

be delivered up for trial. I hope both Goverments may put a stop to forcing Over Desarters from Either Side. Otherwise I fear it may be attended not only with the loss of several lives but also create Misunderstand<sup>s</sup> Which should in my Oppinion be prevented. I have got a Small House on the British side now fitted up for the Resep<sup>t</sup>ion of Myself & Family so that should I meet With a Purchaser for where I now live I can give it up at a very short Warning.

Your Mothers Tree bears no Apples this Year, but I have Directed to you a Bar<sup>l</sup> nearly of the same sort.

M<sup>rs</sup> Askin & your Acquaintances of My Family beg leave to Assure you & yours of their best Wishes as Does My Dear sir

Your Obliged very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

The Honorable D. W. Smith Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Endorsed:* Detroit October 15<sup>th</sup> 1800 John Askin to The Honorable D. W. Smith (Copy)

#### AFFRAY OVER BRITISH DESERTER

Dear Sir I have an Appearance of a good oppertunity of writing to you. I have seen M<sup>r</sup> Reynolds, the Bricks will be Accounted by Capt M<sup>c</sup>Lean as you mentioned. My expectation of seeing you at Sandwich on Tuesday, I am sorry was not attained. you might expect as usual Selby would be the first mention'd and first he was made, it is true, the reason evident. The unfortunate affair on your Side with the Deserter, Made it necessary as some thought to Sport & Send to the Govenor a presentment, concirning that outrage—and who better to take care that it was securely done & strongly worded than the Chairman & very likely set on foot by him & Elliot: *if possible to ruin the Cap<sup>t</sup>*. I will allow it was doing a very unjustifiable Act, and that Some Meanes should be taken to prevent anything of that sort in future. but I thought it was taken up with too great Acrimony, and more attention paid to it, by them than ever I have seen before from the Bench. If I can continue in My present Mind My Visits there will be very Seldom until the Spring, then this System *Must* be altre'd. to show how well the Minds of Men like the Grand Jury May be play'd on by a smoothe tongue, *Not one could write or read*, and by the