

with the first fair wind an account of his loading is inclosed. one of the Kegs of Beef had got so low down in the Saginua's load for Mich. that it could not be got out untill her return so that you have only 7 on board in lieu of 8. I'm very glad you are to come this way. I think its necessary for several reasons. Among others M^r Nolan¹¹ had discovered something wrong in M^r Williams¹² his conduct & I'm sorry to say that from late information here I fear its but too true. If that should be the case I recommend strongly your getting another Master for there is no such [thing] as providing against a mans embezling who has the Keys of the Hatches. In conversation with M^r Drake I Discover that he would be as well satisfied to return as stay on shore and I really have ever found him a perfect honest man. I would say more on other subjects were I not to see yourself soon. The Athabaska is this moment arrived. We are without any Interesting news Whatsoever. M^{rs} & Miss Askin present their Compliments & I remain

Dear Sir Your Most Obed^t Very Humble Serv^t

(Signed) John Askin

P. S. your Packs are arrived and will go by the first Vessel
P. S. I learn that one of the men who taxes M^r W. with
having spiled some Casks, is left behind, in order that you

British side, being a sailing master in the marine service. In 1819 he joined with other residents of Sandwich and Amherstburg in a petition concerning the purchase of the Huron reserve near the latter place. Nelson married Elizabeth Donovan, one of whose sisters married Matthew Elliot, and another, Robert Innis. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; *Proceedings of the Land Board of Detroit*, 166.

11 Jean Baptiste Nolin was engaged in trade at Sault Ste. Marie, acting in some capacity for the North West Company, as sundry documents preserved among the Askin Papers disclose. He was at Mackinac as early as 1787, when he signed as witness at a marriage. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 149. The name of Nolin (or Nolan) is one of the oldest in the Northwest trade. As early as 1726 the residents of Detroit formally protested to the intendant of New France against a grant by M. De Tonty to one Nolan and two associates of the exclusive privilege of trading at this place. One Augustin Nolin was engaged in the Lake Superior trade in the latter portion of the eighteenth century, and prior to the War of 1812 had retired and built a residence at the Sault. He was influential in restraining the Indians from massacre at the capture of Mackinac in 1812, and in 1815 he warned the Americans of an impending attack upon them at Sault Ste. Marie. At a later date he sold his property here and removed to the Red River country. See *Ibid.*, III, 169-72 and XX, 155.

12 Probably this was Nathan Williams, for whom see *ante*, 195. Another man named Williams, with whom Askin had dealings in this period, was Peter Williams, who in 1798 was living at New Settlement on Lake Erie.