

Chart 1

The
Sèmère aka Simmons Family
ca. 1820-1920

Narcisse "Nat" Sèmère aka Simmons
b. ca. 1820-33, Louisiana
emancipated 1863-65
m. 26 January 1869, Lafayette, Louisiana;
d. 3 January 1901, Algiers (Orleans Parish), Louisiana

Célestine Robert aka Johnson
b. 1827-36, Louisiana
emancipated 1863-65
d. aft. 1910
lived Lafayette & Orleans Parishes

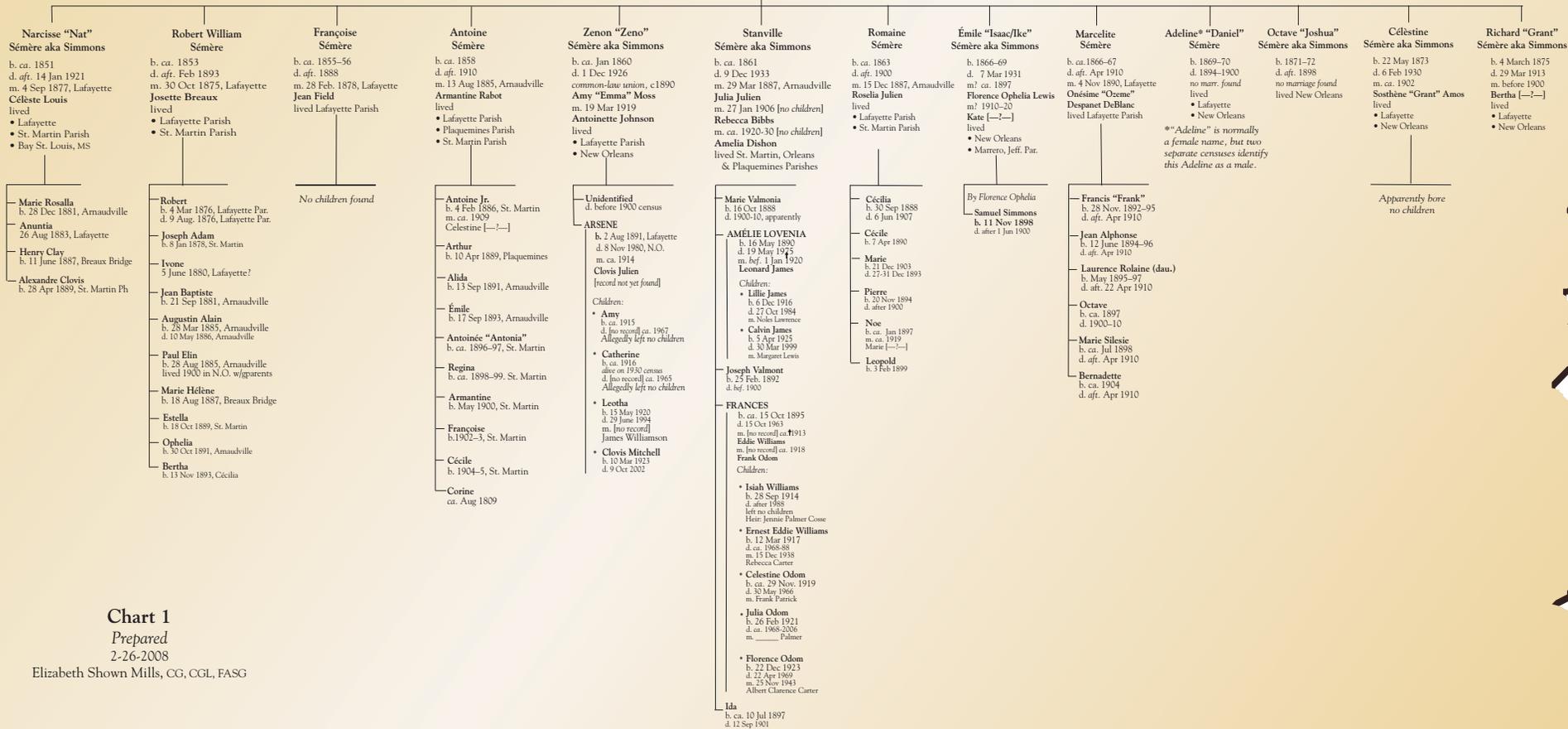


Chart 1

Prepared
2-26-2008

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG

Chart 2
Proofs of Legitimacy
Children & Sole Heirs of Stanville Sémère Simmons

Stanville Sémère Simmons — Julia Julien

- Marriage record, 1887
- Death record for “Mrs. Stanville Simmons, 1897”

