WS 4.1: Profiles of Influential Detroiters

Use DE 4.1: Profiles of Influential Detroiters, your textbook, and the Detroit Timeline on the Building Detroit website to work as a group to answer the questions below. Include as much information as possible. Use complete sentences.

Name of Detroiter:
__________________________________________________________

Year of birth: ___________ Year of death: ________________

How did he contribute to Detroit’s growth?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What important events happened during his lifetime?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What are his major accomplishments?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

What characters did he possess that made him a leader?
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
WS 4.2: Learning from Primary Sources

Worksheet courtesy of the Library of Congress, Teaching with Primary Sources: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/
WS 4.3: What’s the Big Idea?

Use your personal account of the surrender of Detroit and work as a group to answer the questions below. Include as much information as possible. Use complete sentences.

**Name of Person:** __________________________________________________________

**Person’s Title:** __________________________________________________________

**What was this person’s job during the War of 1812?**

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

**Did this person feel that Hull was guilty or innocent?**

☐ Guilty ☐ Innocent

**What are three reasons this person has for their feelings about Hull’s guilt or innocence?**

1. _________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

2. _________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

3. _________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________

**Do you agree with this person’s feelings about Hull? Why or why not?**

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________


Father Gabriel Richard (1767 - 1832)
Bonjour mes ami. Good day friends. My name is Father Gabriel Richard. I was born in 1767 in France. I came to Detroit in 1798 to become a Catholic priest at Detroit’s St. Anne’s Church. I am also a former representative to Congress from the Michigan Territory. I was the first priest to serve in the United States Congress!

In 1805 when a fire destroyed our entire settlement, the Heavenly Father gave me strength to assist our good citizens. I have since founded six primary schools and two academies. And my printing press has published many books for our children. I have helped Judge Woodward to found the University of Michigan.

Even now my heart is filled with new plans and projects. In this very year of 1825, the Erie Canal has opened and Congress has authorized a new road from Detroit to Chicago. Several thousand immigrants have arrived ready to buy land here. As we grow, our needs will grow also. We’ll need more schools, homes, and libraries. But with God’s blessing, Detroit will continue to flourish.

Judge Augustus Woodward (1774 - 1827)
Welcome. I am August Woodward, born in New York in 1774 and baptized in a Dutch Reformed Church. I moved to Virginia to study law in 1795, and that’s where I became friends with former president Thomas Jefferson. In 1805, Jefferson appointed me as Chief Justice of the Michigan Territory. I knew I was leaving the city to head out to the frontier, and I was surprised to learn that town had been destroyed by fire right before I arrived!

I knew the future of Detroit was important to the future of Michigan, and I saw an opportunity to make it the grandest city in the west. I drew up a plan for a new city similar to our nation’s capital of Washington D.C., complete with large public squares connected by avenues like spokes from a wheel. Ah, but how villagers understood my full plan, and only a little was ever built. Woodward Avenue from the river to Grand Circus Park was part of my plan.

Now it is 1824, and Detroit has been transformed from village of French farmers to a center of booming commerce with a capitol building and courthouse, and a steamboat line, which I promoted. Land is selling quite nicely now and trade routes will soon open to the Great Lakes. And I have built the University of Michigan, which will help educate our citizens. My friends, I urge you to take advantage of our growth. Detroit has much to offer. It is a place of opportunity and it is a place that will become a great city.

Peter Denison (c.1760 - c.1815)
My name is Peter Denison. I don’t know what exact year I was born, but I have been in Detroit since 1784 when Mr. Tucker bought me from Mr. Macomb. You see, I was a slave. In 1785, I married my wife Hannah. She was a slave, too. We both worked on Mr. Tucker’s land.

Today, in 1808, we are both free. We served our time as slaves, you might say. However, my four children are still owned by Mrs. Tucker. Last year I went to court to sue for their freedom. I’ve heard people say that I was the first person in America to sue for freedom. Judge Woodward ruled that slavery is now illegal in Detroit, and that helped some African Americans in Michigan. Those born after 1796 cannot be enslaved. But that didn’t help our family much.
Judge Woodward ruled that our son Peter Jr. will be a slave until he is 25. But since Elizabeth, James and Scipio were born before 1796, they are the property of the Tucker family for life.

