

FROM DAVID W. SMITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Niagara 19 Oct^r 92

My dear Sir: I have received your Letters & your account, with which I am perfectly satisfied, I shall not fail to improve on the ideas you have given me in your Letter, & introduce them into the House of Assembly at our next meeting—indeed I shall wish to be guided in a great measure, by y^r advices—if there is any thing I can serve the people of the New Settlement in, I beg I may be informed. I am afraid this Country may hold me longer to it than I am aware, particularly if I succeed in another Election, but that I can hardly expect unless I have interest enough to get the votes of the french & the English divided. The Council have been sitting on Land business a long time; & troops of our Neighbours are coming in to occupy Townships bodily. In order to give me some weight in the Counties, I have petitioned for 1200 Acres therein, & a minute of the Council goes to the board for that purpose. Essex is chiefly located, so dont forget me in Suffolk, I shall send you my petition for the Exact Spots. The Gov^r is much better, & I hope to attend him to Detroit before the Houses meet, if he is not drawn away, in search of his Capital.

My little Boy has been very ill, taken suddenly, I called in 4 of the faculty, & by the violent application of a blister he is somewhat better, & we have hopes of him. this is the 2^d time he has been tortured with the Cantharides. As I am uncertain Whether M^r McNiff belongs to my department, & of course whether he is under my controul; so I have forebore to write to him, but that will soon be discovered. I have had several private Confabs with the Chief about the Continuation of the Court of Common

Madeline Askin died at Amherstburg, Jan. 10, 1811. She was the mother of eight children, one of whom, William, married Jane Cameron Grant, youngest daughter of Commodore Grant. A son, John, born in 1796, became noted as a Canadian journalist and author; two others, James and Alexander, were drowned in Lake Erie in 1828.

Dr. Richardson married (second), Aug. 8, 1811, Ann McGregor, daughter of Gregor McGregor, and a native of Detroit. Seven children were born of this union. See editorial introduction to Richardson's *War of 1812* (Toronto, 1902), by Alexander C. Castleman.