

the M^cIntoshs to get [a few] pounds of paint and a gallon of oil for M^r Barth to paint the Callash if its possible to Collect all the parts together. I have had answers to my application throu the Col^s Burnet & Mathews to the Duke of York. They write me the most expedient way and best is for the recommendation Coming throu Sir J^s Henry Craig⁵⁸ Colonel Burns desires his Compliments to you. all the letters from below dreads a war. large Forces coming out from England horse and foot six or eight field officers as inspectors of the Militia in Nova Scotia & the two Canadas.

You shall hear from me from below. My affection to M^{rs} Askin.

Yours Sincerely

Alex^r Grant

John Askin, Esq

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Strabane

Endorsed: Amherstburgh May 6 1808 Commodore Grant to Jⁿ Askin

LAND TITLES IN DETROIT

Montreal 1 June 1808

Dear Sir During M^r M^cGills confinement by sickness & at the time when an agent, M^r Gillespie,⁵⁹ was sent to Washington by the Mackinac Company, we wrote a Letter to M^r Erskin[e] our minister Plenipotentiary,⁶⁰ complaining

⁵⁸ Sir James Henry Craig (1748-1812) was Governor-in-Chief of Canada from 1807 to 1811. For an account of his career, see Wallace, *op. cit.*, and references there cited.

⁵⁹ George Gillespie was engaged in the Northwest trade for two decades prior to the War of 1812. He is said to have had trading establishments at Mackinac and Green Bay as early as 1794; and in 1798 was reported as "preparing to build" near the new blockhouse on St. Joseph Island. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XII, 282. In 1805, he signed a memorial of Montreal merchants to the government complaining of American restrictions upon their trade within the borders of the United States (*ibid.*, XXV, 221); and the visit to Washington here mentioned was made when he went as their spokesman to protest against restrictions imposed by the Embargo and Non-Importation acts (*ibid.*, XXV, 241). The present letter indicates that this mission was successful. See also *post*, 604. He continued his trading activities as late as 1812, after which further knowledge of him is lacking. Data derived from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*. A few scattering Gillespie manuscripts are in the B. H. Coll.

⁶⁰ David Montague Erskine (1776-1855) was the eldest son of Thomas, first Lord Erskine. He was educated at Christ Church, Oxford; was called to the bar in 1802; and in July, 1806, was appointed minister to the United States. In July, 1799, he had married a