

1697. He did not own any dwelling, at that time, in Montreal, nor have I been able to find that he ever owned one there. As commandant at Mackinac he was permitted to engage in trade there and his wife acted as his agent in Montreal in purchasing goods and forwarding them to him for sale to the Indians or traders. At Montreal lived LaMothe Luciere, a namesake and possibly a relative of Cadillac. This man was an army officer of some prominence who had, a few years before this, at the request of the French government, built a fort at Niagara. He was also governor of Montreal in 1669 and 1670. LaMothe Luciere lived on Notre Dame street in Montreal and Madam Therese Guyon (wife of Cadillac) made her home with him during the absence of her husband at Mackinac. I have not discovered anything to indicate that LaMothe Cadillac and LaMothe Luciere were in any way related, but the identity of the family name, LaMothe, indicates that they had some connection with each other. What little we know of the life of Madam Cadillac indicates that she was a capable and energetic business woman as well as a brave and affectionate wife. I have copies of many contracts, for various purposes, entered into by her for promoting the interest of her husband, and she borrowed money for him and purchased goods to send to him on many occasions. I do not know what authority the society had for placing this placard at the corner of St. Lambert street, but probably it was the home of LaMothe Luciere, and that Cadillac and his wife temporarily lived there. That he once occupied it made it an object of interest.

#### **Valuable Documents for Detroit.**

There are many other inscriptions of local interest; some in French and others in English, but no others of local interest to Detroit, except as they pertain to the history of the northwest.

I visited the Palais de Justice and was permitted to inspect and read the archives in the basement of this great building. Here are collected and preserved the musty records of two cen-

turies and a half of Canadian history. I have had a copyist busy for some years transcribing such of these records as pertain to Detroit and the matter is far from being exhausted yet. The wealth of historical matter in these ancient and yellow documents is unknown to historians, I believe, and I think I am the first person to disclose, in part, their value to the writers and readers of history. Some 20 or 30 volumes of these records have already been transcribed for my use and no item later than the year 1760 has yet been copied. Dwelling upon the quantity and wealth of these old papers will scarcely convey an idea of their importance, and I can only express my appreciation of them by the word "invaluable."

Nearly across the street from the Palais de Justice and a block or so further to the east, on the southerly side of Notre Dame street, is situated the Chateau de Ramezay, built for Claude de Ramezay in 1704 or 1705. This building was of great interest to me and is of so much interest now to the people of Montreal that they have purchased it and retain it in its original shape as a memorial of old Montreal.

Shortly after Detroit was founded Cadillac got into a quarrel with the Company of the Colony of Canada relative to the right to the trade of the new post and, in consequence of the quarrel, he was summoned to Montreal, where he was detained—not exactly placed under arrest, but compelled to remain within the limits of the city pending the hearing of the charges preferred against him. At this time Claude de Ramezay was the governor of Montreal, and, in that capacity, Cadillac was subject to his orders and to a certain extent he was in his custody. Ramezay proved himself in many ways to be the friend of his prisoner, giving him personal liberty there and assisting him in his appeal to the authorities at Quebec and in France. Probably he was entertained by Ramezay at this chateau, for at this time the building was just completed or in process of erection.

#### **Historic Old Castle.**

The building itself is a marvel of solid masonry, so substantial that the