

INTRODUCTION OF REV. GOTTFRIED OPPELT

Goshen on Muskingum 14 Aug^t 1799

Dear Sir At the desire of M^r Zeisberger⁶⁶ I beg leave to recommend to your friendly attention, the bearer of this, the Rev^d M^r Oppelt,⁶⁷ who is going as missionary of the United Brethren to reside with M^r Senseman on Thames river. We shall be much obliged for any kindness you may shew him & M^{rs} Oppelt.

M^r & M^{rs} Zeisberger and M^r Edward unite with me in best respects to Yourself and family.

I am, with much esteem Dear Sir

Your most obed^t h^{ble} Serv^t

Benjⁿ Mortimer⁶⁸

Addressed: John Askin Esq^{re} Detroit By favor of the Rev^d M^r Oppelt

Endorsed: Goshen on Muskingum Aug^t 14^h 1799 The Reverend Benjamin Mortimer to Jn^o Askin

PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING SCHOOL IN DETROIT⁶⁹

Detroit 24th August 1799

To John Askin, Esq^r

Dear Sir, The great importance of education & instruction to youth is so generally acknowledged in all

66 For the career of David Zeisberger, see *B. H. R.*, I, 217, *et passim*.

67 Gottfried Sebastian Oppelt was a Moravian missionary who came, as this letter discloses, from the Moravian town of Goshen, in modern Tuscarawas County, Ohio, to the settlement at Fairfield in the summer of 1799. It seems apparent from later letters preserved in the Askin papers that Oppelt was sent to succeed Senseman in charge of the Fairfield mission. In a letter of Dec. 14, 1799, Oppelt stated that Senseman was very sick with consumption and his "departure" was expected very soon. His death occurred, Jan. 4, 1800. Oppelt continued at Fairfield for several years, as shown by mss. in the B. H. Coll. No sketch of his career has been found, nor have data sufficient to construct one been accumulated.

68 Benjamin Mortimer, one of the Moravian missionaries, accompanied Heckenwelder from Ohio to Fairfield on the Thames in the spring of 1798. Heckenwelder soon returned, by way of Detroit, to Ohio, but Mortimer remained at Fairfield until the autumn, when he and Zeisberger conducted a number of the converts back to Ohio, where in modern Tuscarawas County they founded the village of Goshen. Here Zeisberger died, Nov. 7, 1808, until which event Mortimer remained at Goshen. At a later date he became pastor of a Moravian church in New York City, where he died on Nov. 10, 1834. See Zeisberger's *Diary*, II, 527-28; *History of Tuscarawas County, Ohio* (Chicago, 1884), 318; and Heckenwelder's *Narrative*, *passim*.

69 From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.