

payment of the Mortgage, a Saddlers *note* for £100; this he positively denies, and says it was given in part payment of a Judgment he obtained agnst Ruland for a M^r Pell and granted a receipt to Ruland accordingly. however this may be I never received a penny of that £100; and M^r Brush likewise says he can not give [it] to me, as he recieved it in payment for another. I have now explained to you in the best manner I can this dmnd complicated matter and have on this subject only to add that if in the end, you should fall Short of *your original sum, with Interest, I will account to you in the proportion your debt against Ruland bore to mine for what payment Smith or Ruland made on the mortgage.*

Under cover herewith I send you the copy of a Claim I gave in among many others in April 1803 agreeable to Law. of this Tract I have not got one foot, nor according to the present Law will I have one, and yet I hear that certificates are granted to sundry people on & near that Tract; how this is done I can not concieve, as no people Living (my people excepted), and a M^r Connors family were at that place in 1796 which the Law requires or for Long after.⁶⁹ A Caveat I think should be entered and sent to the Secretary of the Treasury ag^{nst} giving patents on such certificates: the fair Law would be to confirm Tracts of Land purchased honestly & improved before the Americans took possession of the posts, and this is what our Government should insist on so far as it *regards British subjects.*

I believe I forgot an exchange proposed by M^r Park in May Last I now inclose it. The N^o of the Lot he wants is I think 37 between Sandwich & Malden, it has no houses or fences on it now. May health and happiness attend you, are the most sincere wishes of me and mine.

Adieu my Dear Friend

(Signed) John Askin (L. S.)

Isaac Todd Esquire

Endorsed: Copy of a Letter from John Askin Senior, a[t] Strabane to Isaac Todd Esq^r at Montreal. Dated the 8th October 1808

⁶⁹ Apparently this was Askin's purchase from the Moravians near Mount Clemens, for which see *ante*, 496-97.