

A STUDY OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE ASKIN PAPERS, 1747-1820

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of the  
Graduate School of Michigan State College  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Require-  
ments for the Degree of Master of Arts

by

Howard Franklin Shout

1735

THESIS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CHAPTER I</b>	<b>Page</b>
Introduction.....	1
<b>CHAPTER II</b>	
Vocabulary.....	23
Terms Applied to Persons.....	24
Business Terms.....	26
Trade Terms.....	32
Terms of Weight and Measurement.....	37
Notions.....	40
Wearing Apparel.....	41
Fabrics .....	43
Expressions Peculiar to Letter Writing.....	44
Agencies of Communication.....	45
Agriculture .....	46
Land Terms .....	48
Kinds of Boats and Vessel s.....	51
Weather and Weather Conditions.....	53
Kinds of Vehicles.....	54
Household Equipment.....	56
Travel and Exploration.....	56
Trades and Occupations.....	58
Terms Applied to Trees, Timber and Lumbering.	59
Terms Used in Reference to Spirits and Liquors.....	60
Plants and Produce.....	62
Terms Pertaining to Currency and Exchange....	63
Terms Pertaining to Health and Medicine.....	66
Manufacturing Terms.....	68
Legal Words and Phrases.....	68
Words and Phrases Pertaining to Indians.....	69
Names of Animals.....	71
Expressions Connected with the Army and Military Maneuvers.....	72
Religion and Church.....	74
Terms Relating to Fish and Fishing.....	75
Home Beverages.....	76
Foods and Condiments.....	76
Words and Phrases Pertaining to Elections....	77
Matters of Government.....	78
House Furnishings.....	80
Implements of Farm and Camp.....	80
Geographical and Topographical Expressions...	81
Expressions Relating to Human Relations, Polite Intercourse, Etc...	82
French Words and Phrases Frequently Used.....	83

# TABLE OF CONTENTS (Cont.)

Slang and Colloquialisms.....	85
Miscellaneous Nouns.....	87
Miscellaneous Verbs.....	89
Miscellaneous Adjectives.....	94
Miscellaneous Adverbs.....	95
Miscellaneous Conjunctions.....	97
Miscellaneous Prepositions.....	98
Miscellaneous Pronouns.....	98
Miscellaneous Articles.....	99
Words and Phrases of Doubtful Meaning.....	99
 CHAPTER III	
Proper Names.....	100
 Names Used to Identify Certain Localities.....	101
Names of Rivers and Streams.....	104
Names of Villages, Towns and Cities.....	108
Surnames .....	109
Given Names .....	119
 CHAPTER IV	
Inflection and Syntax .....	122
 Adjectives Used for Adverbs.....	124
Comparison of Adjectives.....	126
Use of Adverbs .....	126
Conjunctions .....	126
"Which" and "Who" Used Interchangeably....	127
"What" As a Pronoun.....	127
Instances of Omission of the Relative....	127
Verb Phrases, Especially Those Containing Peculiar Uses of the Preposition.....	128
Use of "Should" for the Infinitive.....	129
Use of "Shall" and "Should".....	129
Use of the Subjunctive.....	130
Singular Verb for Plural.....	131
"To Be" As an Auxiliary Verb.....	132
Present Tense Used for Past.....	133
Past Participle for Simple Past.....	134
Various Forms of the Simple Past.....	135
Various Forms of the Past Participle.....	135
"Of" After a Gerund.....	138
Use of Possessive with the Gerund.....	138
Employment of an Article with Gerund.....	139
The Double Negative .....	139





TABLE OF CONTENTS  
(Cont.)

Plural Noun for the Singular.....	139
Singular Noun for the Plural.....	139
Use of Plural Adjective with the Singular Noun....	140
Use of Singular Adjective for the Plural.....	140
Omission of "To Be".....	140
Omission of the Preposition.....	140
Uses of Prepositions-End of Sentence, Superfluous, Etc.....	141
Use of Reflexive for Personal Pronouns.....	142
Confusion of Cases in Relative Pronouns.....	142
Confusion of Cases in Personal Pronouns.....	143
 CHAPTER V            Pronunciation.....	 144
Vowels .....	148
Diphthongs.....	158
Omission of a Syllable.....	159
Consonants.....	159
A as a Prefix.....	164
Miscellaneous Spellings Indicating Pronunciation..	164
Archaisms.....	166
 CHAPTER VI            Spelling.....	 167
Endings in -our and -or.....	170
Endings in -ck and -c.....	170
Endings in -re and -er.....	171
Double Consonants.....	171
Use and Omission of Final -e.....	171
The Treatment of Foreign Terminations.....	172
Various Compound Consonants.....	172
The Use of "en" and "in".....	173
The Use of "y" and "i".....	173
The Use of "s" and "c".....	174
The Use of "s" and "z".....	174
Miscellaneous.....	175
 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	 176

The  
this new  
our count  
students  
Atlantic  
even at  
Western  
The Pres  
and Ca  
in the  
"North  
control  
tion.  
With  
in its  
of la  
Water  
like  
Nor S  
of th  
Pres  
all  
term

## CHAPTER I

### Introduction

The peculiar fitness of the Askin Papers for a study of this nature lies in the fact that they belong to a part of our country which has had little attention from language students. The New England dialect and the language of the Atlantic states in general received considerable treatment even at an early period. The distinguishing qualities of western and southern speech have borne much investigation. The French influence in Louisiana and the Spanish in Florida and California have been studied to find the part they played in the growth of our national language habits. The early "Northwest," however, has been permitted to make its unique contributions without being given so much as passing recognition. Yet the development of the fur trade and of commerce with the Indians brought with it a terminology of interest in itself and of no small influence on the business language of later days. The growth of a great inland commerce on the waters of the Lakes and the rise of industrial communities like Detroit and Chicago have had a value to American English. Nor should we pass on without mentioning the important effect of the French settlement of Michigan and lower Canada. Indian, Frenchman and the polyglot herd of adventurers and pioneers, all of whom engaged in the first civilized awakening of this territory, speak through the pages of the Askin Papers.

The  
gation  
and men  
succeed  
torical  
generat  
pioneer  
part of  
himself  
men in  
ground  
nation  
some s  
and 80  
editor  
activi  
West,  
procl  
region  
then,  
e 1888  
Americ  
S  
exten  
is

The manuscripts which form a basis for this investigation are an interesting collection. Letters, accounts, and memoranda, both of a business and a personal nature, succeed one another to present a brilliant series of historical pictures. They have been handed down to us through generations of the Askin family from the hands of the pioneer trader and merchant whose name they bear. A large part of them are copies of letters sent out by John Askin himself; but many are communications received by him from men in all parts of the New World, men of varied background and education and engaged in many different occupations. That Askin's own writings were not of a wearisome sameness is attested by the fact that his interests and activities were wide in variety. As Quaife, the capable editor of the Papers, has expressed it, "....John Askin's activities over a period of half a century in the Northwest, were so manifold that his personal papers illustrate practically every aspect of the life of his time in the region of the upper lakes...." (vol.1,p.4). We may expect, then, that a study of these materials will bring to light a mass of interesting data on the early development of American English.

Since this investigation is based to a considerable extent upon the writings of a single individual and since it is confined to a definite locality, it would be well to

preface the

war reman

preciate t

the Legend

of the man

connect to

language

geographi

First

the John

the Pa

have ex

another

which he

it a ne

ties on

and will

however

and it

& 2000

Western

to try

With

French

preface the main body of the work with some more particular remarks on these two elements. We cannot fully appreciate the significance of the vocabulary and usage in the Papers unless we understand something of the background of the man whose expression they largely are. Nor can we connect this study to the main development of the English language in America unless we consider the ethnical and geographical situation.

First of all, then, what factors do we find influencing John Askin to use the language in the way in which he did? Had he come to this country from London we might have expected one manner of expression. From Yorkshire, another. From Scotland, another. Every enterprise in which he engaged in the New World would have brought with it a new vocabulary. The manifold nature of his activities on this side of the ocean has been mentioned above and will be given later in further detail. In addition, however, we discover in Askin a twofold ancestry, Scotch and Irish. He was born in 1738 near Strabane, Ireland, of a Scotch father and an Irish mother. He was reared by his maternal grandfather at Dungannon, and left there in 1758 to try his fortunes in the New World. In America he served with the British army in the Seven Years War against the French. By 1761 he had established himself at Albany as a



merchant in

ous times in

traders to

of New York

entering in

ing as com

ing the pe

zation he

carried on

and former

military

et Mecklen

was engaged

himself

for, as

subject

most en

Vol. 1, 2

America

Patricia

the low

Strebner

feet in

common

merchant in the Indian trade. He visited Detroit at various times in 1762 and 1763 and was one of the first British traders to venture into the Northwest after the downfall of New France. In 1764 he took up his residence at Mackinac, engaging in Indian trade and the transport business and acting as commissary to the military post at that place. During the period of his residence at this outpost of civilization he conducted a branch trading post at the Sault, carried on experiments at his farm near the Mackinac post, and formed friendships with many prominent merchants and military men. In 1780 he quarreled with the Commandant at Mackinac and was obliged to move to Detroit, where he was engaged as a merchant for twenty-two years. He showed himself as a man of ability and enterprise in this business, for, as is stated by Quaife, "The conduct of the trade was subject to so many hazards that only the shrewdest and most energetic traders could long continue it" (op.cit., vol.1,p.8). Because of failure in the fur trade and the American occupation of Detroit, Askin moved across the Detroit River in 1802, establishing a new home opposite the lower end of Belle Isle. He named the new homestead Strabane in memory of his birthplace. From 1802 to his death he lived the life of a farmer engaging in a few commercial activities and acting as a land agent for his

Figure 2

• 22

22 32

44

354

10

● ●  
● ●  
● ●

1500

1992

401

225

0. 1. 2.

12

100

10

10

...

65

100

100

100

• 24

100

10

friends in Montreal. For some time he was an officer of the militia. His married life was at all times peaceful and serene. His first wife was an Indian woman, probably of the Ottawa tribe. His second wife was Marie Archange Barthe, a member of an old French family which had been long settled in the territory. John Askin died in 1815.

Here surely is the story of an eventful life. John Askin was an Indian trader, merchant, commissar, politician, land agent, magistrate, soldier, farmer, naturalist, distiller, brick-maker, and ship-builder, living with an Indian wife and with a French wife, close friend of many of the prominent figures in the early history of Canada and the American Northwest Territory, and in contact with men of all nations in all manner of business. Perhaps our study will show something of the influence of his Scotch ancestry or of his early environment at Strabane and Dungannon. Certainly the speech of his wives, different as it must have been from his own, would have had its effect on his own manner of expression. And from his many interests and activities we may look for some unusual vocabulary lists.

Now let us look at the great theatre of the Northwest, on the stage of which the life of John Askin was unfolded. When the twenty-year-old youth from Ireland first landed

on the shores of America, he found the New World in turmoil. The English settlements in America had gradually moved westward until they came into contact with the older colonies of New France. The question was one of the control of the Great Lakes and of possession of the rich Northwest country. To further provoke the strife was the coincident Seven Years War between the Mother Country and Old France. The result is common history: Quebec fell and with it the French supremacy in North America. A vast wilderness of thousands of square miles was suddenly opened to English exploration and exploitation. Military posts had to be established in the territory to deal with Indian uprisings and possible French reprisals. Askin, as we have learned, was one of the first to venture into the newly opened territory. Because of their strategic locations on the narrow channels between the lakes, Mackinac, the Sault, and Detroit soon became the principal military and commercial centers of this western country. At each of these points Askin established himself to supply both the needs of the soldiery and those of French and Indian traders. He was the connecting link between them and the older centers of population. Our manuscripts, however, deal but slightly with the period of his activities at Mackinac and Sault Ste. Marie. It is

with his life at and near Detroit that they are principally occupied, and it is there that we shall turn our attention for a moment.

According to Quaife "Detroit is the oldest center of civilization in the vast area of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi Valley" (op.cit.,vol.1,p.1). Succeeding the Ottawa Indian village which once stood on the site, came the French community established by the great Cadillac. Until 1760 it remained a purely French settlement, Gallic in tradition, in custom, in language. In 1760 appeared the British conquerors and with them John Askin. The thin veneer of Anglo-Saxon civilization imposed by British officialdom and commercial interests affected the community but little. The French people were peace-loving and amicable, but they resisted change by their English brethren. This was the village to which Askin came from Mackinac and in which he lived as a leading citizen for twenty-two years. With the close of the eighteenth century, however, the new government of the United States took control of this essentially French community on the Straits of Lake Erie; and the influx of newcomers soon overwhelmed the French culture that had existed and established the Anglo-Saxon as the dominant order of things.

What language could continue in a pure form under such conditions? The babel of tongues on the river front must have rivalled that on the wharves of Bordeaux or the present harbor of New York. French voyageurs and traders argued with stoical Indian trappers. Moravian and Dunkard villagers from nearby districts talked in guttural German to smart British officers. Shrewd Yankee peddlers bargained with Irish housemaids. More influences came from all this undoubtedly than can be found in written records such as the Askin Papers, but these Papers furnish some indication of the nature of the changes in vocabulary, in pronunciation, and otherwise.

Since this is a study of the development of American English in one small part of the country, it is pertinent that we inquire what has been done in the field in general. First of all, let it be said that the two outstanding works in this connection are Mencken's American Language and Krapp's English Language in America. The student might do worse than to begin and to end his labors with them. Both of these have been published since 1920 and bid fair to stimulate much further effort by scholars in a province which has been signally neglected. The expected appearance of Sir William Craigie's Dictionary of American English should do more in this direction. Mention must also be

made of the numerous studies in such publications as Dialect Notes, Modern Philology and others, and of isolated productions such as C. L. Norton's Political Americanisms (N.Y., 1890), and Tucker's American English (N.Y., 1921).

There seems to have been a plethora of early dictionaries and glossaries of so-called Americanisms, of which Thornton's American Glossary (Phila., 1912) was the flowering. These include the work of Fickering, Bartlett, Farmer, Elwyn, Clapin and some few more. All of these are commonly criticised for a lack of scholarliness and thoroughness. Krapp, however, places Thornton in a class by himself with this statement: "The great advance of Thornton's American Glossary over older books on Americanisms lies in the fact that Thornton gives title, page and date for every word he discusses. The method is sound and everyone who will study American vocabulary intelligently must start from Thornton and make such additions as his opportunities enable him to make" (op.cit., vol. 1, p. VIII).

In discussing early activities in the field we must not fail to include Franklin and Webster. The former endeavored to create a new order of things in his Scheme for a New Alphabet and a Reformed Mode of Spelling (Phila. 1768). Although his efforts met with little success, his accom-



panying observations on the state of the English language in America have become a permanent part of the literature on the subject. The influence of Webster was, of course, more widespread than that of his predecessor. In the introductions to various of his publications we find him alternating between encouraging the use of new spellings and new additions to the vocabulary and bemoaning the impurity of American English.

According to Mencken, the dearth of material in this subject is due to the indifference or opposition of American academics to any differentiation of American English from the English spoken in the British Isles. (American Language, pp.8-12). Whatever the cause, it is certain that the mass of the studies which one finds under the caption of American English are purely argumentative discourses attempting to prove that there is or isn't such a thing as a separate language in this country, or that, if there is, the situation is or isn't deplorable. From almost any point of view, other than the argumentative, such articles are worthless. One might with equal force contend that there is no such thing as an English language, for it would be difficult to find it used anywhere in a pure form. Apply the label of American language, or American dialect, or American vulgate, as you wish; but the fact remains that there are differences between the American

branch of the language and the forms in use in other parts of the world. What some of these differences are and how they came into being are sufficiently relative to the present discussion to merit some treatment here.

The most obvious change which has taken place in the language on this side of the ocean is in vocabulary. This is also one of the most natural changes. English colonists coming to this country found themselves confronted with a variety of new conditions and new relations to familiar conditions. A stock of words produced itself spontaneously to deal with the situation. As De Vere expressed it, "It is only now and then, when the old tools cannot do the new work required of them, that we cast them aside and invent better ones;...". (Americanisms,p.3). These words were derived from a variety of sources. Mencken names five: the Indian dialects, languages of other colonizing nations, new words of English materials, changed meanings of English words, and archaic English words (American Language,pp.51, 53,55,62,65). Whether this list exhausts the possibilities is a matter for separate study, but certainly there would be little difficulty in finding examples for each of these named. One might think that the English settlers would be more chary than they were of bringing so many new elements into a language which was traditional for them; but, on the contrary, they seemed only too ready to change

both their language and their customs to fit their new surroundings. This readiness to change forever the old order of speech was almost universally deplored by the scholars of the day. Pickering remarks, "Our greatest danger now is, that we shall continue to use antiquated words, which were brought to this country by our forefathers....and that we shall affix a new signification to words, which are still used in that country solely in their original sense." (Vocabulary, pp.19-20). No matter what the attitude of their learned men, the growing population of the New World continued to alter their vocabulary as they saw the need and have so continued to this day. Some of these differences will be made apparent in the section on Vocabulary in this study.

No less remarkable than the changes in vocabulary have been the modifications of pronunciation which have taken place on this continent. This, too, is natural, for, as Krapp remarks, "The sounds of any speech are the least stable elements in it." (op.cit., vol.2, p.255). American pronunciation began to change from standard British at a very early period. This is in part ascribed to new climatic conditions and in part to the influence of other colonizing nations. The nasalization tendency and the effort made to speak every syllable are said to be the result of climate although Jespersen discounts the whole

idea. In the matter of the effect of other languages we find such examples as the influence from the French toward liason and the working of the Hobson-Jobson law in Anglicizing Indian, French and Spanish words. Krapp contends that American pronunciation is basically the same as British. In this connection he declares that "...one might say that in every case the distinctive features of American pronunciation have been but survivals from older usages which were, and in some instances still are, to be found in some dialect or other of the speech of England." (English Language in America, vol.2,p.28). As an example of this we might cite a statement of Mencken to the effect that the full pronunciation of "r" in America today is the same as the treatment of that sound in English formerly, but that it is no longer in vogue in England generally. (American Language, pp.210-211). Since phonetic changes must naturally be more or less fixed by physiological limitations, it is to be expected that speech habits of one period will tend to repeat themselves in another. Otherwise our laws of ablaut, metathesis, and whatnot would scarcely be useful instruments of language study. Varied influences, however, result in a varied manifestation of these laws in different sections of the world and in different periods of time. There seems to be a general tendency at this time, noted by a number of scholars in the field, toward

phonetic decay in all branches of the English language. This tendency is proceeding on diverging paths in England and America, according to Mencken (American Language, p.212). There is a resultant breaking down of inflectional differences, a dropping of sounds, syllables and even words, and an indefinite pronunciation of unaccented vowels. Examples of the first are to be found in the careless interchange of tense forms in verbs; of the second in such expressions as c'meer for come here; of the last in the reduction of initial and final vowels to a single uh sound as in uh-nuf for enough and Cincinnati-uh for Cincinnati.

It would be impossible, of course, to attempt to name all the phonetic changes which are taking place in this country in the present brief treatment, or, even, to describe American pronunciation in any detail. We might take occasion to mention a few characteristics. Ignoring the few dialectal differences between the different parts of the country, we may say that our speech tends to be very clear and distinct but level and colorless. There is a habit of nasalization, which has been mentioned previously, and a liason or gliding effect from the final consonant of one word, for instance, to the initial vowel of the next. The American, and the Englishman to an even greater degree, slaughters consonants by assimilation. He engages also in clipping or back-formation,

instinctively searching for back roots in long words. These, with the habit of Anglicizing any and all foreign words, may be said to be the distinctive features of our pronunciation.

Little need be said concerning place names. We have, indeed, a rich heritage of these from the Indians, names of remarkably descriptive and euphonic qualities. Krapp points out that the settlers were satisfied to preserve the Indian names for natural places and objects but used a terminology of their own when they had altered conditions by their labor and planning (English Language in America, pp.172-173). Krapp also presents some interesting data on the widespread French influence on place naming. He cites instances of the retention of French spelling or pronunciation of Indian and English names as well as many original French names. Mencken gives eight classifications of American place names, as follows: "... (a) those embodying personal names, chiefly the surnames of pioneers or of national heroes; (b) those transferred from other and older places, either in the eastern states or in Europe; (c) Indian names; (d) Dutch, Spanish and French names; (e) Biblical and mythological names; (f) names descriptive of localities; (g) names suggested by the local flora, fauna or geology; (h) purely fanciful names." (American Language, p.288). Classifications (a), (c) and (d) are the only ones of particular interest in relation to the citations

from the Askin Papers. Many studies have been made of place naming in various localities. Gannett's (see Bibliography), however, is one of the few wherein a general survey has been made.

The history of American spelling has been a history of vain attempts to lead the populace away from the awkward traditional forms to simpler and more phonetic representations of speech. Franklin made the effort as early as 1768 but was forced to admit the project a failure. Webster tried again a few years later, and with the great influence of his American Spelling Book and various dictionaries was able to change the prevailing practice to some slight extent. American spellings of honor for honour, music for musick, traveler for traveller, to demonstrate with but a few examples, suffice to show that there was some alteration. The existence of many standard British forms as shew, burthen and rendred in the Askin Papers indicates that this New England battle of words had few reverberations in the northwest country. Today the differences between American and British spelling are negligible. The custom of placing a hyphen in the first word of the preceding sentence would be as important as any of them. Mencken gives three pages of words written differently in the two countries (American Language, Ch.7) and R. F. Read announces 812 examples (New York Sun, Mar. 7, '18). In fact,

spelling has been the most stable element in the development of the language in this country.

Perhaps of all the attempts which scholars have made to regulate the affairs of men, grammar may be said to have failed most completely. From any other than a narrow or cloistered point of view the so-called science of correct expression has shown itself to be beyond the common ken. Even during the period of a child's schooling it has proved a poor weapon with which to combat the bad speech habits acquired by the pupil in his daily eighteen hours outside the classroom. Two simple causes may be given for this failure. In the first place, a glance at the history of our language shows us that it has never conformed to rule. The beginning found it in a highly inflected form, a heritage from its sources. These inflections have gradually been broken down until only the verbs and the pronouns retain them; and it is with verbs and pronouns that we find a least fifty per cent of non-grammatical usage today. (Mencken, American Language, pp.188-189, citing Dr. Charter's Report, University of Missouri Bulletin, Vol. XVI, No.2, Education Series, No.9). The development away from inflections will continue in the evolution of the language. In the section on grammar in this paper it will be found that three-fourths of the citations involve errors in the use of pronouns and verbs. The remainder consists of violations of



such grammarian's preachments as the double-negative rule, the shall-will rule, and the rules for the formation of plurals. The other reason for the failure of grammar as an effective instrument in the teaching of clear and forceful expression is to be found in its manner of presentation. A complex terminology and an excessive number of laws and exceptions have succeeded in making it a mystery to all but the most diligent and advanced students, and even they have ignored it in the exigencies of daily life. If there is any solace in it for the purists, the fact might be stated that, at least, the common speech is no worse today than it has ever been. The idea to be derived from all this is that grammar and syntax have been treated in the United States in much the same way as elsewhere. In the oft quoted words of some anonymous wit, the history of grammar has been the history of its corruptions.

There briefly we have the story of English in America. Mention might have been made of other elements such as the language of American literature, the history of American lexicography, the moot question of the existence of dialects in the country; but the five subjects treated, vocabulary, pronunciation, place naming, spelling, and grammar, parallel the five divisions of the word lists presented later, and are, therefore, sufficient for our purposes. The general situation of English in America is said to offer the unique

spectacle of a linguistic solidarity, with few sectional differences in vocabulary or pronunciation. A certain vigor and freshness about the language in this country has been noted. The Americans are prone to exercise their native inventiveness and enterprise in making their language as they go along. In this aspect of their national life they have been likened to the Elizabethans, and whether, as in the ages which succeeded the Elizabethan, they will in the future become more reverent of traditions and standards is a matter for conjecture.

The method used in this study for selecting words and phrases from the Askin Papers and setting them out in the various classifications needs some explanation. In the first place, let it be emphasized that there has been no attempt to limit the selections to so-called Americanisms. The only basis of choice was that the word or phrase have some unique quality which made it of interest to the study of the English language in America. Individualisms, Americanisms, Briticisms, provincialisms, vulgarisms, unusual idiom, even proper speech which is no longer standard today are all included. Whenever some pertinent information from another source has been discovered, it has been included with the citation. Dictionaries of Americanisms have been examined thoroughly to learn the attitude toward some of the terms which has prevailed at



different times.

The main classifications into five divisions (vocabulary, place names, spelling, grammar and pronunciation) follow the usual method of students in the field. The arrangement of the lists into subdivisions is not intended to be airtight, but is made simply for convenience. There is some overlapping, as in the subdivisions under Vocabulary of Trade Terms and Business Terms. The excerpts given to demonstrate the use of the word or phrase have seemed sufficient for their purpose, but may in some instances strike the reader as being unduly brief. Where this is the case, the reader must accept the assurance that a longer quotation would not serve to clarify the matter to a much greater degree. Often, as in lists of accounts, nothing is given but the word itself. Very many times a multiplication of examples has been possible but has been deemed unnecessary. For instance, the phrase, "by this opportunity", is used perhaps one hundred times in the various letters, but almost always in the same sense. Occasionally repetitions of the same use of a word have been given to show that it continued to a later date.

Additional comment might be made on the advantages which the Askin Papers offered for investigation of this nature. The faithfulness with which the editor transcribed the original manuscripts so as to retain the peculiar spellings and



speech mannerisms is noteworthy. This is best stated in the words of Mr. Quaife himself in a letter which I take the liberty of presenting in part here.

".....In printing the Askin documents the manuscript has been followed with entire faithfulness in so far as anything you would be interested in is concerned. As a matter of practical common sense it was sometimes deemed advisable to translate dashes to commas and more frequently not to reproduce them at all since Askin, like other penmen of the period, was in the habit of splashing dashes all over his pages in a way that would be entirely meaningless to the present-day readers. Another type of change in printing the manuscript has been the omission to reproduce in print words inadvertently repeated by the penman. For example, the definite article might occasionally be written twice where only one writing was intended. It seemed foolish and needlessly distracting to the reader to reproduce in print such inadvertent errors."

Other extracts from Mr. Quaife's letter might be used here to demonstrate further the suitability of the Askin Papers for this study. For example:

"....Assuming Askin's background and environment to have been what they were, I know of no reason for not supposing that he used the language of his time and place;...."

\*\*\*\*\*

"I do not know of any better material than the Askin Papers for your study." \* \* \*



These introductory remarks would not be complete without a note of appreciation to Dr. Claude M. Newlin of the Department of English at Michigan State College, East Lansing. The original idea for this study was his, and only his sympathetic guidance and assistance have made its completion possible. Thanks are also due Mr. Milo M. Quaife, editor of the John Askin Papers, for his several courtesies in connection with the work.

The following collection of material is humbly offered to more advance students of the various subjects connected with American English in the hope that they may find therein something of value to their own individual research activities.





## CHAPTER II

### Vocabulary

To the casual surveyor of the American scene vocabulary must seem the most interesting part of the study of our language. The nuances of pronunciation and the wearisome analysis of grammar in the common speech may interest linguists but not the ordinary individual. Words, however, are the symbols of our thought and life, and by their kind and variety may the quality of our civilization be judged. There is a romance in the study of words, for in them we may view the historic past. The vocabulary we have drawn from the Askin Papers serves well in this function, the words in these seemingly prosaic lists standing out against the savage but beautiful age of the pioneers like figures before a great panoramic screen. Each word had its life to live in that day, its work to do. Some found their usefulness outlived as time went on; others were stronger and adapted themselves to changing conditions. Krapp has said that the duty of the student of American vocabulary is "...to attempt to give in some degree a record of the American mind as reflected in words." (English Language in America, vol.1,p.78). Such a record for the lives of our forefathers in the early Northwest you will find in the pages that follow.

TERMS APPLIED TO PERSONS

In this section are grouped a variety of expressions applied to individuals or groups in different situations. Some of them deserve special mention. The use of gentry and peasants implies a social condition not recognized today. Undoubtedly the distinction intended was between the French country people who were settle about Detroit and the English officers and merchants who were generally higher in the social scale. From the context of the letter in which brethern appears one would conclude that it was used in place of brothers. Fellow as used here seems to carry with it a sense of opprobrium which has been its usual connotation in modern times. Sans Culottes is the French appellation of a band of outlaws. Winterers is a vague expression apparently applied to men working in the transport business who are forced to remain for the winter at some place along the trade route.

1. brethern                      ...nothing in my power which can be  
done in justice to myself & his  
Brethern shall be wanting...  
Vol.2,p.599(1807)
2. characters                      Mr. Hands...well wishes to get that  
place and the first characters here  
mean to memorial his Excellency...  
Vol.2,p.369(1802)
3. fellow                          ...constantly exposed to the care-  
lessness and caprice of every Fellow  
going to and coming from the Mill.  
Vol.2,p.198(1799)

4. gentry                   The french people can easily walk to  
Hustings but my gentry will require some  
conveyance... Vol.1,p.427(1792)

5. improvers                I have heard that they have try'd the  
course by the compass, and say it will  
not fall in your Line, and if it did  
they will maintain their right as im-  
provers... Vol.1,p.231(1786)

Pickering says positively that the noun, improver, is  
not in use in the United States but adds that he has seen it  
once (Vocabulary, p.112). Whether this use of improvers comes  
under the special American use of to improve meaning to employ  
or under the general use of the word of improving land by  
erecting buildings and fences is debatable. The "improvers"  
in the example above might have had a legal right either by  
construction on the premises or by simply occupying and work-  
ing the land. The generalized use in old as is pointed out  
by Tucker, p.143, and Krapp, English Language in America,  
Vol.1,p.67.

