

SECTION III

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1780-1785

## SALE OF LAND BY BENJAMIN CHAPUT

Pardevant thomas willam notaire Residant au detroit Soussigné et temoins Cy apres nommés fut present le Sieur Benjamin chapu Lequel a volontairement Confessé avoir vendu Cedé et transporté et promis garantir de tous troubles Dons Douaires hipoteques alieanations et Empechements generalement quelconques une terre \* de trois arpents de front joignant dun coté a La veuve Lespiecle et dautre Cote au F<sup>r</sup> Bernié a la cotte du Sud au bord de la Riviere du Detroit telle quelle se poursuit et Comporte, au Sieur Antoine Soumonde a Ce present acceptant pour lui Ses hoirs et ayant Causes a Lavenir a la charge par le dit Sieur Soumonde acquereur, des Cens et rentes et Servitudes accoutumées quitte neamoin du passé jusqu'a ce jour et en outre pour le prix et Somme de deux mille Livres anciens shilens de la province de quebec qui le dit vendeur a Declare avoir Reçu en plusieurs tems et differents payements par les mains du Sieur Monforton, premierement la Somme de six cent Cinquante et Sept Livres Cinq Sols dont la ditte terre est hipotequee par une obligation en faveur du Sieur antailla et que le dit Sieur acquereur accepte Suivant et Conformement a Lacte qui est entre les mains du d<sup>t</sup> Sieur antailla, plus la Somme de six cent Livres en papier Cours de ce poste que le Sieur Monforton lui auroit Cy devant Compté et donné en presence des Sieurs Reaume antailla et guillar. plus la Somme de six cent quatre vingt une Livre quinze Sols pour Comptes et Billets que le dit Sieur Monforton a payés pour le dit vendeur et dont il lui a tout presentement produit et Livré les Reçus. plus la Somme de quarante et Cinq Livres que le dit vendeur a declairé avoir Reçu du dit Sieur Monforton en papier Cours de ce poste le dites sommes et obligation cy mentionées faisant ensemble la Somme de dix et noeuf Cent quatre vingt quatre Livres. qui avec Seize Livres que le dit Sieur acquereur a presentement donné au dit vendeur formant la Somme de deux

\*batiments

mille Livres dont il le tient quitte et lui donne par Ces presentes bonne et valable decharge.

En Consequence de qui le dit vendeur a transporté et transporte tous et tels Droits de proprieté noms Raisons actions quil pourroit avoir et pretendre Sur la dite terre dont il se desaisit et devet en faveur du dit Sieur acquereur pour par lui Ses hoirs et ayant Causes faire jouir et disposer Comme de chose a lui appartenante voulant quil en demeure Saisi Revetu et mis en bonne et paisible possession Constituant Son procureur general et Especial le porteur des presentes qu'il autorise a cet Effet lui en donnant tout pouvoir.

Se Reserve le dit vendeur quatre arpents Sur la Largeur a prendre du haut de la prairie pendant Lespace de deux ans pour y Semer tels grains qu'il jugera pour Son usage etant expressement Convenu qu'en Cas dabsence il ne pourra transporter Ce droit a personne ni en jouir lui meme apres les deux ans expirés a Commencer de ce jour, jusquapres le tems des Recoltes. Sobligeant aux droits et Servitudes accoutumées au prorata, de la dite terre.

Car ainsi &c promettant obligeant Renonceant &c fait et passe au Detroit Etude du d<sup>t</sup> Notaire Lan Mil Sept Cent quatre vingt le deux de mars et a le dit chaque declare ne Savoir Signer de ce Requis lecture faite il a fait Sa marque ordinaire et les temoins ont Signe avec nous.

si au cas le dit acquereur vend la ditte terre il en promet la preference au dit vendeur.

J. Bondy Temoin  
Tho<sup>s</sup> Cox

Benjamin <sup>sa</sup> X Chapu  
Marque

T. Williams Notaire  
Enregistré au Greffe du Detroit folio 644 & 645  
par T Williams Greffier

Received of Mr. William Monforton the Lotts & Vents of the above sum of Two Thousand livres.

T. Williams Receiver

*Endorsed:* Vente d'une terre par Benjamin Chapu au Sieur Antoine Soumonde. 1780

*Translation*

BEFORE US Thomas Williams,<sup>1</sup> undersigned notary of Detroit and there resident, and witnesses hereinafter named, was present Benjamin Chaput,<sup>2</sup> who voluntarily declares that he has sold, ceded, and assigned, with guaranty against all troubles, gifts, dowers, mortgages, alienations, and hindrances whatsoever, a tract of land, with buildings, of three arpents front, adjoining land of the Widow Lespiècle on one side, and of François Bernié on the other, situated on the south bank of the River Detroit such as it is and as it extends on all sides, to Anthony Soumande,<sup>3</sup> accepting the same in accordance with these presents for himself, his heirs and assigns; and the said Soumande assumes the charges of *cens et rentes* and customary service, with release from the same, however, for all time past until this day; also for the price and sum of two thousand livres, Quebec currency, which sum the said vendor acknowledges to have received at different times in diverse payments by the hand of Mr. Monforton; firstly, the sum of six hundred and fifty-seven livres five sols for which the said land was mortgaged by a bond in favor of Mr. Antaya<sup>4</sup> and which

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Williams was a native of Albany. He came to Detroit in 1765 and married here on May 7, 1781, Mary Cecilia Campau, daughter of Jacques Campau and Catherine Menard. He served as storekeeper, trader, merchant, keeper of the public records, justice, and notary. He was appointed justice and notary by Captain Richard B. Lernoult, after Philip Dejean left Detroit to join Governor Hamilton at Vincennes. Williams died at Detroit about the close of the year 1785. His son, John R. Williams, born in 1782, was mayor of Detroit for several terms and one of the city's prominent citizens for almost half a century ending with his death in 1854. See Denissen, *op. cit.*; Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 200 and II, 1203, 1402.

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Chaput, born in 1748, was a grandson of Nicolas Chaput, a native of France who married at Montreal, April 19, 1689, Angelica Gautier, a native of that place. Benjamin married at Sandwich, April 4, 1785, Josette Rochereau *dit* Lespérance, who was born there, June 4, 1766. He was buried at Sandwich, Nov. 25, 1796; the widow was buried there, April 13, 1839. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> Pierre, the founder of the line of Soumande in America, was a native of Gascony who married at Quebec, Nov. 16, 1649, Simone Coté, a native of that place. Pierre Soumande was buried at Quebec, Nov. 29, 1689. Anthony Soumande, a great-grandson of Pierre, born in 1752, married at Sandwich, Feb. 11, 1782, Regina Angelica Guillet *dit* Tourangeau, a native of that place. Anthony was buried at Sandwich, June 4, 1792; his widow was buried there, Feb. 28, 1845. A sister of Anthony Soumande, Mary Louisa Soumande *dit* Delorme, married William Monforton, for whom see *ante*, 107.

<sup>4</sup> Probably Jean Baptiste Antaya, son of Augustin Peltier *dit* Antaya and Mary Charon. Jean Baptiste, born in 1739, married at Sandwich, Jan. 10, 1774, Mary

the said purchaser assumes conformably to the bond in the possession of the said Antaya; secondly, the sum of six hundred livres in paper currency of this post which the said Monforton counted and paid to him in the presence of Messrs. Réaume,<sup>s</sup> Antaya and Guillar; thirdly, the sum of six hundred and eighty-one livres fifteen sols in accounts and bills which the said Monforton has paid for the said vendor, for which he now produces and delivers to him the receipts; fourthly, the sum of forty-five livres, which the said vendor declares to have received from the said Monforton in paper currency of this post; the said sums and bills as herein mentioned amounting together to the sum of nineteen hundred and eighty-four livres; which, with sixteen livres which the said purchaser now gives to the said vendor, makes the sum of two thousand livres for the payment of which he acquits the said purchaser, and by these presents gives him good and valid discharge.

IN CONSEQUENCE WHEREOF the said vendor has conveyed and does convey all and such rights of ownership, title, equity and demands which he has upon the said land, real or pretended, of which he stands possessed and of which he divests himself in favor of the said purchaser, for himself, his heirs and assigns, that he may use and dispose of the same as his own property, it being the will

Catherine Bergeron, a native of Detroit. She was buried at Sandwich, March 19, 1798; he was buried there, Jan. 16, 1806. They left a large family of children. *Denisen, op. cit.*

5 René Réaume, born in the bishopric of La Rochelle in 1643, married Marie Chevreau, born in 1652. Their son, Pierre Réaume, born July 28, 1691, married Mary Teresa Estève *dit* Lajeunesse, a native of Quebec, in 1722, and settled at Detroit the same year. The wife died in the spring of 1730 and the husband in August, 1740. They left several children.

Another member of the family, who may have been a nephew of Pierre, was Hyacinthe Réaume, born at Lachine, March 25, 1704, who married at Montreal, Nov. 17, 1727, Agatha Lacelle, daughter of Jacques Lacelle and Angelica Gibaut. In 1733 the family came to Detroit, where Hyacinthe, who was a shoemaker, was buried, June 10, 1774, and Agatha, July 19, 1778. The individual here mentioned was their son, Jean Baptiste, who was born at Detroit, July 9, 1741, and married here, Dec. 20, 1763, Agatha Lootman *dit* Barrois. In 1774 they settled at Sandwich, and in 1792 at Raisin River settlement, where Agatha was buried Nov. 12, 1806, and Jean Baptiste, April 18, 1807. Jean Baptiste Réaume was engaged in the Indian trade. Concerning his rescue of James Moore from captivity, see *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet, V, 76*. A younger sister of Jean Baptiste was Marie Julie Réaume, who became the wife of Governor Jehu Hay of Detroit. A brother was Capt. Charles Réaume of the Indian Department, for whom see *post*, 249.

of the said vendor that the said purchaser may be invested with full powers thereof of ownership and seizin and be placed in good and peaceable possession of the same; substituting the bearer hereof for his true and lawful attorney, in giving him full power and authority for that purpose.

The said vendor reserves for himself four arpents from the depth of the said land, beginning above the meadow, for the space of two years, to sow such grain as he shall consider necessary for his own use, it being expressly agreed that in case of his absence he may not assign this right to any other person, nor may he exercise the right himself after the expiration of the two years as calculated from the present until after the time of harvest. He also assumes a *pro rata* share of the customary charges and services due upon the said land.

For thus and so &c., promising, obliging, renouncing, &c., duly executed at Detroit, in the office of the said notary, on the second day of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty, and both parties having said that they cannot write, they have made their accustomed marks, after hearing these presents read, and the witnesses have signed with us.

In case the said purchaser sells the said land he promises to give the said vendor the preference for the same.

J. Bondy,<sup>6</sup> Witness

BENJAMIN <sup>his</sup> × CHAPUT  
mark

Tho<sup>8</sup> Cox,<sup>7</sup>

T. Williams, Notary

<sup>6</sup> For the Bondy line see *ante*, 36. Joseph Bondy, signer of the present document, was the eldest son of Joseph Bondy and Mary Ann Cecilia Campau there noted. He was born in 1733 and on Aug. 7, 1758, married Mary Joseph Gamelin of Detroit, daughter of Laurence Eustache Gamelin and Mary Joseph Dudevoir *dit* Bonvouloir *dit* Lachine. They had several children. Joseph Bondy was a trader and lived on St. Joseph Street. He was buried at Detroit, Nov. 18, 1802; Mary Joseph Gamelin was buried at Sandwich, Nov. 27, 1797. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>7</sup> Thomas Cox was at Detroit as early as 1772. In 1780 Thomas and his wife, Margaret, obtained adjoining grants of land of 6,400 and 8,000 acres respectively,

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*Appended*: 1. Entered in the register of Detroit, folio 644 and 645

By Thomas Williams, Recorder

2. Received of Mr. William Monforton the *lods et vents* on the above sum of two thousand livres.

Thomas Williams, Receiver

*Endorsed*: Sale of a tract of land by Benjamin Chaput to Antoine Soumande. 1780

GRANT OF PRESQU' ISLE TO JOSEPH RÉAUME

Nous les Chef de la Nations outavoix Après avoir délibéré Sur Letat actuel des terres que Nous Laissons inculte depuis Longtens de Lavis et Consentement général de la Nations avons déterminé dendonner une portion a notre amie Josephe Réaume fice de Battiste Reaume dans La rivière des miamye Savoir Lile que Lon nome La présquil et que nous nomons miseskanake avec toute sa Largeur et dépendence ainseye quune parties de Largeur de La ditte ille de Lotre Cotté apprendre a une petite Rivièr nous lui donnens vingt arpend de front sur Cinquente de profondeur et pour La bonne et sincèr Amittièr que nous lui portons nous lui Allumons un feux de paix et de trenquillite en Luis Garantissent des a present et a toujours ses hoysr et ayans Causes La Susditte portion de terre cy enoncée afin quil en Jouisse Sens aucun Enpechement quelconque Cest pourquoy nous avons faits nos marque Accoutumés

extending 2½ miles along the St. Clair River. Cox's grant began at a small creek still known as Cox Creek. In 1794 Alexander Harrow of the British naval establishment became the owner of these tracts, and settled them the following year. In 1786 Cox bought from Isidore Chêne a tract of land at the River Rouge. He kept an inn in Detroit, and also owned a lot in the town, which he sold to William Macomb. Soon after the American occupation Cox became tax collector, and in December, 1798, the county commissioners ordered the sheriff to levy on his property to the extent of \$419, which he had defaulted. Two weeks in advance of this action Cox deeded his River Rouge property to George Cottrell. In the deed he describes himself as "sick but in perfect memory and understanding." See mss. in Burton Hist. Coll., *passim*, and article by William L. Jenks, "The Harrow Family," in *Algonac Courier*, Aug. 1, 1924.

a La Rivière des miamie Susdit 28 Juillet 1780

[Totem signatures of fifteen Ottawa chiefs, to each of which is added the chief's name in the Indian language.]

