

Mualtoe Woman shall be disposed off agreeable to your desire so soon as Mons^r Cerré⁵⁹ or Mons^r Degrosolier arrives; my famely is too numerous to keep her in my own house,

Mary Joseph Larchevêque, who was born there, June 6, 1740. He married (second) Louisa Auger, also a native of Montreal, who died about the year 1773. He married again, at Detroit, Nov. 25, 1776, Theotiste St. Cosme, daughter of Pierre Laurence St. Cosme and Catherine Lootman *dit* Barrois. Dejean came to Detroit probably in 1768, having fled, according to one statement, from bankruptcy in Montreal. However this may be, he enjoyed the favor of Captain George Turnbull, the commandant, and he soon began a career as notary and local judge at Detroit which was to bring him much notoriety. During Hamilton's régime as governor, Dejean proved a convenient tool and it would seem that Hamilton must bear a fair share of the responsibility for his conduct. Although he possessed no authority which was recognized by the government at Quebec, he exercised the functions of notary and local justice, and in this capacity committed acts which many of the townsmen deemed arbitrary and tyrannical. Probably the most notable of these acts was the sentencing of Jean Coutencineau and Ann Wiley to death, in 1776, for robbery. For this act, among others, Dejean and Hamilton were indicted by the grand jury at Montreal in September, 1778. Hamilton soon after left Detroit on his Vincennes campaign, before anything could be done about the indictment. In February, 1779, Dejean followed Hamilton to Vincennes, intent on obtaining from his chief written authorization for the acts for which he had been indicted. Thus it happened that both were captured by Clark that same month and conveyed to prison at Williamsburg, Va. After some months of harsh treatment here, Dejean was paroled through the influence of Thomas Bentley of Kaskaskia, and made his way back to Vincennes, from which place, July 28, 1780, he dispatched a letter to Governor Haldimand defending his conduct in accepting the parole, and another to Colonel De Peyster at Detroit, requesting that his wife and children be permitted to come to him, "seeing for myself the dire necessity of exile (after my sufferings) for the faults of another." Five months later Dejean was endeavoring to hire a messenger to carry some letters to Detroit for him. Apparently he returned to Detroit about this time, however, for entries in the Macomb ledgers show rather extensive transactions carried on with him from Nov., 1781, to Jan., 1782. A letter written from Normandy in 1786 by St. John de Crèvecoeur to Governor James Bowdoin of Massachusetts, discloses that Dejean had then been for some time in France, where he was "much esteemed" by Lafayette, and that he was then proposing to locate at Boston. On July 8, 1790, James May, his brother-in-law, and other interested citizens petitioned Judge Powell to appoint a curator over Dejean's estate, stating that he had left the district (of Hesse) in 1789 and had since remained outside His Majesty's dominions without giving any certain intelligence of his place of residence. In response to this petition May was appointed curator. On October 7 following, May and others again appeared before the judge to petition for the appointment of a guardian for the minor child of "the absent Dejean and his deceased wife." See Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, 167, 200, 910; *Ill. Hist. Colls.*, II, xcvi, 477; Dejean to Haldimand, July 28, 1780 (typed copy in Burton Hist. Coll.); Register of His Majesty's Prerogative Court for the District of Hesse, beginning July 2, 1789, photostatic copy in Burton Hist. Coll.

⁵⁹ Jean Gabriel Cerré of Kaskaskia. He was a native of Montreal, born, August 12, 1734. In early manhood he removed to the Illinois country, where he passed the remainder of his life, dying at St. Louis, April 4, 1805. Both at Kaskaskia and St. Louis (he removed to the latter place about 1780) Cerré was for more than a generation a leading merchant and citizen. He married Catherine Giard of Kaskaskia in 1764, and a daughter of this union became the wife of Auguste Chouteau, long prominent in the Missouri River fur trade. See biographical sketch of Cerré by Walter B. Douglas in Illinois State Hist. Soc., *Transactions* for the year 1903 (Springfield, 1904), 275-88.