

Peggy McNiff yesterday. I am glad of it particularly on M^{rs} McNiff's account as she has a large Family to maintain.

Many of your Friends beg to be remembered to you, Dedine's Family among the number. I have nothing more to add.

I remain Dear Charles

Your Affectionate Brother

James Askin

P. S. M^r Barthe begs you will try and procure an Elk Skin for him.

Addressed: M^r Charles Askin at Niagara

Endorsed: Jan^y 7th 1807 James Askin to Ch^s Askin rec^d the 17th & answ^d the 18th

SOCIAL LIFE IN DETROIT⁶

Near Sandwich Jan^y 31 1807

Dear Brother M^r Pattinson's leaving this for New York furnishes us with an opportunity of writing you. it afforded us a great deal of pleasure to hear that you were well, when Langlois left Niagara he is highly pleased with the reception he met with from you. Big Knife⁷ is in good Order considering such a Voyage as he has made. Robins was much pleased with your Letter I delivered it to him the same Evening at M^r McIntoshes where O'Keeffe and several more of your Friends were Dancing, after having Danced

fulfill his contract, which seems to have been occasioned by the unseaworthiness of the *Tracy*. For both Lieutenant Hanks and Margaret McNiff (daughter of Patrick and Catherine McNiff) the ending of the *Tracy's* voyage at Detroit instead of Chicago proved fateful, their marriage following, as here recorded, two months after Hanks's arrival here. In 1811, he was stationed at Mackinac, when the sudden death of Captain Howard, the commandant, brought about his assumption of that position. See *post*, 672-73. In July, 1812, he surrendered his post to the British-Indian force which Captain Charles Roberts led from St. Joseph Island against the place. Hanks was paroled and allowed to proceed to Detroit, where on August 16, shortly before the surrender, he was undergoing court-martial for his action at Mackinac when a cannon ball fired from across the river penetrated the room and killed him instantly. His widow died, Dec. 14, 1869, at the age of eighty-three. For many years she had resided on the north side of Jefferson Avenue between Bates and Randolph streets. Data derived from sketch in *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 177 and mss. in B. H. Coll., *passim*.

⁶ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

⁷ Big Knife was Charles Askin's horse.