

firmed by others come in from a greater Distance, with the additional circumstance of some being reduced to feed on Human Flesh. However many being not yet arrived, I shall not take it upon me to give it to your Excellency for truth, no more than about some Traders loosing their lives about La Bay; as I understand their Rumours frequently spread here, at this season, to answer private ends, I shall lose no time in acquainting your Excellency when I hear further about it, with any degree of certainty. Mr. Askin Comisary & Mr. Ainse, Indian Interpreter,<sup>29</sup> have applyed to me for leave to enclose some few acres of land, & build each a house within about three miles of the Fort, which I have agreed to on condition that if you should object it be immediately levelled.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Most Humble  
Servant

JOHN VATTAS.

*To His Excellency The Honourable Thomas Gage Esqr New York*

<sup>29</sup> John Askin was a Scotch-Irishman who came West soon after the French and Indian War, and having settled at Detroit married there a French Creole. He was employed as commissary at Mackinac until April, 1780, when he was dismissed from the service. Retiring to Detroit he was living there as late as 1810. Several sons were in the War of 1812-15. Their papers are now in possession of Clarence M. Burton, of Detroit. See calendar in *Canadian Archives*, 1905, pp. xxv-xxxii.

Joseph Louise Ainse (Hins, Ainsée) was a native of Mackinac, where he was born May 1, 1744; see Mackinac Register, *post*. In 1766 he was an informer against Major Rogers, being soon thereafter taken into employ as interpreter, in which office he continued until retired by De Peyster in 1780. Sinclair thought him a man of ability, and apparently had him reinstated in office. In 1786-87 he made an official journey to Wisconsin, in the interests of a peace; but was accused and brought to trial the succeeding year by the merchants of Mackinac. The trial dragged for over two years, but in 1790 the findings of the court were against Ainse, who was convicted of having embezzled government stores for his own trading ventures. See *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xi, pp. 491-610.—Ed.