6. interested              In confiding this business to you we  
are satisfied that the objects of the  
interested will be attained.  
Vol.2,p.444(1804)

7. kind wisher             ...to be, you and yours kind wisher  
& Friend. Vol.2,p.390(1803)

8. paymasters              some Indians, as you know yourselves  
are little concerned about making  
Payment;...there are but very few  
left, of whom I know, that they are  
bad Paymasters.Vol.2,p.187(1799)

9. peasants                Let the peasants have a fiddle, some  
beverage & Beef.Vol.1,p.428(1792)

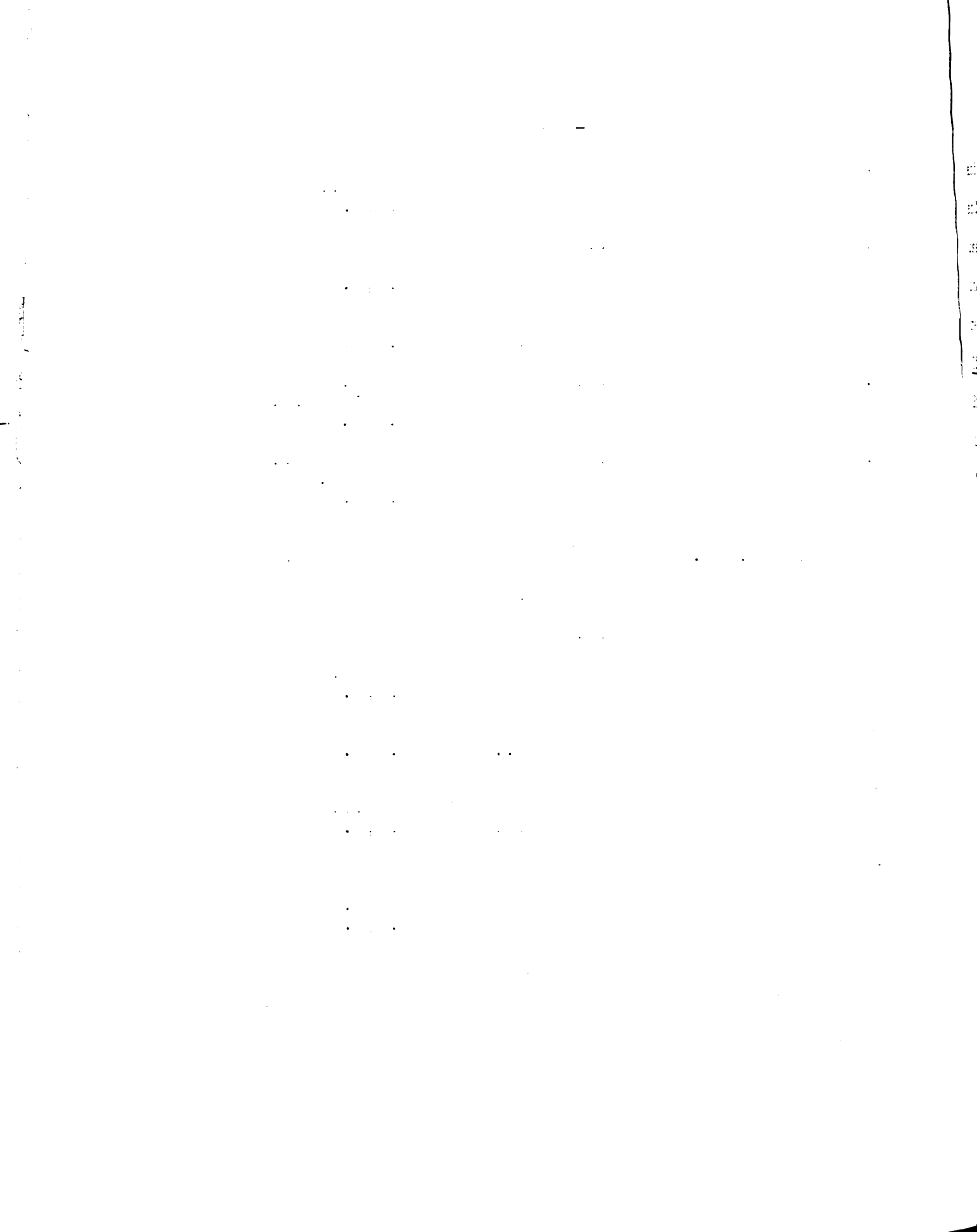
10. people                 ...which I had cut & stacked near  
where your people are cutting Pine...  
Vol.2,p.186(1799)

Our news is that Genl Clintons Army  
defeated Genl Gates below Albany and  
killed him with 7000 of his people...  
Vol.1,p.105(1778)

11. peoples I have inquired of some peoples who well know the situation...  
Vol.2,p.258(1799)
12. Phiz ...and a more consequential Phiz I never saw in any man before...  
Vol.2,p.870(1811)
13. Prentise Boy Prentise Boy galloping through the streets.  
Vol.1,p.386(1791)
14. Public Crier ...three announcements...made by the public crier of said place...  
Vol.1,p.41(1759)
15. residerter ...Mr Louis Crawford who is...a residerter at this place...  
Vol.2,p.584(1807)
- Thornton calls residerter New England dialect. (American Glossary, vol.2,p.735). The use of it by John Askin, who had little contact with New Englanders, would lead us to believe that it was more widely employed.
16. Sans Culottes ...if we sail in a single ship, we are on the other hand exposed to the merciless Sans Culottes.  
Vol.2,p.52(1796)
17. wench My negro wench Madeline absconded two days ago... Vol.2,p.772(1813)
18. Winterers We are not altogether certain whether two of your Winterers...may not go forward... Vol.2,p.206(1799)
19. young sett I think it very just that the young sett should now take the same pains that the old have done.  
Vol.1,p.134(1778)

### BUSINESS TERMS

The distinction between this section and the next, Trade Terms, is that between ordinary commercial intercourse as we know it today and the unique trading activities with Indians



and white adventurers which ~~were~~ characteristic of the 18th and early 19th centuries on this continent. Many expressions used in the latter relationship were totally separate in meaning from anything customary in business exchange. For that reason it was though wise to present them in two sections. Bilk as a noun is mentioned both as an Americanism and as a Briticism in several references. It has had fairly good standing as a verb but is no longer in habitual use. From the terms of the letter in which block is used, the meaning would seem to be a settling of accounts in which one party states the terms and there is no more ado about the matter. Douceur is used in French for tip or bribe. In this quotation it seems to mean "to boot." The use of fixed to mean settled and fixt meaning stationary reminds one that this has been the most used and abused word in our language. Fixt property, as cited here, is probably what we identify by the term real property today. The use of hand for laborer is an interesting example of synecdoche. Neat is customarily used in England. Knock up is ordinary British usage today. The use of middle men is not clear. It is perhaps a general term applied to individuals who have charge of the transportation of merchandise between two points.

1. account

You will receive this and another I wrote some time ago both by Capt. Robertson who Majr De Feyster sends

to Detroit on the Kings account...  
Vol.1,p.86(1778)

2. advantage

I have been So much disappointed in the Mackina and Detroit markets, that I shall not be very forward to try them Again, thinking it better to sell at a Saving price at home, than to run great risks for the prospect of an uncertain Advantage.Vol.2,p.429(1804)

Now if I'm in the Service & can furnish them at the same rate & make an advantage to myself...Vol.1,p.87(1778)

3. bilk

He who would stoop so low as to, I say bilk the Government of so small a trifle... Vol.2,p.245(1799)

Tucker mentions the British employment of the noun in the sense of a cheat or swindler.(American English,p.84). Farmer lists it as an Americanism for "sponger". (Americanisms,p.55)

4. Block

...I propose a Block as the French call it as the only Friendly manner of settling our accounts.  
Vol.2,p.285(1800)

5. cash down

...tho not all cash down,...  
Vol.2,p.395(1803)

6. charge

I would rather be at any charge than disappoint any person who confides in me... Vol.1,p.112(1778)

7. concern

...tho' I would not take any unfair means to prevent gentlemen in that concern doing well...(The Northwest Company) Vol.1,p.127(1778)

8. Custom

...a respectable Hatter here in good Custom... Vol.2,p.332(1800)

9. Douceur

...that if you will throw in Gaillards Farm to me as a Douceur, I will sign the necessary securities...  
Vol.2,p.194(1799)





10. engaged

...it will first be necessary to send you what I have already engaged to send you. Vol.1,p.125(1778)

I entertain hopes of being able to send you down good white fish having engaged all I may want from the Sault fishermen. Vol.2,p.574(1807)

Bartlett cites engaged in the same sense. (Dictionary of Americanisms,p.137)

11. engagements

I return you thanks for the printed engagements you were so kind as to send me... Vol.1,p.134(1778)

12. fair Coppy

Please send Alex to Mr Audrain for a fair Coppy of an Obligation from Gabriel Hunot to me... Vol.2,p.475(1805)

13. Fixt property

could I part with even some of my Fixt property here... Vol.2,p.293(1800)

14. halk

If you should find a shiness in getting any One to Execute my Order let me know ...for I would not wish to give you the trouble to halk it About. Vol.2,p.67(1796)

Undoubtedly a variant spelling of hawk from O.E. huck, to peddle. (See Palmer, Folk-Etymology,p.185)

15. hand

if you Can Sind a hand with Clearwarters I Shall be Verry glad. Vol.1,p.248(1786)

16. Improvement

...which is: to sell our Improvement. We do not speak of selling the Land. Vol.1,p.220(1786)

17. Letter of Licence

...since which I have from time to time given him a Letter of Licence, without which he perhaps wouldn't have been trusted. Vol.2,p.501(1805)

N. make intere

N. test

N. test sum

N. note

N. obligation

N. push'd

N. realized

N. renounce

N. possib  
of the

N. screen

N. chart

18. make Interest      Should Cowan...get up in time to Sail  
I will make Interest with him to get  
a few Barrells on board if possible.  
Vol.2,p.151(1798)
19. Neat      ...at which rate you have 1300 lbs.  
Neat, for your 20 Pages...  
Vol.2,p.225(1799)
20. neat sum      ...bind & oblige themselves to pay  
unto the said John Askin or his order,  
the Neat Sum of Twelve Shillings...  
Vol.1,p.388(1791)
21. note      ...as to the last note you sent me,  
I...inclose it to you, as I have not  
any hopes of it's being discharged  
here,... Vol.1,p.133(1778)
22. obligation      Please send Alex to Mr Audrain for a  
fair Copy of an Obligation from  
Gabriel Hunot to me...  
Vol.2,p.475(1805)
23. push'd      Various times I have spoke to Mr. E  
on the business, but could not get a  
final answer. I have at last push'd  
him. Vol.2,p.283(1799)
24. realized      ...& when the property...is realized...  
Vol.2,p.283(1800)
25. renoncement      ...That you may make the necessary  
arrangements to complete the fences  
...as far as your Mill, agreeable to  
my renoncement...Vol.2,p.198(1799)
- Possibly from the French but more likely a variant spell-  
ing of renouncement.
26. screen      The sale of the mortgaged property to  
screen the debt due your nephew shall  
not be put off...Vol.2,p.465(1805)
27. Sharp      ...but perhaps not so Sharp but that  
others may cheat him.  
Vol.1,p.73(1778)



28. tumble ...deer Skins have sold badly & I fear  
Beavers & Otters have had a tumble.  
Vol.1,p.236(1786)

29. Vendue ...and above what Mr Laselle sold for  
at public Vendue.Vol.2,p.180(1798)

I owe Cadiau four dollars. Answer  
so much for him at the Vendue.  
Vol.2,p.410(1804)

Pickering mentions this word as good New England dialect  
for auction. (Vocabulary,p.192). Bartlett assigns it to the  
United States and the West Indies. (Dictionary of Americanisms,  
p.496). Krapp has examples for it as early as 1681 and 1686.  
(English Language in America,p.95). On the authority of one who  
remembers its frequent use, the word was commonly spelled and  
pronounced as vandue with the a as in hat. Note the use as a  
verb below.

30. Vandued ...as he has Vandued all off and lives  
now at Mr Mays...Vol.2,p.410(1804)

31. vendued The slaves were vendued and Vigo and  
Col. Hamtramck purchased them...  
Vol.2,p.347(1801)

32. vent ...so I think we farmers will get  
vent for our grain.  
Vol.2,p.390(1803)

33. knock up ...A Disappointment in these articles  
would in part knock up the North  
Trade... Vol.1,p.71(1778)

De Vere cites this as an Americanism(Americanisms,p.321)  
which it certainly is not.

34. middle men ...please send them up early in some  
persons boat or perhaps you could  
get them in as middle men & I receive  
something for their services.  
Vol.2,p.371(1801)

35. expertance wants your assistance much from your  
expertance at that business...  
Vol.1,p.614(1795)

36. way ...as you are out of the way I need say nothing to you. Much money has been made by beere.  
Vol.2,p.393(1803)
37. neated ...his account went on without any notice being taken of what his packs neated...  
Vol.2,p.242(1803)
38. noted You forgot inclosing the Gentlemen of the Garrison's Accounts as you mention, you have only noted the sum.  
Vol.1,p.128(1773)
39. owned I received the hundred Livers Calliard owned you...  
Vol.1,p.134(1773)
40. put in a better footing ...he expects the Commissaries in the Upper Country will soon be put in a better footing & have more pay...  
Vol.1,p.79(1773)
41. put on board Only when you cannot load her of course others may put on board...  
Vol.1,p.125(1773)
42. lodged I shall be able to get from 20 to 30 otters good & bad lodged with me as part security for the 50 due you.  
Vol.1,p.133(1773)

#### TRADE TERMS

As was set forth in the statement at the head of the last section, this classification includes all those terms which are peculiar in some way or other to the early trading activities in the Northwest. The first word in the list, for example, adventure, see N.E.D., tells the story in itself of the risks and dangers which confronted the pioneer merchant. Commis, see N.E.D., is probably a shortened form of comissars. Engages were Indian or French adventurers who hired out for all sorts of

enterprises, transporting goods, carrying messages, working as laborers. The difference between a voyageur and an engage is not clear. The former apparently were employed more as guides and scouts in traversing the lakes and streams of the wilderness, whereas the latter had more the character of ordinary workmen. The word length, meaning distance or locality, is frequently used in the Askin Papers. It is complementary in a sense to the term communication. The distance which goods had been transported was called the length, and while they were in process of transportation they were said to be on the communication. Packs seem to have had a regulation size; so, a letter offering thirty packs of furs for sale would be perfectly understood. There were no instances in the Askin Papers of the use of pack as a verb to carry. Spec is obviously an abbreviated form of speculation.

1. adventure                      ...sending in Light men with 54 packs was rather extravagant admitting that the adventure could afford it.  
Vol.2,p.435(1804)
2. commis                        ...and the language held out that the Agents, Members & commis were to live at the post.    Vol.2,p.804(1808)
3. communication                ...Sorry to say that about 100 Barrell Bulk of the Goods now at that place... must winter on the Communication.  
Vol.2,p.181(1798)  
  
...What with them & the vast quantity of Packs now upon the communication, I have Scarcely a Moment to Myself.  
Vol.2,p.302(1800)





My goods and many others are yet on the communication...

Vol.2,p.435(1804)

4. compound

I would in these troublous times, compound for the two-thirds of all my things on the way up.

Vol.1,p.70(1778)

5. dry Goods

...he was under the necessity of relinquishing every Scheme of business except the shipping a few dry Goods & some Rum... Vol.1,p.255(1786)

Thornton says dry goods were limited in America to linen, cotton and draperies. (An American Glossary, vol.1.p.273). Mencken points out that in England the term is applied to "non liquid goods" such as grain, etc., whereas in America as early as 1725 it had acquired the single meaning of textiles. (American Language,p.64). Dry goods as cloth and the like Tucker classes as a real Americanism and places its birth date in 1777. (American English,p.254). The letter, from which the above quotation is taken, is addressed to Askin from Montreal and warns him to order few dry goods from that city because of the dangers of transportation. Since obviously there was no need to order grain to be sent to a grain-growing community, the conclusion must be that the expression had already acquired something of its new significance.

6. Engage

I have this day promoted a very necessary Ordinance, which is, that no person can hire an Engage without first seeing a proper discharge from his former master or a certificate from the Commanding Officer why he has none... Vol.1,p.134(1778)

7. Engagee's

had much trouble as Customary in getting the Engagee's off...

Vol.1,p.339(1790)

8. headed

Two Barrls are headed and two unheaded. Vol.2,p.584(1807)

9. length

The Box of Glass & Pipes...I cannot trace...the presumption is that they did not come this length...

Vol.2,p.238(1799)

I have wrote Messrs McGills about the  
Glass & Pipes as they did not get your  
length... Vol.2,p.246(1799)

...English goods arrived the other day  
at Queenston but have not yet got this  
length. Vol.2,p.429(1804)

10. loading

Your canoes shall be loaded with  
what's here and at StMary's as nearly  
conformable to your orders as possible  
& I beleive it will about make their  
loading. Vol.1,p.110(1778)

We got in the creek and went up to  
the carrying place. We had to take  
out most all our loading...  
Vol.2,p.715(1812)

11. musk

...of the Capture of one (and the  
richest of our Furr Ships...of which  
your musk was a part...  
Vol.2,p.135(1798)

12. ordered out

...you wrote me last year of having  
ordered out goods of that kind...  
Vol.2,p.196(1799)

If you find a difficulty in getting  
forward the things I ordered out from  
England... Vol.1,p.85(1778)

13. packett of freight

...without the prospect of getting a  
single packett of freight...  
Vol.2,p.481(1805)

14. paquets

We understand that two pacquets of  
letters for us, were sent to Detroit...  
Vol.1,p.260(1786)

15. packs

Major de Peyster has taken his packs  
into the King's Store...  
Vol.1,p.133(1778)

I would not take the thirty packs of  
raccoons Rouleau made...  
Vol.1,p.458(1793)

16. packet I brought up a large English packet which I got at Quebec from Sir G. Pounal it Accompanies this, & I hope gives you good accounts of your friends at home...  
Vol.2,p.425(1804)
- The August packet is come in...  
Vol.2,p.483(1805)
17. packstrings ...from which to deduct my expence for packing, pressing, packstrings, Cartage & Shipping.  
Vol.2,p.238(1800)
18. parchment Buck ...more value than a deer Skin, except it be a good red or...parchment Buck.  
Vol.1,p.236(1786)
19. portage ...respecting the portage they mean to establish from Youngs Street to Matchedash Bay...Vol.2,p.688(1811)
- Thornton points out that the words carry and carrying were often used in place of portage (American Glossary, vol.1,p.149). Mencken notes the use of the word before the 18th century (American Language, 1st ed.,p.45).
20. post When the post begins to go I hope to hear from you...  
Vol.2,p.482(1805)
21. put on board Only when you cannot load her of course others may put on board.  
Vol.1,p.125(1773)
22. side of leather I send you by the Weazell...a side of leather... Vol.1,p.590(1795)
23. sink duty ...offered them for the price of this place and sink duty and freight.  
Vol.2,p.482(1805)
24. skins Raccoons and Beaver bore the best prices last year as to skins If they do not Rise in Value we will all be Ruined.  
Vol.1,p.226(1786)

W. Spec

W. store

Stone W.  
Stone W.  
Stone W.  
Stone W.  
Stone W.

W. trade

Palmer  
W. and P.  
W. and P.  
W. and P.  
W. and P.  
W. and P.  
W. and P.

W. trader

W. T. T. T.

W. T. T. T.

W. T. T. T.  
W. T. T. T.  
W. T. T. T.

W. T. T. T.

W. T. T. T.

W. T. T. T.

25. Spec                    It will I am afraid be a bad Spec,  
not a barrel being yet sold.  
Vol.2,p.445(1804)
26. store                  Major de Feyster has taken his packs  
into the King's store...  
Vol.1,p.136(1778)

Store was used in America in the sense of a warehouse or storage place until the middle of the 18th century (Mencken, American Language, p.63). Since then it has come to be employed in the stead of shop as a place of retail trade. Probably used in the former sense here.

27. trade                  It was never my intention that he was  
to commence trade penniless.  
Vol.2,p.573(1807)

Palmer states that trade has passed from a meaning of "to and fro" through a sense of reciprocal intercourse and into the significance of traffic or commerce. The influence of the French traite, handling, he believes, may have caused this change (Folk-Etymology, p.401). Farmer also lists trade as a noun in his Americanisms, p.539.

28. trader                  He has been for some time past a  
trader from this to Detroit.  
Vol.2,p.500(1805)
29. Vouchers                I now send you the like Vouchers &  
Returns from that time to the 24th  
of last month. Vol.1,p.81(1773)
- 30 wastage                  You'll see in them a wastage of 34lbs  
of Candles... Vol.1,p.82(1778)

Farmer defines the word as "the drippings of a barrel or box" (Americanisms, p.552). Bartlett includes it in his Dictionary of Americanisms, p.502.

#### TERMS OF WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENT

These form an interesting collection of words. Some of the terms listed, such as ell, gill, tierce, are still occasionally used. Words used in the measurement of land are listed in

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118

119

120

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

132

133

134

135

136

137

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

151

152

153

154

155

156

157

158

159

160

161

162

163

164

165

166

167

168

169

170

171

172

173

174

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

214

215

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

257

258

259

260

261

262

263

264

265

266

267

268

269

270

271

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

292

293

294

295

296

297

298

299

300

301

302

303

304

305

306

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

331

332

333

334

335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

345

346

347

348

349

350

351

352

353

354

355

356

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

377

378

379

380

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400

401

402

403

404

405

406

407

408

409

410

411

412

413

414

415

416

417

418

419

420

421

422

423

424

425

426

427

428

429

430

431

432

433

434

435

436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443

444

445

446

447

448

449

450

451

452

453

454

455

456

457

458

459

460

461

462

463

464

465

466

467

468

469

470

471

472

473

474

475

476

477

478

479

480

481

482

483

484

485

486

487

488

489

490

491

492

493

494

495

496

497

498

499

500

501

502

503

504

505

506

507

508

509

510

511

512

513

514

515

516

517

518

519

520

521

522

523

524

525

526

527

528

529

530

531

532

533

534

535

536

537

538

539

540

541

542

543

544

545

546

547

548

549

550

551

552

553

554

555

556

557

558

559

560

561

562

563

564

565

566

567

568

569

570

571

572

573

574

575

576

577

578

579

580

581

582

583

584

585

586

587

588

589

590

591

592

593

594

595

596

597

598

599

600

601

602

603

604

605

606

607

608

609

610

611

612

613

614

615

616

617

618

619

620

621

622

623

624

625

626

627

628

629

630

631

632

633

634

635

636

637

638

639

640

641

642

643

644

645

646

647

648

649

650

651

652

653

654

655

656

657

658

659

660

661

662

663

664

665

666

667

668

669

670

671

672

673

674

675

676

677

678

679

680

681

682

683

684

685

686

687

688

689

690

691

692

693

694

695

696

697

698

699

700

701

702

703

704

705

706

707

708

709

710

711

712

713

714

715

716

717

718

719

720

721

722

723

724

725

726

727

728

729

730

731

732

733

734

735

736

737

738

739

740

741

742

743

744

745

746

747

748

749

750

751

752

753

754

755

756

757

758

759

760

761

762

763

764

765

766

767

768

769

770

771

772

773

774

775

776

777

778

779

780

781

782

783

784

785

786

787

788

789

790

791

792

793

794

795

796

797

798

799

800

801

802

803

804

805

806

807

808

809

810

811

812

813

814

815

816

817

818

819

820

821

822

823

824

825

826

827

828

829

830

831

832

833

834

835

836

837

838

839

840

841

842

843

844

845

846

847

848

849

850

851

852

853

854

855

856

857

858

859

860

861

862

863

864

865

866

867

868

869

870

871

872

873

874

875

876

877

878

879

880

881

882

883

884

885

886

887

888

889

890

891

892

893

894

895

896

897

898

899

900

901

902

903

904

905

906

907

908

909

910

911

912

913

914

915

916

917

918

919

920

921

922

923

924

925

926

927

928

929

930

931

932

933

934

935

936

937

938

939

940

941

942

943

944

945

946

947

948

949

950

951

952

953

954

955

956

957

958

959

960

961

962

963

964

965

966

967

968

969

970

971

972

973

974

975

976

977

978

979

980

981

982

983

984

985

986

987

988

989

990

991

992

993

994

995

996

997

998

999

1000

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1. bark   | The sugar is in 32 barks marked IA.<br>Vol.2,p.225(1799)<br><br>...& you are to send her a bark of<br>sugar for each, abt 30 lbs weight...<br>Vol.2,p.628(1809)          |
|           | I send you a bark or mocock of sugar...<br>Vol.2,p.646(1809)   |
| 2. carrot | be so Good as to send me a carrot of<br>tobacco... Vol.1,p.262(1796)   |
| 3. chests | ...no tea can be brought into the<br>province from the States...Thirty<br>thousand chests are said to be con-<br>sumed annually in the Provinces...<br>Vol.2,p.696(1811) |
| 4. ell    | By 1 Ell Brown Coating...<br>Vol.1,p.193(1781)   |





5. English Measure      ...when in wheat it must be good &  
Clean but I am willing to take  
English Measure...  
Vol.2,p.262(1799)
6. Gill                  To 1 Gill of Wine...  
Vol.1,p.593(1794)
7. Hamper                ...as to the cheese please replace  
it with another Hamper this Year.  
Vol.1,p.143(1778)
8. minot                 ...that your people may want any  
supplies, these can be had at my  
House for, Corn for 8/ a Minot...  
Vol.2,p.186(1799)
9. moccock              ...beg your acceptance of a little  
moccock of sugar...  
Vol.2,p.576(1807)
- I send you a bark or moccock of sugar...  
Vol.2,p.646(1809)

Possible explanations of this term are numerous. De Vere has moccock, meaning a cake of sugar, from the Abenaki Indian dialect. The fact that the word is always used in reference to sugar would seem to favor this derivation. (De Vere, Americanisms, p.21). In Thomas L. McKenny's Tour of the Lakes, however, moccock is defined as a little receptacle of a basket form, and oval, without a handle and made of birch-bark (p.194). Of course, the Indian name for the cake of sugar might easily have been transferred to the container. On the other hand, the French version of the letter from which the first example above is quoted, gives maceque for moccock. (John Askin Papers, vol.2,p.575). This may be derived similarly from the Indian.

10. peice                There must also a Coil of Inch &  
another Coil of half Inch Roap be  
made up the weight of a Peice each  
of them & sent by the same way.  
Vol.1,p.101(1778)
11. tierce                Lieut Brooks likewise wants a Tierce  
of Bristol Beer...  
Vol.1,p.86(1778)

12. Winchester bushel I will thank you to say what proportion the Winchester bushel bears to the Minot...Vol.2,p.402(1804)
13. packett ...without the prospect of getting a single packett of freight...  
Vol.2,p.481(1805)
14. pack Major de Feyster has taken his packs into the King's Store...  
Vol.1,p.135(1778)  
  
I would not take the thirty pack of Raccoons Mouleau made...  
Vol.1,p.458(1795)
15. toises ...for ye House 2 toises & half of stone, 25 barrells of Lime...  
Vol.2,p.289(1799)

### NOTIONS

Skains spelled skeins is used today, particularly of yarn. Watap still has a place in the dictionary although it is heard only in a few isolated communities. (See Webster's, 1921 Edition,p.2807).

1. leather threads An assortment of drygoods consisting of...leather threads...  
Vol.2,p.808(1808)
2. skains To 2 skains silk...  
To 7 skains thread...  
Vol.1,p.808(1795)
3. watap All your Corn, Sugar, Bark, Cum & Watap now remaining here shall be delivered him today.  
Vol.1,p.109(1773)

Krapp mentions watap in a list of Indian words (vol.1, p.167). In McKenny's Tour of the Lakes it is defined as the fine roots of the red cedar, split.(p.194). It is said to have been used for sewing canoes.



WEARING APPAREL

Camblet in the first example is a variation of camlet, an Oriental fabric or imitations of it. I have not been able to identify Suwarrow. Great Coat is preferred in England to the American overcoat. Legons and mogisins are variant spellings of leggings and moccassins. Cravat is still in good repute but has been replaced almost universally by the expressive term, necktie. Janes is now spelled jeans although it is often still pronounced with a long a sound. Casamir is more than likely a variant of cashmere, a rich wool material.

- |                 |  |                   |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|
| 1. Camblet Coat | a Camblet Coat...                            | Vol.1,p.611(1795) |
| 2. Casamir vest | a Casamir vest...                            | Vol.1,p.611(1795) |
| 3. Cravats      | old Stockins & 4 Cravats                     | Vol.1,p.610(1795) |
| 4. Earbobs      | your Earbobs, Crosses & broaches are come... | Vol.2,p.160(1798) |

Bartlett lists this as an Americanism (Dictionary,p.135) but Tucker has an English citation for it as early as 1648 (American English,p.113).

- |                   |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| 5. French fashion | Please have one made for her the french fashion, of a light blue Sattin.                           | Vol.1,p.102(1778) |
| 6. Great Coat     | a Great Coat...  | Vol.1,p.611(1795) |
| 7. Janes          | An assortment of dry goods consisting of...calicos silk cot thread stript cottons Janes fustian... | Vol.2,p.605(1808) |

8. leging                      Sir pleas Send Som blew Cloath for  
one pair of Indian leging...  
Vol.1,p.259(1786)
9. Legons                      Hired Chabotte from this day to the  
arrival of the Cos Canoes from the G  
Portage for....1 pr Trowsers a shirt  
& pair of Legons.  
Vol.1,p.51(1774)

Tucker gives leggins as a real Americanism, citing  
Bartlett (American English,p.274). Thornton has it listed  
as legging, but says it is an undefined word. (American  
Glossary,p.538).