Amelie Lovenia

Frances

- Baptismal record, 1890
- Census record, 1900
- Census record, 1910
- Census record, 1920
- Death certificate, Stanville, 1933
- Oil/gas lease s/ by Lovenia for Stanville’s land, 1947
- Oil/gas lease s/ by Lovenia for Stanville’s land, 1961
- Right-of-way s/ by Lovenia for Stanville’s land, 1965
- Death certificate for Lovenia, 1975

- Birth certificate, 1900
- Census record, 1900
- Census record, 1910
- Census record, 1920
- Death certificate, Stanville, 1933
- Oil/gas lease s/ by Frances for Stanville’s land, 1947
- Oil/gas lease s/ by Frances for S’s land, 1961
- Death certificate for Frances, 1963
- Right-of-way by F’s heirs for Stanville’s land, 1965

Chart 3
Records Attesting Lack of Legitimate Heir
for
Zenon “Zeno” Sémère Simmons & Amy Moss

Civil marriage record?	NO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No license • No “return” filed by minister or judge
Church marriage record?	NO
Baptismal record for Arsene, 1889	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents identified as “Zeno Sémère and Amy Moss” • Legitimacy of child not recognized by church
Census record, 1900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy was “mother of 2 children, 1 living” • Census did not require proof of marriage
Death certificate of “Amy Simmons,” 1910	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not identified as married, as practice required • No mention of Zeno
Marriage record for Zeno & Antoinette Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that Antoinette was a widow • Does not state that Zeno was a widower
Death certificate of Zeno, 1926	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States that he was married (in contrast to Amy’s record)
Proof of marriage or legitimacy presented by Amy’s heirs?	NO

Table 1
Americanization of Names by Sémère aka Simmons Family

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG
26 February 2008 (Updated 14 October 2008)

ORIGINAL NAME	ANGLICIZED NAME		YEAR	DOCUMENT	INFORMANT Or Supporting Evidence
	Given name	Surname			
Narcisse Sémère, Sr.			1869-80	Lafayette censuses & marriage rec.	
	Narcisse	Simmons	1894	City directory @ 74 Jefferson	
	Nacy	Simmons	1898	City directory @ 332 Diana	
	Nat	Simmons	1926	DC of son Zeno	Aseline, apparently
Narcisse Sémère, Jr.			1869	Parental marriage/acknowledgment	Parents
			1870	Census	Parents, apparently
	Narcisse	Simmons	1898	Baptism of son Sampson	Self, apparently
	Narcisse	Sémère	1900-10	Censuses of Bay St. Louis	Self or wife, apparently
	Narcisse	Simmons	1920	Census of Bay St. Louis	Self or wife, apparently
Robert Sémère			1869	Parental marriage/acknowledgment	Parents
			1880-1900	Censuses	Self, apparently
			1887	Marriage of brother Romain	Made his x as Robert
	William		1870	Census	Parents
Richard Sémère			1880	Census	Parents
	Richard	Simmons	1894	City directory @ 74 Jefferson	Living w/ parents
	Grant	Simmons	1899	City directory @ 332 Diana w/Stanv.	Living alone, gave info on self
			1900	Census	Living w/ brother "E[mile] Isa[ac]"
			1910	Death certificate	
	Émile Sémère (b. 1866-69)			1869	Parental marriage/acknowledgment
Isaac (b. 1866-69)		Simmons	1894	City directory @ 50 Dumaine	
			1898	Birth registration of son Samuel	Self
E Iza		Simmons	1900	City directory @ 539 Olivier	Living w/ brother Grant
Isaac			1910	Census, Vallette Street	Living w/ sister Celestine Amos
			1920	Census, Vallette Street	
"Ike" (b. 1866)		Simmons	1931	DC	Frances Simmons [Zeno's daughter]

