

pounds of flour, for yourself and the other men. Be careful with the pork as it is extremely scarce and dear. I have also given Mr. Baron his provisions till July 1, next. The oxen should be kept constantly busy hauling wood in preference to any other work. Please notice that particularly; and I am sending you 4 minots of corn for them. When the *Saguinah* goes up in a few days on her way to Mackinac, I shall send a horse and two other draft oxen for another yoke, also more provisions.

As soon as the rafts are ready for the King's wood which is squared, square off the 36 other pieces (of which I shall make a raft), separately from the rest. Mr. Barthe will be with you about the first of June. If there are any other directions to communicate to you, I shall send them by him. Under no pretext ought you to give out more than one pound of pork to each man per day. I remain, Sir,

Your most humble etc.,

(signed) John Askin

FROM ROBERT RICHARDSON TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Erie 17th May 1799

Dear Sir I was favored with your letter by the Express and have heard Since of the family being all in good health, which, you may rest assured always gives us the Sincerest pleasure

We felt very much for the loss Sustained by Captain & M^{rs} M^cKee,³⁷ however from common report, they are left very handsomely provided for. They Certainly deserve that it should be so.

We are in dayly expectation of moving being under orders for york. the Season is so very backward, there has no Vessel arrived as yet from Kingston We go to York in the first I understand M^r Hamilton has been over there about ten days ago laying his land Matters before the Council and I am told has got most of them fixed—that is taking off all Quibbling about Transfers &^e and getting them in his own name. I mention this business of M^r

³⁷ The allusion is to the death by lockjaw, on Jan. 13, 1799, of Colonel Alexander McKee, the father of Captain Thomas McKee, whose wife was Askin's daughter, Therese. Doctor Richardson, the writer, was the husband of Therese's half-sister, Madelaine Askin.