Je Soussigné Certifie que les chefs cy dessus ont fait leur Marques et déclaré donner Volontairement la terre cy dessus enoncé au Detroit le 28 Juillet 1780

T. Williams. Juge a paix

Enregistré au Greffe du Detroit en le registre No. 2 folio 21 par moy

T. Williams

Recorded in the Land Office at Detroit Liber E, folio 103 &c.

testis

Geo. Hofman<sup>s</sup>

Endorsed: J. Askin 8<sup>th</sup>

Contract de la Presque Isle a la riviere des miamies 1780  
N° 34 Rec<sup>d</sup> the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1797 P. A.

Registered in my office in the book N° 1 pages 27 & 28  
N° 1D

Peter Audrain, Recorder

### *Translation*

We, the chiefs of the Ottawa nation, by the advice and unanimous consent of the said nation and in consideration of the present condition of the lands which we have long left waste, have concluded to give to our friend, Joseph Réaume,<sup>o</sup> son of Baptiste Réaume, a tract of land in the

<sup>8</sup> George Hoffman was a prominent citizen of Detroit in the period prior to the War of 1812. In 1804 he was serving as register of the land office; in 1806 as postmaster. In 1809 he was foreman of the grand jury which, among other actions, made a presentment of Governor Hull for having remitted the punishment of John Whipple, who had been fined for calling Judge Woodward a "damned rascal." The same year Hoffman served as secretary of a committee which made a report on the several forms of territorial government, and petitioned Congress to grant the people of Michigan an elective legislature. He died on or about March 2, 1810. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, V, 552, VIII, 387-89, XII, 544-49, and XXIX, 649.

<sup>9</sup> Joseph Réaume was the son of Jean Baptiste Réaume and Agatha Lootman *dit* Barrois, for whom see *ante*, 170. He was born at Detroit, Feb. 15, 1772, and at the

Maumee River known as the island which is called Presqu' Isle, or in our language Miseskanake,<sup>10</sup> throughout its whole extent; and we also give him a tract of the same extent on the other side, beginning at a little river, twenty arpents in front by fifty in depth.

And for the true and sincere friendship which we bear to him we light with him a pipe of peace and tranquillity, and guarantee to him, his heirs and assigns, henceforth and forever, the above mentioned tract, as herein set forth, to enjoy the same without any hindrance whatever; in proof of which we have made our accustomed marks.

Done at the above mentioned Maumee River, July 28th, 1780.

[Signed in totem by fifteen Ottawa Indian chiefs.]

I, the undersigned, certify that the above chiefs have made their marks and have declared that they give the above mentioned land of their own free will. Detroit, July 28, 1780.

T. Williams, Justice of the Peace

Recorded at Detroit in register No. 2, folio 21, by me,

T. Williams

*Endorsed:* Deed of the Presqu'Isle at Maumee River. 1780.

#### GRANT OF LAND TO THOMAS WILLIAMS

Nous les Chefs de la nation Pouteauatamis apres avoir

time of this grant was living at Sandwich, whither his parents had removed in 1774. His early age, as well as the wording of the document, tends to the conclusion that the grant must have been made chiefly by reason of his father's instrumentality and influence. Joseph Réaume married at Raisin River, Feb. 9, 1795, Geneveva Suzor, who was born at Sandwich, March 9, 1780, daughter of Louis Suzor and Josette Le Beau. Genealogical information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>10</sup> Presqu' Isle was on the north side of the Maumee River, being partially enclosed between that river and a creek tributary thereto. At its lower end was fought the Battle of Fallen Timbers, August 20, 1794, and General Wayne's camp the night before the battle, was made a short distance higher up the island. John Askin purchased Réaume's Indian title to the island in December, 1796, and in July, 1807, preferred a claim to the property before the Board of Land Commissioners at Detroit. The Board subsequently ruled (Dec. 11, 1809) that the land claimed was outside the bounds of its district. See *American State Papers, Public Lands*, I, 372, 526; for map, see *Simcoe Papers*, II, 396.

delibéré sur letat actuel des terres que nous laissons incultes depuis longtems, de l'avis et consentement general de la nation, avons determiné d'en donner une portion a notre ami Thomas Williams contenant quatre arpents de front sur la grande riviere du Detroit sur cent vingt arpents de profondeur tenant du Coté du sud ouest a Sieur Adhemar St Martin et au nord est a James Rankin en suivant la même direction des terres anciennement concedées, et pour la bonne et sincere amitié que nous luy portons nous luy allumons un feu de paix et de tranquillité en luy garantissant des a present et a toujours ses hoirs et ayant cause la susditte portion de terre cy énoncée afin qu'il enjouisse sans aucune empchement quelconque. Cest pourquoi nous avons fait nos marques accoutumees.

[Names and totems of eleven Indian chiefs.]

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Mesackwangie | pebamuchketac |
| Nesowagie    | Nesowaghquat  |
| Osawanequat  | Waweyaghtin   |
| penemou      | Nickeson      |
| Windego      | Okeya         |
|              | eskebee       |

Je Soussigné certifie que les chefs cy dessus ont fait leur Marques et déclaré donner Volontairement la terre cy dessus énoncé. au Detroit le 28 Juillet 1780

T. Williams Juge apaix

Engregistré au Greffe du Detroit en le registre No 2 folio 21 par moy

T. Williams

*Appended:* Know all men by these presents That I Thomas Williams for and in Consideration of the sum of One Hundred pounds New York Currency to me in hand paid by John Laughton<sup>11</sup> the Receipt Whereof I do Hereby Acknowl-

<sup>11</sup> John Laughton was a commander of vessels in the royal service on Lake Erie from 1775 to 1789. He then became naval storekeeper at Detroit, retiring therefrom when advancing age rendered him incapable of performing longer the duties of the office. On June 24, 1797, he petitioned the Canadian government for a grant of 3,000 acres as a reduced lieutenant. In 1805 he testified before the U. S. Land Board at

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

edge have assigned to the said John Laughton his heirs and assigns all my right, title, Interest, Claim, & Demand of, in, and to, the within Mentioned Tract of Land. In witness whereof I have Hereunto set my hand & Seal at Detroit the Twenty-fourth day of october 1780

Witness Present  
George Lyons<sup>12</sup>  
Rich<sup>d</sup> Wright<sup>13</sup>

T. Williams (L.S.)

Detroit June 25<sup>th</sup> 1791 received of M<sup>r</sup> John Askin Twenty Pounds New York Cur. for the Within Mentioned tract of Land & in full for that & all Other Demands Until this day.

John Laughton

*Endorsements:* 1, Rec<sup>d</sup> in my office 5<sup>th</sup> June 1797 P. A.  
2, Registered in my office in the book N<sup>o</sup> 1, page 96.

Peter Audrain Recorder

3, N<sup>o</sup> F ½ for N<sup>o</sup> 2 of Todd  
½ for N<sup>o</sup> 2 of M<sup>c</sup>Gill.

4, Recorded in the Land Office at Detroit,  
in Liber E Folio 104 teste  
George Hoffman

*Translation*

We, the chiefs of the Potawatomi tribe, having taken counsel concerning the present state of the lands which we

Detroit that in 1776 he had leased Hog Island (Belle Isle) from James Casety. He subsequently located on Stromness Island in Lake St. Clair, where members of his family continued to reside until a recent period. Information adapted from data in Canadian Archives (ms. copy in Burton Hist. Coll.) and in *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*.

12. George Lyons was a trader and lived for a time on Hog Island. In 1782 he married Elizabeth Chêne and to them five children were born. He owned land in the old town of Detroit. He died of pleurisy in December, 1794. The following year his widow married George Knaggs. See *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 194-95, and references there cited.

13. Richard Wright was a sailor on the lakes, who eventually made Detroit his permanent home. According to the first notice we have found of him, in 1771 the *Angelica* of forty-five tons burden was built at Detroit, and Wright was made captain with an annual salary of £120. Silas Farmer, *op. cit.*, 907. A receipt for freight signed by Wright in 1774 seems to indicate that he was still serving as lake captain. *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXVIII, 562. From other documents it appears that in 1780 and

have long left uncultivated, have determined, by the advice and unanimous consent of the tribe, to give a portion to our friend, Thomas Williams, consisting of four arpents of front on the Detroit River by one hundred and twenty arpents of depth, adjoining land of Adhémar St. Martin<sup>14</sup> on the south-west, and of James Rankin on the north-east, lying in the same direction as the lands formerly granted; and for the good and sincere friendship which we bear to him we light for him a pipe of peace and of tranquillity, with guarantee, from now and forever, to him, his heirs and assigns, of the above mentioned tract of land, herein set forth, that he may have the enjoyment of it with no hindrance whatsoever. In Testimony of which we have made our accustomed signs.

[Names and totems of eleven chiefs.]

I, the undersigned, certify that the above chiefs have made their marks and declared voluntary gift of the land above set forth. Detroit, July 28, 1780.

T. Williams, Justice of the Peace

Entered in the records of Detroit in register No. 2, page 21,  
by me

T. Williams

1781 he was engaged in trade at Detroit. In the year first noted he ordered four bateauloads of goods from Montreal in a total of ninety ordered by the merchants of this place. *Ibid.*, XIX, 588-89.

<sup>14</sup> Toussaint Anthony Adhémar *dît* St. Martin was descended from Michael Adhémar and Cecilia Gache, who resided in the diocese of Alby, in Upper Languedoc, France. Their son, Anthony Adhémar, Sieur de St. Martin, born in 1640, was a royal notary. He migrated to Canada and married at Quebec, Oct. 10, 1667, Geneviève Sazeot, a native of St. André-des-Arts, archdiocese of Paris, France. She was buried at Champlain, Aug. 30, 1683, and Adhémar married (second) Michelle Cusson at Cap de la Madeleine, Jan. 20, 1687. Their son, Jean Baptiste Adhémar *dît* St. Martin, was born at Montreal, March 16, 1689. On Jan. 7, 1733, he married (second) Catherine Moreau, who was born at Quebec, Oct. 8, 1696, daughter of Pierre Moreau, Sieur de la Taupine, and Mary Magdelene Lemire. Pierre Moreau was a fur trader who had been at the Sault Ste. Marie with St. Lussou in 1671, and on the site of Chicago before Marquette wintered there in 1674-75. The son of Jean Baptiste Adhémar and Catherine Moreau was our present subject, Toussaint Anthony Adhémar *dît* St. Martin. He was born at Montreal, Sept. 10, 1740. He came to Detroit as early as 1765, married Geneviève Blondeau, and in 1768 was living on Ste. Anne Street. For upwards of twenty-five years Detroit was the center of his activities, although his trading operations sometimes necessitated prolonged absences. He was at St. Joseph in 1773. He early visited Miamitown (modern Fort Wayne) and he was employed there in the later 1780's. Henry Hay, who spent the winter of 1789-90 there, makes frequent mention of him in his Journal. Ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.; printed in Wis. Hist. Soc., *Proceedings*, 1914, p. 214 ff. In October, 1790, the settlement was razed by

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

### GRANT OF LAND TO RICHARD CORNWALL AT BELLE RIVER

KNOW ALL MEN by these Presents, that we, the Chiefs and Principal Leaders of the Ochipué [Chippewa] Nation of Indians, at Detroit, for ourselves, and by and with the advice and consent of the whole of our said Nation, in consideration of the good will, love and affection which we, and the whole of said Nation, have and bear unto Richard Cornwall,<sup>15</sup> of Detroit, and also for divers other good causes and considerations us the said Chiefs and rest of our Nation hereunto moving, HAVE given, granted, aliened, enfeoffed and confirmed, and by these presents, DO give, grant, alien, enfeoff and confirm, unto the said Richard Cornwall, a Tract of Land on the North West side of the River or Streight leading from Lake S<sup>t</sup> Clare to Lake Huron, beginning at a certain River called Belle River,<sup>16</sup> running thence up said River or Streight, forty acres, the whole One hundred and

General Harmar's army, and the traders' establishments were destroyed. Probably this circumstance explains the removal of St. Martin to Mackinac, where he lived from 1791 until his death, Nov. 22, 1804. Although not notably successful in his trading operations, St. Martin was a man of probity, and he enjoyed the esteem of his contemporaries. He held various local official appointments at Detroit, including those of justice of the peace and member of the Land Board for the District of Hesse. At Mackinac he served as justice during both the British and the American régimes, his last appointment to the office being made by Governor Wm. H. Harrison, Sept. 1, 1801. An entry in the journal of John Porteous (ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.) notes the arrival of Mr. Adhémar (probably our subject) at Niagara, May 11, 1767, "with 6 Six boats and canoes in 14 days from Montreal." St. Martin volunteered to serve under Hamilton on the expedition against Vincennes in 1778; the following spring he went with a convoy of boats carrying provisions and relief to Hamilton; the party was captured by the Americans, Mar. 5, 1779, but St. Martin was paroled by Clark a few days later, on taking the oath of neutrality at Vincennes. Information adapted from manuscripts in Burton Hist. Coll.; Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim*; and *Wis. Hist. Colls., passim*.