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Peter Denison (c.1760 - c.1815) - continued
After the court case went against us, some folks say I helped two of my children escape to freedom in Canada. I won’t say if I did or if I didn’t. Things could be worse; at least Hannah and I are free. And I have earned the respect of many Detroiter. Just this year the Territorial Governor, Mr. Hull, made me commander of the Black Militia. Detroit does have opportunities for some of us African Americans and maybe someday for all of us. But I still miss my children.

Joseph Campau (1769 - 1863)
My name is Jacques, and it is a sad day for me: July 27, 1863. I just heard of the death of Joseph Campau. He was a good man who lived a full life of 94 years. Mr. Campau owns the house that my family and I lived in for years and the land we cultivated. Why, if it were not for his charity, I would not have been able to live here in Detroit. You see, my wife and I came here as a poor couple looking for someone to give us a chance. Mr. Campau rented us a ribbon farm in the early days. When the crops were bad and we couldn’t pay rent, Mr. Campau lowered the payment or forgave the debt altogether!

He used to come and have dinner with us and tell us stories of earlier times here in Detroit. His grandfather came here with Cadillac in 1701 when the first fort was built. He told us about how the whole town was burnt to the ground by fire in 1805. While many people got discouraged and left Detroit, Mr. Campau quickly rebuilt his house - it’s the modest yellow one over on Jefferson Avenue between Griswold and Shelby. And, oh, how he loved children! He had twelve of his own with his wife Adelaide.

It is true that he was the wealthiest citizen and largest landowner in Detroit. But he never let that go to his head. He used to say that the Lord taught him to do unto others as he would have others should do unto him. He did many things to help Detroit become the great city it is today. He was indeed a great pioneer merchant of Michigan. He had many branch stores throughout the territory where he bought and sold goods to Frenchmen, immigrants and Native Americans alike. He had a very large Native American trade for about 40 years.

I seem to remember he did some business with the Northwestern Fur Company. He was one of the original stockholders of the first territorial bank with his friend, General John Williams. He and Williams also helped start the Democratic Free Press newspaper. He even owned stock in the Detroit and St. Joseph Railroad.

Mr. Campau was a hard-working, but frugal man. He dressed simple and was very organized. You could ask him for a copy of any receipt and he could go to a cabinet and pull it right out.

I hear the funeral will be held in two days. Many are talking about how this will be the largest affair we have seen in Detroit for a long time. I can’t think of a single Detroiter who wouldn’t want to go and pay his last respects to such a great man as Joseph Campau.
DE 4.2: Painting: 1805 Detroit Fire
DE 4.3: Newspaper Account of the 1805 Fire

_Baltimore Intelligencer of September 6, 1805_

_“THE CONFLAGRATION OF DETROIT”_

This event happened on the 11th of June last. The flames commenced about 9 o’clock in the morning and within four hours the whole town was laid in ashes. Only two or three buildings, of little value, situated in the borders, were preserved. About three hundred edifices, of all kinds, were consumed, among which were nearly an hundred dwelling houses, the church, several stores, the citadel, with officers’ and soldiers’ barracks, contractors’ stores, United States store, etc. The new fort and barracks, called Fort Lernoult, a little back of the town, were not greatly endangered, and the old Block house, at the south end, escaped. In a word, all the space enclosed within picquets, and denominated the town, presents nothing but a heap of ruins, consisting of naked chimneys and cinders.

The rapidity of the destruction was perhaps unprecedented, but will not appear surprising to anyone previously acquainted with the place. The buildings were mostly old, all of wood, and dry as tinder-extremely crowded together on an area of about three acres—the streets very narrow (the widest not exceeding twenty feet), intersecting rectangularly at small distances—and every square completely covered with combustibles. This mode of building the town originated, not merely for want of taste in the ancient settlers, but from the necessity of defense in war, ad this settlement has for a long time been a frontier particularly exposed to danger from the natives, and far removed from the means of external succor. It has been found necessary, till very lately, to keep the picquets enclosing the town in repair, besides being under the protection of the common of an adjoining fort and block house.

The town was furnished with but one fire engine, which, with the prompt assistance of the troops formerly stationed here, has been sufficient to extinguish occasional fires upon their first appearance; but at present the troops at this station are few and want of aid from that source was severely felt on the late occasion.

