

I beg my affectionate regards to M^{rs} Askin & Family, & am with Sincere Esteem, Dear Sir,

Your Friend & Servant

Rob^t Nichol

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Strabane near Sandwich

Endorsed: Queenston Oct^r 15^h 1802 M^r Rob^t Nichol to Jn^o Askin recv^d Ab^t 14^t Nov^r Answ^d Dec^r 10th

DIFFICULTIES OF JOHN AND WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Strabane near Sandwich January 14th 1803

Dear Robert As a long Yankee often passes my House when I least expect it & vows he is starting for Niagara I think it advisable to have an answer to your favor of the 30th Dec^r last ready in Case such an opportunity should answer. Your Constant Friendly attention to my family has my most warm thanks God be praised they and I are all well as also M^r & M^{rs} Brush and a fine Boy²⁸ I shall mention your kind remembrance of her. I have mentioned to M^r Williams his Uncles the necessity there will be of having Security ready at York early in next Month in case the Judges should be disposed to admit the poor unfortunate Young man to Bail of which M^r Hamilton gave some hopes.²⁹ I have rec^d a letter from William and am truly sorry for him & Johns Situation I did not know or think they would be in any wise Embarrassed. I think he does wright in going

²⁸ Edmund Askin Brush, eldest child of Elijah Brush and Adelaide Askin, was born, Nov. 21, 1802. He was educated at Hamilton College, and subsequently studied law. He early assumed the management of his father's estate (the Brush Farm), to which he largely devoted his active life. He conceived the policy of holding it intact, granting leases to tenants, but refusing to sell the real estate. The growth of the city conferred wealth upon him, and at the time of his death, July 10, 1877, he was reputed to be worth several million dollars. He had been for several decades one of the city's leading citizens, and although never active in politics had held several offices of public trust, including that of water commissioner, 1852-68; police commissioner, 1863-64; commissioner of grades, 1854-61; and city-plan commissioner, 1857-69. In the latter capacity he is said to have been in large measure responsible for the vagaries in street locations which still afflict much of the older section of the city. Mr. Brush was a man of great will power and marked individuality of character and temperament. He married Elizabeth Cass Hunt, daughter of General John E. Hunt and a niece of Governor Cass, who long survived her husband. They had five children; only one, Alfred E. Brush, outlived his father. Data derived from biographical sketches in Farmer, *Hist. of Detroit*, II, 1210; *Detroit Free Press*, July 11, 1877; and newspaper clippings (unidentified) in scrapbooks in B. H. Coll.

²⁹ The allusion is to the affray of John R. Williams with Jacques Lacelle, for which see *ante*, 383-84.