

16th I this moment learn that Doctor Richardson and his Family arrived last night at Fort George on their way to St Josephs where they are to be Stationed. You will therefore have a Visit from them in a Short time which will I am Sure give you all great pleasure, though that will receive some alloy from the dreary prospect they have before them however as Lieut Cowell⁶⁵ the intended Commandant & Doctor Lee⁶⁶ the Garrison Surgeon are both married men, the Society will be rather better than it has hitherto been.

I hope My Dear Sir that you will let me hear from you by every convenient opportunity, and be assured that I shall ommit none, on my part to testify my Esteem & respect

In requesting an Affectionate remembrance to my young Friends, and my very respectful Compliments to M^{rs} and the Miss Askins, I fulfill a very pleasing duty, and in assuring you of my sincere regard I always am My Dear Sir,

Your Obliged Humble Servant

Rob^t Nichol

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Merchant Detroit

Endorsed: Queenston June 15^h 1801 M^r Rob^t Nichol
to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 27th Answ^d July 8^h

STATUS OF VINCENNES DEBTORS

John Askin Esquire, Detroit.

Sir Your Letter of the 6 May last has been received; a double of its inclosure had been already transmitted.

The real Estate of the late Paul Gamelin has been sold by the Sheriff, and I became purchaser of the greater part of it, because it did not rise to near the value in my opinion.

⁶⁵ Robert Cowell was commissioned lieutenant in the Queen's Rangers, June 19, 1793. In 1796 he was stationed at Fort Chippewa. His command of St. Joseph had terminated prior to January, 1804, when Capt. Alexander Clerk had charge of that post. On Sept. 10, 1803, he was commissioned captain in the Fourth Battalion of Reserves. See British army lists, *passim*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*; and *Simcoe Papers*, IV, 344.

⁶⁶ William Lee, hospital mate, was appointed to St. Joseph Island in the spring of 1801 to succeed Dr. David Brown, whose health had failed. On Nov. 29, 1803, Mrs. Lee died at St. Joseph, leaving three small children, and Dr. Lee asked to be relieved in order to convey his children to Quebec. He was still at St. Joseph in July, 1804, and in November, 1805, he testified before a court of inquiry in Amherstburg. Presumably he is identical with William Lee Sr. who served as surgeon of Canadian militia in the War of 1812, and died in York, July 1, 1833, aged seventy years. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*, and Irving, *op. cit.*, 34.