

Sept. 17th a defendant Joseph Barron of St. Anne got 15 days delay "on account of his family being in a bad state of health." Sept. 24th Isabella Maholm (almost certainly "Malcolm") complains that her husband James Donaldson detains £50 sterling in his hands sent to her by her friends in Scotland. Mr. Roe for the husband "denies to detain any sum of the plaintiff's whatever" and "the Court ordered a Rule for trial in eight days"—The same day a case was postponed to get the evidence of Simon Girty, \* Isadore Chene † and Captain Caldwell. ‡

\*This is the well known Simon Girty, about whom so much has been written, most of it wholly untrue. Born in Pennsylvania in 1741, of an Irish father and English mother, he was in 1756 taken prisoner by the Indians with his mother and brothers. He lived with the Senecas for some three years when he was with the rest of the family delivered up. He took part in the border warfare and when trouble began brewing between the Colonies and the Mother Country, was counted on as well-disposed to the latter. He was for a time Lieutenant in a Virginia Company, but in 1778 finally cast in his lot with the loyalists. With McKee and Elliott who were afterwards to take no small part in Border history, he left Pittsburg, and made his way to Detroit. He became a Lieutenant in the Indian Department (a fact which has escaped Butterfield—History of the Girtys by Consul Willstine Butterfield, Cincinnati, Robert Clarke & Co., 1890—who gives the most accurate account of him, but which is attested by the proceedings of the Land Board of the District of Hesse: see Archives Report, Ontario, 1905, pp. 88, 281). He acted as interpreter but not as leader of the Indians as has been represented. He was present at some scenes of torture but there is no well-authenticated instance of his causing or directing it. He was a hardy, brave and indefatigable border warrior whose name has suffered from his being on the losing side of a civil war. He lived in Detroit and after its surrender in 1796, on the other side of the River, where he received a grant of land. He died there in 1818, about two miles below Amherstburg.

†Isidore Chesne was present with Girty and others at the Council held at Detroit in June, 1778, with the Indians, when a plan of campaign was arranged against the rebellious Americans. He seems to have been of a family of original concessionaires who were in 1734 granted lands near Detroit—and he was an ardent supporter of the British cause. Under the name J. Chisne he was awarded Lot 6, not far from Girty's lot.

‡Captain William Caldwell was by birth an Irishman, but was at the outbreak of the Revolution living in Pennsylvania. He took the loyalist side and made his way to Detroit. There he was given the command of a Company of Rangers who with a number of Indians under Captain Elliott went in 1787 to the help of the Wyandots, who had been threatened by an American force under Col. Crawford. The enemy met at Upper Sandusky, and Crawford was vanquished and his force driven back. Crawford and others were taken prisoners by the Indians and Crawford tortured to death in Girty's presence.

Caldwell was wounded and afterwards falling sick went back to Detroit, invalided. After peace was declared he applied for and obtained a grant of land in Upper Canada—his petition was the first filed with the Land Board of the District of Hesse—his "fenced field" is spoken of more than once as a starting point.

In a memorandum by Patrick McNiff, Deputy Surveyor, dated at Detroit, September 30th, 1791, he is mentioned as having received 800 acres of the 3,000 acres to which he was entitled, and is called a reduced officer on half-pay.