10. Milk of roses              Your order for Milk of roses shall  
be attended to...I highly disapprove  
of cosmetics. they are very danger-  
ous.                      Vol.2,p.436(1804)
11. Mill'd Hose                To 1 Pair Mill'd Hose...  
Vol.1,p.605(1794)
12. Mogisins                   I will endeavour to purchase what  
you want of Blankets, Martins, Mogisins,  
&c.                      Vol.1,p.80(1778)

Krapp lists moccassin among words borrowed from the  
Indians (English Language In America, vol.1,p.163). Pickering  
declares that the word is usually pronounced mograson  
(Vocabulary,p.134). Thornton has the word spelled ten differ-  
ent ways (American Glossary,p.586).

13. Ruffles                    5 pr Ruffles...Vol.1,p.612(1795)
14. Shoe Packs                To 1 Pair Shoe Packs...  
Vol.1,p.607(1795)

Krapp gives this with words of Indian origin (English  
Language in America, vol.1,p.166). It is defined as a kind  
of moccassin in Webster's, 1921 Edition, p.1945.

15. stocks                    a parcel of ruffles and 2 black  
stocks...                      Vol.1,p.612(1795)
16. Suwarrow boots            I wrote you for a pair of Swuarrow  
boots.                      Vol.2,p.462(1803)

Also written Swarrow boots. (See John Askin Papers,  
vol.2,p.462).

17. Wescoat                      Do please let me have some Rattean  
or Coating to make a Wescoat and  
trouser...                      Vol.1,p.264(1788)

## FABRICS

Bolting cloth was a sieve cloth used by millers. Ratun is an individual spelling for ratteen. Dowlas cloth has been almost entirely superseded by calico.

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. bolting cloth        | I mean to send you bolting cloth.<br>Vol.1,p.590(1795)   |
| 2. Dowlas winding sheet | ...4 Yard of Dowlas winding sheet<br>Vol.2,p.25(1796)  |
| 3. Leather cloth        | No Leather cloth...could be had at<br>any price. Vol.2,p.605(1808)   |
| 4. Mackason Leather     | ...I would be willing to take a<br>Pack or two of good Buffaloe Robes<br>and Mackason Leather in payment...<br>Vol.2,p.313(1800)   |
| 5. Ratuns               | the only things then wanted to<br>Compleat my 6th share is 20ps Striped<br>Cottons & of Coating & as many of<br>Ratuns...(also <u>rattean</u> , ibid)<br>Vol.1,p.253(1786) |
| 6. Second cloths        | An assortment of dry goods consisting<br>of...fustians & Second cloths...<br>Vol.2,p.605(1808)   |
| 7. Shalloon             | To 1 Yard Shalloon...<br>Vol.2,p.14(1794)  |
| 8. strouds              | The strouds you now send are the<br>worst I have ever seen...<br>Vol.1,p.152(1775)   |

Strouding is defined as a coarse, heavy cloth supplied as a staple to the Indian trade (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.152n).





These few words and phrases are grouped under this general heading because they have a certain common quality in relation to the business and social correspondence of the period represented by the Askin Papers. All of them appear frequently and must, therefore, have been in fairly wide use. Opportunity and by this opportunity are simple expressions which tell the whole story of the difficulty of communication which the early settlers experienced. For intelligence the American is prone today to use the briefer news.

1. Intelligence  
as for public Intelligence there is scarcely any that is worth Communicating or that is Interesting.  
Vol.1,p.364(1790)  
  
...No European Intelligence of any Importance since that time...  
Vol.2,p.402(1804)  
  
As an Express will leave Mackinac in a few days for Detroit to give Intelligence of the sudden death of Capt Howard...  
Vol.2,p.672(1811)
2. opportunity  
I wrote you the 27th of last month which letter also goes by this opportunity. Vol.1,p.81(1778)  
  
There has but one Opportunity offered, from this place to Detroit by Water...  
Vol.2,p.253(1799)
3. post paper  
To 1 quire fine folio post paper...  
Vol.1,p.604(1794)

4. Quills I send you by the Weazell...<sup>4</sup> cut  
Quills... Vol.1,p.590(1794)
5. scrol ...youl be plagued reading this  
scrol. Vol.2,p.486(1805)
- So long since you and I has had no  
correspondance, this scrole will  
tire you out. Vol.2,p.390(1803)
6. your most obedt I am Dear Sir your most obedt  
humbe Servt humbe Servt... Vol.2,p.278(1800)

This complimentary close in various forms was used with-  
out exception for all formal correspondence in the Askin  
Papers.

#### AGENCIES OF COMMUNICATION

A number of methods was employed to transport letters  
and news from place to place. The difference of one from  
another is not made clear by the names applied to them.

Packet was used both for the bundle of letters and papers and  
for the ship in which they were brought, as the two examples  
show. Express is a term which covered both the message itself  
and the system by which messages were transported. The post  
seems to have been a regular mail carrying system, probably  
established by the government. That there is a distinction  
between post and express is indicated by the third example  
under Post.

1. express I was favored with your letter by  
the Express... Vol.2,p.209(1799)
- he told me he would most probably  
be able to answer it by the express.  
Vol.2,p.277(1800)

we found a man there who had just arrived with an express from General Brock. Vol.2,p.716(1812)

2. Mail

On Saturday last I had the pleasure of addressing you by the Mail, which I renew this morning by the opportunity of Mr. Conner...

Vol.2,p.477(1805)

3. packet

I brought up a large English packet which I got at Quebec from Sir G. Poulton it Accompanies this, & I hope gives you good accounts of your friends at home... Vol.2,p.425(1804)

The August packet is come in, by which I have received many dispatches. Vol.2,p.438(1805)

4. Post

When the Post begins to go I hope to hear from you...Vol.2,p.438(1805)

...which I think you ought to transmit by Post if no private opportunity should offer...Vol.2,p.478(1805)

There is neither Post or Express arrived yet... Vol.2,p.499(1805)

5. Winter Courier

...untill our Winter Courier arrives & bring their letter to me. Vol.2,p.585(1807)

AGRICULTURE

Askin, you will remember, engaged in agricultural experiments when he first established a post at Mackinack, and later retired to a farm, Strabane, when he left Detroit in 1802. It is not surprising, therefore, to find considerable reference to farms and farming methods in the Papers. Bracking, calfed and pease are merely obsolete or individual

spellings for bracken, calved and peas. Tilth and mellow seem to be very similar terms. Stocks and shorts are words which are still used to a certain extent.

1. bracking                      Thro bracking when Green, or rotten  
Hay or any such Stuff on land where  
pease & Buck wheat have been...  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)

Mencken contends that this word had disappeared in the Colonial period. (American Language, 1st Edition,p.46). Bracken is still used in England for fern (Mencken, American Language,p.114).

2. Calfed                      a Cow Calfed at the farm.  
Vol.1,p.54(1775)
3. crop                      ...that he Buttler was to crop for  
sd year with sd Weston on shares...  
Vol.1,p.401(1791)
4. culture                      the Lands something better but cold  
& barren for Culture abound'g prin-  
cipally with Black Oak.  
Vol.1,p.341(1790)
5. dunging                      ...& Plant Potatoes without any more  
dunging.                      Vol.1,p.57(1775)
6. fatten                      ...the land will fatten by keeping  
another year or two.  
Vol.2,p.258(1799)
7. mellow                      it will require three more plough-  
ings in the Spring (for it must be  
very mellow)...Vol.2,p.365(1801)
8. pease                      Sowed some Pease at the farm.  
Vol.1,p.50(1774)
9. shorts                      ...with as much flour Bran & shorts  
as you can spare...  
Vol.1,p.590(1795)
10. Stocks                      planted in a hole of about a foot  
deep...6 potatoe Aples with Potatoe

Stocks with them as dung from which  
all the roots were cut.

Vol.1,p.57(1775)

11. tilth

Your plain or Frairie Lands at the  
Mouths of the...Rivers appear to me  
well calculated to raising Hemp, and  
I think they might easily be brought  
to a proper tilth...

Vol.2,p.355(1801)

LAND TERMS

This section holds more than ordinary interest in that  
it contains several such subjects of philological speculation  
as lot, prairie and common. The term Captaincy land is  
possibly meant to apply to land given by the state for mili-  
tary service. Line and try the course are expressions used  
in surveying. Arpent and French acre are probably synonyms.

1. arpent

A french arpent is 3 English chains  
less 9 inches. Vol.2,p.512(1806)

...containing one acre in front by  
forty acres or arpents in depth...  
Vol.1,p.369(1790)

...a concession of land...containing  
two arpents in front by forty in  
depth... Vol.1,p.28(1759)

De Vere states that arpent was still in use in Louisiana  
at the time he was writing, 1872 (Americanisms,p.99). The  
term is defined as "a French linear measure of slightly less  
than 193 feet" (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.28n).

2. Captaincy land

I am told Caldwell by his negligence  
will lose nearly 2000 acres of his  
Captaincy land.Vol.2,p.494(1805)

3. Common

I wrote you in my last, in case of  
success to have an ox Roasted on the  
Common... Vol.1,p.420(1792)

...together with all Meadows pastures  
feedings Commons...

Vol.2,p.6(1796)

Mencken avers that common disappeared from the language  
in Colonial times. (American Language,p.57)

4. feedings ...together with all Meadows pastures  
feedings Commons...

Vol.2,p.6(1796)

5. Fixt property could I part with even some of my  
Fixt property here...

Vol.2,p.293(1800)

6. French acres You will lay out for Mr Livernois in  
front 4 French acres...

Vol.2,p.511(1806)

7. Line ...That they do not look upon a  
course mentioned according to a  
Compass, which is called a Line, to  
be a line at all.

Vol.1,p.231(1786)

8. lot ...to go through another person's  
potatoe lot... Vol.2,p.410(1804)

...the adjustment and confirmation  
of a certain lot of ground in the  
Old Town of Detroit...

Vol.1,p.207(1784)

Lot came to be a term applied to land because in early  
New England land was distributed by lot (Thornton, vol.1,p.561).  
Krapp points out that ordinarily now the word means "a  
portion of land facing a street and meant to be a site for a  
building", but that originally there were several kinds of  
lots. Some doubt is cast on Thornton's statement that the  
application of the term to a parcel of land began in the New  
England allotment system (See Mencken, American Language,  
1st Edition,p.51). Pickering mentions the use of the word  
favorably, and says Webster approved it as a necessity  
(Vocabulary,p.127).

9. Meadows ...together with all Meadows pastures  
feedings Commons...

Vol.2,p.6(1796)



Krapp has evidence to show that meadow in New England meant low, swampy land whereas the common English meaning was all grassland that was annually mown for hay (English Language in America, vol.1, p.81). There is no support for either interpretation in the quotation above unless it be that by association with pastures, feedings and commons we conclude the traditional meaning to have been intended.

10. Mill Seat                   ...upon condition of my signing an entire relinquishment to the Mill Seat...                   Vol.2, p.199(1799)
11. parcel                   That part of a former law which allowed of one tract or parcel only being granted to any one person...                   Vol.2, p.603(1808)
12. patents                   I wrote you per Capt Cowan & sent per him two patents...I intended sending the present patent of Lands sold Pattinson & by no means my patent of the Toun Lot...                   Vol.2, p.564(1807)
13. plantation               Your Rock tract is a bad farm for an American farmer...I have always endeavoured to buy that and the adjoining one and both would make an excellent plantation.                   Vol.2, p.622(1809)
14. prairie                   Your plain or Prairie Lands at the Mouths of the...Rivers appear to me well calculated to raising Hemp,...                   Vol.2, p.355(1801)

Tucker appreciates the difference between the definitions of Murray and Bartlett for this word. Bartlett has "an estate appropriated to the production of staple crops by slave labor", while Murray defines it as "a settlement in a new or conquered country". The latter has a citation for 1614. The quotation we have above implies a usage akin to Murray's.

Bartlett, Farmer and Thornton list this as an Americanism. Pickering records that it was attacked by an Edinburgh reviewer as a Gallicism (Vocabulary, p.153). Mencken says the word had been adopted before 1750 (American Language, p.53), but Krapp declares that its use did not become general until



the 19th century (English Language in America, vol.1, p.134).

15. run out                   ...we Daily Expect the Town Lots to  
be run out here...  
Vol.1, p.133(1798)
16. stands                   ...having the opinion of my being a  
little acquainted in Choesing good  
Stands as well as Settling new country...  
Vol.2, p.127(1798)

The context of the letter from which this quotation is taken makes it appear that the Stand spoken of is a suitable location for the establishment of a community of fifty families. In this meaning it is comparable to the stand, site for a store or business, mentioned as an Americanism by Farmer, op.cit., p.513 and by Thornton, op.cit., vol.2, p.332.

17. try the course           I have heard that they have try'd  
the course by the compass, and say  
it will not fall in your Line...  
Vol.1, p.231(1798)

### KINDS OF BOATS AND VESSELS

Innumerable spellings of these words are recorded in the Papers. Only a few are given here. Others may be found in the section on Spelling and the section on Pronunciation. Batteaux were usually flat-bottomed with tapering ends. Petiager and purogue seem to have indicated the same kind of boat, one made by hollowing out a tree trunk. Canoes, of course, were usually made of birch bark or skins of wild animals.

1. Batteaux                   ...and I shall send a Batteaux to  
Detroit that will bring me at least  
120 Bushells. Vol.1, p.78(1778)
- Our Lake is just now clear so that  
we are in hope of seeing Mr Bennett  
in a Battee of (or) Vessell very soon...  
Vol.1, p.67(1778)

Farmer lists batteau as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.43). So also does De Vere (op.cit.,p.106). Thornton identifies it as a boat of light draught, (op.cit.,vol.1,p.47) This last probably is a closer approximation to the French than the custom along the Canadian border of confining the term to a particular flat-bottomed type.

2. canoes

...let her know also that her canoes  
was the first men here this Spring...  
Vol.1,p.110(1778)

with there small Canows they do not  
like to venture over the lake...  
Vol.2,p.189(1796)

if You Will Want any large Cannows  
built this Winter...Ileas let us know...  
Vol.1,p.263(1786)

left the Cannots at point Sables &  
took his Purogue  
Vol.1,p.356(1790)

Mencken remarks that the word is from an Indian dialect, probably Haitian, and came into American through the Spanish, in which it survives as canoa. (op.cit.,1st ed.,p.111n).

3. Kentucky Boat

He is building a Kentucky Boat at  
the former place, in which he intends  
going to Quebec...  
Vol.2,p.343(1801)

This was also known as a "broadhorn" (John Askin Papers, vol.2,p.343), an ark and a flatboat (Thornton,op.cit.,vol.1, p.511). "They were great,pointed, covered hulks carrying forty or fifty tons of freight and manned by almost as many men". (Archer B. Hulbert, Waterways of Westward Expansion, p.113). Bartlett has it as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.186).

4. Petiagers

...I knew nothing before of your  
wanting the Petiagers so bad. We  
will endeavour to have some down by  
tomorrow night.Vol.1,p.267(1786)

In a note (John Askin Papers, vol. p.233) Quaife has the following definition: "A petiager (variously spelled) was a boat made from a tree trunk, hollowed out, which was often provided with a plank bottom, the trunk being split into

halves, each of which was made to serve as one side of the boat." Thornton classes petiager, perogue and riroque together with a common derivation from the Spanish piragua (op.cit.,vol.2,p.655). Farmer further points out that the French form of piragua is pirogue, for which see below. (op.cit.,p.423).

5. Purogue left the Cannots at point Sables & took his Purogue  
Vol.1, p.356(1790)

Also used as pereogue (John Askin Papers, vol.1, p.356). Tucker has periauger, piroque as a real Americanism with its first date at 1803 (American English, p.266.)

G. Schenectady boat ...and send a Schenectady boat for speed.  
Vol.2,p.48(1796)

## WEATHER AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The use of breking up and broke up are slightly different, the latter probably referring to the ice on the lake. From the circumstances surrounding the use of the two phrases we may conclude that snow showers and flights of snow refer to much the same thing.

1. breaking up ...but it happend to be just at the  
breaking up of the weather and now  
it will hardly be possible to do  
much more to it till June or July...

2. broke up April the 18th the lake first broke up a little. Vol.1,p.50(1774)

3. decayed                      The ice in the River is almost decayed.                      Vol.1,p.225(1736)

4. flights of snow ...and passed some flights of snow...  
Vol.1,p.341(179C)

5. hard frost                      ...a very hard frost this night...  
Vol.1,p.91(1774)

6. Indian Summer                   ...the Indian Summer so call'd at  
Detroit...                   Vol.2,p.572(1807)

This seems to be universally accepted as of purely American origin, adopted directly from Indian life according to Krapp (op.cit.,p.165). The English equivalent for this is St. Martin's Summer.

7. old of the moon               ...They must be planted in the old  
of the Moon... Vol.2,p.212(1799)
8. Snow Showers               ...& Several Snow Showers Next Day.  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)
9. wintering               ...& wintering setting in immediately  
after compelled him to winter here.  
Vol.2,p.608(1811)
10. fall                   Respecting the provisions wanting in  
Capt Ferrins Cargo last fall...  
Vol.1,p.78(1775)

Mencken notes this as a survival from the English of the seventeenth century, long since obsolete or provincial in the Old Country (op.cit.,1st ed.,p.56). He quotes Thornton to the same effect (ibid,p.33).

#### KINDS OF VEHICLES

According to most authorities calash and carry all are merely Anglicized forms of caleche and carriole respectively. It is interesting to find all four forms used almost side by side, indicating something of the ease with which they were interchanged.

1. Calash                   we however will have occasion for  
your Calash notwithstanding.  
Vol.2,p.118(1797)

Tucker refutes the idea that calash is an Americanism by a citation from the London Gazette in 1688 (op.cit.,p.90). Bartlett, among others, gave it as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.64). Quaife gives this description of the calash (caleche): "Its body, curved like the bottom of a boat, was attached by

leather thongs to curved uprights extending from the axles in lieu of springs. In Canada, where calashes were introduced by the year 1700, certain changes in the construction of the vehicle were made. Two wheels were employed instead of four, and...sometimes a folding top was added...From these tops the French women conceived the idea of the headdress of the same name..."(John Askin Papers, vol.2, p.118).

2. Caleche                      ...on the Seizure of your Caleche,  
for some Assessments that seem to  
be in arrear. Vol.2, p.273(1800)
3. carriole                    ...twenty shillings for each carriole...  
Vol.2, p.434(1805)

Carry-all is corrupted from the French carriole according to Palmer (Folk-Etymology, p.52) Mencken avers the corruption to have been by the Hobson-Jobson law (op.cit., pp.53-54). De Vere classes the two together (op.cit., p.107). Although this corruption may have taken place, Thornton has evidence to show that the two names were applied to two different conveyances, carriole to a sleigh, and carry-all to a carriage (op.cit., vol.1, pp.149-50), and Tucker concurs, giving the date of carriole as 1803 and that of carry-all as 1814 (op.cit., p.243).

4. Carryall                    Lewis will fetch me the Sheeting up  
to my House in his Carryall, ...  
Vol.1, p.217(1786)

The fact that the letter from which this excerpt is taken was written in January might lend some color to the theory that Carryall was meant here to apply to a sleigh. (see note, carriole, supra).

5. Curricle                    I think the Curricle a dear bargain...  
Vol.2, p.663(1810)
6. Phaeton                    ...have been good enough to say that  
they would spare us their Phaeton.  
Vol.2, p.117(1797)
7. Voytures                    I'm well provided with all the  
necessary Voytures to pass your  
effects from hence to the Portage.  
Vol.1, p.75(1778)

An interesting analysis of this word is made by Palmer. He suggests that it may be that which cauks or calks or keeps from flowing (op.cit.,p.67).

2. Hulling baskets ...and likewise some of the women  
will send Hulling baskets with them.  
Vol.1, p.208(1786)

3. Kitchen wrappers ...which prevented her finishing a dozen of torchons for your kitchen wrappers... Vol.2,p.583(1807)

4. Lanthorns                      3 old Lanthorns...  
Vol.1,p.609(1795)

Palmer states that the word is so spelled from reference to horn, the material with which it was commonly glazed. It is a corrupt form of lantern. (op.cit.,p.207).

5. torchons ...which prevented her finishing a dozen of torchons for your kitchen wrappers... Vol.2,p.583(1807)

It is possible that torchons are made of torchon lace, a rough, linen weave.

## TRAVEL AND EXPLORATION

Travel in the western wilderness around 1800 was not a matter of tickets and time-tables. The adventurer had to proceed with caution, employing Indians to guide and protect him. There were no clearly defined roads, no bridges over swamps and streams, no means of transporting baggage over land other than man-power. For these reasons, the words in this classification are not to be compared with modern terms of travel. Blaze and mark signify the methods whereby early

travelers established a meeting place, located a trail, or conveyed other messages to one another. The mark might have been anything, a broken branch of a tree, a pile of stones, a symbol made with pigment clay. Cundocter may here have the obsolete meaning of the commander of a ship. The significance of traverse is vague. In the first example it seems to be something akin to a portage. The three quotations give us the word in as many different ways; they give it as a crossing, a means of crossing and the act of crossing itself.

1. Blazed                      Blazed a tree at West of the Road  
                                 next the Water...

This is an Americanism appearing in 1737 according to Tucker (op.cit.,p.236). It is similarly classed by Bartlett (op.cit.,p.35), De Vere (op.cit.,p.168) and Thornton (op.cit., vol.1,p.69). The word comes indirectly from the Provincial German blessen, to mark a tree by removing the bark (Palmer, op.cit.,p.30).

2. Cundocter ...there is always boats a Coming up  
in the Spring...& with paying the  
Cundocter a triffel He would heave  
Cundocted them up.  
Vol.2,p.134(1798)

3. Mark ...encamped near where we were to make a Mark for our Indian. I went up as far as where the Squas from the River Huron had passed where the mark was to be made but saw no Indian.
- Vol.1,p.342-3(1790)

4. traverse ...after a Traverse of about a League brought again into a small Serpentine River... Vol.1,p.345(1790)

the wood very thick & many trees cut  
across to traverse upon...  
Vol.1,p.349(1790)

...and the largest of the other timber  
thirty feet of a foot square except the  
(illegible) & Traverses...

Vol.2,p.188(1799)

5. portage

...respecting the portage they mean to  
establish from Youngs Street to  
Metchdash Bay...Vol.2,p.388(1811)

See note under portage in section on Trade Terms,p.32.

TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS

1. chairmaker

I was favored with yours a few days  
ago by the chairmaker...

Vol.2,p.301(1808)

2. keeps school

McClachlan keeps a school a short  
distance from this...

Vol.2,p.191(1799)

3. Pedlars

I learn there is a number of Pedlars  
on Board the Mink & Mary with Whisky  
for Trade. Vol.2,p.730(1815)

For some remarks on the American treatment of peddle and  
pedlar see Krapp, English Language in America, vol.1,p.131.

4. public crier

...three announcements...made by the  
public crier of said place...

Vol.1,p.41(1759)

5. Salt Boilers

I find a memorandum from you about  
your Salt Spring. There are often  
Salt Boilers at this place,...some  
of whom would be glad to rent it...

Vol.2,p.221(1799)

6. Tavernkeeper

...sold them to a Smith, A Tavernkeeper...

Vol.2,p.433(1805)

I can get a Bble of Jamaica Spirits,.  
This will answer you better for tavern  
keeping... Vol.2,p.180(1799)

Pickering notes that in the United States and Canada  
tavern is used to denote an inn or hotel of any description  
whereas in England it is used only for an eating place  
(op.cit.,p.187). Mencken gives the information that tavern  
displaced inn in this country before the Revolution(op.cit.,p.64).



7. Voyager                   ...being a Voyager on the other side  
and often in the Indian country.  
Vol.2,p.502(1805)

This word, according to Mencken, appeared about the middle of the 18th century, was in vogue for awhile, and has since become a localism or disappeared altogether (op.cit.,p.53). It was spelled voyageur at the time he mentions.

TERMS APPLIED TO TREES, TIMBER AND LUMBERING

Timber as used in this heading to mean woods or woodlands is mentioned as an Americanism by Bartlett (op.cit.,p.480).

Bois Blanc or white-wood is another name for the American linden. From the circumstances surrounding the employment of scantling in the letter, it is proper to state its meaning as trimmings from the squaring of logs.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. Bois blanc  | the Lands on this River seem low &<br>very thick Wood plum trees Hickory &<br>Bois blanc... Vol.1,p.330(1790) |
| 2. Button Wood | the Land on all sides in general very<br>low & wet abound'g with Elem Button<br>Wood &c... Vol.1,p.340(1790)  |

Bartlett has the Button tree as an Americanism for the Sycamore (op.cit.,p.61). Farmer has Button wood with the same meaning (op.cit.,p.110).

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 3. hewing  | ...without going to any additional<br>expenxe of hewing or hauling, I wish<br>you to do it. Vol.2,p.222(1799) |
| 4. hickory | the Lands on this River seem low &<br>very thick Wood plum trees Hickory &<br>Bois blanc... Vol.1,p.330(1790) |

This word was borrowed from the Indians and was used as early as 1705 according to Mencken (op.cit.,1st ed.,p.40). It was first employed in the South where there was need to have separate labels for the walnut and hickory trees (Krapp, op.cit.,vol.1,p.99). Thornton holds that the name was common



to a dozen nut-bearing trees (op.cit.,vol.1,p.432).

5. pinery                      I have heard that there is a grist &  
Saw Mill on his land and an excellent  
pinery.                      Vol.2,p.196(1799)

Both Bartlett and Thornton have pinery as an Americanism  
(Bartlett, op.cit.,p.321); (Thornton,op.cit.,vol.2,p.667).

6. populars                      ...as they are populars they could  
not have grown to that size since  
you left.                      Vol.2,p.509(1807)

7. rails                      If you have 400 Cords now ready, I  
advise you to accept of his offer...  
I think you should prefer this to  
getting rails...  
Vol.2,p.205(1799)

8. sand cherry                      ...send Pine & spruce plants, like-  
wise sand cherry plants.  
Vol.2,p.565(1807)

Listed by Farmer (op.cit.,p.470) and Bartlett (op.cit.,p.379).

9. Saw logs                      ...if the large Saw logs do not come  
down this year...  
Vol.2,p.222(1799)

10. Saw Mill                      I have hear that there is a grist &  
Saw Mill on his Land...  
Vol.2,p.196(1799)

11. scantling                      the remainder of the scantling will be  
immediately drawn in...  
Vol.2,p.269(1799)

This is an Anglicized form of the French echantillon, a  
small cantle (Palmer, op.cit.,p.342).

12. stuff                      ...a good table...the feet should be  
of stuff 2 inches square...  
Vol.2,p.475(1805)

#### TERMS USED IN REFERENCE TO SPIRITS AND LIQUORS

By Maderia is undoubtedly meant Madeira wine. Black  
Strap seems to have had an uncommon use here, it being classed



- Black Strap is gin and molasses according to Bartlett (op.cit.,p.34), but Thornton says the term refers to all cheap liquors (op.cit.,vol.1,p.68). Farmer makes a distinction between the use in England and in this country, stating that in the former the term designated a thick, sweet port while in the latter it was applied to a drink made of gin and molasses. (op.cit.,p.60). By this theory we might conclude that the English use was intended above.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 3. Cherrybounce    | ...because there was not some fine<br>Cherrybounce Mrs. G formerly produced.<br>Vol.2,p.390(1803)                |
| 4. Grog            | he has given himself up almost entirely<br>to the drinking of Grog...<br>Vol.2,p.369(1801)                       |
| 5. high wines      | ...to get a promise of 4 Barrells<br>high wines for you...<br>Vol.2,p.159(1798)                                  |
| 6. Jamaica Spirits | I can get a Bble of Jamaica Spirits...<br>This will answer you better for tavern<br>keeping... Vol.2,p.160(1798) |
| 7. Maderia         | Lieut Bennett desires you may send<br>him a barrell of your best Maderia...<br>Vol.1,p.85(1778)                  |
| 8. Sangree         | To 1 bole sangree...<br>Vol.1,p.598(1794)  |
| 9. Shrub           | To 1 pint Shrub...<br>Vol.1,p.603(1795)  |



10. Sling                      To a Sling... Vol.1,p.602(1794)
11. Spirits                  No doubt from Queenston to Sandwich  
the Spirits will be at Mr. P. risk  
& charges. Vol.2,p.663(1810)
12. Toddey                  To 1 Bowle Toddey...  
Vol.1,p.602(1794)

PLANTS AND PRODUCE

Potatoe aples probably stood for the berries of the  
potato. Echallots and shellots were the same. Spanish  
beans are otherwise known as the Scarlet Runner.

1. Bracking                  Thro bracking when green...on land  
where pease & Buck wheat have been...  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)
2. Echallots                  A few Echallots and Garlic would be  
very acceptable.  
Vol.2,p.584(1807)
3. Indian Corn              Begen to plant Indian Corn  
Vol.1,p.53(1774)
- ...Raissing of & Gathering of Indian  
Corn... Vol.1,p.234(1786)

Corn, having been a general term to apply to wheat and  
similar grains in England, was prefixed with Indian in America  
to distinguish maize from others. The Indian has long since  
been dropped, causing a sharper differentiation between wheat  
and corn in this country than elsewhere (Krapp, op.cit.,vol.1,  
p.163). Tucker cites its use as early as 1621 (op.cit.,p.270).

