

Translation

In the year one thousand seven hundred and eighty-eight, the twenty-fifth of the month of August, before the notary undersigned appeared Mr. Joseph Serré called St. John,⁵³ master tailor of Detroit, who, in his own name and in the names of the Tremblay heirs, has declared, and by these presents does declare, that the adjudicature announced after parish mass the twenty-fourth of this current month at the instance of Jonathan Schieffelin⁵⁴ with respect to the

⁵³ Joseph Serré (Cerré) *dit* St. Jean was the grandson of Andrew Serré *dit* St. Jean, who came to Canada from the province of Languedoc, France, and married at Quebec, May 3, 1706, Mary Ann Boilard, daughter of Jean Boilard and Jane Mirandeau. Their son, Denis Serré *dit* St. Jean, born in 1724, married in 1749 Veronica Rochereau *dit* Morisseau. Their son Joseph, subject of the present sketch, was born at Montreal, Jan. 22, 1752. He came to Detroit, where on Oct. 28, 1782, he married Mary Teresa Seguin *dit* Laderoute, daughter of Cajetan Seguin *dit* Laderoute and Mary Geneviève Tremblay. He lived at the Northeast Coast of Detroit (Private Claim 26, in Grosse Pointe), where modern St. Jean Avenue preserves his name. Teresa Seguin was buried at Detroit on Oct. 6, 1801, and Joseph married (second) Nov. 24, 1806, Elizabeth Beaufait, daughter of Louis Beaufait and Mary Teresa Marsac. Joseph Serré was buried Sept. 24, 1822; his widow was buried Jan. 4, 1857. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

⁵⁴ Jonathan Schieffelin was a relative of Jacob Schieffelin, who served as secretary to Governor Henry Hamilton and held the rank of lieutenant in the British service. Jacob was at Detroit as late as 1783 when he endeavored to anticipate William Caldwell and his associates in procuring a large tract of land at the mouth of the Detroit River where Amherstburg was soon after founded. He subsequently engaged in business in Montreal, and in 1794 in New York, where both his firm and his descendants were long prominent.

Both Jacob and Jonathan Schieffelin were active on the British side in the Revolution. Jonathan served as lieutenant in Louis Chabert de Joncaire's company of Detroiters which went on Captain Henry Bird's invasion of Kentucky in 1780, and Alexander McKee formally certified on May 8, 1787, that throughout the late war Schieffelin had served on the several expeditions sent from Detroit against the Americans, as well as in the defense of the place against hostile attack. In 1793 Schieffelin was petitioning Governor Simcoe for half-pay in recognition of his military service, and upon the American occupation he formally signified his intention to remain a British subject. Instead, he remained in Detroit and was soon prominent in the official councils of the new American régime. A letter written by him in 1799 reflects a tone of deep loyalty to the new government and discloses that he had won the friendship of General Wilkinson and was serving in an important capacity in the Indian Department. He was elected to the Assembly of Northwest Territory which met at Chillicothe in November, 1801, and in May, 1803, on returning from the legislative session, was voted the "freedom of the Corporation" of Detroit for services rendered. A letter dated at New York, August 17, 1804, preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll., shows that Schieffelin had then been absent from Detroit for some time, and that he no longer regarded it as his place of residence. He continued to reside in New York the remainder of his life. Schieffelin was one of the group of associates of John Askin and others which, in 1795, entered upon an enterprise looking to securing