

Addressed: M^r John Askin, senior.

Endorsed: Detroit Aug^t 24^h 99 M^r Dillon to Jn^o Askin.

DIFFICULTY OVER LAND TITLES

Detroit 29 august 1799

D^r Sir I wrote you a few lines by our Freind M^r Robertson two days ago, purely to Say, that I then could not, for want of time, answer your Sundry favours, which I now will do.

To begin with what relates to my Claims of land, & which were rejected, were I to Say half what I can with propriety, in Support of them, this Sheet would be too little. I therefore will confine myself for the present to a few observations. If the Commodore could not find my papers (when those who I meant to bring them forward & had a good deal to Say were present) it was badly Judged to do it afterwards, and even after he was discouraged by the President. I excuse all he did, as I know his intentions were to serve me, but he is a most unfit man for any thing of the Kind, nor did I mean he Should enterfere otherwise, than deliver the papers to M^r Smith & you. I know his Situation in Council that he cannot oppose the head. I never was more hurt in my life, than at these Certificates being rejected. it implies an intentional fraud in me, & what for? to gain the difference between £10 to £15 (what each Lot cost) and what they may fetch, which may be a little more. and who did this? a man, a confidential man, as I'm told the council Says a good Subject, a majestrate, a L^t Col. of Militia formerly a member of the Land Board, & now a Commissioner this is a great contradiction. he who would Stoop So low as to, *I say bilk* Government of so small a trifle Is very unfit for Office, and If God Spares my life in open Council, I must either be Justified, or my Supposed bad, or fraudulent intention proved.

Of the certificates alluded to, I find I have Signed three one for a man who was Drummer in the 84th Regiment and

was married, and both he and his wife are numbered among Detroit's early school teachers. The present document affords indication of the time when he started a school here. His further story, and his vicissitudes as schoolmaster are recounted in Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 710-13.