

[torn] of Congress, which allowed no more then 640 acres of Land, being granted or confirmed to Any Individual for prior Claims on the west Side of the Detroit River. a Copy of that letter has been forwarded to you by M^r Todd, but owing to some misapprehensions, a copy of ours to you, was not kept, so that we do not recollect the date. It would seem however that our application to M^r Erskin[e] has produced some Effect, for a new law has been passed on the subject, and a news paper containing it having come to our hands, we inclose it for your information.⁶¹

You will no doubt remark that by the first section all lands granted by the French Government prior to the treaty of Paris, which we think was in October 1762, and by the British prior to the treaty of G. Britain & America 3 Sept. 1783, may be claimed up to 1 January next & certain things are to be done for that purpose and by the 4 Sect. That part of a former law which allowed of one Tract or Parcel only being granted to any one Person, is done away, and by referring to this last Act you will find all the particulars, therefore we do not subscribe them but refer you thereto. of one thing we deem it proper to advise you that, on no account will we become Purchasers of any Lands whatsoever on the American side. this relaxation by the American Government arises in our opinion (perhaps in part from our representation) chiefly from knowing, that the old French Settlers on this Side & their dependents were & could not be otherwise than highly displeased over the original Grants to their ancestors being set at naught & at this [torn] willing to conciliate them, but be this as it may, we think it will give you an opportunity of serving yourself & us, and we are persuaded you will avail yourself of it

We are, Dear Sir Your very Ob^e Serv^{ts}

James M^cGill
Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r near Sandwich Upper Canada

daughter of General John Cadwallader of Philadelphia; and as minister he was very friendly to America. Dissatisfaction with his conduct of negotiations over the Non-Intercourse Act led to his recall in 1809. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

⁶¹ The allusion is to the Act of April 25, 1808, 10 Cong. 1 Sess., chap. 67.