

civilized nations that it would be superfluous to write upon such a topic. It is to be lamented that so many obstacles oppose themselves in countries newly settled to the establishment of proper seminaries & the procuring proper teachers. Should you think it any facility to the forwarding of such an object, You & those concerned may have of me the home on the domain belonging to me for twenty years, at twelve pounds York a year, with liberty at any period, previous to the expiration of the lease, to purchase the premisses for two hundred pounds, for the above purpose, when of course the rent will cease. I am, Dear Sir, &c &c &c

William Robertson

Endorsed: Detroit Aug^t 24th 1799 W^m Robertson Esq^r to Jn^o Askin Respecting the Leasing out of his House for the purpose of a School

PROPOSAL TO OPEN A SCHOOL

August the 24th. 1799

Sir, On consulting my own mind, I do not like to advertise; but I have taken the liberty to send you a memorandum of an agreement, requesting you to be so kind as to show it to any of your acquaintance, who, you think, would subscribe to the conditions. I know that any writing, to become binding in law, for a sum exceeding 20 dollars, must be written on stamp paper; but I hope none will be permitted to subscribe who is not of both known principle and ability to comply punctually with the agreement; nor do I wish any to subscribe who have not pupils to send to school; for I cannot be under obligations of a pecuniary nature, except for a time after which restitution is to be made; but where no return is to be made I will receive no money. I forgot to mention in the memorandum, that I would continue for another half year if desired; by [but] that is supplied by an additional article on the back of the paper. I am, Sir,

your most obedient, humble servant,

Peter Joseph Dillon.⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Peter Joseph Dillon probably first came to Detroit with Hugh Callahan in 1798, when he assisted the latter in driving a herd of cattle from Hamilton to this place. Dillon