Table 1: Americanization of Names by Sémère aka Simmons Family

Adeline Sémère (male)			1869	Parental marriage/acknowledgment	Parents
			1870–80	Censuses, Lafayette	Parents
	Daniel	Simmons	1894	City directory @ 74 Jefferson	Lived then with parents
Octave Sémère			1880	Census, Lafayette	Parents
			1888	Godparent to niece Cécilia	Self
	Joshua	Simmons	1898	New Orleans, same res. as bro. Zeno	Self
Narcisse Sémère Jr.			1869–77	Parental marriage, censuses, own marr.	Parents & self
	Narcisse	Simmons	1920	Census, Bay St. Louis, Miss.	Self
Zenon Sémère			1869	Parental marriage/acknowledgment	Parents
			1870–80	Censuses, Lafayette	Parents
			1889	Baptism of Arsene	Self
	Zeno	Simmons	1894–1926	All N.O. records	Self
Stainville Sémère			1869	Parental marriage/acknowledgment	Parents
			1870–80	Censuses, Lafayette	Parents
			1888–92	Marr. & bapt. records, Arnaudville	Self
	Stanville	Simmons	1897	Death registration of wife	Self
			1899–1901	City directories	Self
			1900-1901	Birth & death reg. of daughters	Self
			1900-1930	Censuses	Self
			1933	Death certificate	Self
Alexander Clovis Sémère (son of Narcisse Jr. & Celeste)	Alex^r Clovis	Sémère	1889	Baptismal record, b. 28 Apr. 1889	Named by godparents (Fr. Cath. Custom)
	Harrison	Samers	1900	Census w/parents “b. Apr. 1889	Parents or self
	Harrison	Samere	1910	Census w/ parents	
Amelie Sémère (daughter of Stainville & Julia)	Amelie	Sémère	1890	Baptismal record, b. May 1890	Named by godparents (Fr. Cath. custom)
	Lovenia	Simmons	1900	Census, parental home, age 10	Grandmother, probably
	Lovenia	Simmons	1910	Census, parental home, b. 1890-91	Stepmother, probably
Amy Moss			1891	Baptismal record of dtr Arsene	Self
			1910	Death certificate, Amy Simmons	Doctor
	Emma		1900	Census, New Orleans	Self
Sosthene Amos			1896	Civil marriage, Lafayette Parish	Self
			1910	Census, New Orleans	Lived with “wife” Celestine & “bro-in-law” Isaac Simmons
	Grant	Amos	1900	Census, Lafayette Parish	
			1920	Census, New Orleans	Wife Celestine Simmons

CONCLUSION:

The name-change patterns of this family reflect 4 cultural factors that caused many of their cohort to change both surnames and given names:

- **Emancipated slaves** sought not only to make new lives for themselves, but also new identities as free men and women. Many **“tried out” several different names before settling on one.**
- **Infants in French-speaking, Catholic Louisiana were traditionally named by their godparents, not their parents.** The baptismal name remained the formal name, but within the family, they were often called by another name or nickname of their parents’ choice.
- The increasing “Americanization” of Louisiana saw a significant cultural shift in the choice of names, particularly in the last two decades of the 19th century, from traditional French names to “Anglo” names. However, **baptismal names, by Catholic practice, had to be *saint* names.** Many families worked within church policy by giving a child one saint name in addition to the name of choice by which the child would be called. Some priests would then record both names in the baptismal entry. Others would record only the saint’s name. If parents did not choose a saint’s name, the priest would arbitrarily add the first name *Marie* or “translate” the “Protestant” name into a Catholic equivalent (e.g., Patsy became Perine, Sarah became Celeste). This Catholic requirement is evident in the baptismal entry for Amelie Lovenia. Amelie, the saint’s name, is recorded in her baptismal record. Lovenia, which is not a saint’s name (<http://www.catholic.org/saints/>) was the family call name.
- **An examination of all baptismal records** for St. John Francis Regis Church at Arnaudville, where Amelie Lovenia was baptized, **reveals no instance in which the priest who baptized her (C. Denoyel, 1875-1894) allowed any child to be baptized under the name Lovenia.** The only appearance of the name in Arnaudville baptismal records is as a surname for an emancipated family who used their Anglo-Afro mother’s name as a surname.
- **African-Americans who left the French enclaves of the rural parishes** to seek employment in N.O. and places outside Louisiana (as with Narcisse Jr.) often **Anglicized their names as part of their economic assimilation** into Anglo-American society.

