

Tavernkeeper who many years ago lived near where your mother does & afterwards settled at River Trenche.

If the Law will assist me I mean to punish M^r Jean Babbist Creaty¹² for ever having meddled with Lands belonging to me to which I'm sure he never had the smallest right nor did I ever hear until very lately by Cap^t Harrow that any person had been on these Lands since I took Brian from there who lived in a house the Indians made me & for which I paid them.

I am Sir with good wishes &^{ca}

J. A.

M^r Rob^t M^cNiff¹³ at River Sinclair

Endorsed: Near Sandwich April 15th 1805 John Askin to M^r Rob^t M^cNiff at River Sinclair care of E. Brush Esq^r Copy

LAND TITLES IN WASHINGTON AND YORK

Near Sandwich May the 6th 1805

My Dear Sir, Your kind letter bearing date the 1st of March reached me on the 28 Instant and it gave me

¹² Probably Jean Baptiste Créti, whose surname was more commonly spelled Créquai. The Detroit Créquais were descended from Jean Aide *dît* Créquai, who was born in the parish of St. Sorler, in the diocese of La Rochelle, in 1661. He migrated to Canada and on Nov. 3, 1689, married at Pointe-aux-Trembles, Que., Catherine Delisle, daughter of Louis Delisle and Louisa Des Granges. For three generations the family resided in Lower Canada, its first Detroit representative being a grandson of the original immigrant, who was also named Jean Baptiste Aide *dît* Créquai. He was born in Pointe-aux-Trembles on Feb. 18, 1729, and on Jan. 11, 1762, he married in Detroit, Magdelene Gastinon *dît* Duchêne, who resided at Grosse Pointe. Créquai secured a farm from the government which later became a part of P. C. 261 in modern Grosse Pointe Farms. He was buried in Detroit, Sept. 26, 1795; his wife was buried here, Dec. 30, 1824.

They reared a family of eleven children, all of whom were born on the Grosse Pointe farm in the period 1764-83. One daughter, Cecilia, married George Cottrell, for whom see *ibid.*, 195. The eldest son, born, Nov. 17, 1767, was the Jean Baptiste Créquai (Creaty) of the present document. He married, Feb. 4, 1793, Cecilia Meny, who was born in Grosse Pointe, May 2, 1776, the daughter of Antoine Meny and Catherine Brillant *dît* Beaulieu. She was buried, May 5, 1804; the date of his death has not been learned. They had six children, born in the years 1793-1802. See Denissen, *op. cit.*

¹³ Robert McNiff was a son of Patrick McNiff, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 424. Robert was born in 1784 and died a bachelor on April 16, 1844. Apparently he was a man of somewhat strenuous habits. In February, 1802, James May lodged a complaint with James Henry, justice of the peace, affirming that he was in fear for his life or some personal injury at the hands of McNiff. Robert was for some years a clerk in the employ of Joseph Campau. C. C. Trowbridge in later years related that he was in the habit of going on periodical sprees, when he would sell his clothes for rum and dash naked through the streets. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; *Proc. of the Land Board of Detroit*, 177.