

Translation

Michilimackinac, July 2, 1778

Mr. Bourassa⁸⁷

Sir: I am extremely mortified to be obliged to send you such a bad account of your debtors in this place, and now Mr. Sanschagrin makes still another. He had gone before your letter arrived. The late Mr. J. B. Cauchois⁸⁸ did not leave anything according to all I have heard. Mr. Duguay⁸⁹ does not come to this place any more; so that there is only Mr. Roche who seems to have the inclination to pay you a sol this year. But I shall keep your bills.

87 Probably this was René Bourassa of Detroit. The Bourassa family was long active in the fur trade. Its founder was Francis Bourassa, a native of the diocese of Luçon, France, born in 1659, who came to Canada and married at Contrecoeur, July 4, 1684, Mary Le Ber, a native of Montreal. Their son, René, born at Laprairie, December 21, 1688, married there, October 23, 1710, Agnes Gagnier, daughter of Pierre Gagnier and Catherine Daubigeon. They had one son, René, who was born at Laprairie, June 1, 1718, and was buried at Detroit, November 24, 1792. The father married (second) Marie Catherine Leriger, and engaging in the fur trade, located at Mackinac. A younger daughter of this union, Charlotte Ambrosine, born June 14, 1735, became the wife, August 12, 1754, of Charles Michel Langlade of Mackinac and Green Bay, for whom see *ante*, 72.

René Bourassa, the younger, married at Mackinac, August 3, 1744, Ann Charlotte Veronica Chevalier, who was born at Mackinac, March 1, 1726, the daughter of Jean Baptiste Chevalier and Frances Alavoine. They had numerous children (one son was born before the marriage rite was solemnized), all born at Mackinac. Not long after 1763, however, the family removed to Detroit, where in due time the children were married, and where the father died, as already noted, in 1792. Denissen traces his descendants to about the year 1880; undoubtedly they are still numerous in Detroit and vicinity. See Denissen, *op. cit.*, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII and XIX, *passim*.

88 Jean Baptiste Cauchois was born at Montreal in 1732. The date of his removal to Mackinac is unknown, but he was there at the time of the massacre in 1763 and is credited by Alexander Henry with an act of humanity which saved the life of the latter. On May 4, 1764, he married at Mackinac Mary Angelica Sejournée, daughter of Alexis Sejournée and Mary Angelica Tareau. To them were born several children, the last, Alexis, born at Mackinac in June, 1777, and baptized at Detroit, September 7 of the same year. It seems probable that these dates indicate approximately the time of Cauchois' death and the removal of his widow and children to Detroit. Until recent years numerous descendants of the family were living in Detroit or Sandwich and vicinity. Denissen, *op. cit.*

89 Probably the same person as one Dugay whose presence at Mackinac in 1780 is recorded in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X, 400, 435-36. In Denissen, *op. cit.*, is recorded the baptism at Detroit, July 5, 1790, of Pierre Duguay, aged about fourteen years, the son of a Chippewa woman.