Table 2
Marital Patterns Found for
Children of Narcisse “Nat” and Célèstine Sémère Simmons
Who Married and/or Produced Offspring

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG
26 February 2008

INDIVIDUAL	YEAR BORN	YEAR OF “UNION”	SPOUSE OR COMMON-LAW “SPOUSE”	OTHER EVIDENCE OF COHABITATION	PROOF OF MARRIAGE	
					CHURCH	CIVIL
(Unions Prior to Settling in New Orleans)						
Narcisse Jr.	ca. 1851	1877	Célèste Louis		04 Sep 1877	Y-License, etc.
Robert William	ca. 1853	1875	Josette Breaux		30 Oct 1875	Y-License, etc.
Françoise	ca. 1855–56	1878	Jean Field		28 Feb 1878	Y-License, etc.
Antoine	ca. 1858	1885	Armantine Rabot		13 Aug 1885	Y-License, etc.
Zeno	ca. 1860	ca. 1890	Amy “Emma” Moss	Census & baptismal record	No	No
Stanville	ca. 1861	1887	Julia Julien		29 Mar 1887	Y-License, etc.
Romain	ca. 1863	1887	Roselia Julien		15 Dec 1887	Y-License, etc.
Marcelite	ca. 1866–67	1890	Ozème DeBlanc aka Despanet		04 Nov 1890	Y-License, etc.
(Unions After Settling in New Orleans)						
Émile Isaac “Ike”	ca. 1866–67	ca. 1898	Ophelia Florence Louis aka Lewis	Cens & N.O. birth registr’n	No	No
Richard Grant	ca. 1875	ca. 1899	Bridget	Census	No	No
Celestine	ca. 1873	ca. 1902	Sosthène “Grant” Amos		No	Y-Death record
Stanville		1906	Rebecca Bibbs		No	Y-License, etc.
Zeno		1919	Antoinette Johnson		No	Y-License, etc.
Stanville		ca. 1920–30	Amelia Dishon		No	Y-Death record

CONCLUSION:

As they matured, in the community in which they grew up, all but one of Narcisse and Célèstine’s children conformed to community norms. They obtained a civil marriage license, and married legally in the church. **The sole exception is Zeno, for whom there is neither a civil nor a church record of a marriage to Amy. The absence of both records strong implies that Zeno and Amy simply cohabited.** After Amy’s death, Zeno married legally.

With the sole exception of Zeno and Amy, all other cohabitations (or alleged unions without a legal marriage record) occurred during the acculturation into New Orleans life.

Table 3
Analysis of Legitimacy Statements
on Pre-1910 Birth & Baptismal Records Presented As Evidence
in Case of *Hunt Oil vs. Clovis Julien et al.*

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG
26 February 2008

Note: For freeborn parents, Catholic baptismal records historically and customarily state whether the parents are legitimately married—whether in the church or by civil law. Modern “certificates” issued by the church, however, extract only selected pieces of data and, as a matter of policy omit all references to legitimacy and illegitimacy. Churches may or may not be willing to supply photocopies of the original register entries. Early civil registrations of New Orleans also state whether children are “lawful issue.” Litigants in this case have been able to obtain photocopies of 10 church registrations and 2 civil birth registrations for children born to Stanville, Zeno, and two of their brothers. From these, the following analysis has been made.