<sup>15</sup> Richard Cornwall was a native of New York who served for many years as master shipbuilder of the naval establishment on the Great Lakes. In a petition to General Haldimand in 1781 against a reduction in his pay he stated that he had served as master builder on Lake Erie for fourteen years, and in 1776, when the government assumed control of all shipping, was commissioned master builder for Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and Michigan, which appointment he still continued to hold. His family still (in 1781) resided in New York, and his loyalty to the King prevented him from rejoining it. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XIX, 674-75. He was living in Detroit as late as 1796. In December, 1795, he sold John Askin the tract of land conveyed by the present grant, and in the document described himself as "Richard Cornwall of Detroit master builder."

<sup>16</sup> The Belle River empties into the St. Clair a few miles north of Marine City, St. Clair County, Michigan.

fifty acres deep into the Woods, with all and singular the appurtenances &c<sup>a</sup> unto the said Tract of Land appertaining, or in any wise belonging. And the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents and Services of the said Premisses, And also all the Estate, right, title, interest, property, claim or demand whatever of us the said Chiefs, or of any one whatever of the said Nation, of, in, and to, the said Messuage or Tenement and Premisses, and of, in and to every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances.

TO HAVE and TO HOLD the said Messuage and Tenement and Premisses, hereby given and granted, or mentioned or intended to be given and granted unto the said Richard Cornwall, his heirs and Assigns, to the only proper use and behoof of him the said Richard Cornwall, his heirs and Assigns for ever. AND the said Chiefs for themselves, and in behalf of the whole of their Nation, their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, DO covenant, promise and grant to and with the said Richard Cornwall, his heirs and Assigns by these presents, That he the said Richard Cornwall, his heirs and Assigns, shall and lawfully may, from henceforth and for ever, after, peaceably and quietly have, hold, occupy, possess and enjoy the said Messuage, Tenements, Lands, Hereditaments and Premisses, hereby given and granted, or mentioned or intended to be given and granted, with their and every of their appurtenances, free, clear and discharged, or well and sufficiently saved, kept harmless and indemnified, of, from, and against all former and other Gifts, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Jointures, Feoffments, Dowers, Estates, Entails, Rents, Rent Charges, Arrearages of Rents, Statutes, Judgements, Recognizances, Statutes Merchants and of the Staple, Extent, & of, from & against all former and other Titles, Troubles, Charges and Incumbrances whatsoever, had, done or suffered, or to be had, done or suffered by them the said Chiefs, or by any one whatever of the said Nation, their Heirs, Executors or Administrators, or any other Person or Persons lawfully claiming, or to claim, by, from, or under them, or any or either of them. AND by these Presents do make this our Act and Deed irrevocable under any Pretence whatever,

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and have put the said Richard Cornwall in full possession and Seisin, by delivering him a piece of said Tract on the Premises.

IN WITNESS whereof, we the said Chiefs for ourselves and [on] behalf of our whole Nation of Ochipué, have unto these presents, set the marks of our different Tribes at Detroit, the twenty eighth day of October, in the twentieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> &c<sup>a</sup> and of Our Lord, One thousand, seven hundred and eighty.

(Signed) Musqueash.<sup>17</sup> Annimekans.

I DO hereby Certify, that the foregoing Deed is truly extracted from the Detroit Register in my possession, and that the same has been carefully compared this 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1795, by

W. Roe,<sup>18</sup> D<sup>y</sup> Reg<sup>r</sup> W<sup>n</sup> D<sup>t</sup> U. C.

*Endorsed:* Detroit 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1780 The Ochipué Indians to Richard Cornwall Gift of Land on River S<sup>t</sup> Clare.

Ent. 7/8

<sup>17</sup> Musqueash was a Chippewa chief who lived in the vicinity of Port Huron. The grant here made to Cornwall indicates that he assumed to control the land lying along the St. Clair River. In Alexander Harrow's log book of the *Welcome* (ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.) it is set forth that while en route for Mackinac, July 25, 1780, Harrow took Musqueash and his party of ten Indians on board a short distance above Fort Sinclair. On reaching Mackinac, Harrow was placed under arrest by Governor Sinclair and the *Welcome*, with Musqueash's party on board, was conducted to Detroit by Cornwall, arriving there Sept. 26. The land grant to Cornwall followed in due course a few weeks later. Musqueash died soon after the War of 1812 and was buried on the Indian reservation north of Mount Clemens. See William L. Jenks, *History of St. Clair County, Mich.* (Chicago, 1912), I, 148.

<sup>18</sup> Walter Roe seems to have come to Detroit as a warrant officer in the marine department. On the organization of the judicial department of the District of Hesse he undertook the practice of law, and it has been said that he was Detroit's first lawyer. He was for some years clerk of the court at Detroit, and in 1793 he auctioned a slave boy for the benefit of the estate of Philip Joncaire of Spring Wells. For much information concerning his legal activities see the Prerogative Court records (ms. copies in Burton Hist. Coll.) and William Renwick Riddell, *Michigan under British Rule...* (Lansing, 1926). Roe was given a grant of land on the north shore of Lake Erie below Amherstburg. He became addicted to drink, and while intoxicated fell into the river and was drowned, shortly prior to August 10, 1801. Information adapted from mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.; Burton, *History of Detroit from 1780 to 1850*, p. 21, and Riddell, *op. cit.* Considerable additional data about Roe is supplied by Riddell in *The Legal Profession in Upper Canada in its Early Periods* (Toronto, 1916), 168-70.

Recorded in the Land office at Detroit in Liber E. folio  
55 &<sup>e</sup> By me

G<sup>o</sup> Hoffman R.

SALE OF LAND TO PIERRE DROUILLARD

PARDEVANT Thomas Williams Ecuyer Notaire au Detroit y resident Soussigné, fut present Pierre Cardinal lequel par ces presentes reconnoit et confesse avoir de son bon gré et sans aucune Contrainte, Vendu, Cédé, quitté, Transporté et delaisé de maintenant et a Toujours promet faire Jouir et Garantir, de tous Troubles, dettes, Douaires, evictions, alienations, hypothèques et Empechements, Generalement Quelconques à Pierre Drouillard a ce present et acceptant pour luy ses hoys et ayans causes une terre de deux Arpens de front sur Quarante de profondeur sise et située au Nord de la Rivierre du susdit Detroit tenant du coté de l'est Nord est a Bazile Campau et du coté de l'ouest sud ouest au susdit Vendeur Circonstances et Dependances et ainsi que le tout se poursuit et comporte et s'étend de toutes parts et de fond en comble, sans par le susdit Vendeur en rien excepter, reserver ni retenir, laquelle susdite terre le susdit acquereur a dit bien scavoir et connoitre pour avoir le tout vue et visité et dont il est content et satisfait.

CETTE VENTE ainsi faite aux Causes et Conditions susdittes et suivantes, des cens et rentes et droits Seigneuriaux envers sa Majesté ou des Servitudes accoutumées aux quelles peut être Sujette la susdite terre, en outre pour et moyennant le prix et somme de Quinze cent livres ou Schellins ancien de la province, Egal a cent pontes du cour de la province de Nouvelle York, que le susdit vendeur reconnoit avoir reçu du susdit Acquereur en belles et bonnes especes ou autres effets, dont il dit être content et satisfait et dont il tient quitte le susdit Acquereur luy et tous autres.

AU MOYEN de quoy et de tout ce que dessus le susdit Vendeur a Transporté et Transporte au susdit acquereur ses hoys et ayans causes tous droits de propriété fond et tres fond, noms, raisons, actions, saisine et possession qu'il

a ou qu'il peut avoir, pretendre, ou demander en et sur la susdite terre, dont il s'est par ces presentes desaisie, demise et devetue au profit du susdit acquereur ses hoysr et ayant causes. Voulant et entendant qu'il en soit mis en bonne et suffisante possession par et ainsi qu'il appartiendra en vertu des presentes.

ET POUR faire insinuer la presente vente au Greffe du susdit Detroit et partout ailleurs ou besoin sera les dittes parties ont élu leur procureur General et Special le porteur d'icelle a qui ils donnent pouvoir d'en requerir acte.

CAR AINSI &ca promettant &ca Obligeant &ca Renonçant &ca fait et passé au Detroit L'an Mil Sept cent quatre vingt un et le deuxieme Avril apres midy et a le susdit vendeur Signé avec nous, mais pour le susdit acquereur il a déclaré ni sçavoir le faire il a cependant fait sa marque ordinaire lecture faite presence de Richard Wright et John Casety qui ont signés en qualité de temoins

<sup>son</sup>  
Pierre P C Cardinal  
Nom en abrégé

Rich<sup>d</sup> Wright

John Casety

<sup>sa</sup>  
Pierre X Drouillard  
Marque

T Williams Notaire

Enregistré au Greffe du Detroit en le Registre No 2 folio 96 & 97 par moy

T. Williams

*Endorsed:* Vente d'une terre par Pierre Cardinal à Pierre Drouillard le deuxieme Avril 1781

### *Translation*

BEFORE US, Thomas Williams, undersigned, notary of Detroit, and there residing, was present Pierre Cardinal,<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> The Cardinal family is one of the oldest in Detroit. The American founder of the family was Simon Jean Cardinal, born in 1619, who married Michelle Garnier, and was buried at Lachine, Aug. 9, 1679. The two sons of this union, Jacques, born at Montreal in 1659, and Pierre, born there in 1665, both came to Detroit. Jacques

who, by these presents, acknowledges and declares that of his own free will and without constraint of any kind, he has sold, ceded, abandoned, assigned and relinquished, from now and forever, with promise of ownership and guaranty from all troubles, debts, dowers, evictions, alienations, mortgages and hindrances whatsoever, to Pierre Drouillard,<sup>20</sup> accepting by these presents for himself, his heirs and assigns, a tract of land of two arpents front by forty in depth located and situated on the north of the river of the said Detroit, adjoining land of Basil Campau<sup>21</sup> on the east-north-east, and of the said vendor on the west-south-west, with all appurtenances and dependencies, such as it is and as it extends on all sides in its entirety, without any

Cardinal married at Montreal, Nov. 23, 1682, Claudia Louisa Arrivé, a native of Quebec. He came to Detroit on business as early as October, 1707, and was buried here, May 18, 1724. Of their four children, all born at Montreal, two came to Detroit: Jacques, born July 21, 1685, who married Jane Duguay at Montreal, Feb. 17, 1715, and was buried at Detroit, Sept. 21, 1763; and Mary Magdelene, born Feb. 15, 1699, who became the wife of Jean Baptiste Lootman *dit* Barrois.

The Pierre Cardinal of our text was a son of Jacques Cardinal and Jane Duguay. He was born at Detroit, Aug. 30, 1729, and was buried here, Jan. 19, 1808. He married, June 26, 1778, Mary Angelica Sejournée *dit* Sanschagrin, widow of Jean Baptiste Cauchois and daughter of Alexis Sejournée *dit* Sanschagrin and Mary Angelica Tareau, who was born at Mackinac, March 10, 1749. She was buried, Sept. 18, 1800. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII and XIX, *passim*.

<sup>20</sup> Simon Drouillard *dit* Argentcour, born in France in 1668, married at Quebec, Nov. 25, 1698, Margaret Ferret, a native of that place. Margaret was buried at Quebec, Sept. 12, 1711, and Simon married (second) at Levis, Ann Cadoret, Nov. 24, 1712. He subsequently came to Detroit, where he was buried, Oct. 21, 1733. The son of Simon and Margaret Ferret, Jean Drouillard, born at St. François, Isle of Orleans, Feb. 14, 1707, married at Lachine, Feb. 5, 1731, Elizabeth Rapin, daughter of Jean Baptiste Rapin and Catherine Janson *dit* Lapaline. Jean Drouillard died prior to 1756 and his wife, Elizabeth, was buried at the Church of the Huron, Sandwich, May 8, 1757. The couple had numerous children, all residents of Detroit and vicinity. One of them was the Pierre Drouillard of our document. He was born in 1744 and married at Detroit, Nov. 20, 1776, Mary Angelica Descomps *dit* Labadie, daughter of Anthony Louis Descomps *dit* Labadie and Angelica Campau. Pierre served as interpreter of the Huron, and before his marriage with Mary Angelica Descomps he had lived with an Indian woman, Asoundechris Flathead. In 1778 he saved Simon Kenton, the noted Kentucky scout, from burning, and brought him to Detroit as a prisoner. He was buried at Detroit, April 16, 1803. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>21</sup> Francis Basil Campau was a grandson of Jacques Campau and Cecilia Catin, for whom see *ante*, 33. The youngest son of Jacques Campau and Cecilia Catin was Jean Baptiste, who was born at Montreal, Aug. 4, 1711, and married at Detroit, Jan. 27, 1737, Catherine Perthuis, daughter of Pierre Perthuis and Catherine Mallet. See *ante*, 40. Their fifth child and second son was Francis Basil Campau, the subject of this sketch, who was born at Detroit, Dec. 2, 1743. On Feb. 7, 1785, he married Susanne Moran, daughter of Claude Charles Moran and Mary Ann Belleperche. He was buried, Oct. 16, 1795, and his wife, April 4, 1796. They had several children. Denissen, *op. cit.*

exception, reserve or restraint whatever on the part of the said vendor, the said purchaser having declared that he knows the said land, that he has seen and examined the same and is content and satisfied therewith.

