

Addressed: Jn^o Askin Esq^r Detroit Oct^r 25th

Endorsed: Malden Oct^r 24^h 1799 Doctor Harffy to Jn^o Askin Ans^w^d

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAPTAIN THORN

Detroit October the 26th 1799

Captain Thorn⁸⁵

Sir You will take on Board 18 Keggs of West India Rum & 2 Barrels of Cydar, all which you will deliver M^r Traxellar.⁸⁶ likewise 3375 Bricks & 100 Tiles & Telling him to sell the foregoing things at the following Prices, & I will pay him for his Trouble.

Rum by the Kegg 12 Bushells Wheat or 16½ Dol.
Cydar by the Barrell 8 do do.....or 10 Dollars.
Tile—by the Piece.....6^d Each.
Brick by the 100.....1½ dollars.

If he trusts it must be only to such people as will surely pay him before the 1st of April next at latest & when in wheat it must be good & Clean but I am willing to take English Measure & if he thinks he could sell more to write me word by you.

You will recieve from him all the Indian Corn he has for me, Measuring it with the half Bushell you have on Board, & if he has any wheat of his own I wish he would send it & Keep as much of what he may get for me in its Stead

⁸⁵ William Thorn was a native of Providence, R. I., who found his way to Detroit prior to, or during, the Revolutionary War. He appears as a householder in the Detroit census of 1779, being credited with 1 "woman," 1 boy, 2 girls, 2 horses, and 2 cows. *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X, 316. In the spring of 1782, he "earnestly" besought his discharge from the naval department; it was granted, and Colonel De Peyster was about to send him to Canada, not deeming it proper for a person with his knowledge of the lakes and the country to be permitted to remain in Detroit; however, he continued in the service, and in 1783 is listed as a master, serving on Lake Erie. *Ibid.*, XXIV, 6. Prior to September, 1789, Thorn located in Cottrellville on St. Clair River, being one of the earliest residents of this vicinity. Here he remained until his death in 1842, and his descendants were represented here until a relatively recent date. He was long a lake navigator, and it is said that he piloted Colonel Croghan's expedition to Mackinac in 1814.

Captain Thorn had two sons, William and John, and several daughters. John Thorn owned and platted the first village lots on the site of Port Huron. See *ibid.*, *passim*, and Jenks, *Hist. St. Clair Co.*, I, 148 ff.

⁸⁶ Peter Traxellar (variously spelled in the mss.) lived on the Thames River; in 1799 Askin had announced to Senseman his intention to open a store in Traxellar's house the following season. See Askin papers, *passim*.