

Biddle & Drew-testimonial
M^CGulpin, William

Michilimackinac

26 September 1837

State of Michigan }
County of Michilimackinac }

William M^CGulpin of said County, on
oath saith that he is acquainted with
Biddle & Drew for twenty Years or there-

abouts: that knew them to be very kind and charitable to the Indians: that he has known them to give them provisions of different Kinds, to supply them with a house, called the Indian house, with wood, with fish and other necessaries, that all said Services were gratuitous, and were never paid for, as deponent believes - that deponent for a period of Years, from ten to fifteen, baked considerable bread for the said Biddle & Drew, receiving from them the flour; that what deponent baked averaged from fifty to sixty barrels a Year: that deponent paid for the said flour by giving bread tickets, which Biddle & Drew gave to the Indians, to whom deponent paid the bread: that deponent often asked the Indians what they gave for said tickets, and they replied that got them from Biddle and Drew for charity, and had not paid anything - In one instance deponent paid M^F Biddle for a barrel of flour, and he saw M^F Biddle distribute about one half of the tickets gratuitously to the Indians on the Spot, that deponent believes none of these were ever paid for.

That deponent was employed by Biddle and Drew to trade for them for about four Years: that he was always Supplied with more provisions than he needed for his own Support, So as to enable him to distribute gratuitously to the Indians, and deponent did accordingly give the Said Indians at different times provisions consisting of pork, corn & flour, and never make any charge for the same.

Sworn to & Subscribed
before me this 26th
day of September A.D. 1837
J.P. King J.P.

W. M^CGulpin

I Thomas Gurtrey do hereby further testify that during part of the time, that the above named M^C Gulpin baked for said Biddle, or other Persons were also employed for the same purpose, namely John Whelan, who baked for about two Years, - Peter Brimmigham who baked for about a Year or two and John P Arndt, who baked for about one winter-

Thomas Guttery

Sworn to & subscribed
before me this 26 day
of September A.D. 1837
J.P. King J.P.

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Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Special File #156, Record Group 75,
The National Archives. (Affidavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew)

PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION
Not for Publication

HRA011926

Biddle & Drew-testimonial
Lasly, Samuel

Michilimackinac

27 September 1837

State of Michigan }
County of Michilimackinac }

Samuel Lasley of said County, of full
age, being duly Sworn deposed and
saith, that he has known Mess^{rs}. Biddle

and Drew, or their predecessors in business for twenty Years preceding the treaty at Washington - that during all that period he has been intimately acquainted with them has been more or less in their Store, and has had full and ample means of knowing their mode of business: that during part of the said time he has been in their employment as Clerk, has had charge of one of their trading establishments, and been trading on their part among the Indians, who lived within the ceded districts - that deponent has read the Affidavit of Thomas Gurtrey, which he believes to be true in every respect, and nearly the entire of which deponent can corroborate from actual knowledge - that he knows Mess^{rs}. Biddle and Drew to have been very charitable and humane in their conduct to the Indians - to have Supplied their Wants, at Mackinac and elsewhere, as stated in said Affidavit: That while in their employment deponent pursued the same System of charities, as that mentioned by said Gurtrey, and did so from his knowledge of their habit of business: that deponent has known of the fact of the quantity of flour send by Biddle and Drew to be baked for the Indians, as stated by said Gurthrey that said fact is true - that none of said Services were charged for or entered on any book of account, but were purely gratuitous, and charitable: that deponent has no interest in the Business, nor any present connection with Biddle and Drew: that he was well acquainted with the nature and value of the Articles so given to the said Indians, and well qualified to estimate same, and thinks the sum of four hundred dollars a Year to be a very small remuneration therefor, and far below their actual cost.

Sworn to and Subscribed
before me this 26th
day of September A.D. 1837
J.P. King J.P.