4. pease                      Sowed some pease at the farm.  
Vol.1,p.50(1774)
5. Potatoe aples            planted in a hole of about a foot  
deep to the right of the old garden  
gate 6 potatoe aples...  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)
6. Rye Grass                Sowed Carden Pease, Beans, Clover &  
Rye Grass. Vol.1,p.53(1774)

7. Shallotts                    Sowed more Garden Seeds & sett  
                                 Shallotts & Beans...  
                                 Vol.2,p.55(1775)
8. Spanish Beans                ...I will put to it some seeds of  
                                 Spanish Beans...  
                                 Vol.2,p.537(1801)
9. Spanish Spinage              We have abundance of good Radishes  
                                 every day and Spanish spinage...  
                                 Vol.2,p.605(1809)
10. tresses                    He got about 6 or 7 hundred tresses  
                                 for 1 beaver. Vol.1,p.271(1786)

Tresses were braids of corn, fastened together by  
braiding the husks. (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.271n).

#### TERMS PERTAINING TO CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

As in the case of Weights and Measures, there was no standard system of currency in the early Northwest. Barter was the chief order of the day, but was not satisfactory for business agreements between parties living a distance apart, as between merchants in the East and traders on the frontier. Some one medium was wanted but many different ones tried to satisfy the need. Hence, we find records of dealings in English, French, Portuguese, and United States currency, not to mention those in terms of goods or merchandise. It was imperative in most transactions to specify the kind of payment to be made, and we find the greatest care exercised in this regard. In general, the sterling shilling was the standard of value. Halifax currency was worth less than sterling, and New York currency, commonly called York, was worth least of all. This arrangement varied at times, the New York shilling



holding to its normal value of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents more regularly than the others. The livre, usually written liver in the Askin Papers, had an approximate value of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cents, while the sol, commonly called sol, was worth about one cent. For other values see notes accompanying the citations below. The examples given of the employment of broaches and rum as currency are not surprising when we remember that cheap jewelry and poor liquor were standard articles in the trade with the Indians.

1. Broaches                      said the old Indian 25 Broaches for  
guide us...      Vol.1,p.344(1790)
2. Copper                      ...would not wrong you a Copper with  
a design to do so. Vol.2,p.233(1800)
3. Dollars                      ...if you have received any Dollars  
from Laschel Rheem...  
Vol.2,p.239(1799)
4. 4 16 1 Yk                      ...and he has given me his note for  
4 16 1 Yk...      Vol.2,p.191(1799)
5. half Joe                      ...he got twenty-eight of their paper  
dollars for a half Joe...  
Vol.1,,.136(1778)
- ...will be bankrupt unless it should  
rain a shower of half Joes.  
Vol.2,p.318(1800)
- ...please advance the equipments and  
not more than a half Johannes to (each)  
in money...      Vol.2,p.371(1801)

"The johannes was a Portuguese gold coin of the value of 36 shillings,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pence sterling. Apparently the 'half joe'--- short for 'Johannes'---which was a monetary unit widely employed in America during the eighteenth century, originated in the colonial custom of reckoning in terms of York currency. The York shilling was valued at  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents, approximately half as much as the sterling shilling; hence the johannes, or joe,



in terms of York currency was worth half as much, approximately, as the gold johannes, and was called, therefore, a half joe..." (John Askin Papers, vol.1, p.138n). Thornton mentions the half joe as once current along the Atlantic coast (op.cit., vol.1, p.413).

6. Halifax Currency      ...to pay him the sum of eighty five pounds Halifax currency...  
Vol.2, p.400(1803)

7. hard Money            I judge there will be about 70 or 80 Bush. of Corn for which hard money is wanted.      Vol.1, p.217(1786)

Thornton gives hard money, hard dollars and hard cash as Americanisms. (op.cit., vol.1, p.419).

8. Livers                the amount of the whole in their supposed value amounting to 10303 Livers or ancient shillings...  
Vol.1, p.182(1778)

I received the hundred Livers Calliard owned you...      Vol.1, p.134(1773)

hired Clutiez...for two hundred and fifty livers...Vol.1, p.52(1774)

"The nominal value of the livre was twenty sous. The phrase 'ancient shillings' signifies that for the purpose of the present contract there is to be no diminution of this valuation." (John Askin Papers, vol.1, p.182n)

9. New York currency    ...the sum of three hundred and thirty three pounds six shillings and eight pence New York currency...  
Vol.2, p.389(1803)

10. paper currency      ...the sum of six hundred livres in the paper currency of this post...  
Vol.1, p.170(1780)

11. pence                He will carry it to Detroit for you for 13 pence per bushel.  
Vol.2, p.156(1796)

12. rum                 ...the rum recd of Mr. Martin in payment of a debt due you...  
Vol.1, p.284(1786)

13. sols                      you have here 100 pairs earbobs cost  
8 sols...100 & 50 small crosses cost  
10 sols.                      Vol.2,p.181(1798)  
  
                             ...charged with the same for his  
Majesty's revenue, of four livres,  
two sols and  $\frac{1}{2}$  minot of corn annually...  
(tr.)                      Vol.1,p.48(1789)
14. Twelve pounds York      ...The price is twelve pounds York.  
                                 Vol.2,p.188(1798)
15. Two Thousand pounds      ...the whole not amounting to more  
Nrk                              than Two Thousand pounds Nrk...  
                                 Vol.2,p.85(1798)
16. Wampam                      To Wampam...      Vol.1,p.183(1781)

Mencken places this in a list of words of Italian origin  
which have begun to drop out of use in our own time(op.cit.,p.59).

#### TERMS PERTAINING TO HEALTH AND MEDICINE

A blister was without doubt done kind of vesicatory.

Consumption was generally applied to all illnesses causing a  
gradual wasting away of the body.

1. blister                      My little boy has been very ill...  
                                 by the violent application of a  
                                 blister he is better...  
                                 Vol.1,p.442(1792)
2. consumption                ...which is seldom the case of those  
                                 who die of a consumption.  
                                 Vol.2,p.899(1811)  
  
                                 Mr Sensaman is very sick on the  
                                 consumption... Vol.2,p.270(1799)

Bartlett contends that the placing of an article before  
the names of diseases is in imitation of the French(op.cit.,p.478).

3. humours                      ...in consequence of his leg swelling  
                                 which they thought would break, and  
                                 carry off all the bad humours...  
                                 Vol.2,p.898(1811)

4. intempers                   Colds have prevailed much but to  
other intempers we are in general  
strangers.           Vol.2,p.442(1804)
  5. laid up                   have been laid up this five weeks.  
                              Vol.2,p.394(1803)
  6. mends                   My father mends very slowly indeed...  
                              Vol.1,p.588(1795)
  7. Physick                   I beg you will not kill him with  
d-m-d Physic.   Vol.1,p.86(1773)
  8. sickly                   ...it is very sickly about here but  
I...am in...health...  
                              Vol.2,p.487(1803)
  9. sopyknit Root           ...but Thank God I made a great cure  
of it by sopyknit Root...  
                              Vol.2,p.778(1814)
  10. vapours                Todd is gone to the States to...get  
rid of the vapours.  
                              Vol.2,p.343(1807)
  11. speale                 ...had a long speale of it. And if  
she, dear Soul, lives her lot never  
to quit it.       Vol.2,p.389(1803)
- Pickering contends that a long spell or speale of sick-  
ness may be borrowed from the sea dialects. He cites  
Witherspoon (op.cit.,p.176).
12. hobble                 ...and I am only just now able to  
hobble about.   Vol.2,p.236(1799)
  13. Lessed                 ...has cured many Very soon and  
Lessed the fit in others.  
                              Vol.1,p.553(1795)
  14. recruit                He says the only motive he has for  
taking this voyage are to recruit  
his health.       Vol.2,p.234(1799)
  15. keep the house         I have been so ill that I was  
oblidged to keep the house this  
month.           Vol.2,p.438(1804)

MANUFACTURING TERMS

1. grist Mill                    I have heard that there is a grist  
                                 a saw mill on his land...  
                                 Vol.2,p.198(1799)

...laid out more than 3000...in  
erecting two Griss mills.  
Vol.2,p.497(1805)

Mencken notes the tendency of gris'-mill to replace  
grist-mill (op.cit.,p.318).

2. Horse Mill                    ...& if you still think the Horse  
                                 Mill was not worth more...  
                                 Vol.2,p.280(1800)

One hundred and fifty pounds, N.C.  
for the House, Horse Mill &c...  
Vol.2,p.553(1795)

3. Pot ashes                    All the timber and Pot ashes gone  
                                 here will be less 50 per ct.  
                                 Vol.2,p.674(1811)

LEGAL WORDS AND PHRASES

These are, without exception, in use today in one place  
or another, although seldom in the same sense. A fair Copy  
is simply a perfect copy. While we have courts of oyer and  
Terminer in the United States at present, they have little  
of the character of the first courts under this name.

1. agressor                    ...no person can hire or engage  
                                 without first seeing a proper dis-  
                                 charge from his former Master...&...  
                                 the Merchants...invested the Command-  
                                 ing officer with Authority to make  
                                 such agressor pay 1000...  
                                 Vol.1,p.133(1778)

2. assize                    ...to put the Police of this town on  
                                 a proper and respectable footing,  
                                 principally respecting...the due  
                                 regulation of the assize of Bread...  
                                 Vol.1,p.372(1791)



3. fair Copy      Please send Alex to Mr Audrain for a fair Copy of an obligation from Gabriel Benot to me... Vol.2,p.173(1805)
4. making Oath      He had permission to bring it forward on making Oath, that no part of it was for any other use.Vol.1,p.101(1778)
5. Ordinance      I have this day promoted a very necessary ordinance, which is, that no person can hire an orgage without first seeing a proper discharge... Vol.1,p.134(1778)
6. Oyer & Terminer      ...being one of the Commissioners of the court of Oyer & Terminer... Vol.1,p.480(1792)

WORDS AND PHRASES PERTAINING TO INDIANS

This classification does not include all expressions found in the Papers which have a derivation in the Indian tongues, but only those applied directly to dealings with the Indians or having the word Indian in their construction. Such terms as supon, watap, hickory, cargoes will be found in other sections. An Indian Cargo may have been a collection of jewelry, whisky, blankets and paints for trade with the Indians. The peculiar use of speeches probably has its source in the custom of using interpreters to communicate with the Indians; so, a military or government official would have sent out speeches to be presented by the interpreters in the language of the tribes which were contacted.

1. Indian Corn      Began to plant Indian Corn.  
Vol.1,p.53(1774)





2. Indian Cargo                      The Bearer hereof...has applied to me to know if there is any merchant who I think would advance a small Indian Cargo on getting Security...  
Vol.2,p.196(1799)
  3. Indian Sack                      I send an Indian sack full of Cramberry for Alice...  
Vol.2,p.564(1807)
  4. Indian Sugar                    I purposed troubling you to exchange 4000 of flour for me, for Indian Sugar,...                      Vol.2,p.214(1799)
- According to Thornton, Indian Sugar was maple sugar (op.cit.,vol.1,p.476).
5. Indian Summer                    ...the Indian Summer so call'd at Detroit...                      Vol.2,p.573(1807)
  6. Mounsy Indian                    a Mounsy Indian was taken from one of the Indian camps...  
Vol.2,p.727(1812)
  7. Ottaways                      Mrs Ainsse arrived today with the Ottaways.                      Vol.1,p.52(1774)
  8. Peutowatomas                    ...refugees from the Ottaways & peutowatomas...Vol.1,p.350(1790)
  9. Potewatemie                    ...the Indian chiefs of the Potewatemie Nation...  
Vol.2,p.448(1804)
  10. Sock                      Mr Johnston was to have left him at the Sock Villiage...  
Vol.2,p.669(1811)
  11. Speeches                    He then sent Speeches to our Indians... to invite them in...  
Vol.1,p.220(1786)
  12. Tomyhawk                    ...had his arm broke by another who struck him with a tomyhawk.  
Vol.2,p.776(1813)
- ...probably have the Tomhawk raised over our heads.Vol.2,p.139(1798)

NAMES OF ANIMALS

It will be noted that a large number of these names are from the French and Indian, as is to be expected, since both preceded the English in the territory where these animals were found. It is doubtful that the American ox was a separate type; the adjective probably indicated nothing more than the place of purchase. The expression Horned Cattle tends to show that cattle was understood in the meaning of all domestic quadrupeds. Mush Rat is an Anglicized form of the Indian musquash.

1. American ox                      ...to order from the river Trench an American ox such as you want but something larger.  
Vol.2,p.626(1809)
2. hares                              Indians have furnished us with an abundance of...hares...  
Vol.2,p.605(1808)

Mencken says hare was dropped from the vocabulary in colonial times. (op.cit.,p.64).

3. Horned Cattle                    All the Hogs are starved to death & it will be with great difficulty to prevent the Horned Cattle from the same fate.                      Vol.2,p.591(1808)
4. Musquash                              5 Musquash                      Vol.1,p.203(1785)

The use of musquash for a beaver-like animal began in 1624 (Tucker,op.cit.,p.280). The word comes directly from the Indian and was later Anglicized to musk-rat (Krapp, op.cit.,vol.1,p.104,166). De Vere has it as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.55) as also has Thornton (op.cit.,vol.2,p.598).

5. Mush Rat                              passed on the north Side of another spreading lake full of long grass & Mush Rat Houses...  
Vol.1,p.346(1790)



This would seem to be an intermediate stage in the change from musquash to muskrat.

6. Paccans                      Mrs McKee sends by this opportunity  
                                 a few Paccans...  
                                 Vol.2,p.112(1797)

"The paccan(pecan)was a fur-bearing animal, the largest member of the weasel family. By the British traders it was called the fisher (mustela pennanti)" (John Askin Papers, vol.2,p.118n).

7. parchment Buck            ...more value than a Deer Skin,  
                                 except it be a good red or...parch-  
                                 ment Buck.            Vol.1,p.230(1788)

8. Pichoux                    ...to change all your fall & Winter  
                                 deer Skins for Paccoon & Pichoux...  
                                 Vol.1,p.230(1788)

This was the French-Canadian name for the red lynx.  
(John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.230n).

9. Raccoon                    ...to change all your fall & Winter  
                                 deer Skins for Raccoon...  
                                 Vol.1,p.230(1788)

...nor are the Raccoons of their  
Parcell any thing so good...  
Vol.1,p.201(1784)

De Vere records this as from the Indian (op.cit.,p.30).  
Krapp gives it in a list of words borrowed directly from the  
Indian (op.cit.,vol.1,p.104,105).

#### EXPRESSIONS CONNECTED WITH THE ARMY AND MILITARY MANEUVERS

Block houses were high, square log buildings placed at strategic points for defense against invaders. Pencibles were soldiers recruited for home defense only. lis't is a shortened form of enlist. Embodied seems to have a meaning of brought together in one body or furnished with equipment for war. Skivered may have either of two old meanings, to

ingale or to scatter in confusion. A stead of and in

Askin's day was a complete outfit for one soldier, as rifle, bayonet, cartridge box and belt; today it ordinarily refers to the rifle only. Tucked up is obsolete slang for hanged.

1. Block House  
...there to lay out a Block House to be built by you...  
Vol.1,p.822(1794)  
...and rode toward River Raisin...  
We went toward the Block House but finding that the Blockhouse was open and nothing in it...  
Vol.2,p.722(1812)
2. Carbines  
Your rifle is...not altogether calculated for light Horse; it wants rings &c as on all light horse Carbines.  
Vol.1,p.444(1792)
3. Deserters  
I hope both governments may put a stop to forcing over Deserters from either side.  
Vol.2,p.317(1800)
4. Embodied  
Many of the most respectable gentlemen here are very anxious that part of the militia should be embodied.  
Vol.2,p.503(1807)
5. fencibles  
There was a corps of fencibles raised here...instead of keeping these people here to defend our little ground...  
Vol.2,p.771(1813)
6. Honors of War  
They did not march with the honors of War though I am told they were allowed to do it by capitulation...  
Vol.2,p.719(1812)
7. lis't  
...I mean either to lis't as a soldier or take the Benefit of the Act...  
Vol.2,p.343(1801)
8. Maneuvres  
Today he reviewed the 41st Regt at Niagara who went remarkably well

through the different Maneuvres.  
Vol.2,p.699(1811)

9. Muskets                    They kept up a warm fire with...  
                              muskets and a howitzer...  
   Vol.2,p.757(1813)

10. powder bag                a powder bag...Vol.1,p.611(1795)

11. press'd                    From this Major C and myself...went  
                                  to Mount Pleasant, press'd a few  
                                  wagons and then rode to Yiegh's.  
   Vol.2,p.712(1812)

It is pointed out by Palmer that press meaning to enlist soldiers is derived from to prest, give ready money, and originally was applied merely to all hired soldiers. The prest came to be mistaken for a past participle of press, to push or urge, and gradually took on its later significance (op.cit.,p.298). Its use in the above quotation in the sense of taking equipment for military purposes is an interesting one.

12. Skivered                   our troops...yelled as much like  
                                  Indians as they could. This had  
                                  a bad effect as it woke the enemy  
                                  who would have been skivered other-  
                                  wise.                                Vol.2,p.757(1813)

13. stand of arms             ...there were 32ps of cannon in all  
                                  and about 2900 stand of arms...  
   Vol.2,p.719(1812)

14. tucked up                   The latter I really dont believe will  
                                  fight, being in dread of being tucked  
                                  up if found in arms.  
   Vol.2,p.771(1813)

#### RELIGION AND CHURCH

The use of Evangelist to mean the book of gospels is generally considered obsolete. Jesuitical carries with it a sense of craft and deceit occasioned by the bad practices of which the Jesuits were accused by their enemies.





1. Dunker                      Last week a Dunker with his Son was here looking at the place...thinks to find more of his profession to join and get Farms of you.  
Vol.1,p.235(1786)

Dunkers are mentioned by De Vere (op.cit.,p.242). Thornton defines a Dunkard or Dunker as a species of Anabaptist, originating in Germany, and found mostly in Pennsylvania (op.cit.,vol.1,p.276). He also has the name as Tunker (ibid, vol.2,p.911).

2. Evangelist                ...who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, deposeth & saith...                Vol.1,p.228(1786)
3. Moravian                 ...he purchased...of the Moravian Ministers...&...from the Moravian or Christian Indians...their Improve-ments...                Vol.1,p.228(1786)

One of a denomination of Christians more commonly known as the United Brethren. This church originated in Moravia in the 15th century and consists of three branches, the German, the British and the American (Webster's, Edition of 1921,p.1405).

4. Jesuitical excuse        ...then Tommy cannot frame a Jesuitical excuse...                Vol.2,p.268(1799)

#### TERMS RELATING TO FISH AND FISHING

Soused Trout were pickled trout.

1. Fish Backs                1 Moccock wt Fish Backs  
Vol.2,p.679(1811)
2. Herrin                    Sett a Herrin Nett yesterday...  
Vol.1,p.55(1775)
3. Maskelonge                ...& skin the Maskelonge for the same purpose.                Vol.2,p.589(1808)

Bartlett has muskelonge, masguinonje and maskinonge from the Algonquin Indian (op.cit.,p.235). Krapp says the word has safely established itself in American usage (op.cit.,vol.1, p.106).



4. Soused Trout                      We will try some Soused Trout by the  
   time Robertson goes down.  
   Vol.1,p.105(1778)

### HOME BEVERAGES

Hyson was a kind of green tea imported from China.

Barly may have been an ale, a wine, a broth, or a brew of  
flavored barley water.

1. Barly                              The rest of us have Chocolate for  
   Breakfast & Barly Substituted in  
   the room of Coffe for the afternoon.  
   Vol.1,p.79(1778)
2. dish of tea                        ...and entertain their Company with  
   a dish of tea and humble Grogg...  
   Vol.1,p.135(1778)
3. Hyson teas                        I have However Received from Montreal  
   some Hyson & Breakfast teas...  
   Vol.2,p.148(1798)
- ...that you had a quantity of Hysen  
   Tea...                              Vol.2,p.480(1805)

### FOODS AND CONDIMENTS

Hog is included because its use in conjunction with  
pork indicates a distinction in meaning.

1. Craiberry Comfiture              ...thank Madelain for the Craiberry  
   comfiture sent your Mother as I eat  
   my full part of it...  
   Vol.2,p.627(1809)

A confection of fruit preserved in sugar and dried.  
From the French confiture, a sweet meat. (Webster's, Edition  
of 1921, p.446).

2. Hog                                The Barrell of Fork, Hog and other  
   things belonging to You I will also  
   send.                              Vol.1,p.239(1736)

3. Indian Sugar I purposed troubling you to exchange  
4000 of flour for me, for Indian  
Sugar... Vol.2,p.214(1799)
4. loaf sugar Mrs. Askin has still some tea &  
loaf sugar... Vol.1,p.79(1778)
- To 1 loaf sugar...  
Vol.1,p.604(1794)
5. Muscovado suger Sugers are much lower this year than  
they were last. Muscovado is 40/ Cwt  
and loaf 1/ Hfl.  
Vol.2,p.693(1811)
- Muscovado was the name given to raw sugar imported into  
this country. The word is from the Spanish mascabado.  
(Palmer, op.cit.,p.243).
6. Onondaga salt ...and Onondaga salt was selling for  
fifteen dollars a barrel a few days  
ago... Vol.2,p.751(1813)
7. Pine Apple cheese I have a Pine apple cheese and a few  
other small things coming up for my  
mother... Vol.2,p.699(1811)
8. supon meal he takes a little supon meal over for  
Alice we did not think of geting it  
ground before now...  
Vol.2,p.459(1805)

Quaife notes that "suppon (supon, sepon, etc.) is a word  
of supposedly Algonquin origin, signifying Indian meal or  
mush" (John Askin Papers, vol.2,p.459n). Bartlett states that  
supawn, also supaen, and supporne, is the Indian name for  
boiled meal, sometimes called hasty pudding (op.cit.,p.463).  
Farmer says the word stands for a food prepared like oatmeal  
porridge (op.cit.,p.522).

#### WORDS AND PHRASES PERTAINING TO ELECTIONS

1. boards Leith will give me credit for any  
little Sums you may...require, such  
as putting up the hustings, boards,  
&c, Cake and wine...  
Vol.1,p.421(1792)

2. chained                   ...should I be elected, I shall pay you a visit in the Spring to be chained.                   Vol.1,p.421(1792)
3. hustings                 Mr. Pollard tells me the hustings will probably be held...about the Rivers Mouth.   Vol.1,p.420(1792)
- Leith will give me credit for any little Sums you may require, such as putting up the hustings, boards, &c...                   Vol.1,p.421(1792)
4. put up                   If yourself, Meldrum, Park or any other liberal man...should put up I will heartily give them my vote...                   Vol.2,p.299(1800)
5. return                   My having done the settlers business without emoluments...should be some inducement to them to return me!                   Vol.1,p.417(1792)

#### MATTERS OF GOVERNMENT

Some of these expressions come under this caption more by association than directly. Government without the article is **probably** carried over from British usage. Sport may be used here in the same sense as to sport a cane but is more likely a shortened form of support. We find nice here in its best sense of exacting or discriminating.

1. account                   ...by Capt Robertson who Majr de Feyster sends to Detroit on the Kings account...                   Vol.1,p.86(1778)
2. Government               I have seen his deeds from Government for between two & three thousand acres of land. Vol.2,p.196(1799)
- ...he gets 7 dollars from Government for a barl of flour...                   Vol.2,p.286(1800)



...recollection of the service rendered  
Government by Capt McKee...

Vol.2,p.470(1805)

Government, used in this manner, is listed by De Vere  
as an Americanism. (op.cit.,p.252).

3. levee

He came over on Saturday last and  
yesterday held a levee at which I  
with a number of others attended.

Vol.2,p.393(1811)

De Vere gives this as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.99)  
as also does Bartlett (op.cit.,p.242). Derived from the  
French lever, to rise.

4. memorialled

Captain Bird of the King's Regiment  
having memorialled his excellency...

Vol.1,p.200(1784)

5. Sport

...Made it necessary as some thought  
to Sport & Send to the Governor a  
presentment... Vol.2,p.317(1800)

6. presentment

Made it necessary as some thought to  
Sport & Send to the Governor a  
presentment... Vol.2,p.317(1800)

7. Town Meeting

...Most of the Members being for a  
Town Meeting...Vol.1,p.433(1792)

8. Vice Roi

His Excellency General Carleton our  
Vice Roi is to be out this Spring...

Vol.1,p.244(1786)

9. Legislate Bord

Elija Brush Attorney...maketh  
application to the Legislate Bord...

Vol.1,p.207(1784)

10. proroguing

...so that in a few days I will be  
under the necessity of proroguing  
of them... Vol.2,p.506(1806)

This was used with reference to the provincial  
assembly.....

Tomhawk and tomphawk are included here because the instrument was often used as a tool as well as a weapon. This was particularly true of the commercial ones introduced early by the traders. Shear is share today. Saw a



Bardeaux is explained by the citation under Soi a Bardeau.

1. Adze                        We took from the goods...an Adze...  
Vol.2,p.308(1801)
2. Flow Irons                ...as also to furnish said Cornwell  
with the use of a Horse & Cow &  
Flow Irons... Vol.1,p.234(1788)
3. Saw a Bardeaux          as for the Saw a Bardeaux I dont  
know what it is...  
Vol.2,p.394(1802)
4. Soi a Bardeau            formerly Soi a Bardeau was a partic-  
ular kind of Flow Shear and not a  
Saw for Shingles as you would make  
it. Vol.2,p.396(1802)
5. Shear                     ...and it is a Shear I wanted and  
not a plough. Vol.2,p.644(1809)
6. Tomhawk                  ...probably have the Tomhawk raised  
over our heads.Vol.2,p.139(1798)  
  
...had his arm broke by another who  
struck him with a tomhawk.  
Vol.2,p.776(1813)

## GEOGRAPHICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL EXPRESSIONS

Back country and Upper Country refer here to approximately the same district, the region of the upper lakes.

1. Back country ...some persons in that Back country  
will perish and the trade will be  
hurt. Vol.1,p.71(1778)

This is made one of a swarm of neologisms, chiefly compounds, stimulated into being by the new landscape (Mencken, op.cit.,p.57). De Vere has it as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.163), and Farmer defines it as sparsely settled land (op.cit.,p.29).

2. heads Johnny remained with me about one month & then went to winter on the heads of the Montreal river...

- -

• •

• • • •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• • • • •

• • • • •

• •

3. run                                      about a Mile & half farther up the  
Run came to the portage...  
Vol.1,p.340(1790)

Krapp has the origin of this word in the phrase "a run of water" found in the Huntington records, 1800. He also mentions earlier citations by the New English Dictionary. The word is ascribed to American and northern British dialect (op.cit.,vol.1,p.85). Bartlett gives it (op.cit.,p.374), and Farmer also (op.cit.,p.400).

4. Upper Country                            ...he expects the Commissaries in  
the Upper Country will soon be put  
in a better footing & have more  
pay...                                      Vol.1,p.79(1778)

EXPRESSIONS RELATING TO HUMAN RELATIONS, POLITE INTERCOURSE, ETC.

1. civility                                      ...you will I am sure to be Happy to  
render him any civility...  
Vol.2,p.304(1800)
2. favor    ...all in my favor shall be done  
between this & Sept...  
Vol.2,p.293(1800)
3. Interest                                      I must beg your Interest if you have  
any to get what you can of my things...  
put on board...Vol.1,p.87(1778)
- I beg your interest about getting  
what things of mine...forwarded in  
the Kings Vessel...  
Vol.1,p.82(1778)
4. Intelligence                                      I return you many thanks for your  
Intelligence & advice to my Clerk.  
Vol.1,p.76(1778)
5. indulge    I make no doubt but your Commanding  
officer would indulge you in any-  
thing reasonable which was for your  
advantage.                                      Vol.1,p.87(1778)
6. relied    ...that you relied everything was  
done & said with Sincerity.  
Vol.2,p.199(1799)

7. spare                   ...have been good enough to say they  
would spare us their Phaeton.  
Vol.2,p.117(1797)
8. Suffered               Its certain that those who left  
Detroit this Spring were not Suffered  
to bring but a very little quantity.  
Vol.1,p.83(1778)
9. trust                   ...I trust this letter to them...  
Vol.2,p.269(1799)
10. wait on you           I will wait on you at your home by  
a line from you.  
Vol.2,p.495(1805)
11. make free             Your son Charles was here a Short  
time. I could not get him to make  
free. Vol.2,p.674(1811)

FRENCH WORDS AND PHRASES FREQUENTLY USED

All of these expressions were certainly not adopted from the French in America; many made their debut in the English language before John Askin was born. All have, however, retained their characteristic French formation. There is considerable question as to whether mocock and renoncement should have a place in this classification. They are included, nevertheless, so that they may be rejected when irrefutable proff is forthcoming that they should be. There can be little doubt that arpent, batteaux, engage, minot, and marrey have a proper place here as having been adopted from the French colonists in the New World.

