

When his Debts are discharged. I dont know that he owes anything in this Quarter. the Will is worded nearly as you mention, the Widow to have the use of the Estate real and personal during her Life which afterwards is to be divided equally between the Son & Nephew of the deceased. however this mode of bequeathing seems to me to admit of difficu[l]ties as much of the personal estate must consist of Perishable Articles which it would be perhaps out of the power of the Widow to preserve during her life, what the real construction should be is much better known to those who have studied the Law I am Sir

Your most Obed^t Humble Servant

Mr William Bond³⁸ at York

Endorsed: Near Sandwich July 22^d 1803 John Askin Sen^r to Mr William Bond at York (Copy) Widow Heward &c Hon D. W. Smith Mentioned

NEWS OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON³⁹

Queenstown July 27th 1803

Dear Grandfather You could scarce think to have had a letter from me so soon from this place. my speedy return will no doubt surprise you as much as it did my other friends; I have not as yet been gone 7 Months; yet was I above five weeks in England. I reached London on the 21^t of March, just three days after my Uncle was married to Mr Ogilvy's Mother. I hope this will prove a fortunate circumstance for him, from the good character given of her and her influence over him, I am in hopes she will be able to reclaim him from that dreadfull habit he had. I did not find Matters so bad as they were said to have been. that there was such a person as a parson who went over with him who had his passage and other Expences paid, and who was also fond of the bottle I beleive was true, but nothing More; I found

³⁸ William Bond was a sergeant in the Queen's Rangers. As early as 1794 he had a farm on Yonge Street about eighteen miles north of Toronto, surrounding a lake which is still called Bond's Lake. Here he developed Toronto's first nursery. An amusing account of his efforts to sell the property is given by Scadding in *Toronto of Old*, 462 ff. See also Robertson, *Diary of Mrs. John Graves Simcoe*, 307; and *Simcoe Papers*, III, 24.

³⁹ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.