Samuel Lasley

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The National Archives. (Affidavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew)

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HRA011927

Biddle & Drew-testimonial
Pelotte, Alexis

Michilimackinac

26 September 1837

State of Michigan
County of Michilimackinac

Alexis Pelotte of said County of
full age, being sworn deposed and
saith, that he has been in the em-

ployment of Biddle and Drew, for the last ten or eleven Years, for greater or less periods of time, as Clerk: that he has been considerably employed by them in trading and selling goods to the Indians: that during that period, Biddle and Drew have been uniformly Kind and charitable to the Indians: in the habit of regularly Supplying all their Wants, and of giving them provisions of all kinds, ministering to their Wants, and taking such care of them as they needed - that at Mackinaw they have Supplied a house, with fuel and furniture for the use of the Indians, and deponent knows that the facts stated by Thomas Gurtrey are generally true - That deponent while acting for said firm always supplied the wants of the Indians - that he was expressly so directed to do, by M. Drew, that such was part of their established rule of business. That as an instance thereof deponent and another Clerk were sent by Biddle & Drew, to trade with the Indians at Manistee in the Winter of the Year 1831-32 and were supplied with extra provisions & well stocked - that during the course of the Winter, the provisions of the Indians fell short, and deponent and said other Clerk supplied the Indians with their provisions, consisting of flour, Corn, and pork, which were all used up, to such an extent, as to leave deponent, and the rest of the Company wholly without provisions and obliged to subsist for three weeks on Sugar - that none of said Services was charged for, or entered on any book, but were purely charitable and gratuitous, and deponent is of opinion that the Sum charged by Biddle & Drew, is very moderate and below the actual cost

deponent further saith that during the Winter aforesaid the said Indians charged deponent for residence in their camp and that deponent paid for same

Sworn to & Subscribed before
me this 26th day of September
A D 1837

Alexis Pelotte

J.P. King

J.P.

Affadavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Special File #156, Record Group 75, The National Archives.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION

Not for Publication

HRA011928

Biddle & Drew-testimonial
Abbott, Samuel

Michilimackinac

27 September 1837

State of Michigan }
County of Michilimackinac }

Samuel Abbott of said County of
full age, appeared before me, and
being sworn, saith, that it appears

from inspection of the books of the American Fur Company, for the Years 1827,
28, & 29, that Biddle & Mitchell purchased during this period from said Company
three hundred & thirty one barrells of flour: that those Years were selected by
chance: without express design and from being the first that presented themselves
on examination. That as deponent believes, the said Persons, were in the habit
of making other purchases of flour, in other places at the above periods, from
masters of vessels in exchange for fish and otherwise-

Sworn to & Subscribed before
me this 27th day of September A.D. 1837
J.P. King
J.P.

Samuel Abbott

Affidavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew, Records of the Bureau of
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION

Not for Publication

HRA011929

Biddle, Edward & Agatha-testimonial
Beaubien, John

Michilimackinac

16 October 1837

State of Michigan }
County of Michilimackinac }

John Beaubien of said County of
full age, this day made oath before
me and saith that he has resided

