

Endorsed: Mich May 6th 1800 Mr Charles Morrison to Jn^o Askin rec^d y^e 29th About M^{rs} Cotes. Wrote him— Mr Morrison y^e 18th Sept. 1800

TRADE CONDITIONS IN DETROIT

Detroit May the 15th 1800

Dear Sir I wrote you the 8th Ins^t & Inclosed the Duplicates of some Accounts Against Mess^{rs} Giasson & C^o and Mess^{rs} Buisson Coursolle & C^o²² since which the Vessells are Arrived from Fort Erie but no Letters from Lower Canada. The *Saganah* will begin to take in on Monday next & in her I will send the flour for Mess^{rs} Giasson & the Remainder of Mess^{rs} Buisson Coursoll & C^o flour & Corn. No direct Opportunity having Offered before I have now to Answer your favour of the 20th Jan^y last Under cover with my Account Current & that Of John Anderson & C^o both of which I find right at their dates, but a remittance made you by the Winters Express will reduce the Ballance a little & the whole of the latters will be paid of[f] with the Interest, I Suppose in Next Month. it would make me a very happy man was it in my power to say as much for the former, but realy at present I cannot say what my remittance or prospect of them with any degree of certainty will be, The appearances are realy bad & I fear will prove so with many Others as well as Myself. however all in my

²² Although positive identification is lacking, it seems probable that the firm members were Michel Coursolle and Louis Buisson. Both were traders in the Great Lakes region in this period, and both were active British partisans in the War of 1812. Captain John Whistler's map of Chicago in 1808 shows a house and an enclosed field on the north side of the river, the property of "Mr. Coursoll." In 1814 Coursolle was trading on Grand River in western Michigan. At the close of the war, when the British garrison was removed from Mackinac to Drummond Island, Coursolle was given a building lot, and a report made in 1816 indicates that he was then occupying it. No record of his further career has been found. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and Quaife, *Chicago and the Old Northwest*, 167.

Louis Buisson was at Mackinac in 1811, at which time, letters among the Sibley papers disclose he had for several years been engaged in the Indian trade, apparently on a somewhat extensive scale. He was in Chicago in 1813 and in 1815, and on both occasions was reported by Thomas Forsyth to be actively hostile to the American government. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XI, 341. In 1818 and following he was in the employ of the American Fur Company, attached to the Illinois River outfit. Gurdon S. Hubbard describes him as at this time about sixty years of age, and as having spent forty years in the trade on the Ohio, Mississippi, and Illinois rivers. He had a Potawatomi wife, enormously fat, and two half-blood daughters. He had owned a house and land in Peoria prior to the war, and was numbered among the settlers of Peoria whom General Howard drove into flight in 1813. *Autobiography of Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard* (Chicago, 1911), 29.