

same by this act, a lot, situated on Ste. Anne Street, within the fort of Detroit, with a frontage of twenty feet on the said street, between Mr. Barthe<sup>12</sup> and Mr. Des Ruisseaux<sup>13</sup> admitting that he has already given the said lot verbally several years ago, with no reservation on his part, for the said grantee, his heirs and assigns, to enjoy and dispose of the said lot in full ownership and forever, throughout its whole extent of length and breadth with no exception

<sup>12</sup> Charles Andrew Barthe of Detroit, father-in-law of John Askin and of Alexander Grant. The founder of the Barthe family in America was Theophile Barthe, a native of Gascony, born in 1695, who migrated to Canada, where he held the title of "gunsmith to the King." On March 18, 1721, he married at Montreal, Margaret Charlotte Alavoine, whose father, Charles Alavoine, was captain of the militia. We have not learned when the family moved west to Detroit, but Charles Andrew, eldest son of Theophile and Margaret Barthe, born at Montreal, Feb. 22, 1722, married at Detroit, April 24, 1747, Mary Therese Campau, a native of this place; and Pierre, another son of Theophile and Margaret Barthe, married here on March 3, 1760, Mary Charlotte Chapoton, also a native of the place. Pierre Barthe was a gunsmith, and lived on St. Louis Street. Charles Andrew is referred to in 1756 as "Arquebusier" (gunsmith) of the post and as "Grand Voye" (chief overseer of roads) of the post and its dependencies. Prior to 1763 he bought from Eustache Gamelin the farm known later as Private Claim 1, or the Brush farm. Both Charles and Pierre Barthe established wide-flung family connections, and many present-day Detroit families trace connection with them. To Charles and Mary Barthe twelve children were born between the years 1748 and 1765. Six died in infancy; among the others who are mentioned in these letters were Marie Archange (wife of John Askin), Therese (wife of Commodore Alexander Grant), Jean Baptiste, and Louis Theophile (or Louison). Probably Lavoine Barthe was also a son of Charles and Mary, but his identity has not been established. Charles Andrew Barthe died at Detroit, March 14, 1786, and was buried two days later. Denissen, *op. cit.*

<sup>13</sup> Julius Trotier, born at Ige, in Perche, France, in 1590, married Catherine Loyseau. He migrated to Canada about the year 1645 and was buried at Three Rivers, May 10, 1655. The couple had two children, Julian Trotier, born in France in 1636, and Antoine Trotier, Sieur Des Ruisseaux, also born in France. Antoine Trotier married at Three Rivers, Sept. 2, 1663, Catherine Lefebvre, a native of that place. She was buried at Batiscan, Nov. 20, 1705; he was buried there, Dec. 6, 1706.

Of the children of Antoine Trotier and Catherine Lefebvre several lived and died in Lower Canada. One daughter, Catherine Trotier *dû* Beaubien, born in 1676, married at Batiscan, May 3, 1696, Jean Cuillerier, a native of Montreal. He died before 1712 and Catherine married (second) François Picoté de Bellestre, widower of Ann Frances Bouthier and son of Pierre Picoté de Bellestre and Mary Pars. François Picoté de Bellestre was an army officer, and was assigned to Fort Ponchartrain at Detroit, when his brother-in-law, Alphonse de Tonty, was commandant here. He was buried here, Oct. 9, 1729.

One of his wife's brothers was Alexis Trotier *dû* Des Ruisseaux, the subject of the present sketch. He was born at Champlain, Oct. 21, 1688, and married at Detroit, Jan. 6, 1735, Mary Louisa Roy. She was buried, Dec. 3, 1735, and Alexis married (second) Mary Catherine Godfroy, daughter of Jacques Godfroy de Mauboeuf and Mary St. Onge *dû* Chêne, Dec. 30, 1739. He was the first trustee of Ste. Anne's Church, and the first captain of the local militia. He was buried, June 5, 1769; Mary Catherine Godfroy was buried under the church, July 21, 1777. They had four children, all of whom died in infancy. Denissen, *op. cit.*