

Mr Lasselles²⁷ recovery, I had advised him to be prepared for the worst, & in consequence of my advice Mr Powell was retained. I am in hopes that from his Exertions & the favorable Situation of Lasselle he will be admitted to Bail, which can be easily procured.

The unfortunate Story has been variously told but my Opinion does not comport with the general one formed in this Neighbourhood & I have had a Herculean task in combatting the torrent of prejudice which broke out against poor Williams, rather undeservedly. I admit that he was much to blame in using pistols, but I cannot see any propriety in trying & convicting a Man before he has been regularly arraigned. When the matter comes properly before the Country it is my belief some who now bluster & say a great deal on the subject will be put to shame for the part they acted upon the occasion—but enough of this.

I understand that the Commercial Treaty between Great Britain & France has been signed & that its provisions give great Satisfaction to the Commercial part of the Community but from the very unsettled state of affairs on the Continent new difficulties are expected to occur.

The Heats & divisions in the United States have got to an alarming height & will it is thought plunge that ill fated Country into all the Horrors of Revolutionary Anarchy. virulence & Calumny are constantly employed in prostrating the most respectable Characters & no person however innocent & obscure is safe from the “lacerations of Slander” & the malignant & rancorous attacks of party spirit.

five times. “It would seem,” says C. M. Burton, “that whenever the City got into great financial straits, the people called upon General Williams to help them out.” In 1831 he bore a leading part in the founding of the *Democratic Free Press*, which is regarded as the ancestor of the present Detroit *Free Press*.

Mr. Williams long lived at the corner of Woodward and Grand River avenues, and a bronze tablet on the business block which today occupies the site, commemorates this fact. Possibly a more permanent memorial has been erected in the naming of John R. Street. Mr. Williams himself added the letter “R” to his name in mature life to distinguish himself from another John Williams of Detroit. In 1805 he married Mary Mott of Albany, who died on Jan. 18, 1830. Ten children were born of the union. Mr. Williams died, Oct. 20, 1854. His personal papers comprise one of the important groups of manuscripts in the B. H. Coll. For published sketches of his career, see Fred Carlisle, *Chronography of . . . Wayne County* (Detroit, 1890), 161-62; *Bench and Bar* (Detroit), IV, 3-7; and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIX, 491-96.

²⁷ For the career of Jacques Lacelle of Detroit and Raisin River, see *ante*, 34.