1. A propos               A propos now we are on the subject,  
there is a Boy here...  
Vol.1,p.135(1778)

2. arpent                   ...containing one acre in front by  
forty Acres or Arpents in depth...  
Vol.1,p.369(1790)
- A french arpent is 3 English chains  
less 9 inches. Vol.2,p.512(1806)
- Also mentioned in Vol.2,p.345, and defined in Vol.1,p.28.
3. Bagatelles             ...and give the surplus to my dear  
Mother to buy such Bagatelles she  
may stand in need of.  
Vol.2,p.631(1809)
4. Batteaux               ...and I shall send a Batteaux to  
Detroit that will bring me at least  
120 Bushells. Vol.1,p.75(1778)
5. Douceur                ...that if you will throw in  
Gaillard's farm to me as a Douceur,  
I will sign the necessary securi-  
ties... Vol.2,p.194(1799)
6. Engage                 ...no person can hire an engage with-  
out first seeing a proper discharge  
from his former master...  
Vol.1,p.134(1778)
- had much Trouble as Customary in  
getting the Engagee's off...  
Vol.1,p.339(1790)
7. in lieu                ...to send me Rum in lieu of what  
he took of mine...  
Vol.1,p.126(1778)
8. Marrey                 the River...increased in Water &  
run in large Turnings with Points  
and Marrey & not so strong a current.  
Vol.1,p.350(1790)
- This is applied to swampland and is derived more than  
likely from the French marais.
9. Minot                  ...that your People may want any  
supplies, these can be had at my  
House for, Corn for 8/ a Minot...  
Vol.2,p.186(1799)

— —

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

• •

10. mock

11. renoncement

## 12. Sans Culottes

### 13. Torchons

#### 14. Vendue

Vol.2, p.160(1798)

Vol.2,p.410(1804)

15. vendued

Vol.2,p.347(1801)

Vol.2,p.410(1804)

1. Bruise the Grogg

Vol. 2, p. 396 (1803)

2. crosser

Vol.1, p.79(1778)

### 3. flame

Vol.2,p.539(1807)

4. Jesuitical excuse      ...and then Tommy cannot frame a Jesuitical excuse...  
Vol.2,p.268(1799)
5. Loup      ...send it down in my name, that it may not appear to Park, who in matters of trade is a Loup.  
Vol.2,p.218(1799)
6. miffed      Mr Brush has too kind a heart to be miffed at your short silence...  
Vol.2,p.638(1809)
7. pinched      ...that you might be pinched for want of money...  
Vol.2,p.390(1803)
8. Phiz      ...and a more consequential Phiz I never saw in any man before...  
Vol.2,p.670(1811)
9. tucked up      The latter I really dont believe will fight, being in dread of being tucked up if found in arms.  
Vol.2,p.771(1813)
10. went off in a pet      ...the latter went off in a pet, the cause as far as I could learn was who should be first---McTavish or Mck...  
Vol.2,p.275(1800)
11. Whopper      If anyone says so he tells a Whopper.  
Vol.2,p.395(1803)
- De Vere gives this as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.647).  
Bartlett says it is provincial in England but common in this country (op.cit.,p.505).
12. Yanky, Yankeys      the Yankeys will trade Rum for Raccoons.      Vol.2,p.275(1800)
- ...& the manner he escaped the Yanky collectors &c I am not at present authorized to say.  
Vol.2,p.696(1811)

While some scholars would contend against it, and with very credible evidence, the generally accepted derivation for



this word is the Indian pronunciation of English as Indegees (See De Vere, op.cit., p.55).

### MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS

Some of these terms seem to defy classification; others fall naturally into groups but are so few in number or have such a slight relationship as to make it not worthwhile to set them apart. More of a like nature will be found under Miscellaneous Verbs, Adjectives, etc. Cation is an individual spelling of occasion. Coal and Joal are variants of goal, for which we have jail told. Fusick is included because of its peculiar use here to mean a harpsichord (See note, John Askin Papers, Vol.2, p.255). Unpluse seems to have a meaning comparable to namplun.

1. advantages                   ...he shall have all the advantages of the Cabin residents for his own use. Vol.2, p.400 (1803)
2. cause                       another cause has happend contrary to our expectations. Vol.2, p.275 (1800)  
  
I say the Bill has authorized the commissioners in some causes to take the word of one man... Vol.2, p.181 (1793)
3. event                       ...he knew of a house where there was 500 claims of a similar nature & who if I recollect right he said was waiting to see the event of mine... Vol.2, p.301 (1800)
4. fortnight                   ...but is expected in ten days or a fortnight... Vol.2, p.177 (1793)
5. Coal, Joal                   his Brother if he is put in Coal will I dare say pay the debt Vol.2, p.384 (1800)  
  
She and a negro man are both in Coal here for the theft... Vol.2, p.389 (1803)

I hope the poor fellow has extricated himself from the horrors of a Joal...  
Vol.2,p.663(1811)

6. kind                    I return you many thanks for the news, to which I would now make return in kind...                    Vol.1,p.107(1773)
7. language               ...I mentioned the favorable prospects I had of this place improving...and the language held out that the Agents... were to live at the post...  
Vol.2,p.604(1808)
8. Launch                ...he is going to Mr. McIntosh's to assist at the Launch.  
Vol.2,p.259(1799)
9. Lett                   ...without any Lett, Trouble, Molestation or Interruption...  
Vol.1,p.59(1775)
10. out cellars           ...have built a small Villiage consisting of 27 log Houses, besides some stables, out cellars...  
Vol.2,p.220(1786)
11. situation            ...his head at times is in a shocking situation...               Vol.2,p.204(1799)
12. situations           The very Clear account you have sent me of the furs shipt...as well as my Liquors &ca in their different situations deserves my thanks.  
Vol.1,p.126(1778)
13. Stiver                ...that if I ever have a Stiver of Interest or Influence with the Government it shall be exerted to...your services...               Vol.1,p.447(1792)
- but      Stiver, a Dutch penny (stuyver), was used in England but obtained a footing in America through the Dutch occupation. The coin was worth about one penny; hence, the term came to mean anything of little worth (Thornton, op.cit.,vol.2,p.859).
14. Lusick                if the weather is fine, and it is not too much loaded very likely they could



bring down the Musick.

Vol.2,p.255(1793)

15. unpluse

What alarmed me much and put me to an unpluse was mostly all the officers of government being absent...

Vol.2,p.493(1805)

16. wait

The 2nd Brigade was halted a short wait at Sandwich...

Vol.2,p.717(1812)

17. want

...Sind me five or Six Yards of Stripe Cotton...as I am much in want of it.

Vol.1,p.241(1786)

...owing to a want of judges there was no court...Vol.2,p.410(1804)

18. Cation

...You had better take all on your own hands and then there will be no Cation of a division.

Vol.1,p.262(1786)

19. War Pole

...and surveyed as far down as the War Pole and Cebbins where I left off.

Vol.1,p.225(1786)

#### MISCELLANEOUS VERBS

Some of these are simply cases of omission as do for do so, listning for listening to. Others seem to be cases of sub standard usage as lernt for taught, protested for threatened, surmise for intend. The use of mend is not clear. It might possibly mean to make amends for deficiencies in paying what was owed; but more probably it was written in error for send. Takes off has here the sense of diverts. The object omitted after to discover would be something like "who set fire to the town". To find in the sense of to provide with was, of course, very common usage in Askin's time. We



1. affords	This place affords no news... Vol.1,p.134(1778)
	...admitting that the adventure could afford it. Vol.2,p.435(1804)
2. anchored off	...we went a shore and anchored off. Vol.2,p.716(1812)
3. answer	...there is proper kettles now here that I believe would be Sold cheap, as the Spring they were intended for does not answer. Vol.2,p.228(1799)
4. appointed	I have a Small House in the Garrison, of two rooms appointed for me... Vol.2,p.305(1800)
5. Cherished	I assure you that I am so Cherished with yours and other friends accounts of the reEnstablishing of Mrs. Grant's health that I feel myself growing quite hearty and well. Vol.2,p.498(1805)
6. comes	If it happens luckily that the gentle- man who comes Lt Governor, has the Command of the Troops... Vol.2,p.517(1806)
7. credit	...and the remainder not long after if I may credit report. Vol.2,p.213(1799)
8. discover	Five hundred pounds reward is offered to discover. Vol.2,p.394(1803)
9. do	If I can help...I will most cheer- fully do,... Vol.2,p.391(1803)
10. fallen	The Officers & Doctor...have fallen on another method to get their things... Vol.1,p.86(1778)



17. had ...add some Corn more for the goods  
had of him... Vol.2,p.336(1801)
18. hath ...altho almost the whole hath been  
delivered. Vol.2,p.263(1799)
19. hear of There is one man named Couroy in  
your list...I can hear of no such  
person nor any other in his stead.  
Vol.1,p.163(1778)
20. husband ...therefore I advise you to husband  
well your dry Goods...  
Vol.1,p.235(1786)
21. lernt ...that she said Racheal shall be  
lernt to read write and sew...  
Vol.2,p.277(1800)
22. let ...declared he would not let the  
cargo into anybody's hands lodged  
it into a house.  
Vol.2,p.175(1793)
23. listning ...without listning or Consulting  
any other person...  
Vol.1,p.241(1786)
24. mean the other I mean for the use of such  
other Gentlemen as may choose to  
ship on her. Vol.1,p.125(1778)
25. mend ...what fur he Maid in the wintr he  
has Been Treading a nother way for  
him self & dus not mend hear...  
Vol.1,p.210(1785)
26. misbecome it would misbecome one of a turn of  
mind so like my own.  
Vol.2,p.407(1804)
27. mislyed ...the petition was mislyed in the  
Council office...  
Vol.2,p.234(1799)
28. pitched upon, on We then accordingly went with those  
Indians in search of a place and



pitched upon the place We now live  
on... Vol.1,p.220(1786)

They like the place exceeding well,  
but immediately pitch'd on my House...  
which I endeavoured to persuade them,  
they would hardly obtain...  
Vol.1,p.230(1786)

...that in case they could by no  
means obtain the 2 Houses and Corn-  
field they pitched upon, they would  
then satisfy themselves with the 2  
opposite Houses...  
Vol.1,p.231(1786)

29. projects He projects spending this winter in  
Quebec... Vol.2,p.425(1804)

30. promoted I have this day promoted a very  
necessary Ordinance...  
Vol.1,p.134(1778)

31. protested Morras spilt a Quart of Corn & I  
protested to make them suffer for  
everything misspent.  
Vol.1,p.349(1790)

32. Reduce ...& had bread made with it...  
rather than Reduce them to eat the  
bad flour belonging to the Store.  
Vol.1,p.105(1778)

33. rose The rains rose the waters...  
Vol.2,p.638(1809)

34. surmise I am glad that you surmise bringing  
or geting Mrs G. now and then to  
your house... Vol.2,p.498(1805)

35. takes off ...any other company which takes off  
my attention. Vol.2,p.480(1805)

36. vergeing he is fast vergeing toward his grave...  
Vol.2,p.387(1803)

37. victuled ...the number of persons which...  
will have to be Victuled here...  
Vol.1,p.121(1778)

38. wanting

If anything I can do here...can be of service to the Concern, it never shall be wanting.

Vol.1,p.134(1778)

Respecting the provisions wanting in Capt. Ferrins Cargo last fall...

Vol.1,p.78(1778)

39. weather

I hope however to weather through the winter... Vol.1,p.420(1792)

...my family and I have weathered another Winter.Vol.2,p.410(1804)

#### MISCELLANEOUS ADJECTIVES

1. Droll

it seems Droll to me of Mr McCormick taking so much a pon him...

Vol.1,p.210(1785)

2. farther

...I make no doubt there will be no farther hindrance...

Vol.1,p.112(1778)

3. fixed

I believe I shall want a larger supply from you soon than I Expected...but as its not yet a fixed matter I will lett you know. Vol.1,p.244(1786)

4. forward

I am no ways forward in assisting any body...

Vol.1,p.217(1785)

5. hurtfull

Because in the first place it is hurtfull to their character as missionaries.

Vol.2,p.336(1801)

6. in good train

...I fear I shall be a little disappointed to obtain some lands that were in good train before.

Vol.2,p.220(1799)

7. midling

...but he said he had midling trade...

Vol.1,p.352(1790)

8. mine

...yours and mine pretention to the farm at Gross Point.

Vol.2,p.498(1805)

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 9. nice         | Your a nice boy not to say anything about your family.<br>Vol.2,p.395(1803)                                     |
|                 | You know how nice the Board are regarding Magistrates Certificates.<br>Vol.2,p.236(1799)                        |
| 10. present     | This present letter is in answer to one you intended to have wrote me...<br>Vol.1,p.86(1773)                    |
| 11. pretty      | Has Alick has a pretty collection of books... Vol.2,p.423(1804)   |
|                 | Bartlett gives this as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.341).  |
| 12. sensible    | Mrs Askin is very sensible of Mrs Flemings kind present for which she returns many thanks.<br>Vol.1,p.104(1773) |
|                 | I assure you we are very sensible of the manifest favours of the Major toward us... Vol.1,p.239(1773)           |
| 13. troublesome | I would in these troublesome times...<br>Vol.1,p.70(1773)   |
| 14. like        | I hear Capt Wilkinson is like to get a handsome situation.<br>Vol.2,p.551(1807)                                 |
| 15. outmost     | And now with outmost difficulty I got the deed in Wright's name...<br>Vol.2,p.234(1799)                         |

## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERBS

No ways is more apt to be written no wise and is usually preceded in this use by the proposition in. Amazling is probably an individual spelling for amazingly. Cleaverly and timously are variants of cleverly and timously.

1. amazing I am Informed that you are concerned

in establishing a School in this Town,  
in opposition to me which amazing  
surprises me...Vol.2,p.285(1799)

Amazing is mentioned as colloq. or illit. for amazingly  
in Webster's (Edition of 1921,p.67n).

2. cleverly                   ...matters seem as yet not to be  
cleverly at rights in the Indian  
Country...               Vol.1,p.288(1788)

Cleverly in the sense of well or very well is mentioned  
by Pickering (op.cit.,p.83) and by Bartlett (op.cit.,p.37).

3 fain                   I would fain have mentioned to you  
sooner that... Vol.1,p.282(1788)

4. luckily               If it happens luckily that the gentle-  
man...has the Command...  
Vol.2,p.317(1806)

5. nigh               ...tells me, that he received nigh  
500 Bbl...               Vol.2,p.188(1799)

6. no ways            I am no ways forward in assisting any  
body...               Vol.1,p.317(1788)

7. pretty            ...and I am pretty certain you will  
find her...           Vol.1,p.288(1788)

Bartlett describes this as an Americanism (op.cit.,p.341).

8. sensibly           I am sorry there should have been any  
cause to affect your mind so sensibly...  
Vol.2,p.387(1803)

I feel very sensibly your Kind and  
Friendly attention...  
Vol.2,p.47(1798)

9. something           ...his health being something better...  
Vol.2,p.410(1804)

John going away and our adjutant being  
young in office threw us something back.  
Vol.2,p.332(1807)

10. sooner            The matter sooner than you should be

obliged to make a sacrifice must  
lie over. Vol.2,p.488(1804)

11. Timously

...tho I have the Deputy Surveyor's  
Certificate of my having Timously  
applied to have them located...  
Vol.2,p.800(1800)

MISCELLANEOUS CONJUNCTIONS

1. without

...but he will not Get them without  
you got your part...  
Vol.1,p.211(1785)

2. least

My principal motive for giving you  
this information was, least the  
public report of a scanty (supply)  
might make you uneasy.  
Vol.1,p.73(1775)

3. only

I mean to allot one of the two small  
vessells purely for your service,  
only when you cannot load her of course  
others may put on board.  
Vol.1,p.125(1778)

4. whilst

...great hardship on all the parties  
concerned whilst they appear...dis-  
posed to settle...

Vol.2,p.489(1804)

...whilst Mr Jones and you were our  
joint attorneys...

Vol.2,p.489(1805)

...but whilst waiting for information  
the oppertunity...may be lost.

Vol.1,p.489(1793)

5. except

...for except I have it here before-  
hand, I will not make any more positive  
contracts... Vol.1,p.142(1773)

6. if

However, I dont know if I shall send  
him back so soon.

Vol.1,p.30(1778)

7. as

...but I am not able to more as I did.  
Vol.2,p.533(1801)

MISCELLANEOUS PREPOSITIONS

1. ere                   ...I fully expected I should have ere  
this had the pleasure of paying my  
respects to you...  
Vol.2,p.210(1799)
2. from               ...so soon as they can be sent with-  
out taking the room of them up from  
something else.Vol.1,p.137(1778)
3. to                  This place affords no news which I  
can send you in return to yours...  
Vol.1,p.134(1778)
4. off                ...take the whole or what they can  
off them... Vol.1,p.137(1778)  
  
...as I have no other in your quarter  
that I can so well require such a  
favor off... Vol.1,p.71(1778)  
  
Alexr being on the other side does not  
know off this...  
Vol.2,p.540(1806)
5. twixt             ...a settlement took place twixt us  
on this subject,...  
Vol.2,p.199(1799)

MISCELLANEOUS PRONOUNS

1. ye                ...when we are certain as to the  
result ye shall hear...  
Vol.1,p.424(1792)
2. this             The Saguinah left this Some days  
ago... Vol.2,p.429(1804)  
  
The people about this seem to be  
much easier about the War...  
Vol.2,p.567(1807)  
  
He has been for some time past a  
trader from this to Detroit.  
Vol.2,p.500(1805)  
  
...get what you can of my things that

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

Ye, the article, has been omitted although there are many cases of it in the Askin Papers. The Y is simply a transcription of Old English thorn, and does not indicate pronunciation as Y.

1. an We have also made an forty barrels  
of cider... Vol.2,p.447(1804)

### WORDS AND PHRASES OF DOUBTFUL MEANING

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Brittells    | To 1 pr Brittells...<br>Vol.2,p.13(1794)   |
| 2. Marks        | ...let me know what Marks have and<br>what have not been sold that I may<br>settle with the Furnishers.<br>Vol.2,p.313(1800)   |
| 3. Slaw bak     | a Slaw bak... Vol.1,p.611(1795)  |
| 4. thumpen out  | do not my dear Sir thumpen out my<br>regard for Mrs Askin...<br>Vol.2,p.486(1805)  |
| 5. Shaygans     | A few Shaygans in a mocoek & two<br>sacks...corn...Vol.2,p.679(1811)   |
| 6. Riding Slabs | To Riding Slabs.Vol.1,p.602(1794)  |
| 7. by the run   | If the wretches who set fire were<br>to be burnt from time to time...it<br>would be a greater example than to<br>be sent out of the world by the run.<br>Vol.2,p.396(1803) |

## CHAPTER III

-100-

### PROPER NAMES

The study of American place names is a fascinating subject. Nowhere did the inventive spirit of the American run more rampant. Nowhere have influences been so numerous in bringing about the creation of a colorful nomenclature. Staid British names, adopted from the Mother Country or from the family titles of her colonizing sons, vied with Indian and foreign names or those created by sheer, joyful fancy. On the map of Michigan alone (to remain faithful to the locale of our study) we find such a startling array as Ovid, Bad Axe, Zeeland, Austerlitz, Kalamazoo, Sault Ste. Marie, Muttonville, and Ypsilanti. To make a proper study of the place names for even one small district would be a colossal task, although its interest to the student and its value as a record of the history and psychology of the American people would be extreme. The place names drawn from the Askin Papers and listed below have not been selected for the simple fact that they are place names, but because they contain in themselves some peculiar quality which make them of interest from the historical point of view. Some are included because they represent an obsolete spelling; some because they show the derivation of the name in present use; some because they are different from those by which the same places are now identified.

Personal names have also had an interesting history in





America. Even as in the England of the early modern period, spellings have been many and varied, following usually the phonetic mannerisms of each individual. The prevalence of illiteracy and the lack of standards in spelling made this situation possible. For example, we find in the Askin Papers such variations as Fry and Frey (vol.1,p.323); Dumouchel, Demouchell, Desmouchelle, and Dimouchelle (vol.1,p.278-79); and Lowrie and Lawrie (vol.1,p.72). In given names we come upon Ludwig and Lodwick (vol.1,p.187) and John and Jean (vol.2,p.342). The American tradition has been to Anglicize foreign names with great rapidity, the aliens themselves seeming to promote the changes with as great enterprise as anyone else. The personal names selected from the Askin Papers for this section are those only in which variations in spelling have been recorded. That is to say, the great mass of the names which seem to have remained the same throughout the manuscripts have not been mentioned, whatever changes of interest may have taken place in them since Askin's time.

#### NAMES USED TO IDENTIFY CERTAIN LOCALITIES

In this classification are those names which were given to countries, districts or points of geographical prominence. Villages, towns and cities are left for a later section.

1. Grand Traverse                      April 28th Mrs Ainsse went in a boat  
for the Grand TrøVarse...  
Vol.1,p.33(1774)

The name Traverse, found in Traverse City and Grand Traverse, meaning lying across, was given by early French voyagers to an indentation of the coast line of Lake Michigan which they were accustomed to cross from headland to headland. (Gannett, Origin of Place Names in the United States, p.303).

2. Great Carrying Place    The Schooner Capt De Feyster left this for the Great Carrying Place on Lake Superior.

Vol.1,p.55(1775)

Thornton remarks that a carry or carrying is a portage (op.cit.,vol.1,p.149). This was probably Grand Portage (see next citation).

3. Portage                      this...will go off early for the Portage.                      Vol.1,p.74(1775)

"Grand Portage, at the western end of Lake Superior, where a nine-mile portage was made between the Lake and a point above the falls on Pigeon River. Practically from the beginning of the British regime in the fur trade until the opening years of the nineteenth century, Grand Portage was the great interior entrepot of the fur trade conducted by the Montreal merchants in the far Northwest." (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.74n).

4. Mackina, Mckina              There will then remain at Mackina 14 Barrels of Pork...

Vol.2,p.451(1804)

...acquaint you that Johnny is a prisoner at Mckina.

Vol.2,p.577(1807)

Mackinac, of which the above are variants, is derived from the Ojibwa Indian word michilimackinac, meaning island of the great turtle, or in other dialects, island of the giant fairies. (Gannett,op.cit.,p.195). Also see next citation.

5. Missilimakinac              ...Jno Askin Depy Commissary and Barrack Master of the Fort of Missilimakinac...

Vol.1,p.49(1773)

De Vere remarks that Michi- in Michillimackinac and Michigan is the same as Misi- in Mississippi and Missouri

(op.cit.,p.15). The usual spelling in the early Askin letters gives the name as Michillimackinac.

6. Ouisconsin                    he says his plan is to go to the  
                                 Ouisconsin, on or near the fox  
                                 River...                    Vol.2,p.196(1799)

This word comes to us from the Indian through the French (Krapp,op.cit.,vol.1,p.160).

7. Peach Island                ...respecting the lands at petite  
                                 Riviere above Peach Island...  
                                 Vol.2,p.122(1797)

The fact that the Peche River flows into Lake St. Clair near this island would lead us to believe that the Name has been corrupted from the French peche. (See John Askin Papers, vol.2,p.101).

8. petite Cote                 ...we left a Keg of pork behind 'till  
                                 we got to the petite Cote...  
                                 Vol.1,p.339(1790)

From the context of the letter in which this name appears we may infer that the petite Cote, little coast, referred to the east side of the Detroit River at Lake St. Clair.

9. Point Ebineau               ...resembling the Sugar Loaf at  
    Pointe a Bineau            Point Ebineau...  
    Point Ebona                   Vol.1,p.353(1790)

they were drove to Pointe a Bineau  
the next day...Vol.2,p.175(1798)

Point Ebona... Vol.2,p.211(1799)

This is modern Point Abino (See John Askin Papers,vol.1, p.353).

10. Point aux pins            ...the Carrying place from Point  
                                 aux pins to the River la Tranche...  
                                 Vol.1,p.416(1792)

11. Fresqu'isle                ...the island which is called  
                                 Fresqu'isle, or in our language  
                                 Liseskanake... Vol.1,p.174(1780)

This is a French phrase meaning "nearly an island", or

peninsula. (Gannett, *op.cit.*, p.253).

12. Saut St. Mary's                   ...who I'm told is gone to the Saut  
St. Mary's some time ago.  
Vol.1, p.125(1778)

An Anglicized form of the French Sault Ste. Marie, meaning "falls of Saint Mary". (Gannett, *ibid.*, p.278).

13. Swisserland                   France, Holland, Swisserland...  
combined against us.  
Vol.2, p.340(1801)

### NAMES OF RIVERS AND STREAMS

With few exceptions these names are directly from the Indian or French, indicating the extent of their influence on place naming in the northern stretch of country in a line from the St. Lawrence River to the Columbia. Krapp has some pertinent information on this point (*op.cit.*, vol.1, pp.179-183). The northwest country was, of course, no exception to the general rule expressed by Carlton that "a settlement usually takes its name from the person who first enters the land...Often it takes the name from the family first actually settling or owning the largest number of acres..." (New Purchase, p.86). For example, in the Askin Papers we find that Cox Creek derived its name from Thomas Cox who obtained in 1780 a grant of land beginning at that stream (vol.1, p.171-172n). At the time the letters were written, however, settlement had not gone so far that the names, given by the Indians and by the French missionaries and traders to prominent places, had been changed or replaced.

1. Gajahaga  
Cayahoga  
Cyahaughga  
Cayahaga

Gajahaga River July ye 14th 1788...  
Vol.1,p.280(1788)

...at the entrance of the Cayahoga  
River into Lake Erie...  
Vol.2,p.3(1790)

...our share of the Cyahaughga  
purchases at the price it cost...  
Vol.2,p.297(1800)

...300,000 Acres of Land near  
Cayahaga... Vol.2,p.433(1803)

Quaife notes that the Cuyahoga River was sometimes called the Grand River (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.238n). Discussing the derivation of the name of the Cuyahoga River, Gannett says, "The name is said by some to be derived from cayahaga, 'crooked' but Atwater derives it from cuyahogan-uk, 'lake river'. Another authority gives carrihoga, meaning 'news carrier'."

2. Grand Calamanuck  
Little Calamanuck

Arrived at Grand Calamanuck &  
afterwards at Little Calamanuck.  
Vol.1,p.333(1790)

Grand Calamanuck was the Big Calumet. (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.335n). For the origin of Calumet see note to Little Kenomuk, below.

3. Little Kenomuk

...by this pass its said to be three  
Leagues to Little Kenomuk...  
Vol.1,p.337(1790)

This was the Little Calumet River (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.337n). Calumet, Calamanuck, etc. are, according to Gannett, a corruption of the French chalemel, which literally means "little reed", but which, in its corrupted form, refers to the "pipe of peace" used by the Indians to ratify treaties. Haines derives the word from calamo, "honey wood". Other authorities say that the name was originally kennamick or kennomic. De Vere says calumet is from the French rather than the Indian, and means "pipe" (op.cit.,pp.30,100).

4. Grande Riviere  
Grande Rivire

Messrs Sans Chagrin & Chabouillez  
arrived from Grande Riviere.  
Vol.1,p.35(1775)

Messrs Chabouillez Caine and Mr  
Sans Chagrin Arrived from the Grande  
Riviere today. Vol.1,p.82(1774)

The Cuyahoga was often referred to as the Grand River  
(John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.288).

5. River Huron ...the Missionaries, now living on  
the River Huron...  
Vol.1,p.218(1788)

According to Quaife, the modern Clinton River was known  
a century ago as the Huron (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.218n).

6. Lake depiorias a moderate current from the river...  
to the entrance of Lake depiorias.  
Vol.1,p.338(1790)

This is modern Lake Peoria (John Askin Papers,vol.1,p.338n).

7. River Mazame ...came to the River Mazame or  
River Kualamazeau... Vol.1,p.333(1790)  
River Kekalemazeau  
...at the entrance from the  
Kekalemazeau or River Mazame...  
Vol.1,p.333(1790)

According to Gannett, Kalamazoo is derived from an Indian  
word, negikanamazo, meaning "otter tail".

8. River au Raisin ...Stope at the River au Raisin for  
River au Resin the Flour... Vol.1,p.589(1795)  
...bearing date at the River au  
Resin... Vol.2,p.448(1804)

Gannett says the Raisin River was so named on account of  
the number of grapes which formerly grew upon its banks.

9. River de Chemin ...to the River de Chemin where we  
arrived about 4 oClock.  
Vol.1,p.355(1790)

Modern Du Chemin River (John Askin Papers,vol.1,p.355n).

10. River Galline ...in about an hour we arrived at the  
River Galline...  
Vol.1,p.355(1790)

Modern Galien River (John Askin Papers, vol.1, p.585n).

11. River LaTrench ...Received the Freight Account for  
River la tranche you by way of the River LaTrench...  
Vol.2,p.143(1793)

...is bounded on the Last by the  
Carrying place from Point aux pins  
to the River la tranche...

According to the note by Quaife (ibid, vol.1,p.416n) this is the modern Thames River.

12. River Noir Arrived at the River Noir about 10  
oClock... Vol.1,p.353(1790)

This is now the Black River (ibid, vol.1, p.353n).

13. River St Josephs      Arrived at the River St Josephs  
late & camped. Vol.1,p.354(1790)

This is known today as the St. Joseph River (ibid, vol.1 p.354n). Gannett states that the St. Joseph River was named by the early French Catholic explorers for the husband of the Virgin Mary.

14. River Theakikie                      Pass'd the entrance of the River  
Theakikie about mid Day...  
Vol.1,p.333(1790)

Modern Kankakee River (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.358n). Pickering gives as typically American the custom of placing the word River after its identifying name rather than before as was the tradition in England (op.cit.,p.166). Examples 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13, and 14 in this section are excellent to show the earlier usage.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 15. Straits of Lake Erie | Eustache Gamelin, an inhabitant of the |
| Streights of Lake Erie   | Straits of Lake Erie...                |
|                          | Vol.1,p.27(1759)                       |

...Lands Situate lying or being on  
the Detroit or Streights of Lake  
Erie... Vol.2,p.530(1806)



NAMES OF VILLAGES, TOWNS AND CITIES

1. Brown's Villiage      we loaded & set off & got to the last  
island opposite Brown's Villiage  
Vol.1,p.340(1790)

This was on Brownstown Creek. Modern Brownstown gets  
its name thus. (John Askin Papers, vol.1,p.340n).

2. Chekago      I'm apprehensive he has not been able  
to get to Chekago...  
Vol.2,p.331(1809)

This is from the Ojibwa Indian word, she-kag-ong, mean-  
ing "wild onion place". (Gannett) Krapp records the spell-  
ing Chicaugo from the American Spelling Book, 1803 (op.cit.,  
vol.1,p.180).

3. Cincinate      ...I'm sure if he can sell his lands  
near Cincinate...  
Vol.2,p.340(1809)

4. Mauravian Town      ...who owes you 25 dollars at the  
Mauravian Town.Vol.2,p.214(1790)

This settlement was situated about two miles west of the  
present city of Mount Clemens (John Askin Papers, vol.1,  
pp.219n-220n).

