

up [torn] it takes much time to ascend the Su [torn] When I write again shall have more time and I hope More Interesting Subject to Comment upon but this continual drilling and Exercise drives for the present all other Matters out of my head. I shall only further request my Esteem to M^{rs} Askin & Family—with Remembrance to the Commodore M^{rs} Grant &c &c, and likewise to Friends in General. I have wrote M^r D Smith¹² by this opportunity. be assur'd that I am at all times and in every Situation

My dear Sir, Your very Ob^d H Servant
with affection

D Merideth

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit
To the care of Mess Todd & McGill
Merchants Montreal Upper Canada

Endorsed: Woolwich March 20th L^t Meradith to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 7th July & answ^d Early in the same fall I cant recollect the month

FROM WILLIAM ROBERTSON TO JOHN ASKIN

London 26th March 1792

Dear Sir, Your letter of 6th of October is now before me,

¹² David William Smith was born Sept. 4, 1764. His father, John Smith, was major and (subsequently) lieutenant colonel of the Fifth Regiment of Foot, and the son grew up in the regiment. On Sept. 5, 1780, he was commissioned ensign, and subsequently attained the rank of captain. From 1790 to 1792 Major Smith was commandant of Detroit, and from the latter date until his death in 1795 he commanded Fort Niagara. The son was with his regiment at both stations. While still holding his commission he was appointed surveyor general of the province of Upper Canada, was elected to the provincial parliament, and held, in succession, a number of offices, including that of speaker of the House. Beginning in 1799 he alternated between Canada and England, finally remaining permanently in the mother country. He died there, May 9, 1837. In his later years he served as manager of the estates of the Duke of Northumberland; probably through the Duke's influence, he was knighted in 1821. He seems to have been a man of fair ability, with much capacity for cultivating powerful friendships. In 1799 he published at London a *Short Topographical Description of His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada*. At a later time he prepared a caustic criticism of *The Travels in Canada of the Duc La Rochefoucault-Liancourt*, which with editorial annotation was published at Toronto in 1917 as the *Thirteenth Report* of the Ontario Bureau of Archives. A collection of his personal manuscripts is preserved in the Toronto Reference Library. See Ontario Bureau of Archives, *Thirteenth Report*, 5-6, and *Simcoe Papers*, I, 195. On Smith's election to Parliament from the Detroit district in 1792, see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, V, 17-31.