

SOCIAL LIFE IN DETROIT¹

January the 7th 1807

Dear Brother, We arrived safe from Moravian Town the Sunday after we left you, & have been Dancing almost [constantly] since. Having been at a famous Dance last Evening at Cap^t Burbanks² where M^r Mackintoshs Family, Nelly, and a party from the other side were, I am not in as good Order to write as at any other time.

There is nothing new here worth mentioning several of the French Ladies on the other side are invited to the Detroit Assemblies however not one went to the last which has been the only one since you are gone. Nelly Grant's being unwell has prevented our Sister Nelly from going

M^r Eastman³ & Denham,⁴ are not yet gone perhaps waiting for M^r Hanks's⁵ Wedding. he was Married to Miss

¹ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

² Jesse Burbank was a lake sailor, being mate of the *Charlotte* in 1797. From 1789 to December, 1800, he and Mary Sutton cohabited as man and wife and five children were born to them. Contention arising, they submitted the matter to James May, Jacob Visger, and Charles Curry as arbitrators, and on separating Jesse kept two of the children and Mary the remaining three. On June 6, 1803, Burbank was married at Fort Erie to Sarah Hickley by John Warren, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 584. At the time of his death, which occurred prior to Aug. 3, 1814, Burbank was living in Buffalo, but his will was probated in Wayne County, where he owned a farm on the Rouge River. His widow survived him, and was still living at the time of taking the census of 1827. Data chiefly adapted from ms. notes by C. M. Burton in *B. H. Coll.*

³ Presumably Jonathan Eastman, who married Eleanor McNiff, daughter of Patrick and Catherine McNiff, on Oct. 16, 1808. For the career of Patrick McNiff, see *B. H. R.*, I, 424. Eastman became an ensign in the First Infantry, July 14, 1803. He later served as lieutenant in the First Artillery, and was honorably discharged, June 1, 1814. On Dec. 11, 1818, Thomas Rowland, acting as agent for Eastman, filed a protest with the Governor and Judges of the Territory which indicates that Eastman was then living, and that both in January and in August, 1812, he had been present in Detroit. See *Proc. of Land Board of Detroit, passim*.

⁴ Probably Captain Josiah Dunham, who was stationed at Detroit as early as 1802. He became captain in the Sixteenth Infantry, Jan. 8, 1799, and was honorably discharged on June 15, 1800. On Feb. 16, 1801, he became captain in the Second Artillerists and Engineers; he resigned, April 30, 1808.

⁵ Porter Hanks, who became a second lieutenant in the artillery, Jan. 17, 1805, and first lieutenant, Dec. 31, 1806. In November of this same year, he was proceeding to Chicago with a detachment of troops on the schooner *Tracy*, when in Lake Huron the captain turned back to Detroit. Richard Pattinson of Sandwich had contracted to carry the troops to Chicago, and Captain Dyson, the commandant here, formally protested his failure to