5. Milwaukee      A Canoe of Mr St Pierres arrived from  
Milwaukee with Corn.  
Vol.1,p.32(1774)

Milwaukee is from the Indian word milioke meaning good  
earth(Gannett). Krapp shows an interesting evolution for this  
word. He has evidence for Melleeki, 1679; Millicki, 1679;  
Meleki, 1684; Milwarik, 1690; Milwecky, 1701; Milwakie, 1779;  
Milleweckie, 1817; Milwahkie, 1844; Milwaukee, 1844. (op.cit.,  
vol.1,p.182).

6. Mount Julliett      ...came to the Villiage of Mount  
Julliett... Vol.1,p.337(1790)

This is modern Mount Joliet (John Askin Papers, vol.1,  
p.337n).

7. Sagana      ...a little lower two bands of Indians  
from Sagana... Vol.1,p.350(1790)

According to Gannett, Saginaw is from an Ojibwa Indian word meaning "Sauk Place" referring to the Sauk or Sac Indians. Krapp has the spelling Sagunaw from the American Spelling Book, 1803 (op.cit., vol.1, p.180).

8. St Vincent

I really thought you lost when I heard you went to St Vincent.

Vol.1, p.70(1778)

Quaife thinks this to have referred to Vincennes, Indiana (John Askin Papers, vol.1, p.70n), but the name seems an unusual one to give a community so closely identified with the name Vincennes. Gannett states that it was named from the fort built there by Sieur de Vincennes.

### SURNAMES

With a few exceptions each of these groups demonstrates variant spellings of the same person's name. The tendency to Anglicize is apparent in such examples as Dopray for Duprat, Hoilette for Ouellet, Ray for Rhea, Eustler for Boerstler and Lisa for De Lisa. The influence of the French even upon good English names is discoverable in Allet for Elliott and Dobe for Dobie. That many of these variant spellings are indicative of pronunciations is obvious and will be considered more at length in the section on Pronunciation. The variants Clark for Clerk and Renac for Renelque are almost unquestionably direct evidence of the ways in which these names were pronounced. A general time limit for all is 1743 - 1820.

1. Ainse, Ainsse,  
Anis

...in account current with Sarah  
Anis. Vol.1, p.193(1781)

Mrs Ainsse went in a boat for the  
Grand Traverse...

Vol.1, p.50(1774)

...taken by Mr Ainse from Poi...  
Vol.1,p.127(1773)

2. Askin, Erskine

I observe you spell your name Erskine  
whereas my Father & myself have wrote  
our Askin... Vol.1,p.478(1793)

3. Berczy, Burggy

Your friend...Mr Burggy...is the only  
remains... Vol.1,p.69(1778)

Christian Berczy, a trader of  
Mackinac. Vol.1,p.69n(1778)

4. Chabouillez,  
Chaboillez

Messrs Chabouillez...Arrived from  
the Grande Riviere today.  
Vol.1,p.52(1774)

...and the remaining 50 Minots for  
Mr Chaboillez. Vol.1,p.91(1778)

5. Douw, Dow

...Appoint Volkert A Douw...my true  
& Lawfull Attorney...  
Vol.1,p.58(1773)

Mr Volkert Dow his bill of sale...  
Vol.1,p.59(1773)

6. McBeth, McBeath

I'm sorry to hear by Messrs McBeth  
& Rankin... Vol.1,p.80(1773)

...since which...Messrs McBeath &  
Rankin are arrived...  
Vol.1,p.83(1773)

7. Trambell, Trimble,  
Tremble, Tremblay

Mr Montague Trambell in account  
current... Vol.1,p.193(1781)

...between Montague Trimble & Leith  
& Shepherd... Vol.1,p.210(1785)

Mr Montague Tremble Marct Detroit  
Vol.1,p.211(1785)

...pays the claim of the said  
Tremblay heirs upon the land...  
Vol.1,p.317(1788)



...should said Viego's debt prove  
more or less. Vol.1,p.328(1789)

...the property that may be received  
from said Viego...  
Vol.1,p.329(1789)

16. Fraser, Frasser

James Fraser...gallery out of line.  
Vol.1,p.332(1791)

Mr Frasser is gon to Sandouskey...  
Vol.1,p.339(1791)

17. Frechet, Frichet,  
Fritchett

Mr Fritchett refused to admit the  
sweepers in his House.  
Vol.1,p.394(1791)

Rd Mr Frichet...the street opposite  
the Church... Vol.1,p.392(1791)

Revd Frechet...ready in the course of  
this week. Vol.1,p.376(1791)

18. Nantey, Nonety

Sold by me Afterwards to Frudhomme  
or Nantey. Vol.1,p.370(1790)

J. Nonety Vol.1,p.395(1791)

19. People, Peebles

Trustee to People & Wells  
Vol.1,p.48(1771)

Assignee to Peebles & Wells  
Vol.1,p.48(1771)

20. Morin, Moran

...and on the Northwest Side to Jean  
Baptiste Morins land...  
Vol.1,p.371(1791)

Jn Baptiste Moran, Trader.  
Vol.1,p.374(1791)

21. Monforton, Mumforton

I have put her at Mr Munforton's at  
present. Vol.1,p.107(1779)

Received of Mr. William Monforton  
the Lotts & Vents...  
Vol.1,p.168(1760)

22. McNiff, McNeiff

No 1 A Tract granted to Patrick

McNiff of Detroit.

Vol.1,p.557(1795)

To F. McNeiff Vol.1,p.580(1796)

23. Lamirand, Lamorand

I there hired Joseph La Mirand,  
another Engage...

Vol.1,p.339(1790)

Lamorand said he was to make the  
Voyage with him.Vol.1,p.357(1790)

24. Lafleur, Lafleaur

C. Lafleur Vol.1,p.379(1791)

Lafleaur...refused to let the  
chimney sweepers sweep...

Vol.1,p.395(1791)

25. Gibbeau, Gilbeau,  
Guilbau

Joseph guilbau Vol.1,p.256(1788)

...due by Joseph Gibbeau to the  
Company... Vol.1,p.329(1789)

...prevent the said Joseph Gilbeau  
from going... Vol.1,p.329(1789)

26. Fraro, Frerot

Mr Fraro...Prentise Boy. galloping  
through streets.

Vol.1,p.336(1791)

Fransois frerot

Vol.1,p.393(1791)

27. Anicratte, Anigrothe

Jean Anicratte Vol.2,p.321(1800)

...relict of the late Jean Anigrothe.  
Vol.2,p.323(1800)

28. Bacon, Baken

The Bearer hereof Mr Baken...

Vol.2,p.312(1800)

Mr Bacon's bill for schooling...

Vol.2,p.557(1801)

29. Beaubien, Bobien

Jn Marie Bobien claimed it as yours.

Vol.2,p.609(1808)

This happened three years ago that

Beaubien got the anchor.  
Vol.2,p.310(1803)

30. Withannesse,  
Whitanessa,  
Wittanessa  
Withannesse (totem)  
Vol.2,p.104(1797)  
The Chief Wittanessa of your place...  
Vol.2,p.206(1799)

...especially the two great chiefs  
Nangi & Whitanessa...  
Vol.2,p.381(1802)

31. True, Trew  
...after Capt True left this by  
mistake... Vol.2,p.584(1807)

Should Capt Trew visit you as he  
promised... Vol.2,p.593(1808)

32. Wicks, Weeks  
...prevented your meeting Mr Wicks  
at my House... Vol.2,p.480(1805)  
...take care that he does not neglect  
retaining Mr Weeks...  
Vol.2,p.502(1806)

33. Belletre, Belestre  
...granted by Belletre to Paul  
Gamelin... Vol.2,p.343(1801)  
...granted by Piquotee Belestre...  
Vol.2,p.531(1806)

34. Berthelet, Berthelot  
Messrs. Giasson & Berthelet...  
Vol.2,p.409(1805)  
Messrs. Gillespie, Pothier, Berthelot  
and many others...  
Vol.2,p.694(1811)

35. Traxellar, Trexeler  
...all which you will deliver Mr  
Traxellar. Vol.2,p.262(1799)  
...send up a canoe or two from Mr  
Trexelers... Vol.2,p.337(1801)

36. Thibault, Tesbeau  
...nor his half the packs I bot from  
Tesbeau... Vol.2,p.64(1796)

Joseph Thibault...

Vol.2,p.682(1811)

37. Tecumseh, Tecompse

The block house here Tecompse had set fire to... Vol.2,p.726(1812)

I wish we had Tecumseh here to help us out of all our difficulties.

Vol.2,p.786(1813)

38. Clench, Clinch

Ditto for Mr Clinch...

Vol.2,p.33(1798)

Mr Clench & Mr Swayze have therefor been returned...

Vol.2,p.202(1800)

39. Cottrel, Cotteral

...in favor of Mr G. Cottrel on the River St.Clair.Vol.2,p.356(1801)

...she has got married to Young Cotteral... Vol.2,p.676(1811)

40. Sinclair, Sinclear

...Messrs Sibley, Sinclair & Burnett... Vol.2,p.254(1799)

Capt Fleming Mr Burns & Mr Sinclear... Vol.2,p.376(1802)

41. Rough, Ruff, Reuff

...Mr. Reuff will be the first person who goes... Vol.2,p.434(1804)

Capt Rough as passing yesterday said... Vol.2,p.657(1810)

I'm sorry to hear that Capt Ruff passed... Vol.2,p.671(1811)

42. Daly, Daily, Dealy

Mr Daly...is I beleive very little better... Vol.2,p.149(1798)

One Mr Wm Daily has been here. Vol.2,p.189(1798)

John Askin to William Dealy. Vol.2,p.166(1798)



43. McCostrie, McCoskrey, I wrote Doctor McCroskey long since.  
McCroskey Vol.2,p.342(1801)
- Doctor McCoskrey in Camp on the  
borders of the Ohio...  
Vol.2,p.338(1801)
- ...answer Doctor McCostrie letter  
as soon as possible.  
Vol.2,p.337(1801)
44. Jerome, Gearome he is fitted out by Gearome...  
Vol.2,p.267(1799)
- that night I slept at Mr Jerome's...  
Vol.2,p.725(1812)
45. Hutchings, Hutchins I am Er Yr Very Obt Servt Wm  
Hutchings Vol.2,p.133(1798)
- Hutchins is down the Lake, Honey  
Hunting. Vol.2,p.217(1799)
46. Hembrow, Embro, John Hembro of Detroit...  
Hembro Vol.2,p.50(1798)
- John Hembrow & John Armstrong  
Vol.2,p.31(1798)
- Lease of a Farm on Cross Isle...to  
Jno Embro. Vol.2,p.77(1798)
47. Gilkison, Gilkinson I have however requested Captain  
Gilkison,... Vol.2,p.343(1801)
- I hear Captain Gilkinson is like to  
get... Vol.2,p.551(1807)
48. Fry, Frey Capt Fry a half pay Officer...  
Vol.2,p.736(1812)
- ...taken by Mr Frey...  
Vol.2,p.523(1801)
49. Droulliart, Simon Droulliart fils  
Droulliard Vol.2,p.322(1800)
- Simon Droulliart  
Vol.2,p.322(1800)

The surnames in the list following are given without citations. They are noted by Queife in editing the manuscripts, but have not been used in all their forms in the various letters. The form generally followed throughout this paper is dropped here necessarily.

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 50. Ancrum, Ancram   | 68. Field, Fields                    |
| 51. Antaya, Antailla   | 69. Gautier, Gotiez                  |
| 52. Picote, Fiquotee   | 70. Lunot, Lunault, Lunaud           |
| 53. Bostwick, Bastewick  | 71. Irvin, Irvine, Erwin             |
| 54. Boyer, Boyez   | 72. Joubert, Jober                   |
| 55. Cauchois, Couchoit   | 73. Lacelle, Laselle                 |
| 56. Champagne, Champaigne  | 74. La Vallee, Valle                 |
| 57. Chaput, Chapu  | 75. Lefebvre, Lafevre                |
| 58. Christie, Christy  | 76. Lewen, Lewin                     |
| 59. Cicotte, Chiquot, Cicot,<br>Sicotte                                    | 77. Lyon, Lyons                      |
| 60. Clerfayt, Clairfait  | 78. McDonell, McDonald               |
| 61. Coon, Kuhn   | 79. McDougall, McDugall              |
| 62. Cote, Cotie  | 80. McKenzie, McKinzee               |
| 63. Cottrell, Cotterell<br>Cottrill, Holfer<br>(see also Number 39, supra) | 81. Lanette, Monette                 |
| 64. Duggan, Dugan  | 82. Morris, Morrice                  |
| 65. Duguay, Dugay  | 83. Madin, Nodisne                   |
| 66. Duluth, Dulude   | 84. Ouellet, Hoilette                |
| 67. Duprat, Dupre, Dupras,<br>Dopray                                       | 85. Fatterson, Fattinson<br>Fattison |
|  | 86. Ferreault, Ferrot                |

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 87. Rhea, Rhe, Ray                    | 111. Couvillon, Couvillion                                |
| 88. Roi, Roy                          | 112. Creti, Creety, Crequi                                |
| 89. Ryley, Reyly                      | 113. Cruickshank, Cruckshank,<br>Crookshank               |
| 90. Saguinot, Seguinette              | 114. Lickson, Dixon                                       |
| 91. St. Cir, Cire                     | 115. Dobie, Dobe  |
| 92. St.Pierre, St.Peter               | 116. Drouillard, Droulliard(See also<br>Number 49, supra) |
| 93. Shepherd, Sheppard                | 117. Dumouchel, Demouchell,<br>Desmouchell, Dimouchelle   |
| 94. Smith, Smythe                     | 118. Durette, Duret, Durett                               |
| 95. Souzande, Soumonde                | 119. Dusault, Dusat, Duseu                                |
| 96. Thibault, Thebeault               | 120. Elliott, Allet                                       |
| 97. Thierry, Theroy                   | 121. Field, Fields  |
| 98. Young, Jung                       | 122. Findley, Findlay                                     |
| 99. Beaubien, Bobien                  | 123. Galerneau, Salerno                                   |
| 100. Beaugrand, Baugran               | 124. Gaillard, Galliard,<br>Gailliard                     |
| 101. Bellanger, Bellange              | 125. Giasson, Giassen, Geasson                            |
| 102. Benalque, Benac                  | 126. Graeter, Cratier, Greater,<br>Grettor                |
| 103. Billet, Billiet                  | 127. Grumett, Grummond, Grumut,<br>Grument                |
| 104. Bineau, Beneau                   | 128. Hathaway, Hightaway                                  |
| 105. Bleakley, Blakeley               | 129. Jacob, Jacobs  |
| 106. Boerstler, Bustler               | 130. Lauzon, Lauson                                       |
| 107. Campau, Campeau                  | 131. Leith, Leath   |
| 108. Chabert, Shabert                 | 132. De Lisa, Lisa  |
| 109. Chénicuy, Chennequy,<br>Chiniquy | 133. Loranger, Lorange                                    |
| 110. Clerk, Clerks, Clark             | 134. Lowrie, Lawrie                                       |

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 135. McKay, Mackay, McKee     | 139. Kuland, Kulund                                |
| 136. McQueen, McGuin, Laguire | 140. Saint Cerny, Cencirnie                        |
| 137. Maillet, Mayez           | 141. Shears, Spears                                |
| 138. Robison, Robertson       | 142. Vesina, Vessine, Vesinet,<br>Vezina, Viscenau |
| 143. Wiswell, Wisewell        |  |

### GIVEN NAMES

Krapp remarks that it was extremely rare in the seventeenth and eighteenth century in this country for a person to have more than one given name (op.cit.,vol.1,p.212). He could not, as Quaipe and other historians of the early Northwest would testify, have been referring to the French settlements around the Great Lakes. The editor of the Askin Papers declares the "...the residents of French Detroit commonly possessed, in addition to the inherited surname, a nickname; more rarely a citizen might possess two nicknames; and frequently he was better known by his nickname than by his inherited name." (John Askin Papers,vol.1,p.20). These nicknames have largely been omitted here, for the custom ceased as soon as any variation which might interest us put in its appearance. We need do no more, then, than mention the circumstance as noteworthy in the history of personal names in this country.

Included here, along with variant spellings of given names, are a number of so-called "pet" names such as Nelly for Eleanor, Alice for Adelaide, and Sally for Sarah. The manner of presentation has been varied somewhat in the matter of citations.

1. Francois, Francis      Francois frerot (for Jean Francis  
Frerot)      Vol.1,p.393(1791)
  
2. Josiah, Joseph      ...a certain negroe man...called  
Josiah Cutton...  
Vol.1,p.203(1793)
  
- ...a negro man...Nemed Joseph  
Cotton...      Vol.1,p.410(1792)
  
3. Sarah, Sally      ...in account current with Sarah  
Anis...      Vol.1,p.193(1791)
  
- ...are made out for Sally Ainse...  
Vol.2,p.101(1797)
  
4. Louisen, Louis      Young Mr Barth, LeVoine & Louisen  
are all well. (for Louis Theophile  
Barthe)      Vol.1,p.77(1778)
  
5. Adelaide, Alice      I hope Alice is taking my place...  
(for Adelaide Askin)  
Vol.2,p.112(1797)
  
6. Jean, Johnny      ...take one good days play with our  
Alex & Johnny Askin. (for Jean  
Askin)      Vol.2,p.373(1802)
  
7. Felicity, Phyllis      I had a daughter came up from  
Montreal last Spring the age of  
Phyllis. (for Mary Felicity  
Barthe)      Vol.1,p.77(1778)
  
8. Joseph, John      Joseph Burrill (or John Burrill)  
Vol.1,p.394(1791)
  
9. Daniel, Donald      Daniel Fields family...  
Vol.1,p.382(1793)
  
- Captain Donald Fields  
Vol.1,p.582n(1793)
  
10. Genevieve,  
    Geneveva      Genevieve Cuillerier dit Beaubien...  
Vol.1,p.74n(1778)
  
- Geneveva Gaultier, a native of  
Quebec.      Vol.1,p.363n(1790)

11. John, Jehu John Askin to John (Jehu) Hay at Detroit...(for Lt. Governor Jehu Hay) Vol.1,p.27(1772)
12. Mary, Molly Ann Mary (Molly) asks me to write you...(Molly, a Moravian Indian) Vol.2,p.333(1801)
13. Ellen, Nelly ...happy to find that Nelly is so well provided for. (for Ellen Ihyllis Askin) Vol.2,p.604(1803)
14. Frisque, Priscus Frisque Cote (Priscus noted by Quaife). Vol.2,p.635n(1811)
15. Margaret, Margarethe Margarethe Little (noted for Margaret Little) Vol.2,p.716n(1794)
16. Ann, Nancy ...as a circumstantial account of Nancy Grants elopement...(for Ann Grant) Vol.2,p.675(1811)
17. Eleanor, Ellen, Nelly ...where I had gone to accompany Nelly Grant. (Ellen noted by Quaife; both for Eleanor Grant) Vol.2,p.697(1811)
18. Jean, Johnny Johnny Grant tells us that Everything is in the Best Order...(for Jean Grant) Vol.2,p.373(1802)
19. Regis, Registre Regis Loisel (or Registre Loisel) Vol.2,p.177n(1799)
20. Ludwig, Lodwick ...he has entrusted a few Goods to Lodwick,... Vol.2,p.137(1799)  
  
It is the same now with Ludwig. Vol.2,p.333(1801)
21. Margaret, Peggy Margaret(Peggy) Welch. (Noted by Quaife) Vol.2,p.203n(1803)
22. Bryce, Brice We were told by Mr Brice Woods... (for Bryce Woods) Vol.2,p.773(1813)

CHAPTER IV

Inflection and Syntax

This division of the study of the Askin Papers has a very simple reason for existence, namely, to show how grammar was treated at the time the letters were written. Anyone interested in the development of our language would also be interested in the answers to such questions as: Were the same rules violated then as now? What laws were in effect at that time which have no place in our English books today? Does the manner of expression in the Papers show a greater or a less respect for grammar? While our material is not extensive enough to permit us to make any proper generalizations, we may say that the most common errors of today were current in Askin's time. The greatest difficulty, then as now, seemed to be with verb and pronoun. Seen for saw, was for were, them for they were fully as prevalent in the written expression of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as they are familiar to the long-suffering school teachers of the twentieth. There did seem to exist, however, a greater respect for

grammar at that time than at this. John Askin himself was not a highly educated man, but even a well-educated one, nor were many of his correspondents, yet they appeared to make a conscious effort to follow the best models they knew. Their communications had little of the terse, slangy style affected by contemporary business men, of which the following authentic letter is an excellent example:

June 5, \_\_\_\_

Pittsburg Company,  
City.

Dear Sir:

Yrs. of 2nd re cement rcd. Racket not to good. No chance at Springer job. Got 50 on hand & no dump in sight. Why not give Hardy a try? Advise me.

M. K. Moore, Rep.

Askin's letters, if less direct, at least maintained a higher level of business dignity and of respect for the recipients of his correspondence. To be more definite, the Askin Papers may be said to show great care in the treatment of the subjunctive and in using the possessive with gerunds. Most of the writers represented made an attempt to give their proper places to



shall and will and to compare adjectives and adverbs correctly. They did confuse adjectives and adverbs as well as the singular and plural of nouns. The double negative was almost non-existent, only one example being recorded. Customs which they followed, and which exist no more today, included the employment of to be as an auxiliary with most verbs of motion, is gone for has gone; peculiar use of the preposition of with certain verbs, accept of; care in the treatment of the subjunctive, "If what he says be true,..."; and the frequent omission of the preposition, "...Charge him (for) his". All this will become more apparent with an examination of the material below.

#### ADJECTIVES USED FOR ADVERBS

The tendency of the common speech to employ adjectives for adverbs is traced back as far as the early Middle English period by Mencken (op.cit.,1st.ed.,p.220) when the Anglo-Saxon -e ending for adverbs was sloughed off and the -lice ending alone was permitted to continue its development into the present form, -ly. "The result of this movement toward identity in form", states Mencken, "was a confusion between the two classes of words, and from the time of Chaucer down to the eighteenth century one finds innumerable instances of the use of the simple adjective as an adverb...Even after the purists of the eighteenth century began their corrective

work this confusion continued." In the American hinterland, we might add after a glance at our numerous examples, the practice continued even while the purists were most vigorous in their attacks.

1. near                   ...a scarcity of money and near  
double the sum owing us from above...  
Vol.1,p.235(1786)
2. clear                 ...but I begin to see clear that no  
one will suffer by me...  
Vol.2,p.395(1803)
3. easy                 The matter is easy done...  
Vol.2,p.427(1804)
4. faithfull           ...he obliges himself...to work  
faithfull whither on a voyage or  
otherwise employed.  
Vol.1,p.51(1774)
5. heavy               ...the Island being to heavy timbered...  
Vol.1,p.219(1786)
6. impartial           we are fully persuaded to believe,  
that he will act impartial and do  
Us justice.       Vol.1,p.223(1786)
7. imperfect           But I trust you will excuse me and  
Understand what I mean tho it may be  
imperfect wrote.  
Vol.1,p.240(1786)
8. rare                ...such accumulation of disappoint-  
ments cannot happen but very rare.  
Vol.2,p.258(1799)
9. safe                I hope this will find you safe  
arrived...       Vol.2,p.280(1800)
10. serious            when you think serious you'l join  
me.               Vol.2,p.499(1805)
11. tolerable          ...3 people are now building tolerable  
good ones.       Vol.1,p.69(1773)

Thank God I enjoy tolerable good  
health... Vol.2,p.293(1800)

...the number of new houses and then  
tolerable good ones...  
Vol.2,p.497(1805)

### COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

Properest was the only violation of the rules of forming  
superlatives which was discovered, although some leeway is per-  
mitted by grammarians in the comparison of words of two syllables  
with respect to euphony.

1. properest                      ...and it may be the properest time  
to sell... Vol.1,p.236(1736)
- I will look out for the properest  
person... Vol.2,p.598(1803)

### USE OF ADVERBS

The employment of above as an adverb, while still recognized  
by the authorities in the sense of "surpassing in number or  
quantity", is seldom found today.

1. above                      ...has been driving backward and  
forward for above three weeks...  
Vol.1,p.54(1774)
- ...on the way from La Baye here with  
above two hundred warriors...  
Vol.1,p.139(1778)
- they said they have not yet made  
above Seven Miles of the Road.  
Vol.1,p.225(1736)

### CONJUNCTIONS

1. as                      ...but I am not able to do more as  
I did. Vol.2,p.336(1801)

1. which ...the number of persons which will have to be victualled here...  
Vol.1,p.121(1778)

2. who ...I think were recommended to me  
by Capt Montigny, as men who  
volunterily served at fort mianis,  
who was going to be attack'd.  
Vol.2,p.246(1799)

3. who By the Charlotte who I expect every  
hour he certainly will go...  
Vol.2,p.342(1801)

4. whom ...there is only three remaining  
shares the proprietors of whom are  
on the Spott. Vol.2,p.320(1800)

## "WHAT" AS A RELATIVE PRONOUN

1. what ...having filled all what I have...  
Vol.1,p.217(1796)

...how to get time to do all what  
belongs to my business...  
Vol.2,p.526(1801)

### INSTANCES OF THE OMISSION OF THE RELATIVE

1. but (that) ...ther is little fear but our  
settlement will End...  
Vol.2,p.267(1800)

It is not unlikely but I may send  
down the Saguinah early.  
Vol.2,p.586(1803)

2. (who) I had a daughter came up from

Montreal last Spring the age of  
Phyllis. Vol.1,p.77(1778)

VERB PHRASES, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONTAINING  
PECULIAR USES OF THE PREPOSITION

Tucker says the use of of after a verb of sensation is  
not an Americanism (op.cit.,p.159).

1. accept of ...sends a few Paccans which she  
begs her Dear Mother will accept  
of... Vol.2,p.115(1797)  
  
...I should think he would accept  
of the offer. Vol.2,p.318(1800)
  2. accepted of ...If my proposals are accepted of.  
Vol.2,p.197(1799)  
  
...Capt McKees resignation was  
accepted of... Vol.2,p.548(1800)
  3. advising off ...which I admitted advising you  
off... Vol.1,p.127(1778)
  4. a Drawing off I have this Spring got about five  
barrells of spirits up which is now  
a drawing off...  
Vol.1,p.109(1773)
  5. anchored off ...we went ashore and anchored off...  
Vol.2,p.716(1812)
  6. a talking of ...Respecting what we were a talk-  
ing of... Vol.2,p.133(1798)
- The use of a as a prefix, found in this example and in  
Number four, are said by Mencken to be due to Irish influence  
(op.cit.,p.107).
7. wold got I Expected you wold got the last  
Packs that went in...  
Vol.1,p.210(1785)

USE OF "SHOULD" FOR THE INFINITIVE

1. should

I dont want there should be any  
complaints about these matters.  
Vol.1,p.180(1778)

...that you wished they should add  
some Corn more...  
Vol.2,p.326(1801)

Tucker says this is an Americanism (op.cit.,p.300).  
He has a citation for 1833.

USE OF "SHALL" AND "SHOULD"

While the correct use of shall and will is not without exception in the Askin Papers, the simple rule of employing the former with the first person and the latter with the others is respected remarkably well. Indeed, it would have been no less than astonishing had we found a perfect use of the two auxiliaries in these documents, for, as Krapp remarks, "If one looks to practice, especially to colloquial practice, one finds that at no time or in no place has usage been as definitely organized with respect to shall and will as the prescriptions of the grammarians require." (op.cit.,vol.2,p.265). Mencken wastes no words in condemning the whole business of making fine distinctions between the two (op.cit.,pp.173-179). The few examples below have been selected because they show something of the care with which the rule was observed.

1. shall

I'm sure he shall not without my  
consent & I dare say he will not  
without. Vol.1,p.127(1778)

I shall therefore...say nothing on  
politicks. Vol.2,p.211(1799)

what my plans and intentions are you shall know in good time.

Vol.2,p.210(1799)

2. shant

...I Shant take upon me to say...

Vol.2,p.224(1799)

3. should

...I fully Expected I should have ere this had the pleasure...

Vol.2,p.210(1799)

...yet no profit should induce me to undertake anything...

Vol.1,p.127(1778)

On the other hand, we find some abuses of the principle within a few pages of one another. Some of these are in John Askin's own letters.

4. will

We will be happy to see you.

Vol.2,p.204(1799)

The Smith's tools...I will have occasion for...Vol.2,p.203(1799)

5. would

I would advise you to accept of his offer...

Vol.2,p.205(1799)

I would be Sorry to Loose him...

Vol.2,p.204(1799)

### USE OF THE SUBJUNCTIVE

Mencken states that all forms of the subjunctive are disappearing (op.cit.,pp.286-289). Indeed anyone observing the speech habits of Americans at the present time could not well deny this. There was in Askin's time, however, a greater respect for the subjunctive mood than exists today, despite the fact that corruption had set in to a certain extent.

1. be

If what he says be true, I think it

a hardship. Vol.1,p.180(1773)

2. were ...and were I in circumstance more opulent, there should be but very little altercation...  
Vol.2,p.288(1800)

But we find also:

3. was It would make me a very happy man  
was it in my power...  
Vol.2,p.292(1800)

### SINGULAR VERB FOR PLURAL

Several tendencies are discernible here. One is a tendency to use a singular form of to be with there, as in the phrase there is or there was. Another is the habit of ignoring the plural demands of the singular pronoun you, as in you was for you were. Finally we note a tendency to use a singular verb with a compound subject, as in Mr. Jones and I was. The other cases are simply a matter of ignoring the plural form of the subject.