By what means the fire was kindled, whether by accident or design, is uncertain—the there are various conjectures, but no decided opinion.

It began in a stable near the United States store, on the southwest quarter, a light breeze blowing from the south. Its progress against and athwart the wind was astonishing, but in the direction of it the blaze darted with nearly the celerity of lightning, and reached the opposite extremity of the town in a very few moments. The fire in no part had diminished till the whole was in a blaze, and one immense mass of flame was presented to the eye, having the appearance of proceeding from one building of vast extent. The streets became impassable as the fire progressed, being filled from side to side with an impenetrable column of smoke and flame, which, wafted by the current of air through the north and south streets, streamed to a great distance beyond the limits of the houses. To the distant spectator, and to the wretched inhabitants, who after a short lapse of time could be no more than spectators, the sense was at once sublime and painful, exceeding in awful grandeur perhaps almost any spectacle of the kind which has happened since the world began. It was fortunate that the catastrophe did not take place in the night, as there must have been a greater destruction of goods and effects and unquestionably of some lives. No lives were lost, but one person (a poor woman) was badly injured. Means have been taken to ascertain correctly the amount of losses in property, and progress has been made so far as to place it beyond a doubt that they exceed one hundred and thirty thousand dollars, probably reaching near one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

The conflagration took place at a time of day that the inhabitants were generally near their homes, and were enabled to save more of their moveable effects than could have been expected in so short a time as was allowed them; great quantities, however, fell a sacrifice, and individuals whose estates consisted in buildings, were in one day reduced from eligible circumstances to poverty. There is no citizen but who has suffered more or less.

At present the people are scattered up and down the settlement, crowding the houses even to overflowing, occupying hovels and everything having the shape of an edifice, and several families are encamped in booths upon the public common and the highways. The sufferings of the people in the ensuing winter must inevitably be great. We tremble to anticipate them. Hemmed in on every side by the wilderness, in some directions interminable, and in others extending too great a distance to admit of being passed by an impoverished people, they are restricted to the settlement, narrow in its extent, with indifferent cultivations, and the houses in bad repair. Not a farm is cultivated one mile from the river bank, nor a building erected. There the wilderness commences and extends to the western ocean. The settlement up and down the back of the river is but a few miles in extent, and taken up by farmers, who have no room to spare in their dwellings and raise barely a sufficiency for the supply of their own wants. The houseless sufferers have little time, and still less means, to provide new accommodations for themselves before the approach of the cold season.

Provisions of every kind are at an excessively high price. Thus circumstanced, what can be before these miserable people but a winter of rigorous suffering! If credit and charity should furnish them with food, yet there cannot be shelter and covering sufficient for their comfort. Applications for relief are sent and are sending to various parts of the United States and Canada, which it is hoped and believed with not be sent in vain.
DE 4.4: Letter: Governor William Hull

Detroit, October 10, 1805.

The governor of the territory of Michigan and the presiding judge thereof; in compliance with the wishes of the government and the people of the territory, have the honor to make the following report relative to the affairs of the territory.

By the act of the congress of the United States establishing the territory, the government thereof was to commence from and after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred five. The presiding judge arrived at Detroit, the seat of the government, on Saturday the 29th day of June, and the governor on Monday the first day of July. The associate judge who was previously a resident of the territory, was already there. On Tuesday the 2d July, the governor, in pursuance of the ordinance of congress, administered to the several officers their respective oaths of office, and on the same day the operations of the government commenced.

It was the unfortunate fate of the new government to commence its operations in a scene of deepest public and private calamity. By the conflagration of Detroit, which took place on the morning of the 11th of June, all the buildings of that place, both public and private, were entirely consumed; and the most valuable part of the personal property of the inhabitants, was lost. On the arrival of the new government, a part of the people were found encamped on the public grounds, in the vicinity of the town, and the remainder were dispersed through the neighboring settlements of the country, both on the British and the American side of the boundary.

