

ESTATE OF JOHN ASKWITH

Montreal, Nov^r 1795

D^r Sir Having heard that you are appointed Executor to M^r John Askwith deceased, I think it my duty to inform you, that his Daughter Fanny Askwith who he has always acknowledged; by letters in my possession and publicly (in the most affectionate manner) to be his Daughter, And for whom he promises (in his last letter Dated Detroit Nov^r 7th 1793 of which letter I send you a Copy) to do every thing in his Power is now with me at Robert Cruckshank Esq^{re} And being informed that he has died in affluent circumstance I trust you will act in every respect agreeable to the desires of the deceased M^r John Askwith and render his Daughter Fanny the strictest Justice

I am D^r Sir with the greatest respect your humble Serv^t
Marg^t Jervis

Copy [of] letter of the deceased M^r John Askwith

To M^{rs} Marg^t Jervis

Detroit, Nov^r 7th 1793

I received your kind letter, and am happy to hear that you and little Fanny are in good health, be assured, I shall do every thing in my power to assist you and her, and perhaps wou'd do more than you imagine wou'd circumstances admit; but I cannot do impossibilities. I am in a state of servitude at present and cannot be at liberty untill Next July. I wish my time was out tomorrow I wou'd immediately go on board the last Vessel that sails, as this is at present perhaps the most miserable place in all Canada: you will not find a Family for fifty miles but three parts of them are languishing under the Fever and Ague, or otherwise a violent Bilious Fever which has carried off numbers and if they recover it is five or six months before they are able to walk I have hapily hitherto escaped both these, but cannot say I have been one day well for these six months, the constant wrack of business, and close application to the desk has injured my Constitution more