

PROPOSAL TO RENT THE *SAGUINAH*Detroit 24th november 1805

Sir Being informed by Cap^t Connelly³⁴ that your small Vessell has done little or nothing last summer & is now laid up at Fort Erie & that the man who had the charge of her could do nothing with her, if so & that you wish to use her the ensuing season if it would meet your approbation I would willingly take her in charge in the spring, or otherwise if you would wish I should take her in a certain share I would have no objection, otherwise perhaps you would wish to dispose of her, if either of the above will please you. I will wait on you at your house by a line from you. I would wish to have an answer from you soon as M^r C. Clements³⁵ has been speaking to me to take charge of his Vessell now here but would prefer yours as I think I could make something of her that would be handsome.

I am Sir with respect your verry humble Servant

Tho^s Nowlan

John Askin Sen^r Esq^e

Addressed: John Askin Senior Esq^e Strabane near Sandwich

Endorsed: Detroit Nov^r 24th 1805 Tho^s Nowlan to Jn^o Askin recv^d from M^r Brush the 10th Feb^y 1806 Answ^d next day

³⁴ John Connelly was living in Detroit as early as Jan. 3, 1800, when a daughter, Catharine, was born to his wife, Dorothea Lalor. According to the compiler of the "Daniel Dobbins Papers," the Abbots of Detroit, in 1801, built an eighty-ton schooner which they named the *General Wilkinson* and of which Connelly was made master. It is certain that he was master of the *General Wilkinson* as early as 1803 and as late as 1810 (see Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, IX, 463, for the earlier date; a ms. in the B. H. Coll. supplies the later one). In the summer of 1814, he served as pilot of the schooner *Experiment* which conveyed provisions for Col. George Croghan on his expedition against Mackinac Island. In 1816 he was living at Rouge River, and on the occasion of the burning of a neighbor's barn, Connelly assisted in preventing the spread of the fire and shortly thereafter supplied an interesting affidavit which incidentally discloses that he had a son named Will, concerning whom no other mention has been found. Dorothea Lalor was buried in Detroit, March 24, 1819, aged thirty-eight years; John Connelly was buried here, July 31, 1822, aged fifty years. Data derived from entries in Ste. Anne's Church Register, and from mss. in B. H. Coll.

³⁵ Christian Clemens, founder and "father" of Mount Clemens, was of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, his ancestors having migrated from Holland to Philadelphia about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Garret Clemens, father of Christian, was a Mennonite, and during the Revolution was repeatedly fined for refusal to bear arms. He died, Jan. 5, 1799, and was interred in the Dunkard burial grounds in Germantown. Christian was born in Horsham, Montgomery County, Pa., Jan. 30, 1768. About the year 1795 he came to Detroit where he engaged in leather making. About the year 1803 he located on the