The place which bore the appellation of the town of Detroit, was the spot of about 2 acres of ground, completely covered with buildings, and combustible materials, the narrow intervals of fourteen or fifteen feet, used as streets or lanes, only excepted; and the whole was environed with a very strong and secure defence of tall and solid picquets. The circumjacent ground, the bank of the river alone excepted, was a wide commons; and though assertions are made respecting the existence, among the records of Quebec, of a charter from the king of France, confirming this commons as an appurtenance to the town, it was either the property of the United States, or at least such as individual claims did not pretend to cover. The folly of attempting to rebuild the town in the original mode was obvious to every mind; yet there existed no authority, either in the country, or in the officers of the new government, to dispose of the adjacent ground. Hence had already arisen a state of dissention which urgently required the interposition of some authority to quiet. Some of the inhabitants, destitute of shelter, and hopeless of any prompt arrangements of government, had reoccupied their former ground, and a few buildings had already been erected in the midst of the old ruins. Another portion of the inhabitants had determined to take possession of the adjacent public ground, and to throw themselves on the liberality of the government of the United States, either to make them a donation of the ground as compensation for their sufferings, or to accept of a very moderate price for it. . . .

A town was accordingly surveyed and laid out, and the want of authority to impart any regular title, without the subsequent sanction of congress, being first impressed, and clearly understood, the lots were exposed to sale under that reservation. Where the purchaser of a lot was a proprietor in the old town, he was at liberty to extinguish his former property in his new acquisition, foot for foot, and was expected to pay only for the surplus, at the rate expressed in his bid. . . .

Strongly impressed with a sense of the worth of the people, and deeply commiserating their sufferings, of a great part of which they were eye witnesses, the officers of their local government cannot refrain from adding their warmest degree of recommendation to forward the liberality the congress of the United States will unquestionably be inclined to exercise towards them; and the disposition which will doubtless prevail towards attaching their affections, promoting their interests and relieving their distress. . . .

(Signed) William Hull, Governor of the Territory of Michigan

(Signed) A.B. Woodward, Presiding Judge of the Territory of Michigan.

DE 4.5: Detroit Street Plan, 1807
## DE 4.6: Chart: Four Reasons for the War of 1812

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<tr>
<th><strong>Trade with France</strong></th>
<th><strong>United States Expansionism</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Britain was at war with France, and they decided to stop the French and Americans from trading with one another. They passed laws that said they would do whatever they could to stop trade. The United States felt this was unfair, and illegal. They felt that Britain had no right to interfere with trade.</td>
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| **United States Expansionism**  
After the Revolutionary War, the United States gained all the land in the Northwest Territory, which made up present day Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin.  
Under the British, this land was set aside mainly for use by the Native Americans. When the Americans began moving into the Northwest Territory in the early 1800s, the Native Americans tried to stop them by staging attacks on new settlements. The United States knew that the British were helping the Native Americans by giving them supplies and encouraging them to attack Americans.  
The United States was angry and demanded that the British stop interfering. |

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<th><strong>Impressment</strong></th>
<th><strong>United States Political Conflict</strong></th>
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| The United States was a new country in the early 1800s. They accepted people who were born in other countries as citizens. Many new Americans were born in England, and the British felt that they were still British citizens.  
When the war with the French started, the British would board American ships in the Atlantic Ocean, kidnap crew members and force them to fight for the British. Many of the crew members had become American citizens, and the United States felt that the British action – which they called “impressment” – was illegal and unfair. |
| **United States Political Conflict**  
During the early 1800s, the United States had two political parties that had very different ideas on how to run the country.  
The Federalist Party wanted a strong federal government and close ties to Britain.  
The Democratic-Republican Party wanted a weak federal government, to preserve slavery, to expand into Indian land, and to distance the U.S. from Britain.  
In 1812, the Democratic-Republicans had more power in the government, and they were eager to stand up to Britain’s bullying. In other words, they were more willing to go to war with Britain than the weaker Federalist Party. |
During the War of 1812, the leader of the American Army at Fort Detroit was Brigadier General William Hull. Hull was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and he had served as the governor of the Michigan Territory. Hull's job was to organize American soldiers and cross the Detroit River to attack British forts. The goal was to take the forts over and force the British to leave.

However, Hull also knew that the British had become war partners (called “allies”) with several Native American tribes. He heard that a group of British and Native Americans were attacking forts north of Detroit, such as Fort Mackinaw. He feared that a large number of Native American warriors would attack Detroit from the north. Also, Hull was worried because the British were capturing all the supply boats sailing up from Ohio. Fort Detroit was quickly running out of food and supplies.

