

DEFECTS IN LAND TITLES

Detroit May 20th 1796

Dear Sir I was yesterday favoured with three Letter from you two of which dated the 17th & 23^d April & one the 2 May by these I learn that you and all the Family were well which is allways agreeable news to us. Under cover herewith you have the 4 receipts signed & witnessed as you directed. There could no advantage whatsoever derive to me for paying for the use of the reserves, as I had most of the Lots on each side of them on the four small Rivers if they were in my care I could prevent people putting Cattle on them that may distroy the crops on my Lands, this was my principal view, but whatever cannot be obtained without much difficulty I renounce. If Exchanging & selling of Lands before Deeds of them are granted is wrong, we in this District are very blameable, however I'm sure it has been the means of as much more of the waste Lands of the Crown being cultivated, for my part to this day I never have seen a Deed that was given out or understood they could have been obtained before now. I did not allude to the Commodores Children respecting Lands it certainly must have come to your knowledge that a Gentleman of this settlement last fall got a considerable quantity for his, and as he was not in any office higher than I have held, it raised my hopes that my expectations on that score was well founded. I think he merited what he got & so do I what I expect. however I am troubling you with a matter that does not concern you. his Excellencys pleasure in this matter will be done. I was confined to my house for near two weeks lately with a Fever but am now perfectly recovered. M^{rs} & Miss Askin Joins in best Compliments to your good Family & I remain Dear sir

Most Obedient very humble Servant

Signed John Askin

Capt D W Smith 5th Regt Newark

Endorsed: Detroit May 20th 1796 From John Askin
to Cap^t D W Smith (Copy)