

himself that he would see us some day, it would help to pass the time. I assure you that I hope so with all my heart and there is no doubt but that we shall have that good fortune, but it is impossible for us military people to say when that may be, for we obey the will of our good King, and are not entirely our own masters.

I am glad that the *Yankees* have not made an attack on you, but they appear to be coming your way with great strides. All the nations seem to be embroiled in some war since the French Revolution. I often imagine that I see the old Canadians shrug their shoulders when they hear anyone speak of the cruelty of the French, and especially Mr. Beaufait,⁶ who seemed so surprised when he heard it said that poor Louis had been so abused. "What," said he, "'ce Grand Monarque,' the King of France!" What would he say if he could see what has taken place there now! But it is too sad a subject to continue, so I leave it to tell my dear mother that I received a letter a few days ago from Capt. Mercer, telling me that all the family were in good health, and that he had had the pleasure of a letter from my dear father dated March 17 last, which he intended to answer by this opportunity.

Although I am alone, dear Mother, time does not pass so tediously as you might well believe, knowing me to be in a strange land with my dear husband away from me, and the reason of this I will explain to you. It is because my dear Meredith always finds some way of showing his

6 The Beaufaits of Detroit are descended from Luke Beaufait, who married Gabrielle Souriceau and lived on the Island of Ré in the province of Aunis, France. Their son, Louis, born in 1733, migrated to Canada and found his way to Detroit as early as the spring of 1761. On Jan. 22, 1767, he married Mary Teresa Marsac, daughter of Francis Marsac and Teresa Cecilia Campau. They resided at the Northeast Coast of Detroit on land at modern Bellevue Avenue, long known as the Beaufait farm. Mary Teresa Marsac was buried at Detroit, Nov. 20, 1804; Louis Beaufait was buried Jan. 11, 1808. They had four children: Teresa, born in 1768, who married William Groesbeck and (second) Charles Chauvin; Marie Irene, born in 1770, who married Jean B. Rivard; Louis, born in 1773, who married Marie Louise Saucier; and Elizabeth, born in 1778, who married Joseph Serré dit. St. Jean.

Louis Beaufait was a man of considerable prominence in the early American period, being justice of the peace, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and an officer of militia. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*, and Burton, *City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922*, II, 1355-56.