Hull was supposed to send troops to Canada in August to attack and take over Fort Malden, but he didn’t. Instead, he spent early August trying to re-open his supply lines, but was not successful.

Meanwhile, more British troops were arriving at Fort Malden. Major General Isaac Brock, the commander for Upper Canada, moved his troops across Lake Erie from Niagara. He arrived at Amherstburg on August 13 and met with the Shawnee leader Tecumseh. They instantly became allies against the Americans. With a combined force of 730 soldiers and 600 warriors, the British army was still smaller than the American troops in Detroit.

Brock was a smart General. He had a bunch of Hull’s documents and dispatches that were stolen by the British from one of the American ships. He read through them all and knew the details about the size and condition of Hull's army. Brock also learned that Hull was deeply afraid of an attack by Native Americans. Playing on this fear, he wrote a letter to the British commanders asking them to stop sending Native Americans to Amherstburg because they already had 5,000. This was not true, but he knew that Hull would believe it. He made sure the letter fell into American hands.

Shortly thereafter, Brock sent Hull a letter demanding his surrender. Part of the letter stated: “The force at my disposal authorizes me to require of you the immediate surrender of Fort Detroit. It is far from my intention to join in a war of extermination, but you must be aware, that the numerous body of Indians who have attached themselves to my troops, will be beyond control the moment the contest commences...”

Brock continued to deceive Hull by ordering the militia to put on the extra uniforms that belonged to the British army. In addition, Brock had soldiers light individual campfires and conducted several marches to make British force appear larger. These efforts weakened Hull’s confidence.

On August 15, Brock began small attacks on Fort Detroit. Brock decided the best way to attack was from the west. As his men moved, Tecumseh repeatedly marched his warriors through a gap in the forest as they emitted loud war cries. This movement made the Americans think that they had more warriors than they actually did. As the British approached, a ball from one of the canons hit the officer’s mess in Fort Detroit, killing four people. Fearing a massacre, Hull began planning to surrender the fort and town.

During the siege and surrender of Detroit, seven Americans were killed and 2,493 were captured by the British. The local Michigan militia was allowed to return home, but the American army soldiers were taken to Quebec as prisoners.

The loss of Detroit was an embarrassing defeat for the Americans. As a result, the war’s situation in the Northwest got much worse. Fort Detroit remained in British hands for over a year until being re-taken by Major General William Henry Harrison in the fall of 1813.
DE 4.8: Account: General William Hull

When it became clear that a battle was going to take place between us, the Americans and the British across the Detroit River in Canada, I had to make a decision. We had only 800 soldiers in the fort, and many of them were injured or ill! I had only about 600 healthy soldiers at most, and many of them were new and didn’t know yet how to be good fighters. I knew that my Army was weak.

Also, the fort and surrounding village and countryside was filled with women, children and the elderly. Starting a battle with the British would mean they would all die! Or worse, they would be kidnapped and tortured by Native American “savages!”

I also want to mention that we did not have enough supplies. Our gunpowder and ammunition was almost all gone, and our food supply was dangerously low.

When I realized that I was facing a British Army of 1,800 soldiers who had many weapons, I knew that we could not win the battle. In fact, everyone in Detroit would most likely be killed if we even tried.

I made the decision to surrender the city to the British. I didn’t ask for advice from my officers. The decision was mine alone. I regret that I had to make the decision, but the safety of the town and its people is very important to me.

DE 4.9: Account: Colonel Lewis Cass

I was one of General Hull’s colonels during the surrender of Detroit. I am very angry and ashamed by his decision to surrender the fort and town. He made his decision based only on his emotions. He didn’t even ask for advice from his officers! We didn’t know he surrendered until we saw the white flag flying on top of the fort!

All of the people in Detroit - the soldiers, the workmen, the women and the children - are so ashamed! We were ready to fight! We felt the hope of victory and couldn’t wait to meet the British on the field. We knew that we would win and send those British troops back over to their side of the river. Instead, our soldiers feel ashamed and hopeless. Several have shed a few tears because they weren’t allowed to serve their country during its time of great need.

How are we to face the rest of America, knowing that we didn’t do anything to protect the country from our sworn enemy, the British? I can hardly stand the shame.

