

## SECTION VII

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1790-1791

FROM DAVID MERCER TO JOHN ASKIN

Reading (in Berkshire) 29<sup>th</sup> Ap<sup>l</sup> 1790

My Dear Friend Do not imagine that my Affectionate esteem and regard for Yourself and family, is anyway diminished from not having written at an earlier period in the season but the probability of your hearing from us is greater by sending Letters seperately than together. I therefore fell on this plan purely that you might not meet with the like disappointment which we experienced the last Season it being the only Instance since our separation of not having the Satisfaction of receiving Letters from under either your own or Capt Grants hand, we can only Attribute it to the Chance of Loss which must be the consequence sometimes where the Conveyance is so precarious, however the Misfortune was partly Compensated by the pleasure which Phillis<sup>1</sup> received at the perusal of your daughters letter dated the 29 July last. nothing could be more desirable than the receipt of it especially as it brought those favorable accounts of the welfare of our very good friends in your neighbourhood, happy should we be, could it possibly be so circumstanced, that we could once more add to the number. God knows if that happy period may ever arrive, at any rate we are not without hope and some expectation of it. I assure you there are neither charms nor even Connexion in this Country should detain us, provided Circumstances for a future Subsistence could be obtained, be it in any shape or manner whatever, so as to cause the change to be eligible, but you know my good friend it would be imprudent in quitting that which I now enjoy, unless there was a prospect in some line of Life or another of meeting with that, which would make the Change desirable, in point of situation in Life, at present my circumstances remain as they were you have already been acquainted with them. I must say that we have some credit in keeping them as they are, as everything in this Country (& particularly this Neighbourhood) is remarkably dear, and you know, in our way of Life, there is no other possible method of adding

<sup>1</sup> Phyllis Barthe, wife of the writer of this letter, for whom see *ante*, 77.

to the Income but by a Saving on the principal, & it being so small with ourselves renders it impossible. My earnest wish is therefore to fall upon some plan or method for a future subst<sup>ce</sup> so as to be able to realize the principal for the Benefit of my family, as I assure you, the reflections for their situation, in case of accident to myself, are attended with unpleasing & melancholy sensations. I wrote to Capt Grant the latter end of last month and committed the Letter to Mr Todds care as also will this, when in London I saw him I then learned that our friends were well in Jan<sup>ry</sup> last, as he had received letters to that purpose, to C.G. who communicated the Regt<sup>l</sup> changes. Bennett goes, or is gone, for America what his schemes are I know not neither to what part he is gone. L<sup>t</sup> G Armstrong was his successor, as is L<sup>t</sup> Saumerez to C<sup>t</sup> Clowes whom (with his Mickmak<sup>o</sup> money) also has retired. I cannot help being envious, being also desirous of doing the same 2000 was the price of each.<sup>2</sup> I may therefore I think estimate mine at the same value.

30<sup>th</sup> The Reg<sup>t</sup> took their departure from England in March last for Guernsey & Jersey where they will probably remain two Years and then to Ireland. Our absence from them is on ac<sup>t</sup> of it being my tour for Recr<sup>t</sup> S<sup>r</sup> which Service probably we shall be on 'till next March. You will therefore please to direct as heretofore it being probable that we shall not be stationary in any one place, untill joining the Reg<sup>t</sup> at Guernsey where my Company is, as for publick Intelligence there is scarcely any that is worth Communicating or that is Interesting. Notwithstanding the Commotions in other parts of Europe, England yet appears to have but little interference with them, a dissolution of parliament is shortly expected, the ministers popularity deservedly Continues, & it is generally believed he will be no less so in a future parliament than the present. A Melancholy ac<sup>t</sup> is within these days brought of the loss of the Guardian a 44 Gun Ship bound to Botinay bay loaded with Stores provis-

<sup>2</sup> This refers to the practice, then in vogue in the British army, of officers' buying (and selling) their commissions.

ions and all other articles necessary for the Sustainance of every description of people there, and of which by the last Act<sup>a</sup> from thence, they stood much in need of, it's one of those unfortunate events, which cannot easily be remedied as it was the only ship freighted with those necessary articles, from it dreadful consequences are to be apprehended. You will be pleased to acquaint your daughter that her Aunt experienced the most heart felt Sensations of pleasure at the receipt of her Letter, and it would have Contributed thereto if she could have seen the bearer of it, hitherto we have not seen M<sup>r</sup> Hutchinson and perhaps may not, but any recommendation of Yours will be paid the greatest attention too, we had much satisfaction in meeting with L<sup>t</sup> Breynton (of the 65<sup>th</sup>) at Portsmouth the 1<sup>st</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> last, when the 53<sup>d</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> landed. You may be assured I was much gratified by the pleasing Intelligence that was gained from him, we likewise partake of that pleasure which must be truly grateful to yourself and M<sup>rs</sup> Askin, wherein we find by Theresas<sup>3</sup> description of the family that you have both renewed your youths again, and that no kind of amusement has its enjoyment with the juvenile Circle unless Papa and Mama are with them, we most sincerely join in Congratulations at the pleasing information I cannot but repeat again our Inclinations and wishes are to be with you, frequently Phillis's mind roves and when walking in the room takes a flight across the Atlantic & arrives at Detroit in a few minutes, at any rate I can venture to say she's seldom by herself but her mind is occupied with reflections of the many happy hours passed at Detroit, it is to be hoped that some time or another we shall have a renewal of the like pleasures, She continues to enjoy her health as likewise do the children. She continues in Stature nearly the same, rather lustier than when she left you, the Girls have not profited so much as they might have done in their Education, as the mother could not reconcile to herself letting them go from her, she never yet has left

<sup>3</sup> Therese Askin, eldest offspring of Askin's marriage with Marie Archange Barthe. Therese subsequently married Thomas McKee, son of Alexander McKee of the British Indian Department.



them for a night and has debarr'd herself from all diversions on that ac<sup>t</sup> the like fondness Continues towards them and no doubt ever will do, the Colonel & M<sup>rs</sup> D. P.<sup>4</sup> have taken a house near Portsmo' I have no doubt but they are like ourselves quite out of their element from the Reg<sup>t</sup> its probable they will not join till the Reg<sup>t</sup> gets to Ireland. I must now draw to a Conclusion uniting the most sincere & affectionate Love and esteem of Phillis the Young Ones & myself towards M<sup>rs</sup> A. Yourself and family as also to Capt & M<sup>rs</sup> Grant & their family likewise to the M<sup>r</sup> Barthes, and not to forget our kind remembrance to all enquiring friends.

I am with sincerity Your Friend & Serv<sup>t</sup>  
D Mercer

May 1<sup>st</sup>

PS This days Newspaper removes the gloom which every countenance was depressed with, as it announces the safety of the Guardians arrival at the Cape of Good Hope, after having undergone vast distress & difficulties and loosing 3 out of 4 boats Crew that quitted her

*Addressed:* John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> at Detroit to the care of Mess<sup>rs</sup> Todd & M<sup>c</sup>Gill Merch<sup>ts</sup> at Montreal.

Charges: Sh 10

*Endorsed:* England Reading Berkshire April 29<sup>th</sup> 1790  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Mercer 8<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>

# ROLL OF DETROIT MILITIA

## List of Militia men furnished with Arms

1	Capt <sup>n</sup> Askin	17	M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Intosh Jun <sup>r</sup>
2	Lieut <sup>t</sup> Meldrum <sup>s</sup>	18	M <sup>r</sup> Langlois
3	Ensign M <sup>c</sup> Intosh	19	M <sup>r</sup> Voyér
4	M <sup>r</sup> Martin Jun <sup>r</sup>	20	M <sup>r</sup> Lyons
5	M <sup>r</sup> Wallace	21	M <sup>r</sup> Brow
6	M <sup>r</sup> Sharp	22	M <sup>r</sup> Campeau Jun <sup>r</sup>
7	M <sup>r</sup> Antoine Lacéllé <sup>s</sup>	23	M <sup>r</sup> Fraser

<sup>4</sup> The allusion is to Colonel Arent Schuyler De Peyster.

<sup>5</sup> George Meldrum, for whom see *ante*, 293.

<sup>6</sup> On the Lacelle family see *ante*, 197. Antoine (or Anthony) was the brother of

# JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

8	M <sup>r</sup> G. Forsyth	24	M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Killip
9	M <sup>r</sup> Shepherd Sen <sup>r</sup>	25	M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Donald <sup>9</sup>
10	M <sup>r</sup> Shepherd Jun <sup>r</sup>	26	M <sup>r</sup> Dodemead
11	M <sup>r</sup> Allain <sup>7</sup>	27	M <sup>r</sup> Frs' Thibeau <sup>10</sup>
12	M <sup>r</sup> Clarke	[28]	M <sup>r</sup> Nathan Williams
13	M <sup>r</sup> Askin Jun <sup>r</sup>	[29]	M <sup>r</sup> David Robertson <sup>11</sup>
14	P. Shabert <sup>8</sup>	[30]	M <sup>r</sup> Will <sup>m</sup> d <sup>o</sup>
15	M <sup>r</sup> Abbot Jun <sup>r</sup>	[31]	M <sup>r</sup> Christy
16	M <sup>r</sup> Stevens		

Jacques Lacelle, and son of Jacques Lacelle and Mary Ann Lalande. He was born at Montreal, Nov. 22, 1745, and came west to Detroit in early manhood. He engaged in the Indian trade, was long a British partisan, and finally settled at Raisin River, where he was buried, April 13, 1811. At the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, Lacelle was one of the Detroit militia who participated as allies of the Indians. Unable to keep up with the latter in their rapid retreat, he concealed himself, to be taken later within the American lines. He was court-martialed and was on the point of being put to death as a spy, when he was spared through the influence of Colonel Hamtramck. In response to questioning by his captors he then stated that he had lived twenty-nine years in Upper Canada, twenty-one of which he had passed at Detroit and on the Maumee. For nineteen years before Harmar's expedition of 1790 he had lived at Miamitown as a merchant and trader. Lacelle died a bachelor. See *American State Papers, Ind. Aff.*, I, 494; and *Simcoe Papers*, II and III, *passim*.

