

Translation

BEFORE Thomas Williams, esquire, undersigned notary at Detroit and there resident, appeared Louis St. Louis⁴¹ who has voluntarily contracted and does contract by these presents with Gabriel Hunot⁴² in his service to stay with him for the term and space of one year from the date hereof, to have a good and trustworthy care of all that will be placed in his hands, to serve, obey and faithfully to execute all that the said Hunot or his representatives shall demand so far as such demands may be lawful and honest, to work for the advantage of said Hunot and to avoid whatever may be disadvantageous by giving due warning of the same, should he have knowledge thereof, and in general, to do all that a good servant should do and is bound to do; with no privilege of engaging in trade on his own account, nor to absent himself nor to quit the said service during the

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

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

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