

the Canoes return w^t pro & the Enemy leave us alone this fall, in the spring we will with the help of God keep them off[f]. Write me by the Winters Express & let me know where you are & how does matters stand. Your mother & sisters say God Bless you & may you enjoy Health & every Blessing this world affords & am

Your affectionate Father

J. A.

Jn^o Askin J[r]

My negro wench Madelaine absconded two days ago & I am just informed that Capt Bullock has taken her into his service (if so) he must be a d m n Scoundrel & is beginning similar tricks that Dawson did I can hardly credit the Report, for I cannot think that any man but Dawson would have been guilty of the like I am sorry the sudden departure of his [illegible] is such that I cannot get full proof of his having acted so, for were I certain that he has concealed her after I told him that she was my Slave & shewed him the Act whereby it is expressly mentioned that all those born before 1793 are slaves,⁴⁷ I would report him. time will illucedeate all things. dont say any thing on this head to any one untill you hear from me again.

Addressed: M^r John B. Askin S^t Davids or River Thames
Recommended to the Care of Duncan Cameron Esq^r York

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO HIS CHILDREN

Strabane Nov^r the 12^h 1813

My Dear Children This Letter though Only directed to three of you, its contents I wish you to make known not only to your sister M^{rs} M^o Kee but likewise to my grand Children and fr[i]ends in the quarter w[h]ere you may be when it reaches you.

First thanks to Almighty God that we, Our Family and connections in this Quarter Enjoy good health though its a sickly time & many people have died. Your Acquaintances the Families of M^{rs} M^o Intosh, F. Baby, M^r Hands M^r

⁴⁷ The allusion is to the act for the restriction of slavery passed by the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada in 1793. It was a compromise measure, which did not interfere with property in slaves existing prior to the passage of the act, but provided that children born to enslaved mothers subsequent thereto should become free upon attaining the age of twenty-five.