1. was same day the first Wild Ducks was  
brought to the Fort.  
Vol.1,p.50(1774)

I am very sorry that you was disappointed... Vol.1,p.239(1786)

...regretted that you was not here.  
Vol.2,p.300(1806)

Krapp says the use of was with the subject you, referring to one person was proper in the 18th century (op.cit.,vol.2, p.261).

2. has Mrs Henry & my daughter Julia has  
enjoyed uncommon Health.  
Vol.2,p.782(1815)



- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 3. returns | Madelaide & myself returns thanks...<br>Vol.2,p.573(1807)  |
| 4. dines   | Mr Baby and I dines with them...<br>Mr Baby and I expects to leave...<br>Vol.2,p.234(1799)   |
| 5. is      | There is some notes &ca I got in<br>payment... Vol.2,p.284(1800)<br><br>...there is some fence rails in<br>the bargain. Vol.2,p.261(1799)<br><br>My liquors that's coming up this<br>Spring... Vol.1,p.125(1778) |
| 6. turns   | We see how many things turns out<br>for the best...Vol.2,p.663(1810)   |
| 7. do's    | ...if the Agents of Mr Wm Robertson<br>do's not come forth...<br>Vol.2,p.486(1805)   |
| 8. dreads  | ...all the letters from below dreads<br>a war. Vol.2,p.602(1803)   |

## "TO BE" AS AN AUXILIARY VERB

The use of "to be" with verbs indicating motion or change of state was strictly according to rule in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Pickering mentions the objections of a British critic to the American use of "to have" with the verb "arrive", and says English grammars do give the rule for the auxiliary as the critic contends (op.cit.,p.37). The principle seems to produce surprising results when "to be" is used as an auxiliary with "to be" as in the tenth example where we find were been, although perhaps it is no more peculiar than had had or have had.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. are arrived       | The few traders who are arrived...<br>Vol.2,p.418(1804)   |
| 2. is arrived        | ...he is not yet arrived here...<br>Vol.1,p.88(1778)  |
| 3. are got           | I'm glad you are once more got to<br>a part of the world where your<br>friends can hear from you.<br>Vol.1,p.70(1778) |
|                      | I hope ere this you are got to York...<br>Vol.2,p.300(1800)   |
| 4. are risen         | The fees on lands are risen to a<br>shilling... Vol.2,p.234(1793)   |
| 5. are sett off      | One party...are sett off for<br>Montreal... Vol.1,p.108(1778)   |
| 6. is come           | ...I shall let you know exactly<br>what Rum & Spirits is come for me...<br>Vol.1,p.126(1778)                          |
|                      | The August packet is come in...<br>Vol.2,p.458(1803)  |
| 7. is Gon in         | You have as God a Right to what is<br>Gon in as the Rest...<br>Vol.1,p.210(1783)                                      |
| 8. is gone           | who I'm told is gone to the Saut<br>St Marys... Vol.1,p.128(1778)   |
| 9. was sail'd        | ...am sorry that the Sagannah was<br>sail'd before their arrival...<br>Vol.2,p.288(1799)                              |
| 10. were been        | We were also been with Mr. Fitt...<br>Vol.1,p.408(1792)   |
| 11. will be returned | As I expect you will be returned to<br>Montreal by the time this gets<br>down... Vol.1,p.138(1778)                    |

PRESENT TENSE USED FOR PAST

The present tense seems to be gradually displacing all

other tense forms in popular English. This is apparent most of all, of course, in our spoken language. There are many instances of this trend; whether or not they are sufficient to establish our first generalization is a matter for argument. Mencken has evidence to show that the American prefers a present form to any of the perfect forms (op.cit., pp.283-284). He mentions also the habit of giving "whole narratives in a sort of debased historical present" (ibid., p.280). The citations from the Askin Papers serve to show that this breaking down of inflections is not a matter of recent date, but has been continuing throughout the history of the language.

1. come                                   ...not having heard from there since  
I come down... Vol.2, p.317(1801)
2. run                                   ...the River...increased in water &  
run in large Turnings...  
Vol.1, p.350(1790)
3. see                                   While I was at the Springs I daily  
see James... Vol.2, p.296(1800)

Pickering remarks that the use of see for saw was current practice in New England but was unknown among English authors (op.cit., p.171).

#### PAST PARTICIPLE FOR SIMPLE PAST

1. seen                                   ...Mr Pattinson tells me...he seen  
a man... Vol.2, p.499(1805)

Bartlett has this for another Americanism (op.cit., p.393) but Tucker gives evidence that it was a Sussex vulgarism (op.cit., p.181). (Also see Krapp, op.cit., vol.2, p.258).

2. sowrn (sworn)                       ...took umbrage at Gross Point...  
and cursed and sowrn...  
Vol.2, p.330(1803)

## VARIOUS FORMS OF THE SIMPLE PAST

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 1. blemt   | I'm sure I never blent you for it...<br>Vol.1,p.126(1778)  |
| 2. come    | ...not having heard from there since<br>I come down... Vol.2,p.327(1801)   |
| 3. gaven   | ...a letter from Capt Felkenton to<br>Capt Cowan gaven a healthy account<br>of Capt Meredith...<br>Vol.2,p.333(1803) |
| 4. run     | ...the River...increased in Water &<br>run in large Turnings...<br>Vol.1,p.250(1790)                                 |
| 5. sleep'd | the Wind...detained us all day...<br>sleep'd there. Vol.1,p.340(1790)  |

## VARIOUS FORMS OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE

The first thing noticed in a survey of the examples under this heading is the overwhelming number of preterite forms used for the participle. There are a few presents and a few instances of variant spelling, but fully two-thirds are preterites. Moncken has much to say on this point. "Whatever the true cause of the substitution of the preterite for the perfect participle", he declares, "it seems to be a tendency inherent in English,..." (op.cit.,p.285).

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1. builded | ...vessell shall be builded of white oak...<br>Vol.2,p.132(1798)                        |
| 2. choose  | The things from England are really well choose & please me much...<br>Vol.1,p.142(1778) |
| 3. drove   | I hope...they will never be so hard drove...<br>Vol.2,p.356(1803)                       |

...owing to the vessell being drove  
back by a hard gale...

Vol.1, p.69(1773)

...that he will not be drove to any-  
thing...

Vol.2, p.427(1804)

4. eat

...but they must all have been eat  
by him...

Vol.2, p.370(1807)

5. gave

...& be much better pleased than to  
see them gave for bad debts.

Vol.1, p.483(1793)

...the Above is a true Copy of a  
lower of Attorney gave me by my  
Father...

Vol.1, p.83(1773)

...Mrs Grant having gave her cloak  
to Mother, I will get that.

Vol.2, p.333(1807)

Although Mencken says Lardner used gave for the past  
participle of to give in his "all-American" stories, he him-  
self believes give to be the ordinary usage. (ibid, p.253).  
Lardner's idea seems to be more in accord with older custom  
as shown above.

6. meet

...I'm told no better Land can be  
meet with.

Vol.2, p.17(1793)

7. began

I have even began to make a tolerable  
good house...

Vol.1, p.73(1773)

8. shewed

I have shewed him your letter...

Vol.2, p.403(1804)

9. shewn

Mr Askia has shewn us the different  
letters...

Vol.2, p.439(1805)

10. spoke

I have spoke to my Uncle...

Vol.2, p.529(1806)

Various times I have spoke to Mr R  
on the business...

Vol.2, p.263(1799)

11. tempt

I'm tempt now to write from the

good opportunity...

Vol.2,p.468(1805)

12. went

I did not know before today that my  
canoes was to have went to St Mary's...

Vol.1,p.138(1778)

13. wrote

I have wrote Mr Brush...

Vol.2,p.515(1806)

I have wrote Mr Steadman...

Vol.1,p.128(1778)

...tho it may be imperfect wrote.

Vol.1,p.240(1788)

...in answer to one that you intended  
to have wrote me...

Vol.1,p.88(1778)

I'm in great hopes from what Major  
De Peyster has wrote Lt Governor  
Hamilton...

Vol.1,p.110(1778)

Krapp cites writnd for written for 1879(op.cit.,vol.2,  
p.259).

14. heared

...after you have heared what I have  
to say.

Vol.2,p.144(1798)

According to Mencken, this is a matter of convenience--  
to eliminate a vowel change--supported by analogy to feared,  
steered, and cheered. (op.cit.,pp.277-278).

15. Sitwate

...a Lot of Ground Sitwate in the  
fort...

Vol.1,p.614(1793)

This use of the verb is not irregular in legal documents.  
It is an old participial form.

16. drank

...and part of the Syrup of Punch  
is drank...

Vol.2,p.217(1799)

17. learnt

...not having learnt that anything  
has been concluded...

Vol.2,p.439(1804)

18. sot

It was indeed lucky for us that we

were sot ashore...

Vol.1,p.247(1736)

Bartlett gives this (op.cit.,p.429). Thornton has sot for set, set, and states that it was originally English, often quoted for a Cockneyism. His first citation is 1776 (op.cit., vol.2,p.831-832).

19. Stocl

...I was afeard he was Stocl...

Vol.1,p.248(1736)

20. taked

I am quite at a loss to believe that Such regulations have taked place in Council...

Vol.2,p.246(1799)

21. throwen

...theire friendship & civilities is not throwen away on an ungrateful Person.

Vol.1,p.321(1739)

The analagous case of known is now fairly common in the Middle West.

#### "OF" AFTER A GERUND

1. doing of

...a very extraordinary way of doing of business...

Vol.1,p.133(1773)

Bartlett says the use of of after a gerund or participle is an Americanism citing this same expression, doing of it (op.cit.,p.300). But Tucker refutes the allegation with a quotation from Donne's Sermons (1631). (op.cit.,p.159).

#### USE OF POSSESSIVE WITH THE GERUND

With very few exceptions the possessive was used throughout the Askin Papers with the gerund.

1. his going

...respecting his going into the North...

Vol.1,p.127(1773)

2. his having come

...owing to his not having come up here.

Vol.2,p.46(1796)

3. their being

...owing to their not being located.

Vol.2,p.300(1800)

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 4. their comeing    | ...prevents their comeing by several days... Vol.1,p.126(1778) |
| 5. your having paid | ...did not mention your having paid him... Vol.2,p.391(1803)   |

#### EMPLOYMENT OF AN ARTICLE WITH THE GERUND

This construction was common in Early Modern English.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. the getting | I am much obliged to you for your information respecting the getting a tenant for the Salt Spring. Vol.2,p.228(1799) |
| 2. the having  | ...what pleases me most is the having it in my power to furnish the gentlemen... Vol.1,p.126(1778)                   |

#### THE DOUBLE NEGATIVE

Mencken has a strong defense of the double negative (op.cit.,p.310).

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1. nor no | The Detroit treasury nor no other... having any money. Vol.2,p.500(1803) |
|-----------|--|

#### PLURAL NOUN FOR THE SINGULAR

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 1. peoples | I have inquired of some peoples who well know the situation... Vol.2,p.258(1799) |
|------------|--|

For confusions in number of nouns see Mencken,op.cit., p.308.

#### SINGULAR NOUN FOR THE PLURAL

This is much more frequent in the common speech than the reverse situation. It is so frequent, indeed, that it tends to make some plurals the same as the singular, as in the case of stone, the measure of weight, which is universally where



used the same in both numbers.

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1. foot   | ...it rose 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ foot perpendicular...<br>Vol.1,p.93(1774)                                 |
| 2. load   | ...send me the three canoe load of<br>rum.<br>Vol.1,p.101(1773)                                      |
| 3. plank  | I thought perhaps you might set them<br>Sawing some plank or boards.<br>Vol.1,p.239(1736)            |
| 4. stand  | ...there were 32ps of cannon in all<br>and about 2900 stand of arms.<br>Vol.2,p.719(1812)            |
| 5. Storry | I have even began to make a tolerable<br>good house two Storry high.<br>Vol.1,p.78(1778)             |
| 6. pound  | ...for and in consideration of the<br>Sum of Thirty-two pound, ten shillings...<br>Vol.1,p.284(1735) |

## USE OF PLURAL ADJECTIVE WITH THE SINGULAR NOUN

1. these                      you will no doubt receive...an Invoice  
of these Sail Cloath Cordage...  
Vol.2,p.45(1796)

## USE OF SINGULAR ADJECTIVE FOR THE PLURAL

1. this                    have been laid up this five weeks  
Vol.2,p.594(1803)

OMISSION OF "TO BE"

1. (to be) ...and the seizing officer dismissed the service... Vol.2,p.515(1806)

Pickering remarks about this in his Vocabulary giving the example, "this is ordred (-----) delivred". He says Witherspoon objected to the omission. (op.cit., p.47).

### OMISSION OF THE PREPOSITION

1. delivered him ...his packs are to be sent down...  
but not delivered him...  
Vol.1,p.153(1773)

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2. dismissed the  | ...and the seizing officer dismissed the service... Vol.2,p.515(1806)   |
| 3. him his        | ...Already desired me to charge him his. Vol.1,p.128(1778)              |
| 4. advice what's  | ...and take your advice what's best to be done. Vol.2,p.301(1800)       |
| 5. delivered you  | This will be delivered you by Capt Robertson... Vol.1,p.80(1778)        |
| 6. it you         | I sent it you by this opportunity. Vol.1,p.80(1778)                     |
| 7. acquainted how | ...you will be acquainted how badly they are founded. Vol.2,p.179(1799) |

USES OF PREPOSITIONS--END OF SENTENCE, SUPERFLUOUS, ETC.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Contracted for | ...I could not bring down the Timber I had Contracted for. Vol.2,p.224(1799)              |
| 2. deliberate on  | They seem to have matters of more consequence to them to deliberate on. Vol.2,p.513(1806) |
| 3. disposed off   | ...I was obliged to take in things I have not yet disposed off. Vol.2,p.219(1799)         |
| 4. for to hire    | but left perfectly open and separate for to hire anyone... Vol.2,p.409(1804)              |
| 5. meet with      | ...my best Compts to such of my acquaintances as you may meet with. Vol.2,p.228(1799)     |
| 6. thank you for  | ...in return to your's, which I thank you for. Vol.1,p.134(1778)                          |
| 7. pay with       | He had nothing at present to pay with. Vol.2,p.335(1800)                                  |
| 8. amongst        | However, you shall be amongst the   |

Just I think of.

Vol.2,p.516(1806)

### USE OF REFLEXIVE FOR THE PERSONAL PRONOUN

The American manner of regarding -self not as an adjective but as a noun goes back to Anglo-Saxon times, according to Mencken, at the time when both adjectives and nouns were losing their old inflections (op.cit.,p.303). Of our present treatment of this form Mencken says, "In general the American vulgate makes extensive use of the reflexive. It is constantly thrown in for good measure, as in 'I overeat myself', and it is as constantly used as a personal pronoun, as in 'self and wife'". (op.cit.,p.303). We find an example of each of these misuses below.

1. myself

Madelain & myself returns thanks...  
Vol.2,p.573(1807)

2. self

Thank God my family and self enjoy  
good health... Vol.2,p.498(1805)

### CONFUSION OF CASES IN RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Mencken says of whom, "...in the main the American language tends to dispense with it, at least in the less graceful situations". He adds that Noah Webster denounced it in 1783. (op.cit.,pp.179-180) The distinction between who and whom was certainly ignored gracefully in the Askin Papers.

1. who

Mr Hands of Sandwich who you have  
known... Vol.2,p.369(1801)

...as to take the lead and put in  
who they please...

Vol.2,p.300(1800)

to Mr Brush who I have seen today...  
Vol.2,p.404(1804)

2. whoever

...when authorized by whoever may be  
appointed. Vol.2,p.391(1805)

...give every assistance in his power  
to whoever may so...  
Vol.2,p.313(1800)

...will be disliked by whoever you  
may charge it to...  
Vol.2,p.247(1799)

CONFUSION OF CASES IN PERSONAL PRONOUNS

1. them

...the number of new houses and them  
tolerable good ones...  
Vol.2,p.497(1805)

them, & I, are on very good footing  
Vol.2,p.436(1805)

If they keep their promise, them & us  
will get a considerable sum...  
Vol.2,p.470(1805)

For the use of them as a personal pronoun in the nomina-  
tive and as a demonstrative pronoun, see Mencken, op.cit.,  
pp.295-296.

2. us

If they keep their promise, them & us  
will get a considerable sum...  
Vol.2,p.470(1805)

...have made rather better choices  
than us. Vol.2,p.302(1800)

For the present use of us in the nominative see Mencken,  
ibid,p.299.

CHAPTER V

PRONUNCIATION

Language is primarily a matter of sound, not symbol. The development of English has taken place through changes in spoken expression, and only superficially may its history be studied in the written medium. Now, admittedly, just such a superficial study is being attempted here, but the necessity for it is obvious. We have no phonetic record of the speech of the early Northwest; no eighteenth century orthography has been handed down to us from the lake region. If we have an interest in speech history to nourish, we must turn to the doubtful authority of variant spellings for our sustenance. In these we find two degrees of value, as Krapp points out (op.cit., vol.2, pp.7-9). The higher is that used and recognized by individuals of standing and position in the district; the lower is recorded in the written efforts of those in the inferior strata of society who are less aware of the nuances of language. When a spelling which indicates pronunciation is found in a document on the higher level, its authority as being standard at that time and place may be more readily accepted than if it were found on the lower level. Many spellings of the second degree are important, however; they often indicate the direction in which the language will change, and they are invaluable to show the nature of the influences at work. For that reason,

examples of both kinds are included in this section; but they are distinguished by the mark "S", meaning "Standard", for the higher level, and the mark "V", meaning "Vulgar", for the lower level. One other identifying mark has been added, that for citations from the writing of individuals of birth and education other than English. These are labeled "F", meaning "Foreign".

A great deal might be said of the nature of these foreign influences. The most outstanding, perhaps, is that of the French, whose civilization was firmly established around the Great Lakes long before the British made their entry. Without question the pronunciation and manner of expression of the newcomers must have been affected by the necessity for communicating with the French settlers whom they found there. John Askin himself was married to a French woman, you will remember, and several of his children made like attachments. In addition the business negotiations between Askin and his compatriots on the one hand and the French traders, voyageurs and engages on the other were carried on in French or in a mixed jargon. There was a large influx, also, of Germans into this frontier country, most of them coming from Pennsylvania. They established Moravian and Dunkard colonies in several places. The Irish were well mixed with the English in the military and commercial activity of the region, and probably had their part to play in

shaping the language. Askin was Irish in early environment and education. The influence of the Indian tongues could not have been of great moment except in the matter of vocabulary. Their manner of speech was too alien to be easily adapted. A few Spaniards were in evidence, but not in sufficient numbers to make any difference.

That we may accept these spellings as fairly accurate representations of the words written in the source documents is assured by the editor's statement in the introduction. "In general", he says, "the printed document aims to present a scrupulously accurate copy of the original manuscript." (Quaife, op.cit., vol.1, p.17).

Phonetic symbols employed: a:, sometimes called Italian a and sometimes broad a, used in father; a also known as short a, used in hot; ɶ and ɶ:, very broad a, used in automatic and awa; æ, often given the name of flat a, used in hat; æ:, otherwise identified as long a, used in sate; i:, known as the long o, used in sweet and neat; o:, or long o, used in stone and boat; e, sometimes called short e, used in set; ɛ:, used in bear and there; i, also given the name short i, used in sit and begin; u, or short u, used in sun and son; ɹ, the sound of u, i, o, e before r when that consonant is pronounced, used in shirt, hurt; u:, often symbolized by oo, used in boot, chute; ai, the diphthong sound of long i in English, used in ride; ei, the diph-





thong sound of the a in lay; ou, used in house and now; ju, not exactly a diphthong but including a definite glide sound, used in music and few; ɔɪ, the diphthong found in joy; dʒ, the consonantal combination found in judge; f as in far; g as in go; k as in cart and keep; s, the simple sibilant, as used in see; sk as in scheme; ʃ the unvoiced sound of sh in shame; z, the voiced s of rise; ʒ as in rage and pleasure; tʃ, the combination of t and unvoiced ch, used in such; θ, the unvoiced th of this; and ð, the corresponding voiced sound of then; ŋ, the nasal of the ng found in sing and going; w, the voiced consonant of woe and were; and m, the unvoiced sound of wh in when; j the liquid sound of y in young; and ə, the unstressed vowel in syllables not bearing accents as enough, naked and arbitration. (After Krapp and Henry).

In general the spellings indicating pronunciation even in unstressed syllables have been classified along with like spellings of stressed syllables, although it is recognized as doubtful that they have the same quality. The examples given in this chapter represent departures from standard pronunciations.

1. 1

2. 2

3. 3

4. 4

5. 5

6. 6

7. 7

8. 8

9. 9

VOWELS

2 > a: before r

1. Clarks (S) ...he delivered by watch to one of your Clarks... Vol.1,p.1-9(1795)

...with houses full of Secretaries Clark's Etc... Vol.2,p.478(1805)

Kenyon says this change of clerk to clark is an historical matter. This, together with sergeant, smart and starve, was spelled -er in Middle English, and first was pronounced (ɛ:), gradually lowered from (ɛ:) to (æ) and then retracted to (ɑ:). (American Pronunciation, pp.98-99). Also see Krapp, (op.cit., vol.2, pp.37-38). Other examples will be found below, some by analogy no doubt.

2. Desarters (S) I hope both governments may put a stop to forcing over Desarters from either side. Vol.2,p.317(1800)
3. Grand Travarso(S) Mrs Ainsse went in a boat for the Grand Travarso.Vol.1,p.55(1774)
4. marchantdise (S) If the people Should want to be firnished With anything hear marchantdise or whatever... Vol.1,p.245(1788)
5. marchent (V) ...what would my marchent say if I was to put my packs in the hands of a man I was indebted to... Vol.2,p.435(1804)

Mencken says mercy was given as marcy in Colonial times (op.cit.,p.71).

6. parhaps (V) parhaps we may make another Bargin. Vol.1,p.248(1788)
7. Sarvt (V) Dear Sir Your Lost Obedient & Verry Humble Sarvt Vol.1,p.591(1795)
8. Subarbs (S) There is near one hundred houses in the Subarbs... Vol.1,p.69(1778)
9. unsuartent (V) ...it is heard for me to tell as yeat the time is So unsuartent... Vol.1,p.589(1795)

— —

• • • • •  
• • • • •

• • • • •  
• • • • •  
• • • • •

• • • • •  
• • • • •

• • • • •  
• • • • •

• • • • •  
• • • • •

• • • • •

• • • • •

• • • • •

• • • • •

• • • • •

• • • • •

10. her (V) ...and if you don't buy them some of  
the people that is her Will.  
Vol.1,p.248(1788)

Λ > a

1. Cucumbers (S) ...also Beans Squash seed and Cucumbers.  
Vol.1,p.81(1774)
2. Cundocter (V) ...a with paying the Cundocter a  
triffel He would heave Cundocted them  
up. Vol.2,p.134(1798)

Krapp has some pertinent citations (op.cit.,vol.2,p.188).

3. Lodwick, Ludwig(F) ...he has entrusted a few goods to  
Lodwick... Vol.2,p.137(1799)
- (F) It is the same now with Ludwig.  
Vol.2,p.338(1801)

œ > j

1. tosels (S) a parcel old hose and black tosels...  
Vol.1,p.812(1795)

For remarks on this pronunciation where we have (œ) today  
see Mencken (op.cit.,p.215) and Krapp (op.cit.,vol.2,pp.83-88).

ε > i

1. least (S) I mention this least you...might...  
apply for it...Vol.2,p.548(1807)
- (S) I need not tell you the cause, least  
it have the appearance of reproach...  
Vol.1,p.235(1788)

Krapp says earlier usage vacillated between (ε) and (i:)  
in such words as lest, nest, jest and deaf. He cites spellings  
of leest and least for lest. (op.cit.,vol.2,p.102)

2. Beast (V) Either Seas The Goods or take him  
out I think to Seas the Beast.  
Vol.2,p.237(1798)



e > i

1. Raison, Resin (V) ...Stope at the River au Raison for the Flour... Vol.1,p.389(1793)
- (S) ...south side of the said River Resin... Vol.2,p.499(1804)

Krapp points out that in certain localities and at certain periods a pronunciation resin for raisin was the custom, and was countenanced by Walker and Webster (Op.cit.,vol.2,p.124).

i > I

1. pivishness (S) I think his pivishness seems much for the better. Vol.2,p.499(1805)
2. digree (S) ...that might in any measure or digree... Vol.2,p.531(1806)
3. Wheaton, Whitten (S) Subscription for support of Rev. George Mitchell by Jn wheaton. Vol.1,p.303(1787)
- (S) J. Whitten Mr Whitten Vol.1,pp.378,386(1791)
- 4 McNiff, McNeiff (S) No 1 A Tract granted to Patrick McNiff of Detroit. Vol.1,p.357(1795)
- (S) To F. McNieff Vol.1,p.380(1796)
5. Weeks, Wicks (S) ...prevented your meeting Mr Wicks at my House... Vol.2,p.480(1805)
- (S) ...take care that he does not neglect retaining Mr Weeks... Vol.2,p.502(1806)

i > e:

1. dale (V) ...which I Return a grate dale of thanks for... Vol.1,p.389(1793)
- (V) ...and put a good dale of money in our way... Vol.2,p.362(1801)
2. Sale (S) In witness whereof I have hereunto

Sett my Hand & Sale...  
Vol.1,p.59(1775)

i>i

1. deminish (S) ...to prevent our getting our rights  
and deminish the value...  
Vol.2,p.489(1805)
2. ridiculous (S) ...your old flame rendered herself  
ridiculous... Vol.2,p.539(1807)

i>ɛ

1. her (V) ...I am sorry to her that Feiter  
Richards is absent...  
Vol.2,p.282(1799)
2. Del (V) ...But there was a Good Del mor with  
them. Vol.1,p.211(1785)
3. leasure (S) ...he has leasure time to settle all  
his affairs. Vol.2,p.410(1804)
- (S) I will thank you at your leasure to  
drop me a line.Vol.2,p.583(1807)

Kenyon says ea did not become (i:) until the late eighteenth century (op.cit.,p.88). Krapp states that the pronunciation of this word with either (i:) or (ɛ) is now standard usage. "On the side of authority", he adds, "and of the analogy of spelling, the pronunciation with (i:) holds the stronger position, but the pronunciation of words like measure, pleasure, treasure has always afforded a powerful support to the pronunciation with (ɛ)."  
(op.cit.,vol.2,pp.129-130).

2>aɛ

1. atherized (S) ...but I will not wait to be atherized  
by you. Vol.2,p.461(1805)

Mencken mentions the substitution of the flat a for the broad a as in sass for sauce (op.cit.,p.316). Kenyon mentions the pronunciation of a: in large and part as aɛ, stating that these were the cultivated American pronunciations of the eighteenth century (op.cit.,p.97).



æ > æ

1. Cat (V) When he Coms in I will try & Gat  
payment... Vol.1,p.369(1795)
2. Lat (V) ...I hope you Will Not Let one Minet  
pass... Vol.2,p.267(1799)
3. togather (S) Your letters generall come almost  
togather. Vol.2,p.257(1799)
4. sand (V) please Sand out the goods as Soon  
as possible... Vol.1,p.589(1795)

Krapp has a number of similar examples from the early town records. (op.cit.,vol.2,pp.95-96).

æ > e:

1. brakefast (S) They spent the evening with me & tock  
an early brakefast.  
Vol.2,p.629(1809)

For this the remarks of Krapp (op.cit.,vol.2,pp.88-89) are pertinent. He has records of a number of cases wherein ea was rhymed with (e:) as breast:taste and spread:trade.

æ > e:

1. Crainberry (S) ...thank Madelain for the Crainberry  
Comfiture... Vol.2,p.627(1809)

o > ou

1. afourd (S) ...admitting that the adventure could  
afourd it. Vol.2,p.435(1804)

Kenyon has some remarks on the presence of the (u) element in certain words (op.cit.,p.113,118n). Also see Krapp (op.cit.,vol.2,p.135).

2. tould (V) He was sent...to build a chimney...  
as the man tould me...  
Vol.2,p.222(1799)

For (ou) before l see Kenyon, supra,p.116.

3. houp (V) Sir I houp you will have the goodness

1. 2. 3.

;

to answer this...

Vol.2,p.222(1799)

u > o

1. chose (S) ...the other two did not chose to decide... Vol.2,p.647(1809)

2. rottin (S) ...to get through the rottin and (routine) plain business... Vol.2,p.517(1806)

o > u

1. shew (S) This example will shew Phyllis that she's not too young. Vol.1,p.77(1778)

(S) The returns...will shew plainly the quantity... Vol.1,p.120(1778)

Mencken classifies this as simply a difference between English and American spelling (op.cit.,p.224). Krapp says show has become standard and shew exists only as a spelling or an archaic pronunciation (op.cit.,vol.2,p.154). Krapp adds that the side-by-side existence of shew and show is due to a double phonetic development, but shew in the preterite seems to be by analogy to throw and grew. He has a mention of a spelling, shue (ibid,vol.2,p.258).

o > o

1. Squorrels (V) ...we have plenty of birds, and Squorrels hear... Vol.1,p.262(1786)

o > i

1. seposed (V) ...if I had seposed the Coffin had been so long anaking... Vol.2,p.376(1802)

ae > e

1. Trambell, (S) Mr Montague Trambell in account Tremblay current... Vol.1,p.193(1781)

(S) ...pays the claim of the said Tremblay

heirs upon the land...