in Mackinac for the last twenty three Years, and has known Edward Biddle and Agatha Biddle for upwards of twenty Years, or thereabouts: that M^{rs} Biddle is an Ottawa Woman of full blood, very charitable and kind in disposition, and ever since her marriage, in the Year 1818, has had a large number of Indians, belonging to the ceded District, as inmates in her House: that deponent has been very intimate with the said M^{rs}. Biddle, and had considerable access to her House at all times, and was perfectly conversant with all that transpired therein: that deponent has very seldom probably never, known M^{rs} Biddle being without some Indians, to a greater or less amount, in her Kitchen and about her private house: that such Indians were supplied with food, lodging & fuel: when sick they were nursed, furnished with medicines and with a Doctor if necessary, all which was done by M^{rs}. Biddle: that as an instance deponent recollects, that an Ottawa chief, of Sandy River, who got his arm or shoulder broken or dislocated, about the Year 1822 was received into M^{rs}. Biddles house, was there attended by Doctor Beaumont at the request & expense of M^r. or M^{rs}. Biddle, and remained sick three or four Weeks during which he was nursed and received every attention from M^{rs}. Biddle: that about the Year 1825, in the Fall, Mocomanas, a L'Arbre Croche, brought his family to Mackinac, consisting altogether of seven or eight members, to procure medical aid for one of his Sons, whose leg had afterwards to be amputated. that this family remained until the Spring ensuing, nominally inhabiting their lodge, but in reality living at and supported in the family of M^{rs}. Biddle, and especially remaining in the house at Night, and during this time the sick boy was nursed, and received every attention. that at different times and, sick and helpless females, have been received into the house, and supported. that funeral services have been rendered to many Individuals, Coffins made for them, shrouds and funeral garments provided, Graves dug, and the Corpses carried there and interred by said M^{rs}. Biddles, husband and at his expenses: that these instances were to numerous, that deponent cannot tell the precise number, but is positive that there were at least from forty to fifty, deponent has himself with M^r. Biddles men assisted in some of these interments - that during M^r. Byrd's agency there was no Government provision for interring Indians, and they were wholly dependent on the Charity of Individuals, or to a great degree so:

That a large Quantity of fire Wood was annually laid in for the use of M^{rs}. Biddles house, which was at all times freely used by the Indians, who are very wasteful in the use thereof, having open lodges, and being accustomed to large fires & the free use of Wood in their own location. that their fires are maintained day & night, they being more dependant thereon for heat, than on clothing, that it is not uncommon for Indians to burn half a cord of Wood during the twenty four hours in one fire place. that frequently the Indians have maintained three fires at the same time, out of said Woodpile, and deponent fixes a moderate estimate on the amount of Wood consumed each Week during the entire Year at two cords, and is positive that Quantity was actually consumed.

That M^{rs}. Biddle has maintained, and brought up an Indian orphan Girl, named Yow as o-quay -- the child of an Indian called Keshawa an Ottawa from the north of Grand River, that she was taken in about Sixteen Years ago, then only four Years of age: that she has been clothed, fed educated and instructed in all respects like M^{rs}. Biddles own children: that she has never been out of M^{rs}. Biddles

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Biddle, Edward & Agatha-testimonial
Beaubien, John

Michilimackinac

16 October 1837

family since, & is not related to her. that M^{rs}. Biddle also brought up another child of Indian Woman, whose Parents were both dead, that she was about five Years old when taken in, and remained for Six Years, when she was received into the Mackinac Mission: that the Father of said child was a negro, & the Mother a full Indian, and she was a destitute and forlorn child, an object of deserving charity, and she received like care & attention as M^{rs}. Biddles own Children -

That the Persons entertained in and about M^{rs}. Biddles house were so numerous that deponent could not fix the precise number thereof, but he is of opinion that two hundred persons annually would be a small estimate: that M^{rs}. Biddles kindness encouraged many to come, - that deponent has sometimes known twenty or thirty at a time, who have remained more or less according to Circumstances, some would be detained by Ice - more by wind. their time of sojourn varied from one to eight days; that deponent in speaking of the above Charities has reference to the acts of M^{rs}. Biddle & her husband, distinct from those of Biddle & Drew, or any firm & the services were purely personal, and rendered in and about M^{rs}. Biddles own house; that all of them were purely gratuitous, and charitable, never paid for or otherwise compensated, and many of the objects on whom they were expended were destitute & forlorn; that the food supplied was Pork, fish, flour, corn and such like, which the Indians helped themselves to, out of the private Barrels of M^{rs}. Biddle.

That deponent is not and never was in the employment of M^{rs}. Biddle & that all said Services were rendered on the Island of Mackinac.

Sworn to & Subscribed before
me this 16th day of October
A D 1837. J.P. King
J.P.

