

manner than I have done, one Party of our Indians Warriors consisting of about 100 men are sett off for Montreal & a much larger now ageting ready.

I thank you sincerely for your care of my things. I have sent M^r Steadman⁶² a list of them. I must beg a continuation of friendship.

A Report prevails that you are to be our master for the back Posts. I wish you much joy if true, not that I have the least Reason to complain of M^r Day. I imagine it would be doing him much Service, as his burthen would then be less.

M^{rs} Askin joins in Compliments to your good family.
P. S. M^r Macomb⁶³ forgot the Iron

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JAMES STERLING AT DETROIT,
JUNE 5, 1778

I wrote you yesterday by the Angelica leting you know in how pressing a manner Major De Peyster wrote Governor Hamilton about my flour. I now send the Vessell for it and hope she may return without the loss of one hour think how distressing it is to have positive contracts for above 20 thousand, the people either now wanting it, or will in a very few days, to prevent all manner of difficulties that might

62. John Stedman (Steadman) was in Detroit in 1762 and the same year located at the Niagara portage, where he engaged in the forwarding business and remained until 1789. By reason of ill-health, he then withdrew to England, leaving his affairs at Niagara in the care of a nephew. He had an estate in Herefordshire (now Bosbury House) where he lived until his death in 1808 in his seventy-eighth year. Condensed from data supplied by Mrs. Shirley Beecher Ball of Dorset, Ontario; James Sterling letter book (ms. copy in Burton Hist. Coll.); Ontario Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VI, 24; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XIX, 424-25; and Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Publications*, VI, 39, 44.

63. A letter written by Askin this same date (not here reprinted) to Alexander and William Macomb of Detroit speaks of a shipment of 400 lbs. of iron which Pollard states they were to have sent him, and of which he is much in want. Alexander and William Macomb were leading merchants of Detroit in this period, sons of John Gordon Macomb who migrated from Ireland to Albany about the year 1755, and from Albany to Detroit ten years or so later. In 1776 the Macombs secured an Indian deed to Grosse Ile, and they obtained, at different times, other extensive property holdings. Alexander married Catherine Navarre, and a son, born to them at Detroit in 1782, was General Alexander Macomb, who for several years prior to his death in 1841 was commander-in-chief of the U. S. army. The elder Macomb left Detroit for New York a few years after the Revolution, where he speculated extensively in lands. His home was one of the finest in the city, and in 1790 it was rented to serve as the official residence of President Washington. See *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, III, 41.