7 Probably James Allan, for whom see *ante*, 307.

8 Philip Daniel de Joncaire de Chabert, for whose ancestry see *ante*, 326. He was the eldest son of Daniel de Joncaire de Chabert and Margaret Elizabeth Ursula Robert de la Morandière, and was born at Montreal, Dec. 2, 1752. He served as a captain of militia in the Revolution, married Judith Gouin of Detroit, Feb. 12, 1783, and was buried, April 30, 1793. The three children of this union were: Judith, who married Richard Pattinson; Margaret, who married James McGregor; and Felicity, who married Denis Campau. The Chaberts became connected by marriage with a number of well-known Detroit families. Information compiled from Denissen, *op. cit.*; Severance, *op. cit.*; and *Burton Hist. Coll. Leaflet*, VI, No. 1.

9 Ronald McDonell was a veteran soldier, having served in the British army for a period of almost thirty years. During the Revolution he was a lieutenant in the Eighty-fourth Regiment. He subsequently entered the Indian trade, and seems to have had his headquarters for some years at Detroit. In 1794 he was located at Grand Glaize on the Maumee, where on May 3 he joined with George Ironside in reporting the anti-British activities of the Lacelles to Colonel McKee. In 1796 he was still here, acting as agent, apparently, for the firm of Leith, Shepherd, and Duff of Detroit. See Ford, *British Officers Serving in the American Revolution*, 116; and *Simcoe Papers*, II, 227-28.

10 The Thibaults seem to have made their appearance in Detroit about the year 1768. Several family lines are traced, more or less fully, by Denissen. The person here noted may have been Francis Robert Thibault, who was born at Sandwich, Nov. 22, 1767.

11 David Robertson was a younger brother of Capt. Samuel Robertson and of William Robertson. The date of his coming to Detroit is unknown, but in 1788 he appears as junior partner of William, and two years later the latter went abroad,

*Endorsed:* Militia—Town of Detroit—some time before 1790

### DEED OF SALE OF JOSEPH CADET'S FARM

THIS Indenture made the first Day of November in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and ninty between Gregor McGregor Esquire Sheriff for the District of Hesse of the one Part and John Askin Esquire of Detroit Merchant of the other Part Witnesseth that whereas by virtue of a Writ of firefacias issued out of His Majesty's Court of Common Pleas for the said District at the suit of Jean Baptist Marsac<sup>12</sup> of Detroit Yeoman against the goods and chattels lands and Tenements of Joseph Cadet<sup>13</sup> of Detroit Yeoman, to the said Sheriff directed. I the said Gregor McGregor took in Execution as belonging to the said Joseph Cadet a certain piece of Land situate in the Parish of St Anne, containing One Acre in front by forty

leaving David in charge of the business at Detroit. He remained here until the dissolution of the partnership in 1795. He subsequently returned to Scotland, where he passed the remainder of his life. On Sept. 30, 1792, he, or another person bearing the same name, married, at Detroit, Peggy McDonald, who had been a servant in Askin's employ. Ms. record in Askin Papers, Dominion Archives, Ottawa.

12. The Marsacs were among the founders of Detroit, the progenitor of the line here being Jacob Marsac *dit* de l'Omtrou, who was born in the city of Poitiers in 1667, enlisted in the army, and came to Detroit as a sergeant under Cadillac in 1701. On June 12, 1706, he married at Montreal, Mary Teresa David, a native of Three Rivers. She was buried at Detroit, Sept. 24, 1727, and Jacob was buried here April 27, 1747. They had two sons, Francis and Jacques. Francis was born at Detroit, Oct. 22, 1706, and married here, May 18, 1734, Teresa Cecilia Campau, daughter of Jacques Campau and Cecilia Catin. She died in Nov., 1746, and Francis in Nov., 1777. They had nine children, one of whom was Jean Baptiste Marsac *dit* Panatchat, the individual here noted. He was born Aug. 26, 1739. On June 28, 1773, he married Geneveva Seguin *dit* Laderoute, daughter of Joseph Seguin *dit* Laderoute and Mary Teresa Tremblay. She was buried, July 20, 1793, and the widower subsequently married a Sautouse woman, Teresa Tacamanbinacouai. He was buried at Detroit, Nov. 14, 1813. He was the parent of several children by each union. Denissen, *op. cit.*

13. Joseph Cadet was the grandson of Michael Cadet, who was born in the diocese of Poitiers, France, in 1668, and married (first) at Quebec, Jan. 25, 1694, Mary Constantin, a native of Sillery, and (second) May 7, 1703, Geneveva Gaultier, a native of Quebec. Augustin Cadet, son of the latter union, born Jan. 13, 1709, married on Nov. 9, 1733, Louisa Elizabeth Lambert *dit* Champagne, daughter of Francis Lambert *dit* Champagne and Margaret Pilote. Their son, Joseph Cadet, was born at Quebec, Oct. 15, 1751, and came to Detroit as early as the spring of 1779. On Sept. 30, 1782, he married Cecilia Campau, daughter of Jean Baptiste Campau



Acres or Arpents in Depth more or less Bounded in front by the River Detroit and behind by unlocated lands, on the West South West by Alexander & William Macomb's lands and on the East North East by the said Jean Baptist Marsac's lands, with a dwelling House, Barn & Stable thereon erected which said Premisses were adjudged to the said John Askin as being the last and highest bidder at the sum of twenty five pounds twelve shillings and six pence Currency of this Province after the usual Advertisements as required by law: NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the said Gregor McGregor for and in consideration of the said sume of twenty five pounds twelve shillings and six pence Currency aforesaid to him in hand paid by the said John Askin, have bargained sold Granted aliened and confirmed and by these Presents as Sheriff for the said District doe bargain sell Grant alien and confirm unto the said John Askin his heirs and assigns forever all the before-mentioned messuage and premises butted and bounded as aforementioned together with all and every buildings and appertances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining and all the right title claim interest and demand of him the said Joseph Cadet in or to the same or any part thereof. To have and to hold the said Premisses and every Part and Parcel thereof unto the said John Askin his Heirs and assigns forever without any let Suit Trouble, molestation or interruption from the said Joseph Cadet his Heirs, Executors, Administrators, assigns, or from any other Person or Persons whatsoever. IN WITNESS whereof the said Parties have to these Presents interchangeably set there hands and seals at Detroit aforesaid, the Day month and year first above written.

Signed Sealed and Delivered in Presence of

John McGregor<sup>14</sup>

Gregor McGregor Sheriff (L. S.)

T. Reynolds Junior

John Askin (L. S.)

and Mary Catherine Boyer. They reared a large family of children, two of whom were killed and scalped, supposedly by Indians, in the spring of 1814. Joseph Cadet was buried at Sandwich, Oct. 4, 1813; his widow was buried there Dec. 13, 1832. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>14</sup> John McGregor was a member of John Askin's militia company at Detroit in



*Appended:* Recv<sup>d</sup> the Within Mentioned Sum of Twenty five Pounds Twelve Shillings and Six Pence Currency this 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1790

Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor Sheriff

*Endorsed:* Deed of Sale of Joseph Cadet's Farm To John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1790

[By John Askin] Sold by me Afterwards to Prudhomme<sup>15</sup> or Nantey

### SALE OF ETIENNE LAVIOLETTE'S LAND

This Indenture made the twenty fifth Day of March in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and ninety one, between Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor Esquire Sheriff For the District of Hesse of the one Part and John Askin of Detroit Esquire of the other Part, WITNESSETH that WHEREAS by Virtue of a Writ of firefacious issued out of his Majestys Court of Common Pleas for the Said District at the Suit of John Askin of Detroit Merchant against the Goods & Chattles Lands and Tenements of Etienne Laviolet<sup>16</sup>

1791, and in 1794 was trading in the Ohio country. A letter of Askin written to him, Dec. 5, 1813, discloses that he was then living at the River Thames. Probably he was the nephew of Gregor McGregor, named by the latter as one of his heirs and as executor of his will, made at Petite Côte, Nov. 23, 1810. See mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.

<sup>15</sup> Jean Baptiste Prudhomme *dit* Nantais, born in Nantes, Upper Brittany, in 1733, married at Montreal, April 24, 1758, Margaret Bigeot *dit* Dumouchel, daughter of Pierre Bigeot and Mary Joseph Dumouchel. Their son, Jean Baptiste Prudhomme *dit* Nantais, who was born at Montreal in 1759, is the person here noted. In 1782 he married Mary Ann Dellard, daughter of Francis Dellard and Mary Ann Blay. He subsequently married (second) at Detroit, Feb. 21, 1798, Archange Marsac, eldest child of Jean Baptiste Marsac and Geneveva Seguin *dit* Laderoute. He was buried at Detroit, Aug. 12, 1818. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>16</sup> Sebastian Jahan married Jane Oudinot and resided in Blois, diocese of Chartres, France. Their son, Jacques Jahan *dit* Laviolette, born in 1631, a tanner by occupation, was the founder of the American family line. He married at Quebec on Sept. 27, 1658, Mary Ferra, a native of Creveaux, in Picardy. The husband was buried at Quebec, April 4, 1699, and the wife at St. Jean, Isle of Orleans, Feb. 17, 1713. Their son, Jacques Jahan *dit* Laviolette, was born at Chateau Richer, Nov. 28, 1663, married there, Nov. 5, 1686, and was buried at Quebec, Apr. 17, 1711. His son, also named Jacques, was born in 1689 and died in 1763, having spent his life in Lower Canada. He was a captain of militia at the Coast of St. Joseph at Point Levis. His son, Etienne Jahan *dit* Laviolette, is the person mentioned in this document. He was born at Point Levis, Feb. 20, 1736. In early manhood he came west to Detroit, and on Feb. 3, 1766, married at Sandwich, Amable Judith Prudhomme, daughter of Francis Xavier Prudhomme and Judith Cuillerier, who resided at the South Coast of

of the River aux Raisin yeoman to the Said Sheriff Directed, I the Said Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor took in Execution as belonging to the Said Etienne Laviolette a Certain Piece of Land Situate at the Said River Raisin Containing four Acres in front by forty acres in Depth more or less bounded in front by the Said River Raisin & behind by unlocated lands adjoining on the South east Side to Piere Martin<sup>17</sup> and on the North west Side to Jean Baptist Morrins<sup>18</sup> land with a Dwelling house & a Barn thereon Erected Which Said Premises were adjudged to the Said John Askin as being the last and highest bidder at the Sum of fifteen Pounds Twelve Shillings & Six pence Currency of the Province after the usual advertisements as Required by Law. Now This Indenture Witnesseth That I the Said Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor for and in Consideration of the Said Sum of fifteen Pounds Twelve Shillings and Six pence Currency afore Said to me in hand Paid by the Said John Askin have bargained Sold Granted aliened and Confirmed and by these Presents, as Sheriff for the Said District Do bargain Sell Grant aliene and Confirm unto the Said John Askin his heirs and assigns

