

I have just received the melancholy news of the death of Col Sproat.⁸ He died on the 3^d Ultimo very suddenly, supposed of the apoplexy. How far this distressing accident may retard my return to Detroit, or what effect it may have on my future residence is uncertain. I hope to see you in the course of May next at farthest when it will be in my power to relate more particularly the occurrences that have come under my observation. I have been somewhat surprised that I have not received a single letter from Detroit since I left it. Party runs high and the Democrats on several questions have split amongst themselves which did not fail to draw forth gross abuse and mutual recrimination. The federalist keep aloft in silence. The crisis is arived & the moderate republicans call a halt.

Present my best respects to your lady & friends

I am Sir, your friend

Sol Sibley

P.S. Please hand the inclosed to Some one of the Gent^t to whom addressed and oblige yours &^e S S

City of Washington March 2^d 1805

Addressed: Elijah Brush Esq^r Detroit (Michigan Territory)

Endorsed: City of Washington March 2^d 1805 Solomon Sibley Esq^r to E. Brush.

where in August of the same year the President appointed him to a federal judgeship in Florida Territory. He died in Tallahassee, June 12, 1827. Woodward Avenue, Detroit's most important street, fittingly commemorates his name; and in many ways aside from this, the print of his genius is indelibly stamped upon the city and the state.

8 Ebenezer Sproat, father-in-law of Solomon Sibley, was born in Middleboro, Mass., in 1752. He served throughout the Revolution with considerable distinction, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1777, and to that of colonel in 1783. After the war, he became a resident of Providence, R. I., where he married Catherine Whipple, whose father, Abraham, was a prominent actor in the infant American navy during the Revolution. Sproat became a member of the famous Ohio Company, organized by Manasseh Cutler, and he led the second division of the colonists who founded Marietta in 1788. He served as surveyor of the company from 1787-91, and as sheriff of Washington County from 1788-1802. In the latter capacity he bore a prominent part in the ceremonial which attended the inauguration of the first American court in the Old Northwest. Sproat was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. Sproat Street in Detroit was named for him. Data chiefly derived from Thomas Weston, *History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts* (Boston and New York, 1906), 322-25; Randall and Ryan, *Hist. of Ohio, passim*; and mss. in B. H. Coll.