

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Fort Erie August 26 1804

My Dear Sir I have written you two or three times Since my return, but have not been favored with any of yours. the purport of the present is to inclose an Account of Sundry Articles, furnished by me on joint Adventure Account, & of 4 Barrels of Pork, furnished & forwarded P your own order the first Amounting to £250-6-0 & the latter to £28-16- New York Currency, both of which will I hope prove Correct. As the time is now fast approaching when my remittances must be made I trust I shall be excused for urging the propriety of Selling at any price which will Cover Cost & Charges, for I must remit. I however hope that, the greatest part if not the whole has been already disposed of & to Advantage. I have been So much disappointed in the Mackina and Detroit Markets, that I shall not be very forward to try them Again, thinking it better to sell at a Saving price at home, than to run great risks for the prospect of an uncertain Advantage.

The first of the English Goods arrived the other day at Queenstown but have not yet got this length. we may now Speedily Expect to be Constantly employed in the Forwarding line which will Keep us busy enough 'till the Close of the Navigation.

The *Saguinah* left this Some days ago with a load of Salt for Presqu'isle, by which she will not indeed gain Much, tho' it will help to pay her Current Expences. there will be another load ready for her when She returns, which Considering the Number of Vessels in Port, belonging to the owners of the Goods Coming up, & the little prospect of her getting any Chance freight, is the best manner in

Mackinac, serving as clerk and storekeeper in the Indian Department. The remainder of his life was passed in the Indian trade, chiefly of the Upper Mississippi region. There he acquired wide influence, particularly over the Sioux, one of whose women he married. This influence was largely decisive in allying the Indians of the region west of Lake Michigan with the British in the War of 1812. After that war the trade of the Minnesota region became progressively less prosperous for the British traders, and Dickson was on the point of withdrawing from it and establishing his family in the vicinity of his brothers at Niagara, when he died at Drummond Island in 1823. One of his sons, William Dickson, became a trader in the Red River region. Here he incited a half-breed rebellion in 1836, and two years later committed suicide. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, *passim*; article on Robert Dickson in *Minnesota History*, VI, 330-42; *Niagara Hist. Soc.*, pubs., No. 30, pp. 19-21; and Quaife, *Wisconsin, Its History and Its People*, 333 ff.