Detroit, known as Côte de Misère. Judith Prudhomme was buried at Sandwich, Nov. 4, 1780. Etienne Laviolette married (second) Margaret Angelica Descomps *dit* Labadie, at Sandwich, April 18, 1785. The bride was the widow of Martin Levry and the daughter of Pierre Descomps *dit* Labadie and Angelica Lacelle. Laviolette removed to the River Raisin at some date prior to 1791, where his wife was buried, Oct. 2, 1802, and he himself on Feb. 7, 1807. By his first marriage Laviolette left several children, and numerous subsequent descendants. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>17</sup> James Levry married Mary Tardy, and to them was born a son, Martin, in 1736. He married at Detroit, Jan. 22, 1759, Margaret Angelica Descomps *dit* Labadie, born at Montreal, Sept. 6, 1738, daughter of Pierre Descomps *dit* Labadie and Angelica Lacelle. They had several children, born at Detroit in the years 1758 to 1764. The wife outlived Levry and married (second) Etienne Laviolette, noted above. The eldest child of Martin Levry and Angelica Descomps *dit* Labadie was Pierre Levry *dit* Martin, the person here noted. He was born at the Coast of the Potawatomi, Detroit, Nov. 13, 1759, and buried at St. Antoine, River Raisin, Aug. 9, 1832. He married Mary Frances Cardinal, and to them were born at least two children, baptized at Detroit in 1791 and 1793. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>18</sup> There were two distinct lines of Morins represented in Detroit and vicinity. One line was descended from Pierre Morin, born in 1669, a native of the diocese of St. Brioux, France, who came to Canada and on Feb. 22, 1694, married Magdelene De l'Espinay at Beauport. The other, and more numerous line, was descended from Noel Morin, born in Brittany in 1616, who married at Quebec, Jan. 9, 1640, Helena Des Portes, widow of William Hebert and daughter of Pierre Des Portes and Frances Langlois. Many descendants of this couple were residents of Detroit and vicinity in the later eighteenth century and subsequently. The Jean Baptiste Morin mentioned herein has not been identified.

for ever all the before mentioned messuage and Premisses butted and bounded as aforesaid together with all and Every the improvements thereon and all the Right title Claim Interest and Demand of him the Said Etienne Laviolet in or to the Same or any Part thereof to have and to hold the Said Premisses and Eevery Part and Parcel thereof unto the Said John Askin his heires and assigns for ever without any let Suit Trouble molestation or Interruption from the Said Etienne Laviolete his heires Executors administrators and assigns or from any other Person or Persons Whatsoever

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Said Parties have to these presents interchangeably Set Their hand And Seals at Detroit the Day month and year first above written

Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor Sheriff (L.S.)

John Askin (L.S.)

Signed Sealed & Delivered in Presence of

David Robertson

T. Smith

*Endorsed:* Recd. of M<sup>r</sup> John Askin the Sum of Fifteen Pounds Twelve Shillings & six Pence Halifax Cur. in full payment of Aforsaid mentioned Land &<sup>ca</sup> Detroit the 25 of March 1791.

Gregor M<sup>c</sup>Gregor

#### ADOPTION OF POLICE REGULATIONS<sup>19</sup>

To the Heads of the different Families of the Town of Detroit

Gentlemen Whereas frequent applications have been made to put the Police of this town upon a proper and respectable footing, principally respecting the accidents arising from fire, the due regulation of the assize of bread, cleaning of the public streets, and other circumstances relating to the internal polity of the town; we have now to

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<sup>19</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



inform you that [illegible] of the Province we are empowered, with your consent, to put such regulations in force as are generally practiced in the internal polity of the towns of Quebec and Montreal and which are most conducive to prevent public nuisances, and to preserve the health and convenience of the inhabitants.

We therefore hope that those of you who wish to see regularity and order established in the policy of this town, that you will request of us to put such regulations in execution as seem best calculated to forward such a desirable object.

We remain Gentlemen Your very humble Servants

Geo Leith J. P.

Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant J. P.

Geo. Sharp J. P.

Angus Mackintosh J. P.

John Askin J. P.

William Park J. P.

Detroit 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1791

*Endorsed:* Lettre des magistrats de Cette ville, (Conservant La police) aux chefs des famille et propriétaires de maison dans cette ditte ville, du 23<sup>e</sup> May 1791 Detroit, District de Hesse

Fire Protection

#### ROLL OF JOHN ASKIN'S MILITIA COMPANY

A Roll of Captain Askin's Company of Militia for the Town of Detroit 7<sup>th</sup> June 1791

Present

David Robertson Merchant

Charles Smith<sup>20</sup> Clerk

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<sup>20</sup> Charles Smith (Smyth) was clerk of the Court of Common Pleas at Detroit from August, 1791 until his death in 1794. Apparently he came to Detroit in 1789 with Judge Powell, whose clerk he had previously been. See *Life of Wm. Dummer Powell*, 62 and 192. He was a member of the Detroit militia called out for service on the Maumee in 1794 and was slain while fighting with the Indians against General Wayne's army in the Battle of Fallen Timbers. See *Simcoe Papers*, II and III, *passim*. A letter from William Jarvis of Niagara to his father-in-law, Rev. Samuel Peters, Sept. 3, 1794, describes Smith as "a young man of most accomplished abilities, and an adopted chief among the Shawnees." The letter further relates that Smith, after being wounded by the Americans, was "quartered alive" by them. *Simcoe Papers*, III, 29.

## BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

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James Fraser Merchant  
Richard Pollard ditto  
William Hands ditto  
William Shepherd Clerk  
Robert Abbott Merchant  
George McDougall<sup>21</sup> ditto  
McKay Clerk  
James McDonell<sup>22</sup> Merchant  
James Mackintosh Clerk  
John Dodemead ShopKeeper  
John Askin junior Trader  
Robert Stevens Clerk  
Alexander McKinzee Merchant  
James May ditto  
John McGregor Trader  
Ronald McDonald ditto  
J<sup>n</sup> Baptiste Moran ditto  
Pierre Moran Clerk  
Jacque Peltier Senior<sup>23</sup> Trader

<sup>21</sup> George McDougall was the son of Lieut. George McDougall of the Royal American Regiment, a native of Scotland, who was at Detroit during Pontiac's siege. A few years after this event, he obtained title to Hog Island (Belle Isle) and thereby started a controversy which is still of interest to the people of Detroit. He died at Carleton Island, April 8, 1780. In 1763, he had married at Detroit, Mary Frances Navarre, daughter of Robert Navarre and Mary Lootman *dit* Barrois. Their son, George, the subject of the present sketch, was born at Detroit, Oct. 19, 1766. He became a lawyer, but in addition to his legal practice he held various offices and engaged in diverse activities. He was a man of eccentric temperament, so much so that he seems to have been regarded by his contemporaries as somewhat abnormal mentally. In 1810, he was foreman of the grand jury which presented Governor Hull and Judges Witherell and Woodward for tyrannical conduct. At a subsequent date, he was disbarred by the judges for his conduct before them, and the prohibition was removed only after he had made a humble apology to the court. Notwithstanding his quarrelsome disposition, McDougall was popular with the French element of Detroit, whose language he spoke as fluently as he spoke English. In his later years, prosperity forsook him and he obtained an appointment as lighthouse keeper at Fort Gratiot on the St. Clair River. This position he retained until his death, about the year 1840.

McDougall was a man of historical tastes, and preserved until his death a collection of papers pertaining to early Detroit which were subsequently utilized by Francis Parkman in writing his *Conspiracy of Pontiac*. McDougall died a bachelor. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; Robt. B. Ross, *Early Bench and Bar of Detroit* (Detroit, 1907), 142-44; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXXVI, 210-11; and mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.

<sup>22</sup> James McDonell (variously spelled) came to Detroit from Montreal in November, 1785, in the capacity of clerk to William Robertson. He was still at Detroit in the summer of 1807. See deposition in *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 245-46.

<sup>23</sup> The Detroit Peltiers were descended from Nicholas Peltier, a carpenter, who was

Jacque Peltier junior<sup>24</sup> } his Son's  
 Antoine Peltier<sup>25</sup> }  
 Swan<sup>26</sup> Clerk

born in the parish of St. Pierre de Galardon in Beauce, France. He married Jane Roussy, who was born in 1622, and they were living in Quebec as early as 1637. Nicholas was buried before 1675; his widow was buried at Sorel, Dec. 12, 1689.

A grandson of Nicholas Peltier and Jane Roussy, Jean Francis Peltier, born at Sorel, Aug. 15, 1691, came to Detroit in 1705 with the family of his stepfather, Pierre Maillet. Here on March 25, 1718, he married Mary Louisa Robert, who was born at Lachine, Dec. 15, 1698, daughter of Pierre Robert *dit* Lapierre-Lapomerais and Angelica Ptolom . Jean Francis Peltier was buried at Detroit about the year 1723; his widow was buried, April 2, 1776. They had three children: Jean Baptiste, born Aug. 20, 1719; Jean Francis, born Dec. 28, 1720; and Mary Angelica, born Sept. 20, 1722. Jean Francis died of smallpox in boyhood. Mary Angelica married (first) Anthony Campau and (second) Etienne Livernois; she died in August, 1762, and was buried under the church.