THIS SALE is thus made, with the conditions and considerations aforesaid and to follow; that is with *cens et rentes* and seigniorial rights in favor of His Majesty, or of the accustomed service to which the said land is subject,<sup>22</sup> and moreover, for and because of the price and sum of fifteen hundred livres, Quebec currency, equal to one hundred pounds, New York currency, which the said vendor acknowledges to have received from the said purchaser in good and perfect commodities or other things, and expressing himself as satisfied and content therewith, and thereby granting to the said purchaser, and all others, a full discharge.

IN CONSEQUENCE of which and of all aforesaid, the said vendor has conveyed and does convey unto the said purchaser, his heirs, and assigns, all rights of ownership utterly and entirely, title, equity, demands, seizin and possession, of which he stands possessed, real or pretended, or that he may lay claim to or upon the said land, and of which, by these presents, he is dispossessed, demised and divested in favor of the said purchaser, and his assigns; with the desire and intention that the said purchaser may be placed in good and sufficient possession by these presents and that it may belong to him by virtue of the same.

AND THAT this sale may be recorded in the register at Detroit and elsewhere as there may be need, the said parties have appointed the bearer hereof their true and lawful attorney and give him power of record.

FOR THUS &c., promising, &c., obliging, &c., renouncing, &c., duly executed at Detroit in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-one, the second day of April, in the afternoon, and the said vendor has signed with us, but as for the said purchaser, he has declared that he cannot sign and has therefore made his accustomed mark, after

<sup>22</sup> For the various feudal charges to which the land was subject, see *ante*, 29.

reading of the same, in the presence of Richard Wright and John Casety,<sup>23</sup> who have signed as witnesses.

his  
Pierre P C Cardinal  
name in abbreviation

Richard Wright

his  
Pierre X Drouillard  
mark

John Casety

T. Williams Notary

*Appended:* Entered by the recorder of Detroit in register No. 2, folios 96 & 97, by me,

T. Williams

*Endorsed:* Sale of a tract of land by Pierre Cardinal to Pierre Drouillard, April 2, 1781.

<sup>23</sup> John Casety was the son of James Casety, who came to Detroit some time prior to the Revolution. In 1771, according to Farmer (*op. cit.*, 78), and for several years thereafter, he cultivated a farm on Belle Isle, as tenant of Lieutenant George McDougall, who had acquired title to the island in 1768. Prior to this (in 1769) Casety had purchased a lot on St. Peter Street. He accumulated considerable property, among other items being a farm at Windmill Pointe, bought in 1777 of James Sterling. Soon after this Casety, like Sterling, was accused of disloyalty to the Crown and sent in irons to Quebec, where after some three years' imprisonment, he succeeded in making his escape to the United States. Probably because of this trouble, Casety removed his family from Detroit after the Revolution; he died, probably in New York, some years prior to 1824.

John Casety, the subject of our present sketch, became clerk and subsequently partner to Thomas Williams of Detroit, for whom see *ante*, 169. Williams died, Nov 30, 1785, leaving considerable property which, according to the Williams family tradition, was dissipated through the incompetence or rascality of Casety. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIX, 492. Quite possibly he was innocent of both charges, for he himself died shortly after Williams, and the affairs of the firm, thus deprived of both its members, were left deeply involved. The London merchants to whom it was indebted consigned their interests to Alexander Henry of Montreal, who in turn deputed them to James Fraser of Detroit. About the same time, Mrs. Casety gave power of attorney to James McIntosh to represent her interests and he obtained possession of the books of the firm. Fraser was unable to gain access to them, and many years later he was still vainly seeking formal release from the responsibility he had assumed in connection with the affair. One of the debtors of Casety was Francis Vigo of Vincennes, who figures prominently in Askin's commercial transactions.

Casety married Therese Baby, daughter of Jacques Duperon Baby. When he died, in 1787, leaving her a widow at twenty years of age, she called for the Bible on which to swear she would never marry again. In 1795, notwithstanding, she married Capt. Thomas Allison, and died at Quebec in 1847. Information adapted from *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.; and letter of Thomas Casety, a son of John, printed in the *Quarterly Journal* of the New York Historical Association, VI, 295-96.

## HOUSE GIVEN TO CAPTAIN BIRD

I, Arent Scuyler De Peyster Commanding the Kings or eighth Regiment, and the Posts occupied by it, on the different communications; By the authority in me vested, as a means of improving the appearances in the front of the Fortifications and grand Parade, by improving and cultivating the ground adjacent bounding the Town of Detroit to the North West Do Grant, by these Presents, unto Capt<sup>n</sup> Henry Bird<sup>24</sup> of Kings or eighth Reg<sup>t</sup> and unto his Heirs or assigns forever, a Lot of ground begining at the N.W. end of S<sup>t</sup> Honore Street,<sup>25</sup> and on the east side; continuing in a line with said street as far as the Run or ditch which terminates the Grand Parade; then turning towards the East,

<sup>24</sup> Henry Bird received a commission as lieutenant, Oct. 3, 1764. Four years later he was assigned to the Eighteenth Regiment, and May 11, 1778, was promoted to the rank of captain. W. C. Ford, *British Officers Serving in the American Revolution 1774-1783* (Brooklyn, 1897), 28. A considerable account of his military career is given by William Renwick Riddell in his *Old Province Tales, Upper Canada* (Toronto, 1920), 4 ff., and numerous documents concerning him are found in the *Mich. Pio. Colls.* Riddell characterizes Bird as "one of the most active and efficient officers in the British service." He came to Detroit from Niagara in the autumn of 1778. The garrison at Detroit was then expecting an attack by Colonel Brodhead, and, deeming the existing fort on the water-front wholly indefensible, the construction of the new Fort Lernoult, at the intersection of Fort and Shelby Streets, was hastily begun. In the absence from Detroit of the regular engineer officer, Captain Bird laid out and planned the new fortification. About the same time the Americans were building Fort Laurens on the upper Ohio as an outpost in their progress toward Detroit. In the spring of 1779, therefore, Bird was sent to take post at Sandusky, where he organized a force which laid siege to Fort Laurens and brought about its abandonment by the Americans. During this period he exhibited his humanity by interceding with his red allies who were about to torture a prisoner, and cursing them when they ignored his plea for mercy. The following year (1780) Bird headed an expedition which raided the Kentucky settlements, and carried off the inhabitants of Martin's and Ruddell's stations. See *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, Vol. IV, No. 2. The manuscript list and pay roll of the Detroit volunteers who went on this expedition is contained in the ledger of Macomb, Edgar, and Macomb, now in the Burton Hist. Coll. At the close of the Revolution, Bird and several others, chiefly army officers, obtained from the natives a grant of land seven miles square at the mouth of Detroit River. Bird's portion was on the present site of Amherstburg, and a manuscript in the Burton Hist. Coll. shows that he paid William Lee for clearing sixteen acres of this land by assigning to him a "wench" named Esther, who had fallen to his share in the division of the plunder taken at Martin's Station in 1780. A document in the Askin Papers shows that in 1796 Captain Bird was living in retirement in England on half-pay, and that he then intended to return to America. He subsequently joined the Fifty-fourth Regiment and assisted in crushing the Irish rebellion. He then joined the expedition to Egypt, where he died in 1801. See, in addition to references already cited, *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XXIII and XXIV, *passim*.

<sup>25</sup> St. Honore Street began in front of the fort and ran thence to the river. Its nearest approximation today would be Shelby Street north of Fort.



PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN JOHN ASKIN AND HAMILTON AND  
CARTWRIGHT

THIS Indenture made & entered into by John Askin of Detroit on the one Part, and Hamilton<sup>27</sup> & Cartwright,<sup>28</sup> Merchants of Niagara, on the other, Witnesseth: that the said Parties have agreed to enter into a Partnership for the Purpose of carrying on Trade at Niagara, Detroit, and other of the upper Posts, on the Conditions following, namely:

That this Copartnership commence with the Transactions of John Askin at Detroit from the first Day of October, one thousand seven hundred and eighty; and of Hamilton & Cartwright at Niagara from the fifteenth of April one thousand seven hundred & eighty one; and continue till the first Day of May, one thousand seven hundred & eighty four.

<sup>27</sup> Robert Hamilton was the eldest son of Rev. John Hamilton, minister of Bolton in East Lothian, Scotland, and was born about the year 1749. In 1778 he entered upon a three-year engagement with one of the Ellices of Montreal, in consequence of which he came out to Canada. In 1779 he was located at Carleton Island, at the east end of Lake Ontario, and the next year, apparently, removed to Niagara. Some years later he established himself at the lower end of the Niagara portage and thus became the founder of Queenston. He was a man of much ability, who was long accounted one of the leading characters of Upper Canada. He prospered in trade and at the time of his death his fortune is said to have amounted to £200,000. He was a member of the Land Board of Upper Canada in 1791, and of the first Executive Council of the province a year later. He was also the first judge of the District of Nassau, one of the four districts into which western Canada was divided by Lord Dorchester. In 1785 he married Catherine Askin Robertson, widow of Captain Samuel Robertson; they had five sons, several of whom were destined to prominent rôles in the history of western Canada. Mrs. Hamilton died in 1796 and Hamilton married (second) Mary Herkimer, widow of Neil McLean, by whom he also had several children. He died at Queenston, March 23, 1809. Information adapted from sketch in Buffalo Hist. Soc. *Pubs.*, VI, 73-95; data in Niagara Hist. Soc. *Papers*, No. 25 (Niagara, 1913); and mss. in Burton Hist. Coll. His will is printed in the Ontario Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXIII, 344-50.

<sup>28</sup> Richard Cartwright was born at Albany, Feb. 2, 1759. In the Revolution the family supported the loyalist cause, and in consequence removed from New York to Canada. Richard served for a time as secretary to Colonel Butler of ranger fame. In youth he had planned to enter the ministry, but on account of the difficulties suffered by the church in the confusion growing out of the Revolution he abandoned the idea and entered upon a mercantile career as partner of Robert Hamilton. He attained success in this, and for many years took an active part in the politics of Upper Canada, serving as member of the Executive Council of the province for twenty-three years, from its formation in 1792 until his death in 1815. He also served as justice of the Court of Common Pleas. See C. E. Cartwright (ed.), *Life and Letters of the Late Hon. Richard Cartwright* (Toronto, 1876).

That the Stock in Trade do consist of such Goods as either of the Parties had on Hand at the Time abovementioned for the Commencement of this Copartnership; and of all Purchases since made; and also of such Sums of Money as shall hereafter be put in by the different Partners, for which the Company shall allow them 5 P Cent Interest.

That the Goods at Detroit belonging to M<sup>r</sup> Askin in the Month of October 1780, being intire Packages, be considered as put into the Concern at that time at 80 P Cent Advance; but the Goods belonging to Hamilton & Cartwright, remaining on Hand the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1781, being only the Remainder of an Assortment, are to be rated at first Cost and Expences; Liquors excepted, on which a further Charge of 5 P Cent is allowed.

That the Goods already come out for Hamilton & Cartwright, this Year, from England, as well as those expected out in their Name, be considered as the Company's, and be liable only to the Charge of 5 P Cent at the Foot of the English Invoice,

That all Goods purchased this Year in Canada by either of the Parties, be charged no more than they cost, and go up at the charge & Risque of the Company.

That the Business of the Concern be managed at Niagara by Hamilton & Cartwright; and at Detroit, and the Posts beyond it, by John Askin himself, or proper Persons under his immediate Direction and Controul.

That each of the Houses keep their Accounts with each other with the same Exactness as though they were not connected; that their Orders for Goods be distinct & separate, and that they transmit Copies of these Orders to each other for mutual Information.

That each of the Houses keep clear & distinct Accounts of all their Transactions, agreeable to the Custom of Merchants, which shall be closed every Year on the first Day of March, and exact Copies thereof transmitted from the one to the other as soon after as possible.

That neither of the Parties be concerned in any Trade directly or indirectly apart from the general Interest of the Company.

That, however, any Partner may order on his private Credit any thing he may want for his own or Family's particular Use.

That the Parties keep exact Accounts of their House Expences from the first Day of September next till the Conclusion of the Partnership; and that all Articles for this Use be charged at first Cost and Expences, with an Addition of 5 P Cent for Risque, and carried to the Debit of each of the Parties, respectively, every Year on closing the Accounts.

That, on Account of the Expences of Living at Detroit, being greater than at Niagara, an allowance be made by the Company of five hundred Pounds N. Y. Currency to the House at the former Place, and three hundred & Fifty Pounds at the latter, for their annual Charges of House Keeping, which shall be carried to their respective Credits, on closing the Yearly Accounts.

That as John Askin has carried on the Business at Detroit at his own Expence from the first Day of October last, and is still so to do till the first Day of September next, his Account is to be credited for that Time in Proportion to the yearly Allowance made the House at Detroit for their Expences, as also for a Clerk & Mans Wages for that Time.

That Hamilton & Cartwright's Family Expences are to be at the Charge of the Company from the 15<sup>th</sup> April to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> next, as also their Clerk and Servants Wages.

That no Partner take upon himself to lend Money on the Company's Account; or to withdraw any Sums exceeding two hundred Pounds N. Y. Currency, yearly from the Stock he shall have put into Trade, which Stock is to be settled on the first Day of March 1782.

