

I now inclose by this opportunity an Account of a Barrel of Pork of *my* own curing which I can recommend as good. it cost me £10. Yk at this place & 10/ for carriage up,—a dr'ft on M^r T Forsy[th?] Malden for £6.1.4 Yk C^y and send by the Bearer M^r Willmot³⁸ in Cash. the inclosed account will shew you for what purpose. should you wish the Pork for yourself it will be at cost & charges or if you don't want it be good enough to sell it for my Account I also beg M^{rs} Askin's acceptance of a few seed Potatoes of a particular kind. they go up herewith and the directions for planting are on the annexed page. The Ice is not yet entirely out of the River here, and it was only yesterday the *Nancy* got in, having laid upwards of a fortnight at Point Ebona [Abino]. However although the Spring has been So Long in coming, Vegetation has been remarkably quick, and I can safely say, I never saw more flattering appearances of good Crops than there is in every part of this settlement.

M^r Hamilton will of course forward your News Papers. I shall therefore (although a politician) say nothing on politics—

I request my Compliments to M^{rs} & Miss Askin & Family particularly to my Favourite Charley³⁹ from whom I should be happy to hear. and I remain Dear Sir

³⁸ Alan (Allen) Wilmot, a nephew of Samuel Street of Niagara, came west from Queens-ton with an introduction from Robert Nichol to Askin, as this letter shows, in the spring of 1799. On June 10, Askin wrote to Nichol characterizing Wilmot as "a very fine young man," and saying he had given him a letter of introduction to an old acquaintance at Mackinac. From this time until 1812, Wilmot seems to have been engaged in trade in the Northwest, particularly on the upper Mississippi. Zebulon Pike encountered him at Prairie du Chien in April, 1806, and describes him as "one of the best informed and gentlemanly men in the place." He was at this time associated with Robert Dickson in the company of which Dickson was the head. In July, 1812, he participated in the British attack on Mackinac and was one of the commissioners who negotiated the terms of surrender with Lieutenant Hanks. After September, 1812 (when he was still at Mackinac, apparently engaged in the fur trade), no further mention has been found of him. Information adapted from mss. in B. H. Coll.; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Pubs.*, VIII, 302; and data supplied by Theodore C. Blegen in letter of June 22, 1926.

³⁹ Charles Askin, a younger son of John Askin and Marie Archange Barthe, was born in Detroit in 1785. For a number of years in his early manhood, he was absent from this vicinity, being engaged in business pursuits at Niagara and other points in Upper Canada, which were terminated by the War of 1812. He was present at the surrender of Detroit as a captain of Canadian militia, and thereafter served actively throughout the war in the West. Soon after its conclusion, he returned to Strabane, the ancestral home opposite Belle Isle, where he resided until his death, June 1, 1869. He was a man of much local prominence, holding various offices of public trust. He married Monique Jacob, daughter of George Jacob. See obituary notice in *Detroit Free Press*, June 4, 1869; *B. H. R.*, I, 16; and data in B. H. Coll., *passim*.