Our present concern is with the line of Jean Baptiste Peltier. He married at Boucherville, May 26, 1743, Mary Joseph Cornet, daughter of Joseph Cornet and Frances Le Beau. On Nov. 8, 1750, he purchased from Jean Baptiste Campau a farm at the Northeast Coast of Detroit, known in more recent years as the Leib farm or Private Claim 15. Here he lived until his death, although on Jan. 19, 1790, he deeded the farm to his son, Felix Peltier. He was buried, Jan. 4, 1802; Mary Joseph Cornet was buried May 4, 1807.

Jean Baptiste Peltier and his wife, Mary Joseph, reared a family of thirteen children, who intermarried with many of the families of early Detroit. The third son, Jacques Amable Peltier, was the person noted in the present document. He was born, Jan. 16, 1747, "at ten o'clock in the morning." As a boy of sixteen years he witnessed the occurrences of Pontiac's siege of Detroit, and in old age he narrated his recollections of the siege to Governor Cass, who reduced them to writing and later placed them at the disposal of Francis Parkman. On May 27, 1771, Jacques Amable married at Montreal, Magdelene Levasseur *dit* Chaverlange, who was born at Quebec, July 24, 1753, daughter of Pierre Levasseur *dit* Chaverlange and Margaret Petit. They reared a family of ten children. Jacques Peltier was buried, Nov. 18, 1825; Magdelene Levasseur was buried, Oct. 18, 1806. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>24</sup> Jacques Amable Peltier, the eldest son of Jacques Amable Peltier and Magdelene Levasseur, was born at Detroit, Sept. 24, 1772. On May 26, 1800, he married Susanne Cicotte, daughter of Jean Baptiste Cicotte and Angelica Poupard, who was born at Detroit, Jan. 29, 1777. She was buried, Jan. 26, 1801, leaving no descendants. On Sept. 1, 1810, Jacques Amable Peltier married again at Fort Wayne, before four witnesses, Angelica Chapoton, daughter of Louis Chapoton and Catherine Meloche of Detroit. The marriage was ratified at Ste. Anne's, Detroit, Sept. 21, 1812. Of this union two children were born: Felicity, who married Robert Beaubien in October, 1829, and Jacques. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>25</sup> Antoine Peltier, second son of Jacques Amable Peltier and Magdelene Levasseur, was born at Sandwich, Feb. 13, 1774. He married at Detroit, Nov. 5, 1800, Monica Delisle, daughter of Alexis Bienvenu *dit* Delisle and Mary Ann Campau. They removed in later years to the River Raisin where the last two of their nine children were born. Monica Delisle was buried at St. Antoine, River Raisin, July 1, 1822.

<sup>26</sup> Probably James Swan, who a few years later was acting as the agent at Mackinac for Isaac Todd. In the year 1798, he went to St. Louis to recover for Todd payment for debts owing by the firm of Clamorgan, Loisel and Co. The mission was unsuccessful, and Todd in a letter to Askin speaks of his debtors as a "rascally" set. See Askin Papers, *passim*.



Thomas McKee<sup>27</sup> the Colonels Son  
Baptiste Baby<sup>28</sup> Clerk  
Peter Laughton Trader  
Louis Barth Clerk

The foregoing Persons did volentarely declare they would go on any service his Excellency the Commander in Chief thought proper and that each of them would provide himself with a Horse

Prosper Thibeault<sup>29</sup> Clerk

This Man did not offer himself as a Volenteer but said he would go where Commanded

Absent on Business

George Ironsides Trader

Alexander Clark Clerk

John Burrell ditto

Arthur McCormick<sup>30</sup> Trader

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<sup>27</sup> Thomas McKee was the son of Colonel Alexander McKee, for whom see *ante*, 301. Thomas attained the rank of captain in the Sixtieth Regiment. Over-indulgence in liquor ruined his career and entailed the dissipation of the estate he inherited from his father. On April 17, 1797, he married Therese Askin, eldest daughter of John Askin and Marie Archange Barthe, and in 1799 was living at Petite Côte. Prior to this union McKee had been the father of two natural daughters, Catherine and Marie Anne, and one son, James, concerning whose mother we have found no record. By his wife, Therese Askin, McKee had one son, Alexander, sometimes known as Alexander the Younger. When General Procter evacuated Detroit in the autumn of 1813 McKee and his wife found refuge in Lower Canada, where McKee died, apparently, in the spring of 1815. A letter of Alexander Henry to John Askin, written May 9, 1815, states that Mrs. McKee suffered much while here (Montreal) with her husband, who was continually deranged with liquor, and had he lived the government could have had no reliance on him. A copy of the will of McKee, made at Sandwich, May 8, 1801, is in the Burton Hist. Coll. Information adapted from ms. records in Burton Hist. Coll.

<sup>28</sup> Jean Baptiste Baby was the son of Jacques Duperon Baby and Susanne Réaume, for whom see *ante*, 292. He was born at Detroit "within the stockade" on Jan. 5, 1770. He married at Sandwich, May 5, 1817, Ann Hands, the daughter of William Hands and Mary Abbott. They had one son, William Duperon Baby, born at Sandwich, April 16, 1819. Jean Baptiste Baby was buried at Sandwich, Oct. 3, 1852; Ann Hands was buried there, Dec. 18, 1846. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>29</sup> There were several distinct lines of Thibaults (variously spelled) at Detroit and vicinity, with many representatives and complex inter-family relationships. Apparently the Prosper Thibault here noted was born in 1759. He married Louisa Alavois, a Potawatomi woman. They lived at River Raisin, where most of their children were born. Prosper Thibault was buried at St. Antoine, River Raisin, April 23, 1810. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>30</sup> Arthur McCormick, or another of the same name, was later a school teacher at Detroit. In 1801 Askin recommended him to Angus McIntosh to serve as teacher for the latter's daughters, and in this connection stated that he had formerly taught at

## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Antoine Lacelle ditto  
Hugh Heward ditto  
James Reyly ditto  
Joseph Thibeault<sup>31</sup> ditto  
John L'anglois<sup>32</sup> Sergeant  
Francois Baby<sup>33</sup> Ensign  
George Meldrum Lieu<sup>t</sup>

These Gentlemen who are absent will I dare say on their arrival follow the good example of those who were present

Remark the whole of the Company present has volentarely offered to go on Service<sup>34</sup> yet as they are all more or less

Kingston. In 1802, another letter shows, he was teaching in the Grant family at Grosse Pointe.

<sup>31</sup> This may have been Joseph Louis Thibault, who on Feb. 4, 1788, married, at Detroit, Teresa Boyer, daughter of Pierre Boyer and Louisa Pepin *dit* Descardonnets. His parents were natives of Acadia, who after marriage removed to the parish of St. Ours, Lower Canada. Teresa Boyer was buried at Detroit, Feb. 25, 1847. Her husband had preceded her in death. They had two children: Joseph, born Oct. 18, 1788, and Lambert, born Sept. 15, 1789, each of whom became in their turn progenitors of family lines.

Another Joseph Thibault, contemporary with the above, married Mary Geneveva Deloyssel. For him see *ante*, 347.

<sup>32</sup> Charles Langlois of the parish of St. Pierre, in the diocese of Rouen, France, married Mary Cordier. Their son, Nicolas, born in 1640, migrated to Canada and married at Quebec, Oct. 26, 1671, Elizabeth Cretel, daughter of William Cretel and Jane Godfrey, both of the parish of St. Maclou, diocese of Rouen. Nicolas Langlois and Elizabeth Cretel lived their lives at Quebec, where the husband was buried in 1704 and the wife in 1721. They had one child, Etienne Langlois, born Dec. 17, 1673. He married, Feb. 10, 1698, Elizabeth Faucher, also a native of Quebec, daughter of Leonard Faucher *dit* St. Maurice and Mary Damois. Jean Baptiste Langlois, the person here noted, was the great-grandson of Etienne Langlois and Elizabeth Faucher, his parents being Nicolas Langlois and Magdelene Pilet, who were married at Detroit, Sept. 7, 1761. Jean Baptiste, their eldest child, was born March 14, 1762. He married at Sandwich, Jan. 13, 1789, Charlotte Réaume, daughter of Bonaventure Réaume and Jeanne Deshêtres. They lived at Sandwich, where Jean Baptiste was buried, July 18, 1821, having reared a numerous family. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>33</sup> François Baby was a son of Jacques Duperon Baby, and brother of Jacques Baby, for whom see *ante*, 293-93. He was born within the stockade of Detroit, Dec. 7, 1768. On Sept. 5, 1795, he married at Sandwich Frances Abbott, daughter of James and Mary Barkle Abbott. They settled on the south shore of the river opposite the town of Detroit, in what is now the heart of the city of Windsor. Here François Baby resided until his death in 1856. He was, during his active life, one of the foremost citizens of Upper Canada, serving several terms in the legislature as representative from Kent County, as colonel of militia, and during the War of 1812 as adjutant general. He retained his vigor of mind and body until extreme old age. See Casgrain, *op. cit.*, 118-19.

<sup>34</sup> Apparently this remark has reference to the likelihood of being called out for service against the Americans under General Arthur St. Clair, whose campaign against the northwestern Indians was then being prepared.

# BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

engaged in Mercantile business their Interest would suffer in their absence were more than half of the whole of these present called on.

Captain of Militia

*Endorsed:* Detroit June 7<sup>th</sup> 1791 Return of Capt<sup>t</sup>  
Askins Company of Militia  
Coppo

## REPORT ON FIRE PROTECTION<sup>35</sup>

Report, of Housekeepers, dwelling in the Town of Detroit who are defecient of Buckets, Ladders, Bags &c August 1<sup>st</sup> 1791

Names		Buckets Wanting	Bags Wanting	Ladders Wanting	
Possessors	-1				
Proprietors	-2				
Jacque Baby	-2	"	"	"	Mr Babys, (answer) not ready for visit <sup>g</sup>
Holmes <sup>36</sup>	-1	2	1	"	
G. M <sup>c</sup> Gregor	-2	0	1	1	Mr M <sup>c</sup> Gregor, will have everything
Rev <sup>d</sup> Frechet <sup>37</sup>	-2	"	1	"	ready in the course of this week.

