

Recorded in my office in the book No. I, P. 28. Peter Audrain,⁵⁹ Recorder

No. 1 H

Liber E. fo. 104. G. Hoffman

⁵⁹ Peter Audrain was born in France about the year 1725 and is said to have come to America after the Revolutionary War. He lived some years in Pennsylvania, where he was a prothonotary and among other activities took much of the testimony in the investigation of the Whisky Rebellion of 1794. He accompanied General Wayne to Detroit in the summer of 1796 and although already past the allotted span of life he began here a new career of great activity. He was at once appointed prothonotary, "an office never known or heard of in Michigan except in this single appointment." From 1796 to 1809 he served as judge of probate, and in 1802 he became clerk of the Court of Common Pleas. In addition to these, he filled a number of other clerical offices until nearly the close of life, when incapacity due to advancing age gave rise to complaints and to his removal from office. He was a man of extreme precision, and the county and other records kept by him are so beautifully written as to be sometimes mistaken for print. Audrain married Margaret Moore long before coming to Detroit, and the couple had many children, several of whom inter-married with prominent Detroit families. One daughter (Elizabeth) married Robert Abbott and another (Margaret) George Hoffman, while a son (Peter) married a daughter of James May. Audrain died, Oct. 6, 1820, aged about ninety-five years. See Denissen, *op. cit.*; Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, 11, 1351.