

Whooping-cough was very prevalent here last winter, something that never happened before in this place, so the old residents say, and carried off several children. Old Mr. McDonald³² is very ill. The doctor thinks that he cannot recover, but he does not want to die. They have been married fifty-three years, and the old gentleman looked so well last winter. I often met him when I would be out walking in the forenoon. The old lady has not seemed to carry her age so well, more worn out than her husband. I do not think that Mrs. Solomon³³ will live long, she is very feeble and has kept her bed for some time now. She has nothing to eat except what people take in and you know how slow they are giving when one waits for another.

As Alexander has been a silent observer of all that has taken place here he will be able to tell you all that he has found worthy of notice in the island, and the peculiarities of the people he has seen since he came. I will therefore conclude asking you kindly to give my love to my dear Father and to my brothers and sisters. With the exception of Mrs. McKee, they are all bad correspondents, for they are all in my debt. I am sorry for poor Alice.³⁴ Time will hang heavy on her hands, I am afraid.

Farewell, dear Mother. May the good Lord protect you, my dear parent, is the prayer of your loving

Madeline Askin

BATTLE OF BEAVER DAMS

10 Mile Creek July 8th 1813

Dear Father Your affectionate letter of the 15th Ult^o was handed me by M^r W^m Kerby on the field of Battle when six hundred of the Americans under the Command of Col.

³² John McDonald, assistant barrackmaster prior to the British evacuation of Mackinac in 1796. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 340-41, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 502.

³³ Probably the wife of Ezekiel Solomon, for whom see *ante*, 525. William Solomon, son of Ezekiel, is said to have been of mixed Jewish and Indian blood. This would imply that Mrs. Solomon was an Indian woman. See *Ont. Hist. Soc., Papers and Records*, III, 126 ff.

³⁴ Mrs. Brush, sister-in-law of Madeline Askin. The allusion is evidently to the absence from Detroit of her husband and son, for which see *ante*, 750.