

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Sandwich 24 April 1800

Dear Sir, I just now received your letter dated in March, and in respect to the account standing between us, I have to make this observation; That the statement of it by me is so plain and the materials so well founded, that it cannot bear but little alteration without deviation from right. If any, it must be to my advantage. Instance the 56 packs which you mention; They were laid in at one shilling per Skin less than the offers of R. Pollard and Tho^s Williams and shipped to London & Sold on our joint Account, being almost all Buckskins and the best that ever was shipped from this Country, on the Sale of which according to the prices of that year I could not have expected much less than £500 of neat proceeds. you allowed me only £40 from which deduct my expence for packing, pressing, packstrings, Cartage & Shipping £18 remains only £22 for my share of Profits: Had I gone to England myself I should have made more than 500[£] on those packs, if sold separte from the bad skins sent home that year, which I requested of you to have done. This is not the only instance where I am a great loser. There is no intricacy in our accounts; most of the articles have been acknowledged on both sides and from the regard for a good old Friend I am much disposed to preserve his friendship and do feel for his situation as well as my own, and were I in circumstance more oppulent, there should be but very little altercation on the subject, and therefore to make a final end of the matter I am willing to receive in payment whatever article you may feel the least want of, even Land itself, altho' God knows that I am at this very moment much distressed. I am D^r Sir,

Your Sincere humble Servant

Tho^s SmithJohn Askin Esq^r

P.S. I have been Surveying at the River aux Ecorses and find it such a handy place for wood that I have an idea of cutting 1000 Cords in order to be prepared when the Contract is given for the Garrison. there is also fine Clay for Brick and Pottery. Should you be willing to join in any enterprize of this kind I would be glad T. S.