

well to sell to him, in the first Mode, I have prescribed which I make no kind of Doubt, he will accede to, from his repeated act of Ownership exercised & persued with the House and Horse Mill, for I am Credibly Informed, he has rented out, the House, for those Eighteen Months Past; for there is at present a Family residing in the house by M^r Dubois permission; and has permitted a M^r Boyer to use the Mill until she has become Nearly if not entirely Useless.

I shall take the liberty, of considering Myself Generally Retained for you upon similar Engagements, as those of Mess^{rs} Sibley, Sinclair & Burnett.

I have fully performed your Injunction as to Madame Gamelin. You will see from my inclosed Mem^o the situation and Value of the Debts, she offers you, and what other property, she is Possessed of, and It's Value.

If you shall conclude to send forward any Bonds &^{ca} for Collection, I will undertake the Collection for Ten per cent, and my Legal Fees, where I succeed in suits If it may or shall be necessary to Commence any. I am Sir

Your Most Obedient & Very Hub^e Serv^t

Gen. W. Johnston⁷⁷

To John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Addressed: Private John Askin Esq^r Merchant Detroit. Attention of M^r James Abbott jun^r⁷⁸ Merch^t

Endorsed: Post Vincent Oct^r 9^h 1799 General W. Johnston to Jn^o Askin recv^d in Nov^r & Answ^d 20th March 1800

⁷⁷ General Washington Johnston was born, Nov. 10, 1776, in Culpepper County, Virginia, near where the leader in whose honor he was named lived for many years. He came to Vincennes in 1793 and entered upon the practice of law. He became influential locally, held many offices, and acquired considerable renown as an orator. He is said to have brought Masonry into Indiana and to have put slavery out. He died in Vincennes, Oct. 26, 1833. See biographical sketch in *Ind. Mag. Hist.*, XX, 123-53.

⁷⁸ James Abbott was a son of James Abbott Sr., whose career is noted in *B. H. R.*, I, 304. He was born in Detroit, June 1, 1776, and died here, March 12, 1858. On attaining his majority, he was taken into partnership with his father, as his elder brother, Robert, had previously been admitted. On the death of the elder Abbott, in 1800, the brothers continued the business for a time. Their inherited wealth and abilities made them men of prominence in the community, where James remained a leading citizen until his death in 1858. From 1806 until 1830 he was postmaster of Detroit. In April, 1807, he was appointed associate judge of the District Court of Huron and Detroit; he served as a member of the Land Board, and in numerous ways was identified with the commercial and civic life of his time. In November, 1804, he married, in Chicago, Sarah Whistler, eldest daughter of Captain John Whistler of Fort Dearborn, becoming thereby Chicago's first civilized