the Majestrates of
 Detroit 8th August 1799

REJECTION OF LAND CERTIFICATES

York, August 13th 1799

My dear Sir By this time, I do imagine M^r Baby has delivered my forth letter since I left AmherstBurg to you, I have now the pleasure of Acknowledging yours of the 5th July—also of the 18th and 19th Just received. I am distressed beyond measure in not succeeding better, in geting your fourteen Certificates passed the Council. There might have been Some dawn of hope, had I lay'd my hands on them before M^r Smith I mean David, went away. And then he and Hamilton told me they thought they would not pass. Indeed M^r Hamilton & M^r Cartwright had So many Certificates and other matters of land business of their own, that a great part of this business was put off[f] till the last day and [with] some Considerable dificulty they got passed at last. And M^r Baby was taken up mostly with his own land business. And with some dificulty he got his passed. So that any land business that is not as Clear as noon day And the many frauds that has been Committed in keeping up Certificates and then brought forward by a second or third hand, And other fraudulent practics regarding land, that the Council are indeed very nice in passing any wrighting or given any lands what ever as there is an order from home to sell all the wast lands in this Province to defray Some of the Expe[n]ce,

I shall make a Second attempt I am this forenoon going to speak to the Chief Justice. I shall also Speak to Colonel Shaw⁶⁵ and Captain M^cGill

⁶⁴ Louis Beaufait, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 518.

⁶⁵ Aeneas Shaw was a native of Scotland who served in the Revolution in the Queen's