<sup>35</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>36</sup> William Holmes, surgeon of the Fifth Regiment, with commission dating from March 31, 1787. In 1800 a Dr. Holmes, probably the same man, was surgeon of the forces at Quebec, with oversight, apparently, of the western posts. See British army list for 1787 and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 594.

<sup>37</sup> Pierre Frechette was born at Quebec, Feb. 2, 1751, his parents being Etienne Frechette and Marie Anne Dupéré. He was ordained a priest on Dec. 18, 1784, and in the autumn of 1785 came to Sandwich as parish priest. The following year when Father François Xavier Dufaux came to Detroit to take charge of Ste. Anne's Church, Frechette prevailed on him to exchange parishes. Frechette continued to serve Ste. Anne's for ten years, leaving Detroit shortly prior to the American occupation in July, 1796. From this time until his death on January 3, 1816, he served as parish priest of Beloeil and Saint Hilaire, Canada. He was characterized by Father Payet, in a letter written from Detroit in 1786, as "a zealous and pious priest, but a man of superlative tranquility." Information supplied by Father J. C. Plomer, professor at the Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit.



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G. McDougal	-1	"	"	1	Mr N. Williams, having just arrived in town, will have all ready in two days
N. Williams	-2	1	1	1	
A. McKinzie	-1	"	1	2	Mr Montigny has ladders making
F. Belcour	-1	"	"	1	
M. Dolson	-2	"	1	"	
J. Whitten <sup>38</sup>	-2	"	1	"	
F. Roucour	-2	"	1	"	
J. Voyez <sup>39</sup>	-2	"	1	"	
Blk Diana	-1	"	1	2	
C. Lafleur	-2	"	1	"	
R. Gowie	-2	"	1	2	
Tho <sup>a</sup> Jones <sup>40</sup>	-2	"	0	1	
M <sup>rs</sup> Hay					
Montigny <sup>41</sup>	-2	"	"	2	

<sup>38</sup> Probably John Wheaton, for whom see *post*, 390-94.

<sup>39</sup> Joseph Voyez (Voyez) was a resident of Detroit of considerable local influence, being one of the magistrates in the early years of the American occupation. In this capacity, in the summer of 1799, he addressed (in company with the other local justices) a protest to the Secretary of War against the alleged arbitrary conduct of Colonel Strong, the military commandant. Voyez was a great-grandson of Pierre Voyez, who was born in the diocese of Mons, province of Maine, France, in 1630. He migrated to Canada, where he married at Chateau Richer in 1662, dying at the same place, Nov. 14, 1695. The great-grandson, Joseph, here noted, was the first Detroit representative of the line. He married Catherine Charier; both husband and wife died during the month of August, 1805, the former being buried Aug. 24, the latter on Aug. 16. Information adapted from mss. in Burton Hist. Coll., *passim*; *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 179; and Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>40</sup> Thomas Jones was at Detroit in 1787 when he subscribed three pounds New York currency toward the salary of Rev. George Mitchell. See *ante*, 303. In 1793 one Thomas Jones served as interpreter to the Iroquois Indians in their negotiations near Detroit with agents of the American government. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XVII, 620, 654. Whether the latter was the Detroit resident of 1788-91 we are unable to determine.

<sup>41</sup> The entry concerning Montigny has been crossed out in the ms., and the name of Mrs. Hay inserted in its stead. Pierre Jean Baptiste Testard, Sieur de Montigny de Louvigny, was born at Montreal, Nov. 2, 1750, the son of Jean Baptiste Philip Testard and Charlotte Trotier *dû* Des Rivières. His mother's first American ancestor, Julius Trotier, had migrated from France to Canada about the year 1645 and one of his granddaughters, Catherine Trotier *dû* Beaubien was the founder of the Detroit Beaubien line. Our present subject in mature life commonly signed his name as Louvigny Montigny. He married at Detroit, March 1, 1790, Agatha Hay, daughter of former Lieutenant-governor Jehu Hay, and although much in the service of the British government, seems to have made his home thereafter at Detroit and Amherstburg.

# BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

Tho <sup>s</sup> Scot	-2	"	1	1	Mr Forsyths ladders will be finished to day
W <sup>m</sup> Forsyth	-2	"	"	2	
W <sup>m</sup> Hands	-1	"	"	2	Mr Sparkmans bag will be made to day
J. Sparkman	-2	"	1	"	
A. Lafoy <sup>42</sup>	-2	"	1	2	
T. Smith IK <sup>r</sup>	-2	"	1	"	
A. S <sup>t</sup> Cosme <sup>43</sup>	-2	"	1	2	

In 1794 he was active as captain of militia in the operations against General Wayne's army on the Maumee. A year thereafter he encountered some financial disaster which compelled him to sell his house (probably the one here reported on) at Detroit, but certain formal certificates of loyalty of British subjects, issued by him, indicate that he was still here in the spring of 1796. He served as member of the Land Board for the District of Hesse in 1791-92 and for that of Essex and Kent in 1792-93. He was a captain in the First Battalion of Royal Canadian Volunteers from 1796-1802, and he served as a staff officer with the rank of captain in 1812. At this time he was in Lower Canada, and his service was with the St. Regis and Iroquois Indian detachment; a letter written by him from Montreal in August, 1805, preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll., may indicate that he had removed to Lower Canada prior to that date. He was captured by the Americans at St. Regis, Oct. 23, 1812, and died, Feb. 23, 1813. A petition to the authorities on behalf of his widow in the spring of 1815 indicates that the daughter of Detroit's former lieutenant-governor was then in a "most deplorable" state, her husband's death having left her "without the means of living tomorrow and [she] is this day called upon to quit her lodgings, at the house of poor people who cannot afford to maintain her." Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XVI, 72; *Officers of the British Forces in Canada During the War of 1812-15*, *passim*; and mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.

42 Augustin Lafoy was the grandson of Anthony Lafoy, a native of the province of Poitou, France, who on Feb. 7, 1735, married at Quebec, Mary Elizabeth Moran, a native of that city. Anthony Lafoy was a wigmaker. His son, Augustin, born at Quebec, March 17, 1739, came to Detroit, where on Nov. 28, 1763, he married Elizabeth St. Cosme, daughter of Pierre Laurence St. Cosme and Catherine Lootman *dit* Barrois. She was buried, March 2, 1776, and he on April 9, 1788. Their only child was Augustin, the subject of the present sketch. He was born Nov. 7, 1764. On Jan. 28, 1793, he married Catherine Bordeau *dit* L'Isle Ronde. They had eleven children, born in the years 1793-1812. The Lafoys claimed a property loss of £800 in the fire of 1805, and Mrs. Lafoy received a donation lot the following year. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; and *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit*, 171.

43 Amable St. Cosme was a son of Pierre Laurence St. Cosme, for whom see *ante*, 212. He was born at Detroit, Oct. 30, 1751, and married here on March 30, 1785, Geneveva Bordeau, daughter of Joseph Bordeau *dit* L'Isle Ronde and Mary Louisa Clermont *dit* Dubord, a native of Sandwich. They lived at Detroit several years, but removed to Raisin River settlement sometime between the autumn of 1795 and the spring of 1798. There Amable was buried, March 10, 1807, and Geneveva Bordeau on Dec. 21, 1829. Their five elder children were born at Detroit, the last four at Raisin River. Most of them were married at the latter place, with which the further history of the family is identified. Information adapted chiefly from Denissen, *op. cit.*

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

—Frero <sup>44</sup>	—2	"	1	2
		3	18	24
Mr Ross Lewin <sup>45</sup>	—1	—	—	5
Courtney Butcher	—1	—	—	2
Mr Selby	—1	—	—	2
Cassen Shoemaker	—1	—	—	4
Miller Shoemaker	—1	—	—	4
L <sup>t</sup> Hill <sup>46</sup>	—1	—	—	1

James May O.P<sup>o</sup>

*Endorsed:* Report to the Comissioners, of the Buckets Bags & Ladders deficient in the Town of Detroit. August 1<sup>st</sup> 1791

<sup>44</sup> Jean Francis Frérot. He was descended from Claude Frérot, who married Jane Viau and lived in the city of Langres, in Champagne. Their son, Claude, born in 1717, enlisted in the army and came to Canada, where on Feb. 15, 1745, he married Susanne Gosselin, a native of Isle of Orleans. Claude Frérot belonged to the company of M. de Lusignan. Subsequently he followed the trade of cutler. He was buried at Quebec, Feb. 27, 1783. His son, Jean Francis Frérot, was born there Feb. 17, 1747. He married Geneveva Roucour, also a native of Quebec, and later removed to Detroit. Here his wife was buried, May 18, 1813, and he married again, on Feb. 21, 1814, Ursula Lahaye, widow of Francis Boemier. A succeeding document shows that he was either a mason or a carpenter. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.* In 1797 he seems to have been living on St. Joseph Island in Lake Huron.

<sup>45</sup> Ralph Ross Lewen was a lieutenant in the Fifth Regiment, his commission being dated May 31, 1784. He was a native of County Clare, Ireland, where his family was one of some wealth and importance. In 1790 he married at Detroit, Archange Baby, daughter of Jacques Duperon Baby. In 1802 he returned to Ireland, having received a considerable inheritance from his grandmother. After two years in Ireland he again came to Canada and established his home at Quebec. Here for some fifteen years he served as town major, and here he died, Dec. 5, 1822, and was buried beside his brother-in-law, Thomas Allison, who had died less than a month earlier. His widow died at Amherstburg, Feb. 23, 1850. Information adapted from the British army list for 1790 and Casgrain, *op. cit.*, 120-21.

<sup>46</sup> Lieutenant George Hill of the Fifth Regiment, commissioned adjutant, Oct. 25, 1780, and lieutenant, Oct. 26, 1786. On Sept. 5, 1795, he obtained a captaincy. In a letter of June 4, 1796, Colonel England speaks of him as having commanded Fort Miamis on the Maumee until compelled by ill health to leave the post. Apparently he was in Detroit at this time. See British army lists for 1790 and 1800, and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XII, 214.



# BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

## REPORT ON STREET DEFECTS<sup>47</sup>

Report of the Main Street, of the deficiency of Logs, and repairs wanting, before the different Houses, Detroit Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 91

Names of proprietors N° 1 Tennents 2	Logs Wantg	Remarks
R <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> Frichet	1 2	The Street opposite the Church in bad Order
M <sup>r</sup> N. Williams	1 1	The path next his House in bad repair
A. M <sup>e</sup> Intosh, store	1 1	The Street oppisite the Store ditto d <sup>o</sup>
Geo. Leith & C <sup>o</sup>	1 "	The Logs in bad Order
Rob <sup>t</sup> Gowie	2 "	The Street in very bad repair
Thomas Jones	1 "	The Logs in bad Order
W <sup>m</sup> Hands	2 1	No Logs at all before M <sup>r</sup> Hands House
Geo. M <sup>e</sup> Dougal	2 1	The Street in bad repair
Lieu <sup>t</sup> R. Lewen	2	The Street in very bad order
[illeg.] tney Sold <sup>r</sup>	2	Logs in bad Order
[illeg.] store	1	ditto in bad order
[illeg.]	2 1	The Street in bad repair
[L] arsen Sold <sup>r</sup>	2	Logs in bad Order
Gregor M Gregor	1	The Street in bad repair
Main Guard	1	The foot path before the Majors Garden in bad order
James Fraser	1	Gallery out of the line
Gregor M <sup>e</sup> Gregor	1	Gallery out of the line
Com <sup>r</sup> Grant	1	ditto out of the line
James Abbot	1	ditto out of the line
	8	total

James May O.P.

<sup>47</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

*Endorsed:* Report to the Commissioners of the bad repairs  
in the Main Street Aug<sup>t</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1791

## INFORMATION AGAINST DESERTERS FROM NAVAL SERVICE

Hesse } The Information of John Miller of Detroit  
to wit } Mariner, Boatswain of his Majestys armed  
Snow Chipaway taken upon Oath before me  
John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> one of his Majestys Justices of the  
Peace for the said District the twelfth day of August in the  
Thirty first year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George  
the Third the now King. That this Informant on friday the  
twenty ninth day of July last, being Boatswain of his  
Majesty armed Snow the Chipaway, then riding at anchor  
in the Road of Fort Erie in the District of Nassau a Port of  
Entry and Discharge; and the Ships Company being  
divided into four watches; John Chace Gunner of the said  
Snow had charge of the first watch from 9 oClock, to  
eleven at night; that the Informant being upon deck, and  
looking out upon the forecastle, saw some of the men belong-  
ing to John Chases watch, who were stationed forward, go  
aft in order to look at the glass, that he heard the said John  
Chace repeatedly tell them to stay forward, and look out  
for the Dunmore, expected into the Road from Detroit;  
that the Informant, who was to take charge of the second  
watch, finding the time long, sent one of the watch aft to  
look, how the glass went, who returned immediately and  
reported that John Chace was not upon deck; whereupon  
the Informant going aft to the quarter Deck found a Cutlass,  
and looking over the Ships stern, discovered the Boat was  
Cut away and missing. That upon this discovery, the  
Informant went below, and allarmed the Mate W<sup>m</sup> Flemming,<sup>48</sup>  
who came upon deck, and immediately after mustered the  
Crew, when John Chace Gunner aforesaid, John M<sup>e</sup>Evoy,  
Michael Morisey Mariners, and two privates of his Majestys

<sup>48</sup> William Fleming was for some years a seaman on the upper lakes. Documents among the Askin Papers disclose that in 1795 he was captain of a vessel. His name is included in the list of those Detroit residents who, in 1796, formally signified their intention to remain British subjects.

5<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> of foot serving as [Two crosses in ms.] Marines, whose names he does not know, where absent and not to be found. That on Monday the first day of August inst. a party of the 26<sup>th</sup> Reg<sup>t</sup> of foot, in a boat came along side having the said John Chace, John M<sup>e</sup>Evoy Michael Morisey and the two Soldiers in custody, and delivered them prisoners to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> William Flemming Mate of the s<sup>d</sup> Vessel, and the Informant further says, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, the two Muskets and Bayonets now shown to him are the same that were brought back with the said Prisoners, and that the said Muskets and Bayonets belong to the said Snow.

his  
John X Miller  
mark

Sworn before me

John Askin J. P. D. H.

*Endorsed:* The King v<sup>s</sup> Chace M<sup>e</sup>Evoy Morisey Flavell  
Straight Information of John Miller 12<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1791

LIEUTENANT PATTISON FINED<sup>49</sup>

M<sup>r</sup> Pattison encloses herewith the Fine the *Commissioners* of the *Police* of the District of Detroit have of their *Wise* decision *imposed* on him in the full hope it will be the first last transaction he will ever have with them.

Fort Lernoult Aug<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1791.

Mark Pattison<sup>50</sup>

L<sup>t</sup> Comm<sup>g</sup> the Roy<sup>l</sup> Artillery for the defence  
of the above mentioned Settlement

The R<sup>t</sup> Honb<sup>le</sup> & Honb<sup>le</sup> The Commissioners of the Police,  
Detroit &c &c &c

*Addressed:* The Commissioners of The Police Detroit

*Endorsed:* filed 23<sup>d</sup> august '91

<sup>49</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>50</sup> Mark Pattison was commissioned first lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Artillery, Dec. 5, 1793. No record has been found of his service in America, or of the duration of his stay at Detroit.



W. Patterson encloses herewith the Form  
the Commissioners of the Police of  
the District of Detroit have of their  
own decision imposed on him in  
the full hope it will be the first  
& last transaction he will ever  
have with them.

Fort Lemont

Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> 1791.

Thos. Patterson  
St. Comm.  
Regt. Artillery  
For the defence  
of the above mentioned  
Settlement  
The Commissioners of the Police,  
Detroit &c &c

LETTER OF LIEUTENANT PATTISON TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE

Reproduced from the original manuscript in the  
Dominion Archives in Ottawa

COMPLAINT AGAINST SIMON GIRTY

Detroit District of Hess

Complaint on Oath of George Setchelstiel Tanner of  
s<sup>d</sup> Place Agns<sup>t</sup> Simon Girty late Indian Interpreter also of  
s<sup>d</sup> Place Aug<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1791.

That on Sunday the 21 of August 1791 being on Horse  
back Near Cap<sup>t</sup> La Mothe's<sup>51</sup> on the Kings-highway he was  
Assaulted by s<sup>d</sup> Simon Girty who seized his Horse by the  
Bridle making Use of Abusive Words & After s<sup>d</sup> Complainant  
had found Means to turn his Horse away & get at some  
distance said Girty threw too Stones at him the latter of  
which Struck him in the head & gave him a Wound from  
which much Blood gushed Out, all which bad treatment he  
recv<sup>d</sup> without having given any provocation prior to his  
having rec<sup>d</sup> the Wound

George Sichelstiel

Sworn before me at Detroit this 22<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1791 John  
Askin J. P. D. H.

Endorsed: Detroit Aug<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1791 Complaint on Oath of  
Geo. Sitchelstiel Agns<sup>t</sup> Simon Girtty

<sup>51</sup> Guillaume Pierre La Mothe was descended from Bruno La Mothe, who married Jane Le Vallois and resided in St. Meixant, in the diocese of Bordeaux, France. Their son, Pierre, born in St. Meixant in 1693, was the founder of the American line of La Mothe. He came to Canada and married at Montreal, Nov. 23, 1715, Mary Magdelene St. Agne dit Hogue, a native of that city. She died in July, 1739, and Pierre married again, on Jan. 21, 1740, Angelica Caron, a native of Lachine, daughter of Vital Caron and Mary Perthuis. Pierre was buried at Soulanges, Nov. 4, 1755. The third son of his union with Angelica Caron was Guillaume Pierre La Mothe, the subject of our present sketch. He was born at Montreal on Jan. 21, 1744. He married Mary Josette Hautrage, daughter of Claude Hautrage and Mary Frances Visger, probably about the year 1787, for between this date and 1793 four children of the couple were born and baptized at Detroit. La Mothe first came to Detroit in September, 1778. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, IX, 473. Governor Hamilton was on the point of launching his campaign against Vincennes and the Illinois country, and La Mothe accompanied him on this as one of his principal lieutenants, and on being captured by Clark was one of those who were consigned to prison at Williamsburg, Va. There a board of inquiry, acting largely on evidence supplied by John Dodge, who was a bitter enemy of Hamilton and La Mothe, voted to retaliate American wrongs upon these two and Philip Dejean. They were therefore ordered to be put in irons and confined in the dungeon of the jail, with its attendant rigors. They were subsequently released, after long confinement, and in 1782 La Mothe was sent back to Detroit. Here he lived until the summer of 1793, when, having secured the appointment of interpreter at Mackinac, he removed thither. On the evacuation of that post by the British in 1796 he retired with the garrison to St. Joseph Island, where he died in 1799. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*; *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; and *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, VIII, *passim*.

# BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

## VIOLATIONS OF POLICE REGULATIONS

REPORT, to the Commissioners, of PERSONS; presented to me as having Trespass'd, against the Regulations, of the Police.

Detroit, Aug<sup>t</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1791.

Persons Names,	Remark's of Trespasses
Mr W <sup>m</sup> Scott	Two of his Cowes. found in the Street; by L. Allison <sup>52</sup>
Mr J. Welch	Two.....d°.....d°.....d°
Mr Cotie <sup>53</sup>	Two.....d°.....d°.....d°
Mr Gerardin <sup>54</sup>	One.....ditto.....d°.....d°
Mr Dolson	One.....d°.....d°.....d°
Mr Smith; I. K <sup>r</sup>	One.....d°.....d°.....d°
Mr Hands,	One.....ditto.....d°.....d°
Mr Whitten	One.....ditto.....d°.....d°
Mr G. M <sup>c</sup> Dougal	Leaving his Cart in the Street all Night.
Mr Fraro	Prentise Boy. Galloping through the Streets.
Mr Baby	No Ladders provided, for Mr Ross Lewen, nor his Own house NB, a number of Hogs are dayly runing in the Streets, to the great determent of the Public.
	James May O. P.

