

board and bring to this place such of the public and private property, as was saved from the wreck of my Vessel the *Annette*. I bind myself hereby to take no advantage of the reception of those Stores by a Vessel in public service, and agree that my responsibility (if ever I was responsible) shall remain as formerly, and should I be obliged to make good the damages sustained by the loss of the *Annette* I promise to reimburse the United States the extraordinary charges of send^g the Vessel by long point.

I certify that the above is a Copy of a paper agreed by Mr Askin this day

F. Bates⁸⁰

Endorsed: Detroit Oct^r 13^h 1799 Jn^o Askins Agreem^t to take no Advantage of the United States sending for what was lost from the *Annette*

FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 15^h Octb^r 1799

My dear Askin I am favord with your two Letters of the 9th ult^o & one of the 3^d I am sorry that any change has taken place in your doing business with Ja^s & And^w M^cGill I know the former wishes to curtail the business of the House so that he may the more easily retire himself & I belive those you now do [business] with are good men & may answer each of your purposes better. this change I am convinced will make none in friendship between you & James who I am sure will on all occasions be as ready to

⁸⁰ Frederick Bates was born in Goochland County, Virginia, June 23, 1777. In the autumn of 1797 he received an appointment in the quartermaster's department of the army and set out on horseback for Detroit. In the summer of 1800 he embarked upon a mercantile career in Detroit, which he continued until the fire of June 11, 1805, destroyed most of his property. Meanwhile, he had studied law and had engaged actively in politics. He was the city's second postmaster, serving from Jan. 1, 1803, to June 1, 1806. In 1804 he was first receiver of the Detroit land office, and was a member of the board of trustees of the town in 1804-1805. In the latter year, he was appointed one of the first territorial justices, and he also served as first territorial treasurer. In November, 1806, he resigned his various offices and removed to St. Louis, where President Jefferson appointed him Secretary of Louisiana Territory. In 1808 he published a compilation of Missouri laws, the first book published in Missouri. He subsequently was elected governor of the state and died in office in 1825. A younger brother, Edward Bates, was attorney-general in President Lincoln's cabinet. See biographical sketches in Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, II, 1130; in Houck, *History of Missouri*, III, 49-50; in T. M. Marshall, *Life and Papers of Frederick Bates* (St. Louis, 1926), I, 1 ff.; and in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VIII, 563-65.