

of a power of Attorney for
 Edw^d W^m Gray for account
 of Samuel Judah
 John Askin

Translation

Adhémar, wishing to make payments to his creditors in a way that will not cause jealousy of feeling among any of them, and with the desire of hearing their sentiments in this respect, they have assembled for that purpose and mutually agreed that Mr. Adémar may assign his house in the fort at Detroit to Mr. William Macomb, and to Mr. Fraser,¹⁶ attorney for Mr. Samuel Judah;¹⁷ that the books and

¹⁶ James Fraser was in Detroit in 1787 and for many years thereafter. He was engaged in trade and seems also to have essayed at times the rôle of attorney. Entries in the Prerogative Court Records of the District of Hesse indicate that he was a man of considerable local prominence. His integrity was several times called in question, whether justly or no we have no means of determining. A case in point concerns the tangled affairs of Thomas Williams and Company (the "company" being John Casety). After the decease of the two principals in the company, Alexander Henry of Montreal, acting on behalf of the principal creditors, secured his own appointment as administrator of the property, and appointed Fraser his attorney to represent him on the ground. Fraser subsequently procured from Judge Powell the appointment of curator of the estate of John Casety with intent, according to Henry, to defraud the other creditors.

In 1796 Fraser formally signified his intention of remaining a British subject, but it would seem from documents in the Burton Hist. Coll. that he continued to reside at Detroit. Some years later his wife became deranged, and having attempted to burn the house of one of the McIntoshes was compelled to leave Detroit. Fraser divorced her and was required, in this connection, to make periodical payments to James Henry on her behalf, which he did over a considerable period of years. Information adapted from mss. in Burton Hist. Coll.

¹⁷ Samuel Judah came from London to Canada in 1760 with the English army. He settled at Three Rivers and subsequently at Montreal. He was a man of extensive means and was largely interested in the fur trade. Prior to the Revolution he removed to New York City. He favored the colonists in the Revolution and furnished money for the cause which was never repaid, in consequence of which he was ruined financially. He died in 1789. On Aug. 26 of this year Judge Powell at Detroit appointed James Fraser curator of Judah's property. See Prerogative Court Records, District of Hesse, 1789-91, photostat copy in Burton Hist. Coll. Since Judah lived and died in New York it may be presumed that this appointment had application only to his property and business affairs in the upper country. A grandson of Judah, also named Samuel, located at Vincennes in 1819 and died there in 1869. He was a graduate of Rutgers College and a lawyer by profession. He was one of the leading lawyers of Indiana in his time, and also took an active part in state politics, being chairman of the first Whig convention of the state, and speaker of the House of Representatives. He had three sons, one of whom, Noble B. Judah, was long a prominent attorney of Chicago. The other brothers, John M. Judah and Samuel B. Judah, reside respectively at Indianapolis and Vincennes. From information supplied by the latter (letter of June 8, 1925) the present note has been chiefly compiled.