

that it came only when your children could be with you to comfort you in a grief which He feels as much as you.

My dear John is almost inconsolable. For three months now he has anticipated this fatal blow. The last letter was received with tears of joy. Up to quite recently he had hoped to see him. Then at last he realized that it was impossible for him to go down and he was beside himself with grief. He said to me that he would never see his father. Nevertheless it was his only prayer, but how oppressed he was with some trouble. For three days he has not eaten, then came the boat that brought us the painful intelligence he has so long foreseen. He can not write and has begged me to try to do so, but I fear you will have as much difficulty to read it as I have to write. It is only through my tears that I try to offer you any comfort. How alone we are in this place! Only strangers about us who are not thoughtful enough to leave a man to himself even for two hours, no matter how great his sorrow. That is his situation and he must bear it. Adieu, dearest Mother. May God bless you and my dear brothers and sisters is the prayer of your affectionate daughter,

Madelaine Askin

Addressed: Madam Askin, Strabane, by Captain Keith⁶³

WILL OF JOHN ASKIN⁶⁴

1—I commit my soul to Almighty God hoping through the merits and sufferings of his dearly beloved son our Saviour Jesus Christ to partake of happiness everlasting in the world to come.

2—I commit my body to the dust from whence it came to be buried in such manner as my directions to Doctor Richardson will show, avoiding all unnecessary expenses and vain pomp.

⁶³ Captain William Keith, probably at this time skipper of the schooner *Tiger*. He lived for some years in Detroit, where for a time (prior to 1823) he was commander of the revenue cutter *A. J. Dallas*. In 1821, he was one of a committee of seven citizens of Wayne County appointed to promote the candidacy of Judge Woodward for the delegacy in Congress. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*, and entries in Solomon Sibley papers.

⁶⁴ Reprinted from an exemplified copy, filed, Oct. 6, 1891, in the Probate Court of Wayne County (P. C. File 16980). The original document was admitted to the Surrogate Court of Essex County, Ont., Dec. 5, 1815, and was recorded in L. 169, p. 102, P. R.