*Endorsed:* Report, to the Commissioners Aug<sup>t</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1791  
bx E filed 23<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 91

<sup>52</sup> Thomas Allison, lieutenant in the Fifth Regiment. He was the son of John Allison, a farmer, who resided in Forcett Park, in the north riding of Yorkshire, England. Thomas, his eldest son, was baptized, June 26, 1757. He received a commission as lieutenant in the army, July 25, 1781, and in the Fifth Regiment, Aug. 11, 1783. In February, 1798, he sold his commission and left the army to locate at Quebec, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1795, he married Therese Casety, widow of John Casety and daughter of Jacques Duperon Baby. Lieutenant Allison died at Quebec, Nov. 15, 1822; his widow died, Aug. 6, 1847. Their only



## JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

### SUPPLIES FOR THE NORTH WEST COMPANY

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT, Made & Concluded upon, by & between John Askin Esq<sup>r</sup> of Detroit Merchant, on the One Part, and Daniel Sutherland<sup>55</sup> Agent for the North West Company & in their Behalf, on the Other Part Witnesseth.

daughter, Susanne, married, Sept. 25, 1811, Phillipe Aubert de Gaspé, author of *Anciens Canadiens*. Information adapted from the British army list for 1790 and Casgrain, *op. cit.*, 116-17.

<sup>53</sup> Probably this name should be spelled Coté. The Detroit Cotés were descendants of Jean Coté, who on Nov. 17, 1635, married Ann Martin at Quebec. Louis Coté, a great-grandson of this couple, born at L'Ange Gardien, Nov. 8, 1734, came to Detroit some time prior to 1762. He was a carpenter, and while traveling along the road engaged on his business, was fatally wounded by the falling branch of an overhanging tree. He was buried in Ste. Anne's Church, Oct. 31, 1762. We have seen no record of his having had a family.

Prisque Coté, the elder brother of Louis, born Nov. 8, 1730, removed to Detroit in the summer of 1771. He had married at St. Constant, on Feb. 4 of that year, Magdelene Lefebvre, daughter of Claude Joseph Lefebvre and Rosalie Pinsonneau. Prisque Coté was also a carpenter. He lived on St. Joseph Street, and was buried, Oct. 9, 1803. He was the father of four children, born between the years 1772 and 1779. Apparently he was the Detroit citizen here complained of.

An uncle of Prisque Coté was Charles Coté, born in 1704, who lived and died in Lower Canada. His son, Joseph, however, born at Lorette, July 16, 1744, came to Detroit and on Feb. 4, 1782, married at Sandwich, Magdelene Martin *dit* St. Jean, widow of Jean Baptiste Bertrand and daughter of Jean Martin *dit* St. Jean and Teresa Henault *dit* Canada. Joseph Coté was buried at Sandwich, March 11, 1803. He was the father of two children, Joseph and Pierre, from whom numerous descendants have sprung. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>54</sup> Probably Charles Francis Girardin, who kept a bakery in Detroit in this period. He was a descendant of Joachim Girard, a native of Evreux, France, who married at Quebec, Sept. 27, 1660, Mary Halay, daughter of Jean Baptiste Halay and Mathurine Vallet. Their son Anthony, born at Quebec, Feb. 2, 1664, was the grandfather of Charles Francis, here noted. The latter was born at Pointe aux Trembles, Quebec, Aug. 22, 1739. He married Mary Louisa Lecerf *dit* Lachasse, a native of Montreal. She died before 1785 and Charles Francis married (second) at Detroit, on Sept. 14, 1785, Mary Louisa Leclerc, widow of Louis Dumouchel. He was one of the first associate justices of the Court of Common Pleas at Detroit, and a member of the first board of trustees of the town, serving in the latter office until 1803. Information adapted from *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 193, and Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>55</sup> Daniel Sutherland was a merchant of Montreal engaged in the Northwest trade. He was a native of Scotland, where he married Margaret Robertson, Sept. 1, 1781, and soon thereafter came out to Montreal. Probably he is the person described by Captain Daniel Robertson of Mackinac in 1783 as "a young beginner in Trade." *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XI, 392. For several years he was senior partner in the firm of Sutherland and Grant. As early as 1785, however, he was engaged also in trading enterprises with Donald McKay. On the reorganization of the North West Company in 1790, Sutherland became a partner, being allotted one share of the twenty into which the enterprise was divided. In 1793, Sutherland and McKay were encountered by a party of Hudson's Bay Company traders on the Winnipeg River. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim* and Davidson, *The North West Company*, 25, 62, 70. In 1800 Sutherland and three associates established the Montreal water-works, but the venture

That the Said John Askin binds & Obliges himself to furnish & deliver to the Order of the Said North West Company, on board any Vessell laying before the Fort of Detroit, Yearly, for three Successive Years, to Commence in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety Three; Six Hundred Bushels of Merchantable Hulled Indian Corn, and Twelve Thousand Pounds french Weight of Flour, also good & Merchantable; the One Half of each of said quantities to be ready by the first day of May, the other Half by the Twentieth day of June of Each of Said Three Years, and delivered on Board free of Expence to the Company, They furnishing him with the Bags necessary to Contain the Same.

In Consideration of the Delivery of Said Corn & Flour at the different Periods above mention'd the Said Daniel Sutherland for the North West Company bind & oblige themselves to pay unto the Said John Askin or his Order, the Neat Sum of Twelve Shillings New York Currency for each Bushel of Corn french Measure, and Thirty Five Shillings said Currency P Cw<sup>t</sup> french or 108<sup>w</sup> English Weight of Flour so delivered: Payable in Montreal, the Tenth day of October in Each Year of Said Delivery as aforesaid.

And for the True & faithfull Performance of all the foregoing Articles, Each party bind themselves in the Penal sum of Four Hundred pounds New York Currency, to be paid by the Party failing, to the Party performing or Willing to perform the Same.

IN WITNESS whereof We have hereunto Set our Hands & Seals at Detroit this Sixth day of September, One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety One.

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failed to pay financially and in 1815 was sold at a heavy loss. A year or two later Sutherland obtained the lucrative office of deputy postmaster general of British North America, which he continued to hold until 1827. During much of this period he was also active in the affairs of the Bank of Montreal and cashier of its Quebec branch, to which city he had removed on receiving his appointment as deputy postmaster general. He was still living in Quebec in 1831, when the golden anniversary of his wedding was celebrated. See *Canadian Antiquarian and Numismatic Journal*, Third Series, III, 173-80.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

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D Sutherland Agent for NW Co (L.S.)  
John Askin (L.S.)

In Presence of Ja<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Donnell

It is hereby agreed by the Subscribing Parties to augment the Annual Quantity of Corn from Six Hundred to One Thousand Bushels at the Same Rate as above Specified, for the remaining Two Years of this Agreement, but that the Augmentation say Four Hundred Bushels, Mr. Askin shall not be obliged to Deliver untill the Month of July of each Said Two Years vis<sup>t</sup> One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety four & One Thousand Seven Hundred & Ninety five. Detroit 17 August 1793

D Sutherland for NWest Comp<sup>y</sup>  
John Askin

200 more Bushells have been agreed for as will Appear by Letters so that the whole Quantity is 1200 Bushels Each year.

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION OF CHIMNEYS<sup>56</sup>

To the Occupiers of those Houses whose Chimnies on the late survey have been found dangerously bad

Gentlemen You will readily perceive from the inclosed report, that your Chim[neys were] regularly examined according to the regulations of [the] Police, and that many of them are reported dangerous and insufficient. it is therefore inconsistent with the public safety that they be used in their present state of repair, for which reason, we hereby condemn them as dangerous and unfit for use until properly repaired or rebuilt, & even then, for reasons obvious to every one, it will be necessary that they be licensed by the same authority that condemned them. For the preservation of your own & other people's property, it is to be

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<sup>56</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.



hoped, that most scrupulous attention will be paid to this [illegible]

We are Gentlemen Your humble Servants

W<sup>m</sup> Macomb

John Askin J. P.  
George Meldrum  
Alex<sup>r</sup> Grant  
Geo. Leith  
Geo. Sharp

Detroit 19<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>t</sup> 1791

#### NOTICE TO REPAIR CHIMNEYS

To the Occupiers of those houses in the town of Detroit whose Chimnies according to the late Survey stand in need of repair

Gentlemen You will see by the inclosed report that the Chimnies of your respective houses have been examined in uniformity to the regulations of the Police, and that many, tho' not dangerously bad, are yet in want of repair. You will therefore please order that the repairs necessary to render them sound and sufficient be accomplished betwixt [now] & 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>br</sup> next, otherwise you will be liable to the penalties annexed to the regulations in that behalf made.

We are Gentlemen Your humble Servants

John Askin J. P.  
George Meldrum  
Alex Grant  
Geo. Leith  
Geo. Sharp  
W<sup>m</sup> Macomb

Detroit 19<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1791

#### REPORT ON DEFECTIVE CHIMNEYS

REPORT; of the CHIMNEYS, in the TOWN of DETROIT, agreeable to: the SURVEY made September 14<sup>th</sup> 1791. by PEROT, WHEATON, FRARO and COCILLYARD;<sup>57</sup> by Profession Masons, and Carpenters.

<sup>57</sup> On the Detroit Coquillards see *ante*, 62. The trade of masonry seems to have run in the family, the immediate progenitor in France of the American line of Coquil-

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Inhabitants Names Proprietors N <sup>o</sup> 1. Tennents 2—	REMARKS
Black Diana . . . . . N <sup>o</sup> 2	Kitchen Fire place wants repairs.
M <sup>rs</sup> Bourbank . . . . . 2	Chimney in a dangerous condition
Joseph Edge . . . . . 2	Ditto <i>Condemn'd</i> as being unfit for use.
Couteaur, <sup>58</sup> the Cooper, 2	Ditto wants, repairs.
Jacque Pelquey . . . . . 1	Kitchen, Fire place, wants re- pairs.
Thomas Smith . . . . . 1	Kitchen chimney; very danger- ous; unfit for use.
Doctor Holmes . . . . . 2	Ditto. wants repairs, one harth in the upper Room, in a very dangerous condition.
Provencel, <sup>59</sup> Blksmith. 1	Chimney, wants repairs.
John Whitehead . . . . . 2	Ditto. <i>Condemn'd</i> .
John Welch . . . . . 1	Ditto. <i>Condemn'd</i> .
W <sup>m</sup> Scott . . . . . 1	Kitchen Chimney very bad, the pipe of the Stove only 1½ Inches from the wood work.

lard having been a mason over a century and a half before. The particular member of the family who joined in making this report has not been identified.