That a reasonable Rent be allowed for a House at Niagara, and one at Detroit to carry on the Business in; and should the Business require additional Storehouses at either Place they are to be built or purchased at the Company's Expence; and at the Expiration of the Copartnership, to be disposed of for their Benefit, to the best Advantage. The latter Part of this Article to be extended to the two small Vessels, and the Buildings at S<sup>t</sup> Mary's put into the Concern

by M<sup>r</sup> Askin. It is however understood, that, if either of the Parties choose to retain in their Hands the Buildings belonging to the Company, at the Place they reside, it shall be at their option so to do, on paying the Company what they cost.

That the Wages for the Clerks & Servants that may be necessary for carrying on the Business at either Place, be paid by the Company in general.

That the House of Hamilton & Cartwright and of John Askin, or John Askin & Co. have each one Half, or equal Share in this Copartnership, and divide alike, the Whole of the Profits or Losses arising therefrom.

That the present Concern be in no wise accountable for any Transactions of either of the Parties previous to the Terms of its Commencement aforementioned.

That if either of the Parties should be unwilling to continue this Connection longer than 'till the Month of May 1784, they shall make known their Intentions to the other before the first Day of September 1783, that a general Settlement may take Place.

That if any of the Partners should die before the Expiration of the Copartnership at the Time aforementioned, it is to be considered as dissolved, in Course, by his Death, and to terminate on the first Day of May next succeeding such Event.

That as the Business which the House of Hamilton & Cartwright may have to do in Canada, is to be transacted by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill who have a part in said House, they are to have the same Allowance made them on that Account, as shall be paid by the House at Detroit to their Agent in Canada for the same Business.

That the Goods which may remain on Hand at the Expiration of this Copartnership be divided, unless the Parties can agree otherwise; and the Debts which may be owing be collected free of Commission by each of the Parties at their respective Places of Residence, and be accounted for as soon as one hundred Pounds is received.

That if any Differences should arise between the Parties in any thing relative to the Concern, such Differences shall

be determined by two or more indifferent Persons, equally chosen by both.

In Testimony of our free & full Assent to the above Agreement, and of our Intention to perform & fulfil every Article thereof, We the abovementioned Parties have herunto set our Hands and Seals at Niagara the third Day of August, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty one.

Hamilton & Cartwright (L.S.)

John Askin (L.S.)

Witness present.

D Mercer

Richard Beasley<sup>29</sup>

*Endorsed:* Niagara Aug<sup>t</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1781 Act of Partnership between Mess<sup>rs</sup> Hamilton & Cartwright & Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin.

<sup>29</sup> Richard Beasley was a trader who, prior to the year 1792, was established at the western end of Lake Ontario, where the city of Hamilton has since developed. It would seem from statements of J. Ross Robertson, editor of Mrs. Simcoe's *Diary* (p. 324-25), that Beasley's descendants are still living in this vicinity. See also Journal of P. Campbell, reprinted in Niagara Hist. Soc., *Papers*, No. 26, p. 12, and Wentworth Hist. Soc., *Journal and Transactions*, IV, 17-18.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Dr.

M<sup>r</sup> MONTAGUE TRAMBELL<sup>30</sup> in account Current with SARAH ANIS<sup>31</sup>

Cr.

| Dr.               | 1781             | 1782 | Cr.   |
|-------------------|------------------|------|-------|
| 1781              | June             | 20   | 53    |
| July              | 23               |      | 58    |
| Sept <sup>r</sup> | 26 <sup>nd</sup> |      | 206   |
| October           |                  |      | 11    |
|                   |                  |      | 199   |
|                   |                  |      | 413   |
|                   |                  |      | 18    |
|                   |                  |      | 4     |
|                   |                  |      | 9     |
|                   |                  |      | 12    |
|                   |                  |      | 1     |
|                   |                  |      | 8     |
|                   |                  |      | 14    |
|                   |                  |      | 6     |
|                   |                  |      | 4     |
|                   |                  |      | 11    |
|                   |                  |      | 4     |
|                   |                  |      | 103   |
|                   |                  |      | 1639  |
|                   |                  |      | 980   |
|                   |                  |      | £2620 |
|                   |                  |      | 2     |
|                   |                  |      | 5     |
|                   |                  |      | 1 ½   |
|                   |                  |      | 8     |
|                   |                  |      | 14    |
|                   |                  |      | 6     |
|                   |                  |      | 4     |
|                   |                  |      | 11    |
|                   |                  |      | 4     |
|                   |                  |      | 8     |
|                   |                  |      | 14    |
|                   |                  |      | 0 ½   |
|                   |                  |      | 4 ½   |
|                   |                  |      | 2     |
|                   |                  |      | 5     |

By Cash paid T. Williams Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 By ditto do George Cottrill<sup>34</sup>  
 By ditto do James Thompson.  
 By ditto do Nathen Williams<sup>35</sup>  
 By do do Alexander Macomb  
 & Co.  
 By ditto do David White<sup>36</sup>  
 By 1 Ell Brown Coating. £1  
 By 5lb Butter..... 1  
 By 2 Legs Venison..... 16  
 By 2lb Cheese..... 8  
 By 4lb Sugar..... 12  
 By 2lb Brown Sugar..... 5  
 By ½lb Green Tea..... 16  
 By 1lb Coffee..... 5  
 By 2 pint Tacks..... 7  
 By Cash paid for Mending  
 Shirts..... 1  
 By a Small given Create .....  
 By 2 ½ Gallons of Rum  
 for land..... 2.10.  
 By your Note of hand. 500.  
 By Cash paid T & Ben-  
 nerman..... 63.  
 By ditto paid Laughton  
 for Fright..... 18 15.  
 By 2 Black Handkfrs. 15.6  
 By 1 p<sup>r</sup> Morkinsons... 4.  
 By 1 Shirt..... 1.  
 By Sundry Provisions p<sup>r</sup> Acc<sup>t</sup>.  
 at Parting.....  
 By Ballance due S Anis.....  
 Errors Excepted N Yk Cy.  
 Detroit 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1783

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

30 The Tremblay (Tremblé) family is numerous represented in Detroit and vicinity. Pierre Tremblay, founder of the American line, was born in the diocese of Chartres, France, in 1626 and married at Quebec, Oct. 2, 1657, Ozanne Achon, also a native of France. A son, Michael Tremblay, born at Quebec, Sept. 10, 1662, married Geneviève Bouchard, June 20, 1686. Of their large family of children at least three, Pierre (born in 1708), Augustin (born, March 6, 1710), and Ambrose came to Detroit in the summer of 1750 and settled on farms in Grosse Pointe, thus establishing the Detroit line, or lines, of Tremblay. Presumably Montague Tremblay was a son of one of these brothers, each of whom reared a large family. He was engaged in trade at Detroit about the close of the Revolution, but we have not succeeded in constructing a sketch of his career. Genealogical information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

31 There are numerous contemporary references to this interesting person, yet we have not succeeded in constructing a satisfactory outline of her career. That she was engaged in trade is established by numerous manuscript references in the Burton Hist. Coll. The Macomb ledger for 1775 records that she was also called Montour, while in a grant of land made by some Indian chiefs to Jonathan Schieffelin in 1788 (recorded in Detroit Notarial Records, Vol. D., original in Ottawa, copy in Burton Hist. Coll.) she is described as "Sarah Ainse alias Wilson." John Porteous records in his journal (ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.) that in the autumn of 1766 he met on Lake Erie Sally Montour going "with one boat and some goods to winter at Grand Point." The possibility that she was the "Mrs. Ainse" of Askin's diary at Mackinac in 1774-75 has been mentioned *ante*, 31. Her name is included in the Detroit census of 1779, and in De Peyster's list of merchandise ordered by the merchants of Detroit for 1780 she is credited with two bateau-loads. *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XIX, 589. In 1785 she was trading with the Moravian Indians on Huron River, and offered to give them a "good strip" of her land "on the east side of St. Clair." David Zeisberger, *Diary* (Cincinnati, 1885), I, 248. In May, 1787, Sarah Ainse "of Detroit" sold a lot within the fort to Grubb and Dowler, boat builders, for £350. Detroit Notarial Records, Vol. D. It seems probable that she was a sister or other connection of Andrew Montour, a noted half-breed of the Seven Years' War period and later, for whom see sketch in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 227. His mother was a French woman who married an Iroquois chief of the Mohawk tribe. Andrew began his career as an interpreter in 1744, and his biography is a part of the history of the Ohio frontier. Zeisberger's *Diary* records (Vol. II, 148-49) that he had two sisters, Mary and Catherine, and our surmise is that Sally Montour, alias Ainse, alias Wilson, was a daughter of one of these, or, possibly, a third sister. However this may be, she was obviously of mixed blood and was regarded by the Indians as one of themselves. In 1788 they granted her a tract of land at the mouth of the Thames River in modern Kent County, Ontario. Her title to this was later disputed and over it a long controversy was waged, which served, incidentally, to bring out the fact that she was held in high esteem both by the Chippewa and by the Iroquois. Joseph Brant, the Mohawk chieftain, stated on June 28, 1795, that "she is one of ourselves and has been of service to us in Indian affairs at this place [Detroit]." *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XII, 173. Considerable information about the settlement developed around the River Thames grant to Sarah Ainse is assembled in Louis Goulet's "Phases of the Sally Ainse Dispute," in Kent Hist. Soc., *Papers and Addresses*, Vol. V. (Chatham, 1921), 92-95. On May 10, 1824, letters of administration for the estate of Sarah Ainse, late of Amherstburg, deceased, were granted to George Jacob and James Gordon as executors of the estate of Richard Pattinson, she having left no kindred in the province of Upper Canada. Ms. in archives in Ottawa. On the history of the Montour family see Hodge (ed.) *Handbook of American Indians*.

32 The numerous members of the Detroit line of St. Aubin are descended from two distinct families of France. One lived at Dieppe, in Normandy, whence Adrian St. Aubin migrated to Canada and married at Montreal, Feb. 19, 1680, Jane Margaret Blois, daughter of Julian Blois and Margaret Leclerc. A grandson of this couple, Joseph St. Aubin, born at Montreal, April 2, 1707, married at Lachine, Sept. 3, 1731, Julia Cuillier, a native of that place. He removed with his family to Detroit in

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

1750. Here he was killed by an Indian, and was buried at Sandwich, Nov. 29, 1774. He left several children.

The other line of St. Aubin sprang from Jean Casse *dit* St. Aubin, who was born in the village of St. Aubin, archdiocese of Bordeaux, in 1659. He became a soldier, and in 1707 came to Detroit as corporal of the garrison. He had previously married (Feb. 7, 1707) at Quebec Mary Louisa Gaultier, daughter of Mathurin Gaultier and Ann Girault. On March 10, 1708, he was granted a lot by Cadillac, lying at the intersection of modern Shelby Street and Jefferson Avenue. Within a few years St. Aubin left the army and engaged in trade. In 1734 he procured a grant of land east of the fort, 4 arpents wide by 40 deep, extending eastward from modern Baldwin Avenue, later designated as Private Claim 38. He was buried at Detroit, Feb. 27, 1759, aged one hundred years. Mary Louisa Gaultier was buried, April 26, 1768, aged ninety years. The couple had nine children, and these in their turn increased and multiplied. The second son, Pierre, born at Detroit, May 2, 1709, married at Montreal, Feb. 14, 1735, Margaret Fourneau *dit* Brindamour, whose mother, Elizabeth Price, had been carried captive to Canada from the Deerfield massacre of March 11, 1704. Thus was a strain of New England blood introduced into the St. Aubin family of French Detroit. Which one of the grandsons of William Casse *dit* St. Aubin the "Jacko" of this document was, we have been unable to determine. Denissen, *op. cit.*

33 Jean Crête, born in France in 1626, married at Quebec, Sept. 13, 1654, Margaret Gosselin, daughter of Vincent Gosselin and Mary Soudemer. Their great-grandson, Jean Baptiste Crête, born at Beauport, March 20, 1736, married (second) at Montreal, Feb. 11, 1760, Mary Joseph Aymond, daughter of Jean Baptiste Aymond and Louisa Margaret Gibaut. About the year 1772 the family removed to Detroit and located on a farm at the Grand Marais in Grosse Pointe. Jean Baptiste and Mary both died in 1796. The latter made the butter which figures in this transaction. Denissen, *op. cit.* Entries in an account book kept by Crête, now preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll., indicate that he followed the carpenter trade.

