

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO WILLIAM DALY

Detroit 11 December 1798

Sir The young man with your letters, Power of Attorney &a, did not get here before yesterday, and as the court was then almost over, nothing whatever could be done in your demands against Mr May for this term I will befriend you in this matter If you are right (and Which I am told you are) with all my heart, thats' to say I am in hopes Mr May will pay you without a Suit, or leave it to arbitration. If not, Mr Sibley⁶⁵ Who you have employed I am Sure will act fairly by his clients therefore will have Justice done to you

Respecting your Commands on Colonel Strong⁶⁶ for the Services you rendered the united States, he has told the young man you Sent in that there is money in the Quarter masters hands for you, If I find when he receives it, that there is not enough to make the £14-9 you owe, rather than See you distressed I will give money to make up the difference I will likewise send you your watch and the tools you Wrote for If I can find them, in short as you appear an honest man in your dealings I will Serve you all

65 Solomon Sibley was born in Sutton, Mass., Oct. 7, 1769, and came to Detroit in the early summer of 1798. A lawyer by profession, he soon assumed a prominent place in the community. In 1799 he was elected to represent Wayne County in the legislature of Northwest Territory. In this capacity he was influential in securing the incorporation of the town of Detroit in 1802, and in 1806 he became the first mayor of the city under the government established by the governor and judges. He served as territorial auditor from 1814 to 1817; U. S. district attorney from 1815 to 1823; was elected delegate to Congress in 1821; and from 1824 to 1837 was a justice of the territorial Supreme Court.

Sibley married Sarah Whipple Sproat, Oct. 31, 1802, and to them nine children were born. One son, Henry H. Sibley, achieved fame as a foremost citizen of Minnesota in the pioneer and territorial period. Solomon Sibley died in Detroit, April 4, 1846. His extensive private papers are preserved in the B. H. Coll. Information adapted from sketch in *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 157-58, and references in B. H. Coll.

66 David Strong was a native of Connecticut who served throughout the Revolution in the Connecticut state troops, rising from sergeant to the rank of captain. On July 15, 1785, he was commissioned captain in the U. S. Infantry Regiment, and four years later became captain in the First U. S. Infantry. He served during the northwestern Indian wars of the nineties and on Feb. 19, 1793, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in Wayne's Legion. On Nov. 1, 1796, he was transferred to the Second Infantry, and some time prior to the close of 1798 he became commandant at Detroit, where he remained until the summer of 1800. In 1799 he was sued by John Dodemead for \$5000 damages for having posted a sentry in the rear of Dodemead's tavern to prevent soldiers' resorting there to purchase intoxicating liquor. The suit was but one expression of an acute conflict of opinion between the military and a certain element among the citizens over the respective limits of military and civil authority in Detroit. He died, Aug. 19, 1801. Information adapted from Heitman, *Reg. U. S. A.*, and mss. in B. H. Coll.