

who gave me the pleasing information that he had left you all well in Detroit last September. He also told me that Mr. Hamilton is coming to England this winter. I expect, therefore, to receive letters from you very soon as Mr. Hamilton is expected any day now and will doubtless have charge of your letters. I had not expected such good news when I entered the house of Mr. McTavish as I did not know the gentleman had arrived. My happiness was extreme, and the good humor and pleasant manner of all the company made the day pass most agreeably. Mr. Robertson and Mr. Todd were of the party, and several other Canadian merchants. Major Malcolm,³ of the Sixty-fifth and his wife, were to have been there but were detained by the visit of a friend from the country. Mrs. McTavish is enceinte and expects her confinement soon.

The next day we went to see the strangest thing, nothing less than wax figures that seemed animated as if alive. In fact they were so very extraordinary and magnificent that I would not have believed it if anyone had told me of them unless I had seen them myself.

I notice that all the ladies are wearing their skirts almost under the arms so as to raise the waist line. Sashes are about the width of a narrow collar and are fastened at the back with a buckle. Neckerchiefs are very open as formerly and the neckband very narrow. The hair is curled, hanging at the back and arranged in small curls in front, with a piece

figures among the Montreal fur traders. He was a member of the firm of McTavish, Frobisher & Co., and a leading partner in the North West Company, having bought out the interest of Peter Pond in 1790. In 1797 he became one of the Montreal agents of the company, it being his duty to make yearly visits to the upper country and there make settlements and assignments for the succeeding year. Upon the reorganization of the company in 1804 he became recognized as its chief spokesman. Fort William at the western end of Lake Superior, begun in 1801 and for twenty years thereafter the western headquarters of the company, was named for him. In 1818, having amassed a fortune and impaired his constitution by his labors in the fur trade, McGillivray returned to his native Scotland, where he purchased, for £20,000, an estate in Argyshire. Here he died in 1825. See Davidson, *The North West Company, passim*, and *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 167-68.

³ Alexander Malcolm, commissioned captain in the army, April 14, 1780, and in the Sixty-fifth Regiment, June 10, 1785. In 1787 he was serving as commandant of Fort Ontario. He was transferred to the Seventy-eighth (Highland) Regiment on March 8, 1793. Two years later (March 11, 1795) he was commissioned lieutenant colonel. See British army lists and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XI, 508.