General Hull told me this morning, after the surrender, that he surrendered because the British had nearly 1,800 soldiers and he knew we were outnumbered. He says he surrendered in order to save the lives of everyone in Detroit. That’s ridiculous! There were never 1,800 British soldiers! There were maybe 400 at most. We could have won the battle!

It is not my place to decide whether or not surrendering the town to save lives is acceptable. That is for the Army and government officials to decide. However, I know if I had been in charge there would have been no surrender.
DE 4.10: Account: United States Secretary of War, William Eustis

I served as Secretary of War under President James Madison. Before the war, I was a military surgeon, and I admit I knew very little of the art of war. I struggled, and I know some people felt I was bad at the job.

I feel terribly about the loss of Detroit in the War of 1812. As Secretary of War, I was responsible for sending General William Hull his orders. I shared his progress and problems with the President, and helped direct his actions.

Mail service was slow and unreliable during the time, especially when sending letters to the frontier of the Northwest Territory! Hull did not get my letter that told him war had been declared. If he had received it, he never would have sent that ship with his dispatches up to Detroit before him. His letters never would have fallen into Major-General Brock’s hands.

I suppose I am partly to blame for his action in surrendering Detroit. I did not advise him to surrender, mind you! But I could have been clearer in my orders. On June 24, 1812, I told him to attack the British in Canada. However, I ended the letter with this statement: “Should the force of your command be equal to the enterprise, consistent with the safety of your own posts, you will take possession of [Fort] Malden, and extend your conquests as situations may justify.” Well, even though I gave him a direct order, he thought I was leaving the decision up to him! He thought that I trusted his judgment to act only if he had enough soldiers and could guarantee the safety of Detroit.

I wasn’t the best Secretary of War, but I tried! Our new country wasn’t prepared for war. General Hull is not to blame completely for the surrender. His decision may not have been perfect, but I don’t think he should be put on trial or sent to death!

DE 4.11: Account: British Major-General Isaac Brock

My name is Isaac Brock, and I am a Major-General in the British Army. Yes, I am the same Major-General that convinced General William Hull to surrender Fort Detroit.

You may have heard that I used trickery to make Hull think my forces were bigger and more powerful than they really were. Well, I most certainly did. I had to take action against the Americans before they invaded Upper Canada!

It is true that I dressed up volunteers in British military uniforms to make Hull think I had many trained soldiers. I also had my ally Tecumseh march his forces through the woods over and over again to make seem that there were thousands Indian warriors. Ha!

You wonder how I knew that Hull was scared of being attacked by Indians? Well, I had his letters that he sent to the Secretary of War. The silly man sent a ship up the river without any protection. We captured the ship and its cargo, and I was delighted to find the letters aboard.

You may think that my actions were unfair, and that I should be ashamed of tricking the old General Hull. But I ask you, what would you have done if your country was in danger? I bet you would have done the same as me. So don’t hate me, dear Americans. Take a hard look at your General Hull. He was careless and afraid of battle. Are those the qualities you want in a military leader? I think not.
DE 4.12: Account: Detroit Villager Henri Dubois

Bonjour! My name is Henri Dubois, and my family has been in Detroit since 1750 when my grandfather came to farm the French Seigneur’s land. We Detroitors have suffered many tragedies in the past few years. First, our village burned to the ground in a great fire in 1805. Then, the war with the British brought the possibility of more destruction!

The thought of British invasion was terrifying for my wife and young children. We never knew if we would be attacked by raiding parties of Indians, or if the British would shoot a canon across the Detroit River and damage property. I was glad that the American military was defending the fort, but what about families like me that lived outside of the stockade? We had no protection.

Some say that General Hull was a coward for surrendering the village and fort to the British. They say he committed an act of treason, which means he betrayed our fine country. Nay! I think he’s a hero. It makes no difference to me who owns this land. Since my family arrived, we’ve been under French, British and American rule. As long as my family and I are safe, and we have the opportunity to farm our land and hunt for food and furs, we are happy.

General Hull kept my family safe! He knew that the British and Indians would take no prisoners if fighting broke out. He knew that my family would be murdered – or worse, tortured! – and that the new village we’ve worked so hard to build would be destroyed. I, for one, think his was the noblest act. He valued human life over an unnecessary battle that would have torn our town apart once more. Stop the silly court martial! Instead, let’s remember his selfless act as one of bravery and courage!