34 George Cottrell was of Pennsylvania German descent. His father (named Hoffer) and family were massacred by the Indians, who carried George, then five years of age, a captive to Canada. Here he was ransomed and adopted by one Cottrell. He married at Detroit in 1781 Cecilia Creque, daughter of Jean Baptiste Creque and Magdelene Gastinon *dit* Duchêne. He secured from the British authorities a grant of land on the St. Clair River where modern Cottrellsville, St. Clair County, Michigan, is located, and settled here about the year 1791. He became a man of considerable influence locally, as evidenced by the governmental appointments he held. In 1796 he was appointed captain of militia by Winthrop Sargent, acting governor of the Northwest Territory. In 1805 Governor Hull appointed him justice of the peace for the Huron district, and the same year captain in the First Regiment of militia and (subsequently) lieutenant colonel. Cottrell was the parent of ten children, to whom numerous descendants trace their ancestry. Genealogical information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

35 Nathan Williams is described as an "able Master Carpenter" by Major De Peyster, who in 1780 appointed him to appraise the buildings on Hog Island. Not long after this he appears in the guise of a merchant, when signing a petition to the commandant for relief in the matter of collection of debts. When the Quaker delegation of peacemakers from Pennsylvania visited Detroit in 1793, Williams was living some miles up the river "at the entrance of Lake St. Clair." They found him "an intelligent man," and intimately acquainted with Indian affairs. With the establishment of American rule in 1796 Williams was appointed one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas of Wayne County. He died, March 5, 1798, and is said to have been the first person buried with Masonic rites in Detroit. See *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim.*

36 David White was engaged in trade at Detroit. In 1780 he ordered four bateauloads of goods from Canada in a total of ninety listed from Detroit this year. In 1787 he was one of the subscribers to the fund for the support of Rev. George Mitchell at Detroit. A letter of Alexander Henry to Elijah Brush written Sept. 18, 1804, on

ARBITRATION OF LEGAL DISPUTE

Nous arbitres indifferement choisis pour deceder une affaire et differend entre les Sieurs Jean Marie Durand et Joseph Gilbeau somme d'opinion que le dit S<sup>r</sup> Guilebeau est obligé de payer les dettes comme est plus amplement expliqué par un quittance passé pardevant temoin le 3 d'octobre 1782 meme pour la Maison presentement en possession du dit Sieur Durand, mais que si le dit Sieur Durand veut garder la dite Maison pour son compte il payerai au dit Sieur Gilbeau la Somme de cinquante pontes du cours de la nouvelle York, cela est notre sentence et opinion au Detroit le 21 May 1783.

(Signé) J Cabasier            J Lasselle  
                  joseph gamelin    J Dubois

pour vraie Copie  
T. Williams

*Translation*

We as unprejudiced arbiters chosen to give decision in a matter of dispute between Jean Marie Durand<sup>37</sup> and Joseph Guilbaut, are of the opinion that the said Guilbaut should pay the debts as more fully and explicitly set forth in a discharge acknowledged before witnesses on October 3rd, 1782, even for the house now in the possession of the said

the subject of the debts owed by the firm of Thomas Williams and John Casety, states that David White was one of two principal creditors, and implies that he was no longer at Detroit.

<sup>37</sup> Jean Marie Arseneau *dit* Durand married at Detroit, Nov. 20, 1781, Catherine Guilbaut, daughter of Jean Guilbaut *dit* La Jeunesse and Mary Joseph Marcheteau *dit* Desnoyers. Jean Guilbaut, founder of the Detroit line of Guilbaut, was a native of Saintonge, France, and a tailor by occupation. He married at Montreal, Jan. 17, 1757, Mary Joseph Marcheteau *dit* Desnoyers and about the year 1759 the couple removed to Detroit. This couple had four children, two of whom died in childhood. The others were Catherine, born June 9, 1762, and Joseph, born May 22, 1764. The parties to this dispute were brothers-in-law, and it is evident from data compiled by Denissen that of the arbitrators at least Cabasier and Gamelin were related to the disputants. The dispute was largely a family matter, therefore; its settlement serves to illustrate the system of arbitration in force at Detroit for the settlement of disputes in the absence of laws and courts of justice.

Durand, but and if the said Durand wishes to keep the said house on his own account, he is to pay the said Guilbaut the sum of fifty pounds, New York currency. Such is our opinion and our decision, as given at Detroit, May 21, 1783.

(Signed) J. Cabasier<sup>38</sup> J. Lacelle<sup>39</sup>  
Joseph Gamelin<sup>40</sup> J. Dubois

A true copy.  
T. Williams.

<sup>38</sup> The American founder of the family of Cabasier (Cabassier) was Pierre, born in Toulouse in 1641, who married at Montreal, July 23, 1669, Jane Guiberge, daughter of Pierre Guiberge and Mathurine Des Bordes. Pierre Cabasier became a sergeant in the army and was slain by the English in the battle of Laprairie in 1691, and buried at Montreal on August 11 of that year. Charles Cabasier, born at Montreal, Oct. 21, 1677, son of Pierre and Jane Guiberge, was in Detroit in June, 1707, and died prior to 1734. He married at Montreal, Aug. 3, 1705, Margaret Angelica Renault and to them were born two children, Charlotte and Joseph, both of whom became residents of Detroit. Charlotte, born at Montreal, July 23, 1712, married there (second) Jean Baptiste Tessier, Feb. 9, 1750. She was buried at Detroit, Jan. 2, 1783.

Joseph Cabasier, born at Montreal, May 2, 1722, married at Detroit, Jan. 10, 1752, Angelica Bienvenu *dit* Delisle, widow of Claude Esprit *dit* Champagne, and daughter of Francis Bienvenu *dit* Delisle and Mary Ann Le Moyne. She was buried at Detroit, Dec. 14, 1773, and Joseph married (second), Jan. 15, 1781, Angélique Moran, widow of Joseph Paschal Viger, and daughter of Vincent Moran and Angélique Jusseaume *dit* St. Pierre. Angélique Moran was buried, Nov. 24, 1789; Joseph Cabasier, on April 16, 1796. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>39</sup> The Lacelles (Lasselles) of Detroit and vicinity were descended from Jacques Lacelle, a carpenter by trade, who was born in the diocese of Paris in 1670, and married at Montreal, Aug. 8, 1698, Angelica Gibaut, daughter of Gabriel Gibaut and Susanne Durand. They had several children, the eldest being Jacques, who was born at Boucherville, June 5, 1701. With the possible exception of Jacques, all subsequently removed to Detroit, one daughter being the wife of Pierre Descomps *dit* Labadie and another the wife of Hyacinthe Réaume.

Jacques Lacelle married at Montreal, Feb. 16, 1732, Mary Ann Lalonde, a native of Lachine. Their sons were Jacques, signer of this document, and Antoine, both of whom figure prominently in the history of Detroit and of the Maumee and Wabash valleys. The first named was born at Montreal, May 1, 1735. He married at Lachine, Feb. 18, 1765, Teresa Berthelet *dit* Savoyard. Soon after this he removed to Detroit, where he engaged in the Indian trade, operating particularly in the Maumee and adjacent regions. Some time prior to 1776 he located at Miamitown (modern Fort Wayne), where his son, Hyacinthe, and possibly other children, were born. The family hastily fled the place in advance of La Balme's expedition of 1780, taking refuge, apparently, at Detroit, where Jacques was buried, Aug. 14, 1791. Genealogical information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.* Three sons of the Jacques Lacelle here noted, Jacques, Antoine, and Francis, were prominent early settlers of Monroe.

<sup>40</sup> Joseph Gamelin was a son of Laurence Eustache Gamelin and Mary Joseph Dudevour, for whom see *ante*, 27. He was born at Detroit on May 5, 1748, and married at Sandwich, April 7, 1783, Mary Ann Chêne *dit* Labutte, daughter of Pierre Chêne *dit* Labutte and Mary Ann Cuillerier *dit* Beaubien. His younger brother, Francis married Teresa, daughter of Joseph Cabasier and Angelica Bienvenu *dit* Delisle, which fact probably accounts for Joseph's participation in the present dispute. Denissen, *op. cit.*

INDENTURE OF LOUIS ST. LOUIS TO GABRIEL HUNOT

Pardevant Thomas Williams Ecuyer Notaire au Detroit y resident Soussigné, Fut present Louis St Louis lequel s'est volontairement engagé est s'engage par ces presentes au Sieur Gabriel Hunot, en qualité d'engagé pour rester avec luy le terme et espace d'un an, de la date des presentes, pour avoir bien et duement soin de tout ce que luy sera mis entre les mains, servir, obeir, & executer fidelement tout ce que le dit S<sup>r</sup> Hunot ou tous autres ses representants luy commanderons de licite et honnête, faire son profit éviter son dommage lui en avertir s'il vient a sa connoissance et generalement tout ce qu un bon engagé doit et est obligé de faire; sans pouvoir faire aucune traite particulier s'absentir ni quitter le dit Service pendant le dit terme, Sous les peines portées par les ordonnances et de perdre ses gages. Cet Engagement ainsi fait Moyennant la Somme de Sept cent cinquante livres ancien cours de Quebec, une Chemise de Cotton, une pre de Culotes de Cotton et une Couverte blanche.

Car ainsi &ca Promettant &ca Obligeant &ca Renonçant &ca Fait et Passé au Detroit L'an mil Sept cent quatre vingt quatre et le trente Juin et Ont le dit S<sup>r</sup> Hunot et dit engagé declarés ni Scavoir Signer ils ont cependant fait leurs marques Ordinaire lecture faite.

<sup>sa</sup>  
Louis X St Louis  
Marque

<sup>sa</sup>  
Gabriel X Hunot  
Marque

T. Williams Notaire

*Endorsed:* Engagement de Louis St Louis a Gabriel Hunot 30<sup>e</sup> Juin 1784.

*Translation*

BEFORE Thomas Williams, esquire, undersigned notary at Detroit and there resident, appeared Louis St. Louis<sup>41</sup> who has voluntarily contracted and does contract by these presents with Gabriel Hunot<sup>42</sup> in his service to stay with him for the term and space of one year from the date hereof, to have a good and trustworthy care of all that will be placed in his hands, to serve, obey and faithfully to execute all that the said Hunot or his representatives shall demand so far as such demands may be lawful and honest, to work for the advantage of said Hunot and to avoid whatever may be disadvantageous by giving due warning of the same, should he have knowledge thereof, and in general, to do all that a good servant should do and is bound to do; with no privilege of engaging in trade on his own account, nor to absent himself nor to quit the said service during the

<sup>41</sup> Louis Villers *dit* St. Louis, born in the province of Lorraine in 1708, migrated to Canada and on Aug. 22, 1746, married at Detroit, Mary Joseph Morin, native of St. Ours and daughter of Peter Morin and Mary Joseph Daunet. He resided at "Petite Côte du Sud dite Misere" (below modern Sandwich); he was buried at Detroit, Dec. 23, 1765; his widow, Mary Joseph Morin, was buried at Sandwich, Sept. 6, 1793.

To them were born ten children, the eldest being the Louis Villers *dit* St. Louis who was a party to the contract here printed. He was born at Detroit, June 8, 1747. On Jan. 9, 1775, he married at Sandwich, Charlotte Regindeau *dit* Joachim, whose parents resided at Boucherville. On the American occupation of Detroit, St. Louis signified his desire to remain a British subject. He was buried at Sandwich, June 3, 1826, leaving a large family of children to perpetuate his line. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>42</sup> The Hunot (Hunault, Hunaud) line descended from Toussaint Hunault *dit* Deschamps, born in 1628 in France, who married at Montreal, Nov. 23, 1654, Mary Lorgueil, a native of the city of Rouen. Their grandson, Gabriel Hunault, born at Montreal, May 30, 1695, was thrice married, the second wife being Mary Joseph Cristin. Two sons of this union (Gabriel, born at Montreal, March 26, 1721, and Toussaint, born at Sorel, March 18, 1725) came to Detroit, the former as early as 1766. He engaged in the Indian trade over a long period of years. He operated at Sandusky for a time, where he gained control over "divers large tracts of land," which he claimed to own through "sale and actual settlement and improvement." One such tract, sold to John Askin prior to 1805, is described as fronting nine miles on Lake Erie, with a depth of six miles, and having the Huron River running through it. This tract Askin later sought to dispose of to one Major Dean, who professed to be the agent of some prospective settlers from Connecticut. Hunot's trading ventures extended as far as New Madrid on the Mississippi. Probably the Illinois family of the same name, one of whose members figures in history as St. Louis's first bridegroom, is connected with the Detroit Hunots. Gabriel lived with an Indian woman, after the fashion of traders. They had at least one son, also named Gabriel, born in 1778 and baptized at Sandwich, March 25, 1783. Information compiled from Denissen, *op. cit.*; Askin mss., *passim*; Louis Houck, *History of Missouri* . . . (Chicago, 1908) II, 26.

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

said term, under penalty of the law and of wages forfeited; this contract thus made being for the sum of seven hundred and fifty livres, twenty sous to the livre, one cotton shirt, one pair of cotton trousers and a white blanket.

FOR THUS &c., promising &c., obliging &c., renouncing &c. Duly executed at Detroit in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, June the thirtieth, and both the said Hunot and the said servant having said that they cannot write, they have made their customary marks, after reading hereof.

his  
Louis X St. Louis  
mark

T. Williams, Notary

his  
Gabriel X Hunot  
mark

*Endorsed:* Contract of Louis St. Louis in service to Gabriel Hunot, June 30, 1784.

BOUNTY LANDS OF ALEXANDER GRANT

Detroit July 7<sup>th</sup> 1784

Sir Having no opportunity of writing you since the year 75, And matters in this Country having taken another turn since that time I shall be much obliged to you to please deliver W<sup>m</sup> Edgar Esqr. the order of the Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor and Council of the late Colonie of new york to me for 5000 Acres of land, as a reduced Master and Commander on the Lakes at the peace 1763, also the Mandamus of The King & Council to Commissary M<sup>c</sup>Lean for 5000 acres.

