

I forgot I have news. Kitty is Married to a very worthy man, who has been master of my Vessell this several years past. M^{rs} Askin & her join in Compliments to M^{rs} McMurry. I am

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MR. EDGAR⁹ AT DETROIT,
APRIL 28, 1778

I was favoured with your letter of Oct^r last in February. You'll oblige me much if you can let me have the Iron, the Quantity I lost 4 C^t, but as you weighed what you found more than your own, the remainder must be lost some place else. I would in these troublesome times, compound for the two-thirds of all my things on the way up. I'm glad you are once more got to a part of the world where your friends can hear from you. I really thought you lost, when I heard you went to S^t Vincent.¹⁰ M^{rs} Askin presents her kind Compliments to you & believe me with an Inclination to serve you.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JAMES STERLING AT DETROIT,
APRIL 28, 1778

This is the first opportunity I have had of answering M^r

⁹ Apparently William Edgar of the Detroit firm of Macomb, Edgar, and Macomb. Edgar's grandfather, Thomas Edgar, was born in Edinburgh, Oct. 19, 1681. His family were adherents of the Stuart cause, and as a consequence of the rebellion of 1715 he migrated to America. On the vessel which brought him he became acquainted with Janet Knox, a widow, whom he married soon after arriving in America. They settled at Rahway, New Jersey, and had six children, the second being Alexander Edgar, born in 1718; he married Mary Smith and lived in the vicinity of Rahway. Their fourth son was William, the subject of our present sketch. He was born in 1745 and was engaged in trade at Detroit as early as 1768, in which year he was appointed by Capt. George Turnbull, the commandant, as one of a committee of ten residents to report upon the administration of justice then current. In April, 1774, he was one of the Detroit traders who were required to deposit their liquor in a "general rum store" and agree not to give more than one glass at a time to an Indian. In 1780 he signed a petition of the merchants of Detroit to Governor Haldimand complaining of the military control of shipping and the way private goods were handled by the representatives of the Crown. About this time he was a partner of the Macombs and several of the ledgers of the firm are preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll. At a subsequent date (undetermined) Edgar removed to the Illinois country, where the family was represented as late as 1861. Descendants of Thomas Edgar, the original immigrant, have long resided in Detroit. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Farmer, *op. cit.*, *passim*; and letter of C. G. Edgar of Detroit, May 16, 1912, preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll.

¹⁰ Vincennes, Indiana.