

John Askin Senior Esquire Strabane Sandwich

Addressed: John Askin Senior Esquire. Sandwich

Endorsed: Queenston March 28^h 1807 Mr Charles
Askin to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 8^h April Answ^d y^e 10^h

SENIORITY IN MILITIA SERVICE

Strabane April 27^h 1807

Dear Sir I was favoured with a Letter from you the day before yesterday covering the Coppy of one you wrote Commodore Grant on the 16 Ins^t Relative to his giving you a Company in the Militia. You request of me jointly with him to say if there is Impropriety in the Letter you wrote him. I say, and I dare say he would the same, That there is not, as what you Ask for you do not wish he would Grant, if there was Impropriety in him in doing so. from the late L^t Governor Hunters Orders to him he is positively directed not to put a Junior Officer Over a Senior but that promotion should go On regularly. This Order he had left at my House but took back yesterday & will shew it to you if you wish. by this you will see, that he has it not in his power to give the highest Rank to the fittest persons to serve as Officers in the Militia and once when he Intended (by my Advance) to make Cap^t Harrow L^t Col. over Major Parent¹⁷ (a Most Illiterate good Man that could not speak a word of English) it so offended, even the officers that did not belong to the same Battallion, that they wrote a joint Letter as a Complaint to the Commodore which Letter he laid before his Excellency and I supose produced the Order I Aluded to. As to matters of Right & Agreeable to Law so far as I Understand it If you were a Lieu^t in the Regular Service and taken into the Militia, there you would ranck as oldest Lieu^t & if a Company fell Vacant the next day you should get it in the same manner as Cap^t M^cKee became Major, he by right came in Oldest Cap^t There was no L^t Col. Bap^t Baby was Major & therefore made L^t Col. & Cap^t M^cKee as Oldest Cap^t Major. For my own part I do not think in Order to carry On the Service well that in all cases

¹⁷ For the several Parent lines in Detroit, see *B. H. R.*, I, 418. The individual here noted has not been identified.