I am Sir

Your Most obedient and most Humb<sup>e</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
To M<sup>r</sup> John Kelly Alex Grant

*Endorsed:* 1784. Copie of a letter to M<sup>r</sup> Kelly Survey

SALE OF PELTRIES

Montreal 11 October 1784

Dear Sirs We now inclose you copies of the different sales of Furrs shipped last year for your account, on which

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

---

it is pleasing to remark there arises a very handsome profit vizt

|                                 |                                |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| on those of mark B              |                                | £794. 1.7St <sup>s</sup> |
|                                 | } of purchases<br>from McCombs |                          |
| on d <sup>o</sup> mark          | A                              | 34. 6.2 d <sup>o</sup>   |
| on d <sup>o</sup> J A A         |                                | 41.19.5                  |
| on d <sup>o</sup> J A T W C     |                                | 752.12.3                 |
| on d <sup>o</sup> J B B—Barthes |                                | 349.11.3                 |

£1972.10.8 Sterling

equal to £2191.14.1 Currency carried to the Credit of your Account. It would afford us satisfaction could we hold out to you similar hopes against another year, but we fear much for deer Skins, as the quantity going home greatly exceeds that of last year & we are sorry to remark that those from the Mess<sup>rs</sup> MaCombs turn out of very inferior quality, nor are the Raccons of their parcell any thing so good as those of last year; and to add to these untoward circumstances there is yet near to 400 packs not come down, on which we fear an additional premium of 2<sup>d</sup> 0<sup>t</sup> must be paid as there remains but small hopes of our being able to get them on board the vessells which are to sail from Quebec on the 25<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>

Ever since the arrival of our M<sup>r</sup> Todd our time has been so much taken up with baling Furrs & promising Friends to answer the heavy drafts from above that we have not looked into the Accounts he brought down & we must now defer it untill all the Shipping are gone.

We have now nearly made provision to get through the business of this year with the same regard to your drafts as heretofore, that is, that no man can say he has ever called twice for money that was due. We think we may now flatter ourselves with things going on more smoothly in future, & that we shall be more free from perplexity & anxiety than has been the case for two or three years past.

We have hitherto as you may have observed declined making any charge for our trouble of shipping Furrs to

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

England, tho' most certainly it creates more employment than importing Goods, nor is it our intention to make any charge on what is past, but on all future Shippments as well as on those of this year we mean to make a charge of One & a Half per cent, which we daresay you will think reasonable for that kind of Agency. The Merchants at home charge 2½ p ct altho' they never see a Skin, whilst we are obliged to do every thing ourselves & we assure you it is not a small business to go properly through with.

We are with much esteem

Dear Sirs, Your sincere Friends

Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill

Mess<sup>rs</sup> John Askin & C<sup>o</sup>

*Endorsed:* Letter from Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill to J<sup>no</sup> Askin & C<sup>o</sup> relative to the Sale of Peltries dated at Montreal the 11<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1784

SUIT BETWEEN GABRIEL HUNOT AND HYACINTHE OUI

1784 octobre 15

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Thomas Fincheley John Martin & nathan williams  
Committé

M<sup>r</sup> Unau contre yacinte Oui

Le plaintiff demande raison de ce que le defendant a laisse Son Service Etant Engage pour un an. Cette Conduite du defendant ayant Exposé le plaintiff a des grands dangers et lui ayant occasioné des fraix montant Suivant le compte produit a la Somme de trente et deux Pounds quatre Shelins cours de la nouvelle york.....£32.4  
dont le plaintiff Charge le defendant de la moitié Seize Pounds deux Shelins.....£16.2  
plus pour avances quil lui a fait tant En argent quen Effets dix Pounds..... 10

total £26.2

nous Sommes dopinion que le defendant doit payer au plaintiff la dite Somme avec les fraix Seize Shelins..... [16]

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

faisant ensable la somme de vingt six Pounds dix huit  
Shelins Cy.....

£26.18

Donne au Detroit le 15 octobre 1784

gllme Monforton

greffier

Le dit yacinte oui nayant pu trouver ni payer la  
susdite Somme a Ete mis en prison dont les fraix pour  
Sa nourriture ont monte a quatorze Shelins Cy.....

14

£27.12

et ne pouvant trouver caution En est Sorti aux Conditions  
que pour payer la dite Somme il a promis et promet ne pas  
quitter le Detroit Sans en donner avis a M<sup>r</sup> askin Rep-  
resentant le Sieur hunau et que Sil trouve a SEngager pour  
aller hiverner dans les postes de traite il ne pourra partir  
Sans faire Repondre au dit Sieur askin de la Susdite Somme  
par le Bourgeois au quel il Sengagera. Car ainsi & Promettant  
obligeant fait et passe au Detroit lan mil Sept cent quatre  
vingt quatre et le vingt et un du mois doctobre et a le dit  
yacinte oui a declare ni Savoir Signer de ce Requis Lecture  
faite il a fait Sa marque ordinaire En presence du Sieur  
Dequindre qui a Signe comme temoin

ant Dequindre

Sa  
yacinte X oui  
marque  
gllme Monforton greffier

*Endorsed:* Copie de jugement Entre le Sieur unau et  
yacinte oui, 1784.

*Translation*

1784

October 15.

Messrs Thomas Finchley,<sup>43</sup> John Martin<sup>44</sup> and Nathan Williams, Committee.

Mr. Hunot *vs.* Hyacinthe Oui.

The plaintiff demands the reason as to why the defendant left his service having been engaged for one year. This conduct on the part of the defendant has exposed the plaintiff to great inconvenience and occasioned an expense, amounting, according to the account produced, to thirty-two pounds, four shillings, New York currency.....£32. 4  
 Of this amount, the plaintiff charges one half, or sixteen pounds, two shillings to the defendant.....£16. 2  
 For advances in cash and in goods, ten pounds more.....£10

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£26. 2

We are of the opinion that the defendant should pay the plaintiff the said sum, with sixteen shillings additional expenses.....£ [16]  
 amounting to twenty-six pounds eighteen shillings currency.....£26.18

Executed at Detroit, Oct. 15, 1784

William Monforton, Recorder

The said Hyacinthe Oui not being able to pay the said sum, has been put in prison, with the additional expense of fourteen shillings currency for his maintenance..... .14

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£27.12

<sup>43</sup> Thomas Finchley was a merchant of Detroit in the Revolutionary period. In 1774 and for some years later he was a partner in the firm of Finchley and Abbott. In 1780 he was permitted by Colonel De Peyster to visit the Saginaw Bay region, an act which drew a complaint from Governor Sinclair at Mackinac to General Haldimand. Sinclair characterized Finchley as "ill-disposed" to the service, and Haldimand, apparently, coincided in this opinion. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VII, 579 and IX, 640.

<sup>44</sup> There were several persons bearing the name of Martin at Detroit in this period. Probably the one here noted was the husband of Cecilia Lambert. They had a son,

Moreover, not being able to procure bail he has been released on condition that he pay the said sum, which he has promised to do, and he further promises not to leave Detroit without giving due notice to Mr. Askin, the representative of Mr. Hunot, and should he engage for service during the winter at any of the trading posts, he will not set out without giving the said Mr. Askin security for the said sum through the gentleman by whom he will be employed.

For thus &c., promising, obliging &c. Duly executed at Detroit in the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four, the twenty-first day of October, and the said Hyacinthe Oui having said that he cannot sign his name, when asked to do so, has made his accustomed mark, after reading, in the presence of Mr. Dequindre, who has signed as witness.

Ant. Dequindre<sup>45</sup>

his  
Hyacinthe X Oui  
mark  
William Monforton, Recorder

*Endorsed:* Copy of judgment in the suit Hunot vs. Oui. 1784.

Thomas, born in the United States in 1780, who married at Sandwich, Feb. 11, 1806, Charlotte Gignac and by her had ten children in the years 1807-25. He was buried there, April 26, 1850. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

John Martin in 1796 signified his intention of remaining a British subject. He was engaged in trade at Detroit, as shown by petitions signed in 1784 and 1785, published in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XI, 424, 461.

<sup>45</sup> The founder of the Dequindre line in America was Michael Dagneau de Douville, Sieur de Quindre, an officer in the French army. He married at Sorel, May 16, 1688, Mary Lamy, daughter of Isaac Lamy and Magdelene Decheurainville of Quebec. They had three sons, one of whom became a resident of Detroit. Louis Césaire Dagneau de Quindre was born at Sorel, Oct. 8, 1704; he married at Montreal, Dec. 4, 1736, Mary Ann Picoté de Bellestre, daughter of François Marie Picoté de Bellestre and Mary Catherine Trotier. He settled at Detroit in 1749, where he became colonel of militia and where he was buried, Feb. 2, 1767. His wife was buried, May 5, 1756. They left a considerable family of sons and daughters. One of these, Antoine, is the person alluded to in the present document. He was born at Detroit, Aug. 24, 1751, and married in 1780 Catherine Desrivières de la Morandière. They had ten children, born in the years 1781-99. Dequindre was a man of ability and local prominence.

GRANT TO CAPTAIN BIRD CONFIRMED

Quebec 15<sup>th</sup> October 1784

Sir Captain Bird of the King's (or 8<sup>th</sup>) Regiment having memorialled His Excellency General Haldimand<sup>46</sup> to confirm a Grant made to Him, by Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel De Peyster, of a small Lot of Land & House at Detroit (formerly a Black-Smith's Shop) described therein—I am commanded by His Excellency to acquaint You that in consideration of Captain Bird's particular Services at Detroit, & of His having been at some Expense in fitting up the said House, He is pleased to relinquish to Him all Right to it on the part of the Crown, and desires that You will put Him in possession of it accordingly.

I am Sir

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

R Mathews, Sec<sup>y</sup><sup>47</sup>

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Governor Hay

*Appended:* Recorded in the Land office at Detroit in Liber E folio 12 &<sup>c</sup> by me

Geo. Hoffman Register

*Endorsed:* Rob<sup>t</sup> Mathews Secret<sup>y</sup> to the C. in C.—Octb<sup>r</sup> 15, 1784 Rec<sup>d</sup> 28 January 85 Answered 3 February 85

He was a member of the grand jury which indicted Governor Hull in 1809. Antoine Dequindre, captain of Detroit militia in 1812, who distinguished himself in the Battle of Brownstown, was apparently his eldest son. The elder Dequindre was buried at Detroit, April 5, 1814; Catherine Desrivieres was buried, May 12, 1817. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*, and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*.

<sup>46</sup> Sir Frederick Haldimand, lieutenant general, colonel commandant of the Sixtieth Regiment, governor and commander-in-chief in Canada 1778-84, was a native of Switzerland. He served for some years in the Dutch army, from which on Jan. 4, 1756, he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the Sixty-second or Royal American (afterward the Sixtieth) Regiment. Thereafter his service in America was continuous until November, 1784, when he returned to England. He died in Switzerland, June 5, 1791. His personal and official papers were later presented to the British Museum by his nephew, and a large number of them are printed in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XIX and XX. See *Dictionary of National Biography*.

<sup>47</sup> Robert Mathews was commissioned ensign in the Eighth Regiment, Feb. 28, 1761, and captain May 7, 1777. In 1787 he became commandant at Detroit, continuing in this post a little over a year. For several years he served as military secretary to General Haldimand, and a large number of documents written by or pertaining to him are printed in the *Mich. Pio. Colls.*

PETITION FOR CONFIRMATION OF GRANT TO CAPTAIN BIRD

Elijah Brush Attorney<sup>48</sup> for Cap<sup>t</sup> Henry Bird maketh application to the Hon<sup>le</sup> The Legislat<sup>e</sup> Bord for the adjustment and confirmation of a certain Lot of Ground in the Old Town of Detroit which is perticularly described and set forth in his deed of the same given by the Kings Commanding Officer at Detroit the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1781, and Afterwards Confirmed by Gov<sup>r</sup> Haldeman at Quebec the 15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1784. All which together with the evidence of his possession and improvement are herewith submitted

By the boards very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
E Brush

*Endorsed:* The application of E Brush For Henry Bird<sup>49</sup>

ARBITRATION OF FUR TRADE DISPUTE

We the Subscribers Chosen as Arbitrators<sup>50</sup> in a Dispute between Mess<sup>rs</sup> Thomas Williams & Leithe<sup>51</sup> & Shepherd<sup>52</sup> on

<sup>48</sup> Elijah Brush, one of Detroit's earliest lawyers, was born in Bennington, Vt., in 1772. He came to Detroit shortly after the British evacuation and until his death, in 1814, exercised much influence in the affairs of the city and of Michigan. In 1803 he was elected a trustee of Detroit and for several years beginning in 1806 served as treasurer of Michigan Territory. He also held important military offices, being in command of the territorial militia when the War of 1812 opened. In February, 1802, he married Adelaide Askin. In October, 1806, he obtained from John Askin title to the farm originally conceded to Eustache Gamelin on May 1, 1747, which now for over a century has been known as the Brush farm. From it (or from him) Brush Street derives its name. Portions of the farm are still held by descendants of Brush, who have been made wealthy by the growth of the city. Elijah Brush died, April 1, 1814; his wife, Adelaide, died, July 20, 1859. By reason of his personal and business connections with Askin he figures frequently in the Askin Papers. Many documents relating to him are published in the *Mich. Pio. Colls.*

<sup>49</sup> Although this document is undated, it evidently originated in connection with the adjustment of land titles by the Board of Land Commissioners in 1806 and subsequent years. Captain Bird's claim to ownership of this tract was rejected by the Board. See *Am. State Papers, Public Lands*, I, 268, 276.

