

I'm very happy to learn that the dear Children in every quarter are so well. when collected together it would afford me great happiness to see them. I wish you much joy and hope M^{rs} Hamilton is got well over the job. they are dangerous tho from being common [are] thought little of. Poor Women what do they not suffer in this life. I'm sorry on both your acc^t and mine that I took so much pains and trouble to spoil my cider. its probable that *too much cookery spoils the broth* if I find any of my cider sweet and good in May perhaps I may send you some.

Part of my stock are sent over the River and in about two weeks we will move after them. however in justice to the Gentlemen on this side I must say I have received nothing but politeness and civility from them above these two years past & I assure you debts are recovered here without delay which is a great Object for a Merchant. Now [I am] on this subject I wish to mention that Poor Doctor Harffy our District Judge has been so unwell for these two sessions past that he could not attend & I'm very fearfull never will. I assure [you] I think it very injurious to a country to have but but one district judge why not several as they get no salary. On this side there is seven or eight judges of the Court of Common Pleas by which means business goes on without any interruption. If you agree with me in oppinion I wish you would bring in a bill for that purpose. there should not be less than three district Judges in each district however if the old mode should be continued and we loose poor Harffy, I wish you mentioned to the Governor to be carefull of his choice of one in this quarter. would you think that if I was called on for my oppinion I would be at a loss who to recommend. some I find too haughty & Passionate others not so fair characters as I could wish, others ignorant and many would be too much interested in most cases that could come before them. there is less risk in a number than in one. Let me have M^r Cartwrights and your oppinion on this subject.

found. On June 12, 1804, he married Elizabeth, daughter of Commodore Grant, and to them were born four sons and three daughters. One son, Robert Stuart Woods, born, Oct. 21, 1819, was long prominent in western Ontario as attorney, judge, and citizen. Information adapted from documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; George M. Rose (ed.), *Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography* (Toronto, 1886), 471-72; Robert S. Woods, *Harrison Hall* (Chatham, 1896), *passim*; mss. in B. H. Coll., especially among the Askin and Sibley papers; and St. John's Church Register.