

Winter. At the Same time I am sorry you Should make any apology on that head about returns, as I acknowledge my self highly indebted, for your many kind reme[m]brances in that respect.

In your Letter of March, you request to know about the settlement & distribution of the estate of the late John Coates,²⁰ & I not being in this Country for some years after that hapened, I can give you no information on that head; Only, that M^{rs} Coates (when here) lived on a large Lot With pretty Good house on it, Which she said Was her Own, the House is now emty but in charge of D. Mittchelle.

With respect to Lyons,²¹ if I am to Judge from appearance, he has for some years past lived in the family of the late Alexis Laframboies, and still lives in the Widows family, Without doing anything. It appears to me that he made Over his all to the late A. Laframboies, in Order for his future suport. He has Owed me money for this seven years Past, but he pays nobody.

With respect to News, We have none here. The Winter in this part of the World Was very Mild And the Spring early. It is thought there has been a good hunt in the Indian country, Only 2 or 3 little traders are as yet come in. Some days ago I had letters of the 3rd instont from Montreal, but no late News.

The price of flour & corn for the season is not known here as yet. It is said sugar Will be plonty;

Please make my best respects to Madam Askin & all your family. Wishing you & them all manner of happiness. And belive me to be with esteem Dear Sir,

Your Very hum^e Servont

Charles Morison

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

²⁰ John Coates was living at old Mackinaw prior to Sinclair's removal to Mackinac Island in 1780. Coates followed the garrison to the Island, and in 1781-82 was serving both as commissary and as clerk of the Indian Department. Documents of this period are also signed by him as notary public. The date of his death has not been found. A Mrs. Ann Coates was living in Detroit, keeping a tavern, prior to the fire of 1805, and for her losses on that occasion was awarded a donation lot. Whether she was a relative of John Coates of Mackinac has not been determined. See documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X and XI, *passim*; *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 490; and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 230-31.

²¹ Apparently Benjamin Lyon, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 51.