

FROM ROBERT HAMILTON TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir From the Circumstance now dreaded that the *Saguinau* will not Return this Season to Fort Erie I am Sorry to say that about 100 Barrel bulk of the Goods now at that place and Twice that Quantity at present between Kingston & this place must winter on the Communication. As this is the Case I am prevented from sending the Whisky ordered. Should Cowan⁵⁶ however whose Vessell is still under the Rapids get up in time to Sail I will make Interest with him to get a few barrels on board if possible. I send William tomoro to Fort Erie to see what Remains behind & he Will Write you should any of your things be in that predicament.

Since my last Respects I have had the Satisfaction of hearing from Scotland that my three boys there were in good health.⁵⁷ George poor fellow had been confined for some Weeks by a Worm fever, but was able at the date of the Letter again to go to School.

I this day inclose to the Comodore a paper Stating a very Glorious Victory Obtained by Adm^l Neilson over Buona-partie in which the latter was taken, tho at the Expençe of the Life of the first. I have requested the Comodore to forward it to you.

Our Ministry have at last Adopted a plan long thought of, to dispose of some of the French Emigrants in this Province as Settlers. For this purpose A Count Puisay⁵⁸ with fourteen respectable Characters, have come out in the

⁵⁶ David Cowan was captain of a vessel in the naval establishment on the upper lakes at least as early as 1793. He subsequently located in Amherstburg, where he was living as late as 1804. From 1800 to 1804 he served as member of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He died at Niagara or vicinity about the beginning of October, 1808. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll., and *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*. The death of Cowan is recorded in Charles Askin's diary for Oct. 16, 1808. Ms. in Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

⁵⁷ On the departure of these boys for England in 1795, see *B. H. R.*, I, 540-43.

⁵⁸ Joseph Geneviève, Comte de Puisaye, was born in Mortagne-en-Perche, France, in 1755. He entered the army and during the Revolution achieved prominence as one of the most active leaders of the royalist cause. He commanded the disastrous Quiberon Bay expedition of 1795, and three years later undertook to establish in Canada a colony of French royalist émigrés. The story of this enterprise is told by Janet Carnochan in *Niagara Hist. Soc., pub.*, No. 15. It did not succeed, and Puisaye returned to England in 1802 and died there in 1827. The house he built facing the Niagara River on the road from Queenston to Niagara may still be seen.