

PROSECUTION OF LAND CLAIMS IN DETROIT

Near Sandwich November 26th 1805

Dear Sir I write you a few lines I think on Monday was a week just before I went to Detroit³⁶ to give evidence in support of the Claims I give in to Lands for you Mr Todd some others and myself I returned on Saturday night and got through with most of them to my Satisfaction the business was tedious and very troublesome partly owing to the distance of time and irregular attendance of the Witnesses but by the good patience and good humour of the Commissioners I got mostly through and I must do them the justice to say they took down my proofs in the most favorable lights and I now think it not improbable that congress may confirm all of them except one which being the only Indian Title I claim under the quantity being very large and little improvements made on it perhaps has not their good wishes. I'm sure their oppinion are much altered in regard to my claim's and so will Congress when they see them. from the large quantity of my Claims and representations made that number[s] of the principal British subjects had obtained large tracts of Land for very inconsiderable value and sold it out in small Parcells at a high price to the poor inhabitants. having heard this, I in the presence of the Commissioners put the whole Country to defiance to prove their was a single man in it who ever had bought a foot of Land of me which I had purchased of Indians and that my Claims for large quantities was composed of small tracts of land purchased at high rates from poor people. I mean to have Affidavids of some respectable people here to the foregoing effects and

present site of Mount Clemens, on land acquired from Richard Connor, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 228-29. Here he died, Aug. 25, 1844. He platted the village in 1818, was instrumental in having it made the county seat of Macomb County, and provided sites for the court house, jail, cemetery, and one or more churches. He was the first probate judge of the county, and until his death, the foremost citizen of the town. He was one of the early trustees of the University of Michigan, and a colonel of the Michigan militia.

Clemens married Elizabeth Tallmadge Allen (1777-1824), widow of Deodat Allen, and four daughters were born to them. All married, and all of Clemens' sons-in-law made their homes in Mount Clemens, where for two generations the family influence was an important factor in the life of the community. A considerable group of Christian Clemens' private papers belongs to the B. H. Coll. Data chiefly derived from Rebecca L. Crittenden, Clemens genealogy (ms.)

36 The numerous errors in the document are due to the fact that the manuscript is a copy of the original, in the hand of one of Askin's sons.