Vol.1,p.317(1788)

2. Traxellar, (S) ...all which you will deliver Mr  
Trexeler Vol.2,p.262(1799)
- (S) ...send up a canoe or two from Mr  
Trexelers... Vol.2,p.337(1801)
3. hes (V) Kither hes he any trubl...  
Vol.1,p.210(1785)

Krapp remarks that "...it is not probably that (E) was very general in cultivated speech in have, has, had after the close of the eighteenth century." He has many instances of its use for (ae) in New England at an early period (op.cit., vol.2,p.92-93).

o>o

1. Mauravian (S) ...who owes you 20 dollars at the  
Mauravian town, Vol.2,p.214(1795)

o>A

1. Monforton; (S) I have put her at Mr Monforton's at  
Monforton Vol.1,p.107(1773)
- (S) Received of Mr. William Monforton  
the Lotts & Vents...  
Vol.1,p.163(1780)

For (o:) to (A) see Krapp, op.cit., vol.2, pp.132-133.

A>c

1. Tecompse, (S) The block house here Tecompse had  
Tecumseh set fire to... Vol.2,p.720(1812)
- (S) I wish we had Tecumseh here to help  
us... Vol.2,p.753(1813)

ai>E

1. Lekwis (V) ...But there was a Good Del more with  
them Lekwis all the men is paid here  
By me... Vol.1,p.211(1785)

Krapp has similar spellings (op.cit.,vol.2,p.113).

I > E

1. ketchen (S) I am glad she has reserved the house and ketchen... Vol.2,p.517(1800)
2. sence (S) I wrote you...long sence relative to him... Vol.2,p.642(1809)

Bartlett has sence for since listed (op.cit.,p.394), as also has Krapp (op.cit.,vol.2,p.114).

3. Clench, Clinch(S) Ditto for Mr Clinch... Vol.2,p.33(1790)
- (S) Mr. Clench & Mr Swayze have therfor been returned... Vol.2,p.300(1800)

E > i

1. cleaverly (S) ...matters seem not as yet not to be cleaverly at rights in the Indian Country... Vol.1,p.260(1786)
2. freind (S) Dear old freind... Vol.2,p.393(1800)
3. Leidger (S) a blank book Leidger... Vol.1,p.609(1795)
4. Wheither (S) Wheither they have actually said all this...I do not know... Vol.1,p.231(1786)
5. preassant (V) ...he has got a grate dale of peltries at preassant. Vol.1,p.529(1795)
6. McBeth, McBeath (S) I'm sorry to hear by Messrs McBeth & Rankin... Vol.1,p.30(1778)
- (S) ...since which...Messrs McBeath & Rankin are arrived... Vol.1,p.83(1778)

E > I

1. dispear (S) ...& does not dispear of getting some payment... Vol.1,p.285(1786)

For all these words in -ear see Krapp, op.cit.,vol.2, pp.105-113.

2. rearly (S) ...such Frinds are rearly to be met with. Vol.2,p.515(1806)
3. Shear (S) ...and it is a Shear I wanted and not a plough. Vol.2,p.644(1809)
4. thear (V) ...thear is always boats a Coming up in the Spring... Vol.2,p.134(1798)
5. Sinclair, (S) ...Messrs Sibley, Sinclair & Burnett... Vol.2,p.254(1799)  
Sinclear
- (V) Capt Fleming Mr Burns & Mr Sinclear... Vol.2,p.376(1802)
6. frinds (S) ...I am certain he is with his best frinds... Vol.2,p.556(1801)

Krapp discounts the idea that the use of the short i for e in such words as ginerally, sind and frind is a matter of direct Irish influence on American speech, although he admits the pronunciations to be characteristic of Irish-English. He explains the similarities found by the fact that the two had a common source in British dialect (op.cit.,vol.2,pp.93-97). The words in this class, he states, fall into two categories: (1) those in which the vowel is preceded by a palatal consonant, and (2) those in which it stands before a nasal (ibid,p.102).

7. ginnoral (V) I hope that you will be able to make a ginnoral Remooval... Vol.1,p.239(1786)
8. git (V) ...I shall be able to git all the hole field... Vol.1,p.241(1786)

Mencken says git for get was encouraged by Franklin (op.cit.,p.71).

9. ind (S) ...the latter ind of the next week... Vol.2,p.461(1805)

10. Sind (V) I Shall take it as a great favour if  
You Would Sind me five or six Yards...  
Vol.1, p.241(1788)
11. whither (S) ...to work faithfull whither on a  
Voyage or Otherwise...  
Vol.1, p.51(1774)
- (S) ...sending me run whither ordered or  
not... Vol.1, p.128(1778)
12. Incuragment (V) ...you doo not Merit any Incuragment...  
Vol.2, p.488(1804)
13. Frechet, (S) Revd Frechet...ready in the course  
Fritchett of this week. Vol.1, p.378(1791)
- (S) Mr. Fritchett refused to admit the  
sweepers in his house.  
Vol.1, p.394(1791)

a: > ee

1. LaTrench, (S) ...Received the Freight account from  
la tranche you by Way of the River LaTrench...  
Vol.2, p.148(1798)
- (S) from Point aux pins to the River la  
tranche... Vol.1, p.418(1792)

A > I

1. sifficiant (S) ...that the said hacheal shall have  
sifficiant clothing...  
Vol.2, p.277(1800)

I > e

1. Cincinata (S) I'm sure if he can sell his lands  
near Cincinata...  
Vol.2, p.648(1808)

Kenyon notes this pronunciation of the word (op.cit., p.110)

A u

1. do's (S) ...if the Agents...do's not come forth...  
Vol.2, p.488(1808)

Krapp has evidence that in New England a pronunciation dooze was current. (op.cit.,vol.2,p.188). Kenton says this is an example of restressing, the unstressed form being dr, and restressed dAz (op.cit.,p.188).

### o > A

1. Cotton, Cutten (S) ...a certain negroe man...called Josiah Cutten...  
Vol.1,p.235(1788)
- (S) ...to a negro man Named Joseph Cotton... Vol.1,p.410(1792)

### ar > ar

1. Persley (S) Sowed Persley, Beets, Onions...  
Vol.1,p.88(1775)  
For these see Krapp, op.cit.,vol.2,p.188ff.
2. perticularly (S) ...which is perticularly described...  
Vol.1,p.207(1784)

### or > our

1. retourn (V) ...which I retourn a grate Dale of thanks for... Vol.1,p.350(1795)

Perhaps this misspelling does not indicate abnormal pronunciation.

## DIPHTHONGS

### i: > eI

1. Nither (V) Nither has he any trubl of making any of them... Vol.1,p.210(1785)

### o > ei

1. Ideay (V) Thear is an Ideay struck me...  
Vol.2,p.134(1793)
2. Ottaways (S) Mrs Ainsse arrived with the Ottaways.  
Vol.1,p.32(1774)
3. Chippeway (V) The loan of a vocabulary of Chirpeway words...  
Vol.2,p.304(1800)



θ > ju:

1. Mathew Matical (S)      a Mathew Matical Register...  
Vol.1,p.308(1798)

Obviously a case of Folk-etymology.

OMISSION OF A SYLLABLE

1. voige                      (S)      ...exhausted with the disagreeable  
voige from Surficient...  
Vol.2,p.471(1803)

CONSONANTS

Unhistorical r

1. Surficiant              (V)      ...as much Corn as he thinks is  
Surficiant... Vol.1,p.283(1788)
2. Askin, Erskine (S)      I observe you spell your name Erskine  
whereas my father & myself have wrote  
ours Askin... Vol.1,p.473(1793)
3. protaters              (V)      ...send me Six or Eight Bushels of  
protaters... Vol.1,p.241(1788)
4. Clearwarters          (V)      if you Can Find a hand with Clear-  
warters I Shall be Verry glad.  
Vol.1,p.248(1788)

In the matter of the superfluous r see Frapp,op.cit.,vol.2,  
p.229.

tʃ > t

1. futer                      (V)      I hope for the futer...  
Vol.2,p.433(1804)

d Dropped after r

1. hunder                      (S)      ...he is worth one hunder thousand  
dollars. Vol.2,p.311(1803)

Unhistorical d after n

1. soummonds                  ...only when soummonds to the Council.  
Vol.2,p.493(1803)

t > dz

1. Spinage (S) Sowed Onion and Spinage seed.  
Vol.1,p.51(1774)

Omission of t after k

1. strickly (S) ...adhere strickly to the Shawney  
Prophets advice.  
Vol.2,p.568(1807)

For the respectability of the silent t in the eighteenth century see Krapp, op.cit.,vol.2,pp.25-26.

ju > I or 2

1. argement (V) ...for the sake of argement...  
Vol.2,p.433(1804)

t dropped after s

1. pas (S) The Archange sailed from hence at  
half pas 2 o'clock...  
Vol.1,p.53(1774)

Unhistorical t after n

1. unsuarent (V) ...it is heard for me to tell as  
yeat the time is so unsuarent...  
Vol.1,p.589(1795)

2 dropped before th

1. hundereth (S) The hundereth Regt has come...  
Vol.2,p.488(1806)

t > 0

1. throubled (S) I'm sorry I throubled you about my  
former claims...  
Vol.2,p.520(1806)

d > t

1. Garten (S) ...in the corner of the Garten...  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)
2. mettle (F) The missionaries cannot mettle with

trading. Vol.2,p.333(1801)

Superfluous t

1. marchantdise (V) If the people should want to be  
furnished with anything hear  
marchantdise or whatever...  
Vol.1,p.245(1733)

This is probably popular etymology--merchant pluse dise.

ā > d

1. a bodring (V) ...he is always a bodring me for it.  
Vol.1,p.539(1795)

t > d

1. affidavids (S) I forgot to mention that there was  
inclosed in it...affidavids about the  
martins... Vol.1,p.100(1773)

n > m

1. Cramberries (S) I send a rocock of Cramberries...  
Vol.2,p.373(1807)

n > n

1. given (S) ...honored themselves...with given a  
Ball... Vol.2,p.390(1803)
2. Herrin (S) Sett a Herrin Nett yesterday...  
Vol.1,p.55(1773)

Unhistorical n before st

1. Honenst (S) ...I was never acquainted with a more  
industrious, Sober, Honenst man,...  
Vol.1,p.63(1773)
2. reEnstablishing(S) ...with the reEnstablishing of Mrs  
Grants health...  
Vol.2,p.493(1805)

wo > ow

1. sowrn (swore) (S) ...and cursed and sowrn...  
Vol.2,p.390(1803)

Final n > ɲ

1. throwen (S) ...thoie friendship & civilities is  
not throwen away on an ungrateful  
person. Vol.1,p.321(1789)

N dropped before s

1. Gilkison, (S) I hear Captain Gilkinson is like to  
Gilkinson get... Vol.2,p.1307)
- (S) I have however requested Captain  
Gilkison... Vol.2,p.340(1801)

n > ŋ

1. Hutchins, (S) Hutchins is down the Lake, honey  
Hutchings hunting. Vol.2,p.217(1799)
- (V) I am Sr Yr Very Obt Servt Wm  
Hutchings Vol.2,p.133(1798)
2. bracking (S) Thro bracking when Green...on land...  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)

M > w

1. wither (S) ...and carry us the Lord knows wither.  
Vol.2,pp.340-41(1801)
2. Whitanessa, (S) The Chief Witanessa of your place...  
Witanessa Vol.2,p.206(1799)
- (S) ...especially the two great chiefs  
Nangi & Whitanessa...  
Vol.2,p.301(1802)

B > P

1. People,Peebles(S) Assignee to peebles & Wells  
Vol.1,p.48(1771)
- (S) Trustee to People & Wells  
Vol.1,p.48(1771)

Superfluous ɲ before open consonants

1. Country (V) ...as the Indian in this Country...  
Vol.1,p.991(1795)

2. hunder (S) ...he is worth one hunder thousand dollars. Vol.2,p.311(1808)

3. hundereth (S) The hundereth Regt has come... Vol.2,p.438(1808)

For the effects of metathesis see Mencken, op.cit.,p.118.

4. vagarents (S) ...and information of a great many vagarents hovering about here... Vol.2,p.338(1808)

5. Elem (S) ...the Land...abound'g with Elem, Button Wood &c... Vol.1,p.340(1796)

Thornton says ellum for elm was common in New England (op.cit.,vol.1,p.285).

#### Superfluous i

1. Villiage (F) ...we with our Indians have built a small Villiage... Vol.1,p.220(1786)

2. desirious (S) ...who appears desirious to serve you... Vol.1,p.243(1786)

3. tremendous (S) ...form a tremendous appearance at his Chateau... Vol.2,p.147(1798)

4. faciliatate (S) ...in order more effectually to faciliatate the communication... Vol.1,p.401(1792)

#### l in would, could and should

1. wouled, couled (S) ...to Whom I mentioned that I couled not think you wouled lngage in any Bussiness... Vol.1,p.243(1786)

Mencken notes that the l in would was pronounced by Franklin (op.cit.,p.71). Palmer says the l is not an organic part of could as it is of would and should, and that it should be pronounced could (op.cit.,p.78).

2. shouled (S) ...Every Man of Spirit in my Opinion Shouled. Vol.1,p.434(1792)

A AS A PREFIX

This usage derives, of course, from AS. an, on, and is used in the sense of at or on.

1. abegging (S) if...one of the bent seats goes abegging... Vol.1,p.420(1792)
2. a bodring (V) ...he is alwas a bodring ab for it... Vol.1,p.523(1793)
3. abuilding (S) ...if the South West Co were not abuilding. Vol.2,p.334(1807)
4. acomeing (S) Tho the Vessells from Europe are long acomeing... Vol.1,p.103(1773)
5. a drawing off (S) I have this Spring got about five barrells of Spirits up which is now a drawing off... Vol.1,p.103(1773)
6. ageting (S) ...& a much larger now ageting ready. Vol.1,p.103(1773)
7. agoing (S) Now I have started you I will keep you agging. Vol.2,p.333(1803)
8. amaking (S) if I had seposed the Coffin had been so long amaking...Vol.2,p.370(1803)
9. a talking of (S) ...Respecting what we were a talking of... Vol.2,p.133(1793)
10. a Wintering (S) ...(as he was gone a Wintering)... Vol.2,p.402(1803)

Mencken says this use of a- as a prefix is probably due to Irish influence in this country even though the use is native to English (op.cit.,p.107).

MISCELLANEOUS

1. set (S) ...lucky for us that we were set ashore... Vol.1,p.247(1790)
2. Raccons (S) ...nor are the Raccons of their parcel... so good... Vol.1,p.201(1734)

3. lote (S) ...as I know you had a good lote of land matters to arrange...  
Vol.2,p.210(1799)
  4. Maskelonge (S) ...& skin the Maskelonge for the same purpose... Vol.2,p.389(1808)
  5. Askin, Lrskine(S) I observe you spell your name Lrskine whereas my Father & myself have wrote ours Askin... Vol.1,p.475(1793)
  6. Moran, Morin (S) ...and on the Northwest Side to Jean Baptiste Morins land...  
Vol.1,p.371(1791)
  - (S) Jn Baptiste Moran, Trader.  
Vol.1,p.374(1791)
  7. Nantey, Nonety(S) Sold by me afterwards to Frudhomme or Nantey. Vol.1,p.370(1790)
  - (S) J. Nonety Vol.1,p.395(1791)
  8. Fraro, Frerot (S) Fransois frerot  
Vol.1,p.393(1791)
  - (S) Mr Fraro...Prentise Boy galloping through streets.  
Vol.1,p.336(1791)
  9. afeard (V) I was afeared that he was Stoal...  
Vol.1,p.248(1786)
  - (S) I hear Maria is quite afeared of him.  
Vol.2,p.376(1802)
  10. heared (S) ...after you have heared what I have to say. Vol.2,p.144(1798)
- Mencken says the pronunciation with the long e- sound was in good standing in America until the Revolution. He cites Webster (op.cit.,p.71).
11. Daly, Daily, (S) Mr. Daly...is I beleive very little better... Vol.2,p.149(1798)
  - Dealy (S) One Mr Wm Daily has been here.  
Vol.2,p.159(1798)

- (S) John Askin to William Dealy  
Vol.2,p.188(1793)
12. populars (S) ...as they are populars they could  
not have grown to that size since  
you left. Vol.2,p.589(1807)
13. comfiture (S) ...thank Madelain for the Crainberry  
comfiture... Vol.2,p.627(1809)
14. whole (S) Planted in a whole about a foot deep...  
Vol.1,p.87(1775)

This is probably analogy from the wh of who. This is frequently found in Early Modern English.

15. punkin (S) Sowed squashes or punkin seed at the  
farm. Vol.1,p.82(1774)

Kenyon explains the popular modern pronunciation by saying that the lip nasal (m) becomes the tongue-back nasal (ŋ) in (paŋkin) by proximity of tongue-back stop (k) (op.cit.,p.79). The example given here seems to indicate a full (m) pronunciation for the eighteenth century.

16. Swisserland (S) France, Holland, Swisserland...  
Vol.2,p.340(1801)
17. Wescoat (V) ...to make a Wescoat and trowser...  
Vol.1,p.264(1780)

This is the traditional English pronunciation.

18. McCroskey (S) I wrote Doctor McCroskey long since.  
McCuskrey Vol.2,p.342(1801)  
McCostrie (S) Doctor McCuskrey in Camp on the borders  
of the Ohio... Vol.2,p.339(1801)  
(S) ...answer Doctor McCostrie letter as  
soon as possible.  
Vol.2,p.337(1801)

#### ARCHAISMS

1. Burthen (S) ...without which she will sink under  
her Burthen. Vol.1,p.81(1778)
2. Lanthorns (S) 3 old Lanthorns...Vol.1,p.609(1795)



CHAPTER VI

SPELLING

A discussion of the orthography of the Askin Papers is, perhaps, the least important part of the whole investigation. The mere mechanical representation of a word, unless it carry with it some peculiar value to the study of pronunciation, has little bearing upon the general history of the language. In addition, the differences between ordinary British and American spellings are so slight even today that it seems scarcely worth while to go beyond the standard studies of the subject.

For the most part the Askin Papers show few variations in spelling from the accepted practice in London and New York at the same period. That we place these two centers of population together in this respect is entirely proper, for, despite the contemporary attacks of Franklin and Webster on the older forms of spelling, the Mother Country and colonial America remained very much the same. In this connection Frapp says that "... English spelling was pretty well fixed by the year 1800, and consequently the spelling which all emigrants to America brought with them was the one which custom had established in most instances for English spelling everywhere." (op.cit., vol.1, p. 348). That social custom is exceedingly slow to change was discovered by Webster when he attempted to foist on his countrymen his so-called simplified mode of spelling. Despite the

fact that the influence of his American Spelling Book was undoubtedly the greatest single factor in establishing what few changes have taken place, the revered lexicographer found a decided unwillingness to adopt his more radical suggestions, so decided, in fact, that he was forced to retract most of them. To repeat, then, we may say that Askin and his associates employed pretty much the traditional forms of spelling. That we do find an occasional honor for honour and indorse for endorse may be assigned to the not unusual variations of spelling found in England itself. It is true, undoubtedly, as Mencken remarks, that "American, in general, moves toward simplified forms of spelling more rapidly than English..."; (op.cit.,p.225) but this tendency could not have affected the early Northwest to any great extent. However, for whatever value the material may have, there has been included here a brief, general treatment of the orthography of the Askin Papers insofar as it relates to the differences most commonly reported between British practice and American.

The chief changes in American spelling are the omission of the penultimate u in words ending in -our, the substitution of final -e for final -ck as in public, the change of terminal -re to -er as in theater, and the reduction of duplicate consonants to single consonants as wagon for waggon. Additional differences which are, perhaps, of less importance may be listed as follows:



5. The omission of a redundant e, as ae for ahe.
6. The omission of unaccented foreign terminations, as cateles for catalogue.
7. The omission of a when combined with e or o, as bold for could.
8. The conversion of diphthongs into simple vowels, as een for aeor.
9. The change of compound consonants into simple ones, as burden for bunther.
10. The change of o into a, as taffy for toffy.
11. The change of e into i, as inclose for enclose.
12. The change of y into a, ia or i, as sypher for sypher.
13. The substitution of s for e, as defense for deferen.
14. The substitution of s for z, as advertisement for advertizement.
15. The substitution of k for c, as skantie for scantie.
16. The insertion of an e, as forage for forge.
17. The substitution of ct for x, as inflection for inflexion.
18. The substitution of y for i, as cypsy for gissy.
19. A number of miscellaneous differences, of which we find in the Askin papers such examples as piel (American, jail), pedlar (American, pedler), maneuve (American maneuver; English, manoeuvre) and shew (American, show).

For what examples we have these classifications have been followed as nearly as possible after Mencken. Nothing like an exhaustive treatment has been attempted. In most cases a mere single instance of the employment of the spelling is recorded

any multiplication seeming unnecessary.

ENDINGS IN -OUR AND -OR

1. favours                   ...we are very sensible of the mani-  
fest favours of the Major...  
Vol.1,p.239(1786)
2. favor                   ...all in my favor shall be done  
between this & Sept...  
Vol.2,p.293(1800)
3. favorable               ...I mentioned the favorable prospects  
I had...               Vol.2,p.604(1809)
4. favored               I was favored with yours a few days  
ago...               Vol.2,p.601(1809)
5. honors               They did not march with the honors  
of War...           Vol.2,p.719(1812)
6. endeavour           I will endeavour to purchase what  
you want...       Vol.1,p.80(1778)
7. endeavoured       I have always endeavoured to buy that...  
Vol.2,p.822(1809)
8. vapours           Todd is gone to the States to...get  
rid of the vapours.  
Vol.2,p.845(1807)
9. humours           ...in consequence of his leg swelling  
which they thought would break, and  
carry off all the bad humours...  
Vol.2,p.899(1811)

ENDINGS IN -CK AND -C

1. publick           as for publick Intelligence there is  
scarcely any...Vol.1,p.364(1790)
2. public           ...the public report...might make you  
uneasy.           Vol.1,p.75(1778)
3. Physick           I beg you will not kill him with d-m-d  
Physick.           Vol.1,p.86(1778)

4. Musick I shall be obliged to you to get off  
the Musick... Vol.3,p.231(1799)

ENDINGS IN -RE AND -ER

1. livre ...the sum of six hundred livres...  
Vol.1,p.170(1780)
2. Livers I received the hundred Livers...  
Vol.1,p.134(1773)
3. entred ...had there been anything entred into  
on his account...  
Vol.1,p.135(1773)
4. rendred ...I have...at all times rendred  
Messrs Holmes...  
Vol.1,p.144(1773)
5. rendered ...in recollection of the service  
rendered government....  
Vol.2,p.470(1805)

DOUBLE CONSONANTS

1. copy Please send Alex to Mr Audrain for a  
fair Copy of an Obligation from  
Gabriel Hunot to me...  
Vol.2,p.475(1805)
2. furs ...some of Our Traders best furs...  
Vol.1,p.243(1786)
3. nett Sett a Herrin Nett yesterday...  
Vol.1,p.55(1775)
4. travelled ...and I beleive travelled thro your  
native town... Vol.2,p.393(1803)
5. hurtfull ...it is hurtfull to their character  
as Missionaries.  
Vol.2,p.536(1801)

USE AND OMISSION OF FINAL -E

1. Ax We took from the goods an Ax...  
Vol.2,p.336(1801)

2. Buffaloe I would be willing to take a Pack or two of good Buffaloe Robes...  
Vol.2,p.315(1800)
3. Buffalo And that the Buffalo robes contributed in keeping you Warm...  
Vol.2,p.290(1800)
4. negroe She and a negroe man are both in Goal...  
Vol.2,p.389(1803)
5. negro ...the loss of my negro man...  
Vol.2,p.353(1801)
6. Mualtoe (Mulatto) The Mualtoe Woman shall be disposed off...  
Vol.1,p.106(1773)
7. pease Sowed some pease at the farm.  
Vol.1,p.50(1774)
8. potatoe Planted...6 potatoe aples...  
Vol.1,p.57(1775)
9. Bowle To 1 Bowle Toddey...  
Vol.1,p.302(1794)
10. cargoe ...in lading and Unlading & Storing her cargoe...  
Vol.2,p.289(1800)
11. therefor Mr Clench & Mr Swayze have therefor been returned...  
Vol.2,p.302(1800)

THE TREATMENT OF FOREIGN TERMINATIONS

1. batteaux ...and I shall send a batteaux to Detroit...  
Vol.1,p.75(1772)
2. battoe ...in hope of seeing Mr Bennett in a Battoe...  
Vol.1,p.67(1773)

VARIOUS COMPOUND CONSONANTS

1. Plough ...and it is a Shear I wanted and not a plough. Vol.2,p.344(1809)
2. ploughings it will require three more ploughings in the Spring...  
Vol.2,p.365(1801)

3. Plow ...with the use of a Horse & Cow & Plow Irons... Vol.1,p.234(1788)
4. Lanthorns 3 old Lanthorns...  
Vol.1,p.809(1798)
5. pacquets We understand that two pacquets of letters for us...  
Vol.1,p.260(1788)
6. risque ...and go up at the charge and risque of the company.Vol.1,p.189(1778)
7. draught ...please advance the equipment and money and I will send you a draught for both... Vol.2,p.371(1801)

THE USE OF EN AND IN

1. enquired I enquired if there were any persons of your Name there...  
Vol.2,p.393(1803)
2. inquir'd I have inquir'd of some peoples who well know the situation...  
Vol.2,p.258(1799)
3. enquiry I have to entreat you will ask some friends...to make Enquiry...  
Vol.2,p.138(1798)
4. inclosing You forgot inclosing the Gentlemen of the Garrison's Accounts...  
Vol.1,p.126(1778)
5. intitled ...such Irisoner shall be intitled to the benefit of this Act...  
Vol.2,p.320(1800)

THE USE OF Y AND I

1. syrup ...and part of the Syrup of Punch is drank... Vol.2,p.217(1799)
2. pennyless It was never my intention to commence trade pennyless.  
Vol.2,p.878(1807)



3. shiness                    If you should find a shiness in  
getting any One to Execute my Order  
let me know... Vol.2,p.67(1796)
4. cider                    The Cider you shall have...  
Vol.2,p.315(1800)
5. dayly                    While I was at the Springs I dayly  
see James... Vol.2,p.296(1800)
6. hallierds                ...those I mean are runing Riging  
such as Hallierds &c...  
Vol.1,p.101(1778)

THE USE OF "S" AND "C"

1. Licence                Since which I have from time to  
time given him a Letter of Licence...  
Vol.2,p.501(1805)
2. expence                ...from which to deduct my expence  
for packing... Vol.2,p.288(1800)
3. expensive              ...which woul'd be too expensive...  
Vol.2,p.671(1811)

THE USE OF "S" AND "Z"

1. authorize              ...I hereby authorize you to take  
that sum for them...  
Vol.2,p.280(1800)
2. realise                ...or realise a part of the value of  
those lands... Vol.2,p.339(1801)
3. surprised              ...which amazing surprised me...  
Vol.2,p.265(1799)
4. surprized              You would be surprized to see how  
this place grows.  
Vol.1,p.69(1778)
5. Weazell                I send you by the Weazell... $\frac{1}{4}$  cut  
quills... Vol.1,p.390(1795)
6. enterprize            Should you be willing to join in any  
enterprize of this kind...  
Vol.2,p.288(1800)

MISCELLANEOUS

1. manœuvres                   ...who went remarkably well through  
the different Manœuvres.  
Vol.2,p.699(1811)
2. goal                       his Brother if he is put in Goal  
will I daresay pay the debt.  
Vol.2,p.234(1800)
3. joal                       ...the poor fellow has extricated  
himself from the horrors of a Joal...  
Vol.2,p.668(1811)
4. shew                       This example will shew Phyllis that  
she's not too young.  
Vol.1,p.77(1778)
5. shewed                    I have shewed him your letter...  
Vol.2,p.403(1804)
6. shewn                     Mr Askin has shewn us the different  
letters...               Vol.2,p.489(1808)
7. gray                      Consideration 130 Dols & the Gray  
Horse.                   Vol.1,p.1287(1785)
8. toddey                    To 1 Bowle Toddey...  
Vol.1,p.602(1794)
9. Yankeys                   the Yankeys will trade rum for Raccoons.  
Vol.2,p.275(1800)
10. Yanky                    ...the manner he escaped the Yanky  
collectors...           Vol.2,p.696(1811)
11. whisky                   as for whisky, none is to be got at  
Niagara...               Vol.2,p.160(1790)
12. storry                   ...a tolerable good house two Storry  
high.                    Vol.1,p.78(1778)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### SOURCE MATERIALS

Quaife, Milo M. (ed.), The John Askin Papers, 2 vols., Detroit, 1923.

### AMERICAN ENGLISH

Bartlett, John Russell, Dictionary of Americanisms, Boston, 1899.

De Vere, M. Schele, Americanisms, New York, 1872.

Farmer, John S., Americanisms-Old and New, London, 1889.

Gannett, Henry, Critica of Place Names in the United States, U.S.G.S.256, Wash., 1903.

Kenyon, John S., American Pronunciation, Ann Arbor, 1924.

Krapp, George Philip, English Language in America, 2 vols., New York, 1925.

Krapp, George Philip, Pronunciation of Standard English in America, New York, 1919.

Mencken, Henry L., The American Language, New York, 1921.

Palmer, A. Smythe, Folk-Etymology, New York, 1890.

Pickering, John, Vocabulary, Boston, 1818.

Thornton, Richard M., An American Glossary, 2 vols., Philadelphia, 1912.

Tucker, Gilbert M., American English, New York, 1921.

### MICHIGAN HISTORY

Cooley, Thomas M., Michigan, A History of Governments, Boston, 1905.

Lozalere, Claude M., Story of Michigan, Lansing, 1923.

### GENERAL HISTORY

Carlton, Robert, The New Purchase, Princeton, 1918.

Fiske, John, A History of the United States, Boston, 1907.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (Cont.)

McHenry, Thomas L., Tour of the Lakes, Baltimore, 1887.

Hulbert, Archer B., Waterways of Westward Expansion,  
Cleveland, 1903.



ROOM USE ONLY

~~OCT 14 1964~~ 





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



3 1293 03174 7565