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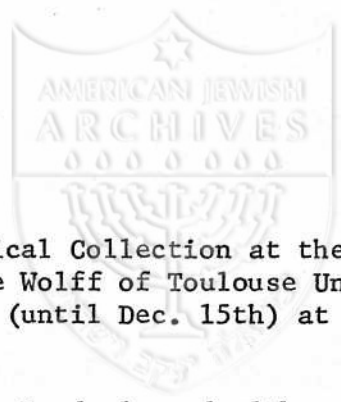
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November 12, 1971

Mr. Philip Slomovitz
The Jewish News
17515 W. Nine Mile Rd. Suite 865
Southfield, Mich. 48075



Dear Phil

I was over at the Burton Historical Collection at the Main Museum last Sunday with a Professor Philippe Wolff of Toulouse University. He happens to be teaching this semester (until Dec. 15th) at the University of Michigan... Medieval History.

He is a good friend of Rabbi Sam Sandmel, and although he is not Jewish, he did spend a little time lecturing at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

Because I am still working on the idea of saving and restoring the home of the founder of Detroit - Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac - which is in the town of St. Nicolas de la Grave, somewhere around 30 or 40 miles from Toulouse - I am counting on Professor Wolff to help me with my negotiations, etc.

It isn't easy trying to "do business" when they don't understand English too well, and I don't understand French too well. So I need a Frenchman like Professor Wolff who is "on the premises" so to speak - to help me bring this matter to a conclusion, one way or another.

In looking over some of the old material at the Burton Collection, we especially wanted to see an original presentation that was made by the Archeological Society of Monteban, which is a relatively large city near St. Nicolas. These people put up a plaque on the house which they claim is the birthplace of Cadillac in St. Nicolas. Then they made a very elaborate presentation, which included some original artwork, photographs, letters, etc., and sent it to the then mayor of the City of Detroit. This was about 1902-1905 - somewhere in that area.

While I was looking over these various papers, I ran across a translation of a portion of some of the Cadillac papers. I think this was part of a 6-volume set of books that was published in France, and later translated into English and published in America.

The papers were translated and compiled by a man named Pierre Margrey, who was I believe, the archivist of the French National Archives in Paris. Under the title of "Découvertes et établissements des Français" I found a section in which Cadillac wrote that he thought that the Indians in Detroit -

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and Michilimackinac were "descended from the Hebrews and were originally Jews, which can also be observed in the terms which they use in their conversations, their speeches and their customs." See page 2 from the enclosed.

He then goes on to compare many of the Indian traits and customs with what he thinks are the Jewish traits and customs.

Someone else, in reading over this manuscript, made a few notes that he didn't agree with Cadillac on some of his comparisons, etc. I call your attention to the little notes on page 5 and the end of page 6.

In any event, this might make for some kind of an interesting local story, which as far as I know, has never appeared in any other place - except, for the first time possibly, in The Detroit Jewish News. If you want an introduction to it, or some comments on it, you can add them or you can quote me, or we can get Irving Katz to embellish it a little bit. You can save the article for some special issue when you could use some kind of a space filler, etc.

I do not know who made these additional comments on the article - or who wrote these contradictory opinions on pages 5 and 6 - but you will note he says as far as he (or she) was concerned there was "no similarity in language roots (between the Indians and the Jews) - no curly hair in Indians - no circumcision in Indians - no copper skin in Jews - no slant eyes in Jews - no frugality in Indians - Indian is Mongoloid - Jew is white, etc."

While I could contradict the contradictor, because I know a lot of Jews who do not have curly hair ... there certainly are a lot of copper-skinned Jews - especially those who come from India, etc. There certainly are slant-eyed Jews in the world today, depending on what part of the world they live in. And when he says there is "no frugality in Indians" - I know plenty of Jews we can say the same thing about ... including my wife. Also he says the Jew is white. You and I know that all the Jews are not white. There is even some question as to whether or not Moses had 1 wife or 2 wives. We know that in Numbers they say that Moses married an Ethiopian, or a Cushite - and that certainly indicates a black woman. If both wives were one and the same person - then his wife Zipporah, was an Ethiopian woman. If she was, he had children with her, so someplace down the line these children would not be pure white.

There are plenty of Ethiopian Jews and Indian Jews. There are even some Japanese and Chinese Jews. There are some Mexican Jews. In the Caribbean, there are Jews that are mixtures of blacks and whites. I don't think you can make a general statement that all Jews are white. Maybe the majority of the Jews are white - but his argument is not 100% accurate.

In any event, I think the fact that Cadillac wrote these words - that Cadillac was the founder of Detroit and the Commander at Mackinac - that he lived in Michigan for many years (about 14, I think), should make this an interesting local article of sorts. The fact that Cadillac was as well read as he seems to have been, about the Bible and the Jews, is an interesting

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bit of information to show he was not just an ignorant soldier or adventurer.

I am offering this basic idea to you first of all, in case you want to do something with it. If you don't want it, I'll get it organized for an article to appear in the Bulletin of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan.

Best regards.

Cordially,

Leonard N. Simons

LNS:br
enc.