INDIVIDUAL	PARENTS	YEAR BORN	LEGITIMACY STATED?	DOCUMENT	PROOF OF PARENTAL MARRIAGE?
Arsène Sémère Simmons	Zeno & Amy	1889	No	Baptismal record	No record found for a church or civil marriage
Marie Valmonia Sémère	Stanville & Julia	1888	“fille légitime de Stanville et Julia”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Amélie Lovenia Sémère Simmons	Stanville & Julia	1890	“fille légitime de Stanville et Julia”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Joseph Valmont Sémère	Stanville & Julia	1892	“fils légitime de Stanville et Julia”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Frances Simmons	Stanville & Julia	c1895	“Lawful issue of Stanville & Julia”	Birth registration	Yes—Church marriage
Ida Simmons	Stanville & Julia	c1898	“Lawful issue of Stanville & Julia”	Birth registration	Yes—Church marriage
Cécilia Sémère	Romain & Rosélia	1888	“fille légitime de Romain et Rosélia”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Cécile Sémère	Romain & Rosélia	1890	“fille légitime de Romain et Rosélia”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Marie Sémère	Romain & Rosélia	1893	“fille légitime de Romain et Rosélia”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Pierre Sémère	Romain & Rosélia	1894	“fils de Romain et Rosélia, son epouse”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Leopold Sémère	Romain & Rosélia	1899	“fils de Romain et Rosélia, son epouse”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage
Arthur Sémère	Antoine & Armantine	1889	“fils légitimate de Antoine & Armantine”	Baptismal record	Yes—Church marriage

CONCLUSION:

All baptismal entries for children born to married parents in this family, for which it has been possible to obtain original records, contain the customary statement “legitimate child of ...,” with only one exception. The one child not said to be legitimate was Arsene, for whose parents no civil or church marriage record can be found.

Table 4
Analysis of Marital Statements
on All Death Records Presented As Evidence
in Case of *Hunt Oil vs. Clovis Julien et al.*

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG
26 February 2008

EXACT NAME ON DEATH CERTIFICATE	Other I.D.	DATE OF DEATH			MARITAL STATEMENT	INFORMANT	CORROBORATING EVIDENCE?
("OLD STYLE" NEW ORLEANS REGISTRATIONS)							
Mrs. Stanville Simmons	[Julia Julien]	22	Nov	1897	"Deceased was married"	Stanville named as husb.	1887 marriage record to Stanville
Narcisse Simmons		03	Jan	1901	"Deceased was married"	--	1869 marriage record to Celestine
Amy Simmons	[Mother of Arsene]	20	Mar	1910	[No statement that she was married. When left blank, the default state is "single."]	No reference to husband	
Grant Simmons		29	Mar	1913	[Single]		
Zeno S. Simmons		01	Dec	1926	"Deceased was married"	Likely his wife	1919 marriage record to Ant. Johnson
Celestine Amos	[dau. of Nat]	06	Feb	1930	"Deceased was married"	Neice Arsene	
("New Style" State-Level Registrations)							
Rebecca Simmons	[wife of Stanv.]	13	Oct	1911	"Married"	Gipson Williams	
Ike Simmons		07	Mar	1931	"Wid."	Francis Simmons [niece]	
Stanville Simmons		09	Dec	1933	"Widowed" from "Amelia Dishon"	Leonard James [son-in-law]	
Frances Odom	[dau. of Stanv.]	15	Oct	1963	"Widowed"		
Celestine Odom Patrick	[dau. of Frances]	30	May	1966	"Married"		1943 marriage record to Frank Patrick
Florence OdomCarter	[dau. of Frances]	22	Apr	1969	"Married"	Albert C. Carter Sr. [husb.]	1940 marriage record, Odom-Patrick
Arsene Julian		08	Nov	1980	"Widowed"	Clovis Julien [son]	
Lillie James Lawrence	[dau. of Lovenia]	27	Oct	1984	"Widowed"	Mabel Lawrence Thomas	
Leotha Williamson		29	Jun	1994	"Widowed"	Ms. Beverly Williamson	
Clovis Mitchell Julien Sr		09	Oct	2002	"Widowed"	Mrs. Helen J. LaSale	

CONCLUSION:

Among family members who are *alleged* to be married or widowed, the death certificate of Arsene's mother is the only one that does not state that she was married or widowed or identify a husband.

