

Charles Smyth who will be spoken of again in connection with the Bar practising in the Court.

William Montforton acted as Clerk for a short time during the illness of Charles Smyth (July 4th, 1792, he was sworn in; he acted, August 27th until the end of the year.)

He was of French descent and apparently a protégé of Rocheblave. We first hear of him at Michillmackinac, from which place he came to Detroit, about 1778. He took an active part in opening the eyes of the French people at the Illinois who were beginning to take the American Rebels by the hand, influenced in some degree by the assistance given by his old land France. His loyalty was attested in 1778 by Lieutenant Governor Hay.

In October of that year, he received a Commission as Captain of the Militia at Detroit and made that his only occupation for three years. He laboured among the Indians in the endeavour to secure their loyalty and with much success.

He was a man of sense and information far above the common standard in the Country at that time. He had considerable property also (including a female slave) as appears from the census rolls of Detroit for 1779 and 1782.

Having a wife and family, he found it hard to make ends meet; and we find him granted rations in 1784, and the same year made a notary public in the place of Thomas Williams who had been obliged to give up his Notaryship from press of private business. "Detroit," he says, "the most ungrateful Country on the earth, allowed him no resources except to sell his land and effects and send back to Canada a desolate wife to live with his parents where she could find some help." No doubt, the commission as Notary was intended in some degree to enable him to make a living.

He is spoken of in 1788 very highly and recommended for a permanent Notary Commission. The last trace of him that I can find is in 1793 when he makes a return as Captain of Militia of his Company.

The Sheriff.

Gregor McGregor (metamorphosed in some contemporary manuscripts to Grigor McGrigor) we find as early as 1777 in command of the Militia at Detroit with Thomas Smith under him; he seems to have been a merchant in that City. He continued to be Captain and adjutant of the Town Militia, and in March 1779 acted as one of the Commissioners for taking the census of Detroit and administering the oath to the inhabitants. He appears in the roll with his wife and one boy. He was then the owner of one male slave; and his pay as an officer of the Indian Department was "8 shillings York" (\$1.00) per day. This was not his only income or he would have been hard put to it to pay his dancing bills, which for one winter alone amounted to £17 19 11 (say \$72.00). The dancing assemblies were quite a feature in Detroit society but seem to have come high.