<sup>50</sup> Throughout almost the entire period of the British occupation of Detroit the legal facilities for administering justice were extremely meager. Hence developed the practice of arbitrating disputes, as set forth in this document. On the entire subject see C. M. Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 160 ff.

<sup>51</sup> George Leith was one of the prominent merchants of Detroit in this period. In 1788 he was represented to a governmental investigating committee at Quebec as a man "of liberal education and highly respected in [Detroit]." From 1789 to 1794 he was a member of the Land Board of the District of Hesse. In 1798 the firm of Leith, Sheperd, and Duff certified that it had maintained a trading house at Malden since the founding of that place. Some of his letters are printed in the *Indiana Magazine of History*, V, 138 ff.

<sup>52</sup> Thomas Shepherd (Sheppard) was a Detroit merchant in the period subsequent

the One part & M<sup>r</sup> Montague Tremble on the Other relative to a Quantity of Packs taken by the Latter which the former Claims, having heard what Each of the Parties had to say in their Justification we are of Oppinion that Said M<sup>r</sup> Tremble does deliver into the Possession of M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Williams & Mess<sup>rs</sup> Leithe & Shephard the Packs now in dispute provided they give him Sufficient Security that so soon as the Necessary Witnesses to clear up this Matter shall be Examined by us that they will then without delay for further Appeal Abide by Our Judgm<sup>t</sup> of this Matter & pay to Said Montigue Tremble whatever Sum of Money we may then Award as his Share of the Packs now in Dispute.

Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 1785

William Robertson<sup>53</sup>

John Askin

John MacPherson<sup>54</sup>

W<sup>m</sup> Macomb

to the Revolution, and a partner of George Leith in the firm of Leith and Shepherd. About the year 1790 Shepherd paid a visit to England. On the return journey he was drowned in the Jacques Cartier River, May 25, 1791. A detailed and vivid recital of the event was given by his companion, John Richardson, in a letter to John Porteous, which is printed in Ontario Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, VI, 34-36. The body was recovered and conveyed by Richardson to Montreal where it was buried beside that of a "worthy friend, James Ellice." Whether Shepherd was a brother or other relative of William Shepherd, who was a clerk at Detroit in 1791 and subsequently a member of the firm of Leith, Shepherd, and Duff, with trading houses at Amherstburg and elsewhere, we have been unable to determine.

<sup>53</sup> William Robertson was a younger brother of Capt. Samuel Robertson (for whom see *ante*, 54) who married Catherine Askin. William came to Detroit in 1782 to serve as Askin's clerk. He rose rapidly in the fur trade and in influence over his associates, becoming within a few years one of the leading men of Canada. About the year 1788 he associated David Robertson, a younger brother, in business with him, and two years later William left Detroit for England. Here he was appointed (in 1792) member of the Executive Council of Upper Canada, but he did not return to discharge this duty, having no inclination "to be locked up in a fort after breathing the air of freedom." The remainder of his life was passed in Lower Canada or England, save for a short stay in Detroit in 1795. He seems to have had a decided taste for public affairs, and much statesmanlike ability, as revealed by his letters among the Askin Papers. His later years were shrouded in the gloom of intemperate addiction to strong liquor, but it is significant that this affliction did not cause the forfeiture of the respect and affection of his old-time associates. Robertson married at New York City, Jan. 26, 1798, Cornelia Eleanor Brooks, a native of England and daughter of a British officer. She died at the age of twenty, some months after the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Lucy Robertson. Robertson subsequently married Mrs. Ogilvie, mother of John Ogilvie, a prominent Montreal trader and after 1804 a partner in the North West Company. This union proved unfortunate, and was soon terminated by a separation. Elizabeth Lucy Robertson was made sole inheritor of her father's estate. She married Henry Ronalds, and they are still represented by descendants in Detroit, Windsor, and London, Ontario. Information adapted from William Robertson Papers and other mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.

<sup>54</sup> John McPherson was engaged in trade at Detroit, his name appearing in the

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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N<sup>o</sup> 5, 1 pack, 60 Deer Skins  
 6, 1 d<sup>o</sup> 60 d<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup>  
 8, 1 d<sup>o</sup> 72 d<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup>  
 21 Beaver Skins  
 26 Bear Skins  
 24 d<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 3, 1 pack ditto—150 Racoons, 46 Cat & Fox & 6 Deer  
 4, 58 Deer Skins  
 256 d<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup>  
 50 Beaver Skins  
 46 Cat & Fox  
 21 Beaver Skins  
 4 Otters  
 150 Racoons  
 10 packs Deer Skins. 32 Skins Each 320  
 1 d<sup>o</sup> Bears 26 Skins  
 1 d<sup>o</sup> 126 Cat & Fox  
 17 Otters  
 12 Bears  
 3 Deer Skins  
 24 d<sup>o</sup> d<sup>o</sup>  
 3 Cat & Fox  
 4 Racoons  
 5 Musquash  
 17 Bear Skins

We do hereby Acknowledge to have received of M<sup>r</sup> Montigue Tremble Packs Agreeable to the foregoing Account for which we will be Accountable in Whatsoever Manner it may hereafter be determined by the Aforesigned Arbitrators. Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> the 31<sup>st</sup> 1785.

George Sharp

T. Williams & Co.  
 Leith & Shepherd  
 Will<sup>m</sup> Forsith

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census lists of 1779 and 1782, and as signer to various petitions printed in the *Mich. Pio. Colls., passim.*

*Endorsed:* Award respecting Packs in dispute between Montague Trimble & Leith & Shepherd & Tho<sup>s</sup> Williams & C<sup>o</sup> Detroit 31<sup>st</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1785

FROM JAMES COCHRAN TO MONTAGUE TREMBLAY

Foot the Rappids<sup>55</sup> 6 oct<sup>r</sup> 1785

Sir I am sorey to hear of So mene Disputs about the Peltry but it is not my folt you have as God a Right to what is Gon in as the Rest of the Gentlmen a Cording to the a mount of your ac<sup>t</sup> which is very neer as Bige as Both of thers. I Expcted you wold Got the Last Packs that went in as they Got them that was Sent in this Spring if you have Not Got your part of them there is ten hors Load Coming in that I left on the Road as we wer obliged to Send Back for our goods that was at the Shawne towns.

it seems Droll to me of M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Cormick<sup>56</sup> taking so much a pon him of paying on[e] person & not the other Nither hes he any trubl of making any of them only what fur he Maid in the wintr he hes Been Treading a nother way for him self & Dus not mend hear he hes Been Saying hear that it was all his on Goods he had out with him which is true But

<sup>55</sup> The rapids of the Maumee River, a few miles above modern Toledo. According to Father Pierre Potier's itinerary of the route from Detroit to Miamitown (ms., copy in Burton Hist. Coll.), the foot of the rapids was twenty-four leagues from Detroit, and four leagues from the mouth of the Maumee. Here Fort Miamis was erected by the British, acting under orders of Governor Simcoe, in 1794. The rapids were eighteen miles in length and in times of low water the traders were compelled to make a portage of this distance.

<sup>56</sup> Alexander McCormick was taken captive by the Indians, according to testimony before the Board of Land Commissioners at Detroit in 1808. The place and time of this occurrence is unknown, but prior to the opening of the Revolution McCormick was engaged in trade in the Ohio country. In 1777 he had a store near Upper Sandusky, and in 1780 he was a member of Captain Henry Bird's expedition against the Kentucky settlements. In 1784 his name occurs among a list of loyalists at Detroit. Not long after this he married Elizabeth Turner, who had been carried into captivity by the Wyandot, and settled at the foot of the Maumee Rapids, where he was living in the summer of 1794 when General Wayne invaded the Indian country. The Battle of Fallen Timbers was fought on or close to McCormick's property, and his establishment was burned. McCormick subsequently located in western Ontario and died at Colchester in 1803. In 1808 his heirs, William, John, Matthew, Alexander, Agnes, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Mary McCormick, preferred a claim to 640 acres of land on the Maumee before the Board of Land Commissioners at Detroit in virtue of their father's former occupancy there. Information adapted from Henry Hay's Journal, *passim*; *Am. State Papers, Pub. Lands*, I, 518; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XXIII, 246.

there was a Good Del mor with them Lekwis all the men  
is paid hear By me Except old M<sup>o</sup>glaghan this man I  
Paid hear with Skin as I thought you wold Not ansur a  
Draft

I think M<sup>r</sup> Castedy is to Com out for thes Packs that is  
Coming but he will not Get them without you Got your  
part of the others.

Sir your Humbl Ser<sup>t</sup>  
Ja<sup>s</sup> Cochran<sup>57</sup>

*Addressed:* M<sup>r</sup> Montgue Tremble Marc<sup>t</sup> Detroit

*Endorsed:* Letter James Cochran Foot of the Rapids  
6<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 85

GRANT OF LAND TO JEAN BAPTISTE RÉAUME

Nous Les Chefs des Pouteouatamis au Detroit Savoir  
Askiby, ouaoüiatenne et Lieutenant Soussignés par la  
Signature des armoiries de chaqu'un de Nous, et du consente-  
ment des tribus de Nos villages, AVONS concédé à Jean  
Baptiste Reaume une terre à la Riviere aux ecorces attenant  
celle de S<sup>t</sup> Côme du coté du Nord-est, de la consistance de  
Six arpents de large sur Sa profondeur, pour en Joüir lui  
et les Siens en toute propriété dès à présent et pour toujours  
en témoignage de quoi Nous avons fait Nos marques qui  
Sont Nos Signatures ordinaires au Detroit le 9 Dexembre  
1785.

askiby sa marque (totem)  
Le fils de mikisabet (totem)  
Pinanche (totem)  
oüi oüia tenne (totem)

*Endorsed:* J. A. 12

Riviere aux Ecorces Recu le 24 mars 1797 P. A.  
N<sup>o</sup> 35.

<sup>57</sup> James Cochran was listed as a resident of Detroit in the census of 1779. Henry Hay's Journal shows that in 1789 he was located at Roche de Bout on the Maumee, a few miles above the foot of the rapids.

Registered in my office in the book N° 1, page 28. Peter Audrain, Recorder.

N° 1 H

Liber E, fo. 104. G. Hoffman

*Translation*

We, the undersigned, chiefs of the Potawatomi at Detroit, viz.: Askiby, Ouaouiatenne and other representatives, by sign manual of our respective totems, and with the consent of our village tribes, have granted to Jean Baptiste Réaume a tract of land at the River Ecorse adjoining land of St. Cosme<sup>58</sup> on the northeast, said tract being six arpents wide throughout its extent, to enjoy the same, himself and his heirs, in full ownership from now and forever. In witness whereof we have made the marks which are our customary signatures, at Detroit, the 9th day of December, 1785.

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Askiby—his mark       | (totem) |
| The Son of Miskisabet | (totem) |
| Pinanche              | (totem) |
| Oüi Oüia Tenne        | (totem) |

*Endorsed:* J. A. 12

River Ecorse, Received, [for record] March 24, 1797. P. A. No. 35

<sup>58</sup> Stephen St. Cosme married Mary Clair and resided in the city of Bordeaux. Their son, Pierre, born there, migrated to Canada and on Nov. 22, 1717, married at Laprairie, Elizabeth Faye, a native of that place. Their son, Pierre Laurence St. Cosme, born at Laprairie, Oct. 30, 1721, came west to Detroit, where on Jan. 25, 1747, he married Catherine Lootman *dit* Barrois, daughter of Francis Lootman *dit* Barrois and Mary Ann Sauvage. He lived on St. Jacques Street, within the town of Detroit, where he was buried, Sept. 21, 1787. Catherine Lootman was buried here, Nov. 3, 1790.

It seems probable that Pierre Laurence St. Cosme was the landholder here noted. He was a man of considerable local influence in his generation; he was a magistrate prior to 1763, and in 1768 was one of four residents delegated by the townsmen to act as their representatives in rebuilding the stockade around the town. This same year he served on a committee of ten citizens appointed by the commandant to investigate the official conduct of Justice Dejean.

St. Cosme had a large family of children. One daughter became the wife of Philip Dejean, and another the wife of James May. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, especially VIII, 297, 465-66.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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Recorded in my office in the book No. I, P. 28. Peter  
Audrain,<sup>59</sup> Recorder

No. 1 H

Liber E. fo. 104. G. Hoffman

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<sup>59</sup> Peter Audrain was born in France about the year 1725 and is said to have come to America after the Revolutionary War. He lived some years in Pennsylvania, where he was a prothonotary and among other activities took much of the testimony in the investigation of the Whisky Rebellion of 1794. He accompanied General Wayne to Detroit in the summer of 1796 and although already past the allotted span of life he began here a new career of great activity. He was at once appointed prothonotary, "an office never known or heard of in Michigan except in this single appointment." From 1796 to 1809 he served as judge of probate, and in 1802 he became clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. In addition to these, he filled a number of other clerical offices until nearly the close of life, when incapacity due to advancing age gave rise to complaints and to his removal from office. He was a man of extreme precision, and the county and other records kept by him are so beautifully written as to be sometimes mistaken for print. Audrain married Margaret Moore long before coming to Detroit, and the couple had many children, several of whom inter-married with prominent Detroit families. One daughter (Elizabeth) married Robert Abbott and another (Margaret) George Hoffman, while a son (Peter) married a daughter of James May. Audrain died, Oct. 6, 1820, aged about ninety-five years. See Denissen, *op. cit.*; Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, 11, 1351.