Table 5
Analysis of Delays & Legitimacies in Birth Registrations
City of New Orleans, 18 April 1900

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG
26 February 2008

Background: Birth registrations were not required in Louisiana at the time Stanville and Julia produced their last two children: Frances (born c.October 1895) and Ida (born c.July 1897). A Board of Health specifically for the City of New Orleans was created in 1898 (Louisiana Legislative Act 192), but registration still was not compulsory. For men of the day laboring class such as Stanville Simmons, who lived in Algiers, going downtown for legal business during office hours meant losing a day of work. Few had an incentive to do so.

	Number	Percent of Total
All registrations occurring same day that Stanville registered Frances and Ida	47	
Promptness of registration:		
Registrations occurring within		
1 month of birth	3	6.3%
1-3 months	7	14.9%
4-12 months	13	27.7%
1-2 years	11	23.4%
3-5 years (the time frame in which Stanville registered his children)	9	19.1%
5-12 years	4	8.4%
Legitimacy of children:		
Children specifically identified as		
"Of Lawful Birth" (including Frances and Ida)	43	91.6%
"Illegitimate" (children registered within 4 months to 12 years of birth)	4	8.4%

CONCLUSION:

Stanville's registration of his daughters fell within the norm observed by a significant number of fellow citizens. No significant correlation exists between the amount of lapsed time and the legitimacy of the children. Illegitimate children were registered as early as 4 months to as late as 12 years. Legitimate children were registered from 1 month to 6 years.

Table 6
SUMMARY*
Age Discrepancies in 1869–1920 Records of the
Sémère aka Simmons Family

*Summarized from TABLE 6-A

<p>Overall Reliance:</p> <p>No. of individuals analyzed 87</p> <p>No. of records citing an age or birth date 234</p>	<p>Agreement between Censuses & Baptism or Civil Birth Records:</p> <p>Persons for whom B or CB records exist (8 church, 33 civil) 41</p> <p>Instances in which censuses also exist (7 church, 17 civil) 24</p> <p>Instances in which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all censuses agree with birth/baptismal dates 2 • all censuses disagree with birth/baptismal dates 9 • some censuses agree, some disagree 8 <p>Cases in which all censuses agree with birth/baptismal records 8.5%</p> <p>Cases in which censuses disagree with birth/baptismal records 91.5%</p>								
<p>Persons with no record of age 2</p> <p>persons with 1 record of age 24</p> <p>Persons with multiple (2-10) records of age 61</p> <p>Persons for whom all records agree 11</p> <p>Persons for whom no records agree 19</p> <p>Persons for whom some records agree, some disagree 57</p> <p>Cases in which all records agree on age/birthdate 12.5%</p> <p>Cases in which records disagree on age/birthdate 87.5%</p>	<p>Reliability of Church & Civil Death Records:</p> <p>Persons for whom death records exist 4 church, 17 civil) 21</p> <p>Persons for whom both birth/baptism and death records exist 8</p> <p>Instances in which death record agrees with birth/baptism record 2</p> <p>Cases in which death records agree with birth/bapt. records 25.0%</p> <p>Cases in which death records disagree with birth/bapt. records 75.0%</p>								
<p>Reliability of Census Records:</p> <p>Persons for whom multiple censuses state ages 48</p> <p>Instances in which</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all censuses agree 5 • all censuses disagree 22 • some censuses agree, some disagree 21 <p>Cases in which censuses all agree on age/birthdate 10.0%</p> <p>Cases in which censuses disagree on age/birthdate 90.0%</p>	<p>Number of years by which records vary in reporting age or birthdate:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1 year or less 16 cases</td> <td style="width: 50%;">10–20 years 7 cases</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 years 7 cases</td> <td><i>Extraordinary situations:</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3–5 years 10 cases</td> <td>22 years 1 case</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5–10 years 6 cases</td> <td>34 years 1 case</td> </tr> </table>	1 year or less 16 cases	10–20 years 7 cases	2 years 7 cases	<i>Extraordinary situations:</i>	3–5 years 10 cases	22 years 1 case	5–10 years 6 cases	34 years 1 case
1 year or less 16 cases	10–20 years 7 cases								
2 years 7 cases	<i>Extraordinary situations:</i>								
3–5 years 10 cases	22 years 1 case								
5–10 years 6 cases	34 years 1 case								

