

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,¹⁵ 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 St Clare to Lake Huron, beginning at a certain River called Belle River,¹⁶ 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*.

¹⁵ 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."

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