

THE CUYAHOGA DREAM

Near Sandwich, Jan^y 4th 1805

Dear Henry, Being fearfull that I would not have time to write you by this opportunity I requested of M^r James M^cGill to mention a matter to you relative to your Claim to an Indian Tract jointly with me & others but as I see my Letter will be ready for the Post, I will now explain the matter to you.

The Inhabitants of New London having suffered much by fire in the late troubles, the United States has given the preëmption right to 500,000 Acres of Land near Cayahoga¹ and a M^r Dean one of the Commissioners is arrived at Detroit sometime ago in Order to Assemble the Indians and purchase the native right but he finds it has been sold to you I and several others he therefore told M^r Brush that if we will Assemble the Nations to whom these Lands did belong and get them to give a Deed of Sale for the Tract he will give 10,000 Dollars as doing this would be attended with much expense and the offer being only two Cents an Acre the Lawyers think we would be much to blame in accepting of it. of Course they will prevail on the Indians to sell them over again and this we must oppose with all our Interest for if they cannot accomplish this they must come up to our price we therefore mean to endeavour to get Captain M^cKee's Interest who has more influence with the Indians than any man in this Country and for this purpose in Order to recompence him I think we should admit him as an equal Partner in this Tract without his paying anything therefore it will be necessary for Mess^{rs} Isaac Todd & James M^c Gill with yourself for they have half my original Share) to send me a very full power to Act. my plan would be this and what I think fair that we should receive from the people of New London 10,000 Dollars a

¹ This grant, made May 11, 1792, by the Connecticut Legislature, is the origin of the tract known in Ohio history as "The Firelands." It included modern Huron and Erie counties.