

Poor Detroit was lately reduced to Ashes on the 11 June no lives lost & of those You know the Widow M^{rs} William McComb Meldrum & Park Widow Abbott, Dode-mead, Forsyth's Sons & M^r Mackintosh were the only persons who had Houses not disposed off. The Commodore & Family are still at Gross Point & in tolerable Health. I shewed him your Letter, which pleased him much & read to Maisonville what you said of him. he poor Fellow is something reduced in Circumstances. though [he] still has his Farm yet [he] is much cast down. he who never has had Education cant support Misfortunes. For my own part though I do not see 20 or thirty people at my Table as formerly, my Spirrits have not decreased in the smallest degree or why should they. To those who call I can give a Glass of Wine, my Health thank God is very good, all my Children thank [God] continue to behave as I could wish And I think M^{rs} Askin and I have lived so long at peace with each other that I do not dread any rupture will take place in future. I dislike no Man on Earth, though perhaps some deserve it & I know no House where the Door would be shut against me. On[c]e a Year I put on my best Cloths & as Colonel Commands the Militia on the 4th June²⁰ and make them Fire in Honor to the best of Kings. If we dont all Fire at once thats no matter a Drink generally closes the Scene. M^{rs} Askin joins with me in Every wish that can tend to the Happiness of M^{rs} Depyster here & hereafter & suffer me to assure you, my Dear Good Sir, that I am with great haste, Your ever Obliged Friend. The Old Indian Chiefs you mentioned in your letter are all no more. P. S. Your old Lieu^t Robert McDougal²¹ has a large Family lives well and works hard on a Farm.

Aran Schuyler Depyster Esquire Commanding a Reg of Volunteers at Dumfries.

²⁰ The birthday of George III.

²¹ John Robert McDougall was a son of Lieut. George McDougall and Mary Frances Navarre, and a brother of George McDougall, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 374. John Robert, the elder brother, was born in Detroit on June 30, 1764. He was commissioned ensign in the Eighth Regiment of Foot, May 6, 1777, and lieutenant on Dec. 12, 1781. In a deed to Alexander and William Macomb of his half interest in Belle Isle, Aug. 15, 1788, McDougall describes himself as "half pay lieutenant" in the Eighth Regiment. See Colonial Records of Detroit (mss.), Vol. D, 288. On Jan. 26, 1786, he married, in Detroit, Mary Archange Campau, daughter of Simon Campau and Veronica Bordeau. Mary