Ch^s Beubin

Affidavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Special File #156, Record Group 75, The National Archives.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION
Not for Publication

Biddle, Agatha-testimonial
M^C Gulpin, David

Michilimackinac

16 October 1837

State of Michigan }
County of Michilimackinac }

David M^C Gulpin of said County on
his oath saith, that he has known
M^{rs}. Biddle since the Year 1824 or

thereabouts, and was employed, as a hired man about her house for five or Six
Years, ensuing that date: that so far as deponents experience extend the facts
stated in the foregoing affidavit are all true; deponent having had personal
knowledge thereof, and having seldom known M^{rs}. Biddle to be without one or more
Indians - that deponent has seen them help themselves to provisions as stated
in foregoing affidavit: also to Wood, the consumption of which he thinks is mod-
erately estimated in the foregoing affidavit: Recollects the facts stated in
regard to Mo.co.manas, which are true, and at the time of his stay deponent as-
sisted in slaughtering an Bullock for the use of M^{rs}. Biddles family, out of
which the said Mocomanas had permission to take what he pleased, and he availed
himself thereof to take a very large quantity sufficient according to his own
estimation to provision himself and family for Winter. that deponent knows the
facts stated in regard to said orphan Children to be true.

That deponents chief business about the Establishment of M^{rs} Biddle was as
a kind of Foreman to attend on the Indians & furnish them with provisions, which
consisted of pork, fish, flour, potatoes, corn and such like which deponent got
out of M^{rs} Biddles house from her own Stock; Sometimes the outhouse attached to
M^{rs} Biddles dwelling, for the use of the Men, was filled with Indians: this house
is not the Same as that used by the Firm of Biddle & Drew for like purpose -
deponent has known Some Indians to remain two Weeks*

Sworn to & subscribed before me
this 16th day of October A D
1837 J.P. King
J.P.

his
David M^C X Gulpin
Mark

* see appendix to this affidavit on page 7

appendix to affidavit of David M^C Gulpin-

deponent further saith, that in his opinion the Quantity of provisions consumed
by the aforesaid Indians in each Year, were as follow - ten barrels of Pork - of
Salt and fresh fish a Quantity about equal to that of Pork - fifty bushels of corn:
deponent cannot state the Quantity of flour used, but it was greater than the
pork - those Indians who were sick or complained got tea coffee and sugar: all
those articles were taken from the private store of M^{rs} Biddle, out of two small
store rooms adjoining the Kitchen, except the corn which was in an adjoining
Storehouse -

Sworn before me
J P King
J.P.

his
David X M^C Gulpin
Mark

Affidavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew, Records of the Bureau of
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION
Not for Publication

HRA011932

Biddle, Agatha-testimonial
Lasley, Samuel

Michilimackinac

16 October 1837

State of Michigan }
County of Michilimackinac }

Samuel C. Lasley of said county of full
age, this day made oath before me. Saith
That that he has been acquainted with M^{rs}.

Biddle since her marriage, and has known her to entertain in, and about her
house for nearly twenty Years a large amount of Indians, of all ages and sexes,
Some of them extremely indigent, some very aged, and more of them Sick: that
they was supplied with food, nursed thro' Sickness & furnished with medicines
according as their necessities required: that he has never known M^{rs}. Biddles
house to be without some Indians; and without reference to those, who were enter-
tained at the expense of the mercantile establishments, with which M^r. Biddle
was connected, the Number of Indians, to whom M^{rs} Biddle or her husband extended
relief, from their individual resesources [sic] was very large each Year. that
such Services were of a valuable nature to the Indians in affording them fuel,
food & lodging, when they could not otherwise procure Same: that the Services
were voluntary & disinterested & never charged for or paid as deponent verily
believes, that deponent cannot Specify any particular instance of charity, save
the burial of one Indian man, who was found dead, and removed to M^{rs}. Biddles
house, & there prepared for interment & finally interred, at M^r. Biddles expense

Sworn to and Subscribed
this 16th day of October 1837
before me

Sam^l Lasley

J.P. King J.P.

Affidavits in Support of the claim of Biddle & Drew, Records of the Bureau of
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT TRANSCRIPTION
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HRA011933