58 Probably Jean Baptiste Couture, who was born at Beaumont, Nov. 18, 1735 and married at Detroit, Oct. 25, 1762, Catherine Campau, daughter of Anthony Campau and Mary Angelica Peltier. The Detroit Coutures were descendants of Guillaume Couture, who married Magdelene Malet and lived in Rouen, France. Their son, Guillaume, born in 1617, migrated to Canada and there founded the American line. He was a judge of the Lauzon Coast and a faithful companion to Father Jogues, missionary to the Indians. He died in 1702. On Nov. 16, 1649, he married at Quebec, Ann Aymard, a native of the city of Niort, France. Jean Baptiste, here noted, was a grandson of this couple. He was buried April 22, 1799, at St. Antoine, River Raisin. Denissen, *op. cit.*

59 Pierre Bourgeat *dit* Provençal was descended from Francis Bourgeat, who married Mary Clemence and resided in Toulon in Provence. Their son, Pierre Paul, born in Toulon in 1701, married at Montreal, Dec. 1, 1730, Jane Fourneau *dit* Brindamour, daughter of Jean Fourneau *dit* Brindamour and Elizabeth Price. Elizabeth Price was a native of Northampton, Mass., whose husband had been killed in the Deerfield massacre of February 29, 1704, and she herself carried captive to Canada, where she later married Fourneau. See C. Alice Barker, *True Stories of New England Captives* . . . (Cambridge, 1897), 206-207. The son of Pierre Paul Bourgeat *dit* Provençal and Jane Fourneau *dit* Brindamour was the Pierre Bourgeat *dit* Provençal here noted. He married at Detroit, Sept. 10, 1780, Catherine Vallé *dit* Versailles, widow of Jean Baptiste Peltier. They had eight children, born in the years 1781-95.

# BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

John Cornwell.....	2	Chimney in bad order, Mason work done with Clay. <i>Condemnd</i>
Mathew Dolsen.....	1	Kitchen Chimney, wants repairs
Francois Roucour.....	1	Ditto ditto d°
Augustin Lafoy.....	1	Ditto ditto ditto
Lieut Hill.....	2	Ditto ditto in a dangerous condition.
William Hands.....	2	The Top of his chimney, in bad Order.
Walter Roe, Esq <sup>r</sup> .....	1	Kitchen, Fire place, wants repair.
Geo Leith, Esq <sup>r</sup> .....	1	Ditto ditto d° d°
Robert Gowie.....	2	Fire place, in the room very dangerous,
Geo Sharp, Esq <sup>r</sup> .....	1	Kitchen Fire place wants repair.
James Allen.....	2	Ditto ditto d°
Rev <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> Fritchett.....	1	Ditto in a very dangerous condition
—Carsen, Soldier.....	2	Brick Chimney in Kitchen, <i>Condem'nd</i>
Jacque Baby.....		Bake House chimney, wants repair.
Geo MacDougall.....	2	Kitchen chimney d° d°
M <sup>rs</sup> Baby.....	1	Ditto d° d° d°
William Forsyth.....	1	Kitchen Fire place wants repairs.
Thomas Reynolds.....	1	Ditto d° d° d°
M <sup>rs</sup> Ford.....	2	Ditto ditto d° d°
Lieut. R. Lewen.....	2	Ditto ditto d° d°
John Askin Esq <sup>r</sup> .....	1	Ditto ditto d° d°
Fife Major.....	2	Chimney <i>Condemn'd</i> .
William Park Esq <sup>r</sup> .....	1	Kitchen Chimney, wants repairs.
John Martin.....	1	The harth, in the upper room fronting the Street in a dangerous, condition.

The husband was buried at Detroit, Oct. 7, 1796. The nickname "Provençal" was applied to the family by reason of its origin in Provence. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*



Three Houses Opposite Doctor  
Holmes, Occupied by Soldiers,  
the Chimneys, all in bad Con-  
dition

We, the Subscribers, having  
duly Inspected, the Chimneys, in  
the Town, of Detroit, have found  
and do declare, the before men-  
tioned Chimneys to be Excep-  
tionable, as herein stated.

Détroit September 15<sup>th</sup> 1791

Louis perault<sup>60</sup>  
Fransois frérôt  
alexis Perait  
Jn<sup>o</sup> Wheaton

James May, OP

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We acknowledge to have seen the aforementioned list  
respecting the repairs of our Chimnies, and also the circular  
letter from the Magistrate concerning them.

Jacob—young  
Coture the Cooper  
Matthew Dolsen  
Francs. Rocoure  
Jaque Pelque  
Provincel Blacksmith  
James Allan  
Geo. Leith & C<sup>o</sup>  
Geo. Sharp

Detroit 20<sup>th</sup> Sepr 1791

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<sup>60</sup> Louis Perau was a descendant of Jacques Perau *dit* Vildaigre, who was born in France in 1629 and married at Quebec, Aug. 31, 1654, Michelle Le Flot, daughter of Anthony Le Flot and Margaret Lamère. He was buried at Quebec, Jan. 17, 1703; Michelle was buried at Montreal, Oct. 24, 1710. The Louis Perau here noted may have been either the great-grandson or the great-great-grandson of Jacques Perau and Michelle, his wife. The great-great-grandson, born at Montreal, married at Detroit on June 3, 1799, Mary Ann Créqui. They had several children. Denissen, *op. cit.*

# BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

by order  
 A[u]gustine Lafoy  
 ditto William Hands  
 ditto George M<sup>c</sup>Dugall  
 by order William Forsith  
 For Will<sup>m</sup> Park  
 Geo. Meldrum  
 John Askin

This Paper was sent to L<sup>t</sup> Smyth by the Magistrate  
 W. Roe

*Endorsed:* Report to the Commissioners of the bad state  
 of sundry Chimneys in the Town of Détroit September 15<sup>th</sup>  
 1791

## REPORT ON SWEEPING OF CHIMNEYS<sup>61</sup>

Report to the Commissioners of such of the Inhabitants  
 of the town of Detroit, who have refused, to let their Chim-  
 neys be swept, as also of such as have refused to pay for  
 them after having been swept. Detroit September 27<sup>th</sup>  
 1791

Names of Inhabitants	Remarks
Walter Roe Esq <sup>r</sup>	Had one Chimney swept and re- fused to pay for it
Q. M. Green <sup>62</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Reg.	ditto two ditto d <sup>o</sup> and refused to pay
John Sparkman	ditto d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> d <sup>o</sup> refused to pay
M <sup>r</sup> Fritchett	Refused to admit the sweepers in his House
M <sup>r</sup> Montigny	ditto ditto ditto ditto
M <sup>r</sup> Fraser	ditto ditto ditto ditto
M <sup>r</sup> Baby	ditto ditto ditto ditto

<sup>61</sup> From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

<sup>62</sup> Daniel Green was commissioned quartermaster, of the Fifth Regiment on Aug. 30, 1781. He became a lieutenant, March 19, 1796, and on Dec. 25, 1802, was commissioned in the First Royal Garrison Regiment. See British army lists.

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

Mr Dodemead	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto
M <sup>r</sup> Abbott	[torn]	saying he	would sweep	his
		own Chimney		
Nighton Soldier	[torn]	ditto	d <sup>o</sup>	d <sup>o</sup>
Carsen Soldier	ditto	ditto	d <sup>o</sup>	d <sup>o</sup>
M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>e</sup> Donell	ditto	ditto	ditto	d <sup>o</sup>
Tho <sup>s</sup> M <sup>e</sup> Crea	}	All refused to let the Chimney sweepers sweep their Chimneys, saying they would sweep them themselves.		
A. S <sup>t</sup> Cosme				
Thebeau				
A Lafoy				
M <sup>r</sup> Voyez				
M. Dolson				
Cotie				
J. Nonety				
Lafleur				
Girardin[?]				
Tho <sup>s</sup> Cox				
Provencel				
St. Jean				
James Donelson				
[3 names illeg.]		James May OP		

*Endorsed:* Report to the Commissioners of the Inhabitants  
Names who have refused to have their Chimneys sweep'd  
agreeable to the Regulations of the Police

Detroit Sept<sup>r</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1791

TAVERN LICENSE OF MATTHEW DOLSEN

Pro. Up Canada }  
West. District }

BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the third day of December  
in the thirty third year of the reign of our Lord George the  
Third of Great Britain France and Ireland king Defender  
of the Faith &soforth, Mathew Dalson of Detroit Publican  
personally appeared before us John Askin & George Sharpe  
Esq<sup>rs</sup> Justices of our said Lord the king assigned to keep the  
peace in the said District, and acknowledged himself to owe  
to our said Lord the king the sum of Ten Pounds of Lawful



money of Great Britain To be made and levied of his Goods and Chattels, to the use of our said Lord the King his heirs and successors if he the said Mathew fail in the conditions under written. Acknowledged before us.

John Askin J. P. W. D

Geo. Sharp J. P. W. D

THE CONDITION of the above written bond or Recognizance is such, that whereas the above bounden Mathew is desirous to obtain a Licence for keeping a house of Entertainment in Detroit aforesaid for the year one thousand seven hundred and ninety two; Now if he the said Mathew shall during the time such Licence shall be granted do his utmost to keep the kings peace and an orderly house nor shall sell any spirituous Liquors after the termination thereof without a new License first had and obtained; nor shall during such Licence vend any strong liquors during divine service on Sundays or Holidays except for the use of the sick or travellers, then the said Bond to be void, or else to remain in full force & virtue.

*Endorsed:* Mat. Dalson to The King Recognizance

£10.[?]