

tract of four arpents in front by eighty in depth at the old village of the Ottawa, the whole being for the year which expired on the eleventh of November last. By order of the Commandant, Major Henry Bassett.²⁸ James Sterling²⁹

Endorsed: Receipt for quit rents. J. Sterling. 1773.

GEORGE ANTHON DISCHARGES A MORTGAGE

Resu par Monsieur George Entony La Somme De trois Cents Soisante quinze Livres Contenu Dans Laubligation

site to Robert Navarre, the younger, forever, "that he may cultivate the same, light a fire thereon, and take care of our dead." The natives' faith in Navarre's ability to preserve the burial place of their dead from desecration proved vain. Long since the cemetery was displaced by the demands of the growing city. It is stated that in 1867, in the course of grading Woodbridge Street, some twenty-five or thirty skeletons were uncovered. See Farmer, *History of Detroit*, 22, 50.

²⁸ Major Henry Bassett of the Tenth Regiment commanded the post of Detroit for two years, 1772-74. He seems to have been a man of energy and ability, who exerted himself in various ways to promote the interests of the Crown at Detroit. In the spring of 1774, the garrisons at Detroit and Mackinac were relieved by detachments of the Eighth Regiment, and ordered down to Canada preparatory to the return of the Tenth Regiment to England. Thus terminated Major Bassett's connection with Detroit. See C. M. Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, I, 124-26, and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X, *passim*.

²⁹ James Sterling was a native of Ireland who came to America during the Seven Years' War and served as commissary of provisions under General Haldimand. On the conquest of Canada in 1760, a group of associates, several of whom had been army officers, embarked upon the Northwest trade; the partners were Capt. Walter Rutherford of New York, of the Sixty-second Regiment; Lieut. John Duncan of Schenectady, of the Forty-fourth Regiment; Lieut. George Coventry of Schenectady, of the Fifty-fifth Regiment; and James Syme of Schenectady. They obtained from General Amherst a provisional grant of 10,000 acres of land at the upper end of the Niagara portage, and early in 1761 built a storehouse there and prepared to engage in the carrying trade. Sterling supervised the initial operations at Niagara, and in July, 1761, came on to Detroit, where he opened a store and served as general western agent of the partners, sending out ventures to Miamis (modern Fort Wayne), Mackinac, Sault Ste. Marie, and other tributary points. He won the confidence of the French settlers, whose language he spoke, and during the Pontiac siege of 1763, they chose him to act as commander of the local militia. In particular, he stirred the interest of beautiful Angélique Cuillerier, niece of the late French commandant, Bellestre. On Feb. 19, 1765, they were married, and in a letter written a week later, Sterling describes his bride as "a prudent woman, a fine scholar; has been used to trade from her infancy & is generally allowed to be the best interpreter of the different Indⁿ languages at this place." There is considerable reason for believing that it was she, moved by the desire to save Sterling, who disclosed to the British the plot of Pontiac in 1763. During the Revolution, Sterling was suspected by the authorities of sympathizing with the colonists, and during Governor Hamilton's régime at Detroit, he was arrested and sent to Lower Canada. Apparently he never returned to Detroit. Information adapted from copy of Sterling letter book (ms.) in Burton Hist. Coll.; Buffalo Hist. Soc., *Publications*, VI, 33 ff.; and mss. in Burton Hist. Coll., *passim*.