CONCLUSION:

Discrepancies between reported ages and dates of birth are the norm, not the exception, for this family—as elsewhere, and especially among freed slaves. In the half-century following the Civil War, most freedmen were illiterate. French-speaking, Afro-Creoles also had difficulty communicating with English-speaking “American” census takers. They misunderstood questions; their answers were equally misunderstood. Researchers cannot apply 21st century expectations of record accuracy to this place, time, or people.

Table 6-A Age Discrepancies in 1869–1920 Records of the Sémère aka Simmons Families

Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG
26 February 2008

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...															
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES		
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Source	
Narcisse "Nat" Sémère Simmons					1819-20	1823-24	Jan 1810							1844		
• Célestine Robert / Johnson					1829-30	1835-36	Jan 1827	1839-40								
CHILDREN:																
Narcisse Sémère aka Simmons Jr				1851	1850-51					1840						.
Robert William Sémère				1853	1852-53											
Françoise Sémère, wife of Jean Field				1856	1854-55	1855-56	[dead]									
Antoine Sémère				1858	1856-57	1858-59	Jun 1855	1851-52	1859							
Zenon Sémère aka Zeno Simmons				1863	1858-59	1860-61	Jan 1860	1861-62	1856				1870			
Stanville Sémère aka Simmons				1861	1860-61	1863-64	Aug 1869	1853-54	1859	1861			1863?			
Romain Sémère				1863	1862-63	1869-70	Oct 1864									
Émile "Isaac /Ike" Sémère aka Simmons				1866	1864-65	1868-69	Feb 1867	1868-69		[dead]			1886	1866	Church burial record	
Marcelite Sémère, wife of Ozeme DeBlanc aka Despanet				1866	1866-67	1866-67	----- 1864	1868-69								
Adeline "Daniel" Sémère aka Simmons					1869-70	1870-71	[dead]									
Octave "Joshua" Sémère aka Simmons						1871-72	[dead]									
Célestine Sémère aka Simmons	22	May	1873			1872-73		1876-77	1880	[dead]			1886	1886	Church burial record	
Richard Grant Sémère aka Simmons	4	Mar	1875			1873-74	Feb 1875	1867-68	[dead]				1881			

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...														
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES	
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Source
Zenon "Zeno" Sémère aka Simmons				1863	1858-59	1861-62	Jan 1860	1861-62	1856	[dead]			1870		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy "Emma" Moss Antoinette Addison Johnson 						Jun 1872-73	Feb 1872	[dead]	1866			Jan 1873			
CHILDREN BY AMY:															
Arsene Simmons Julien	2	Aug	1891				Aug 1891	1891-92	1891	1901	2	Aug	1891		
Unidentified							d. bef. '00								

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...														
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES	
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Year	ID of Other Source
Stanville Sémère aka Simmons				1861	1860-61	1863-64	Aug 1869	1853-54	1859	1861			1863?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Julien Simmons • Rebecca Bibbs • Amelia Dishon 					1867-68	1870-71	[dead]	1859-60	[dead]	1866			1870-1 1853?		
CHILDREN BY JULIA:															
Marie Valmonia Sémère aka Simmons	16	Oct	1888				Mar 1894	[dead?]							
Amélie Lovenia Sémère aka Simmons	16	May	1890				Dec 1889 & "age 10"	1890-91	1892-93		8	May	1892		
Joseph Valmont Sémère aka Simmons	25	Feb	1892				[dead]								
Frances Simmons							Oct 1895	1891-92	1899	1899	09 15	Oct Oct	1900* 1896*	1896 1895 1895 1895 1899	Birth cert. for Frances Birth cert. for son Isiah Birth cert. " " Ernest Birth cert. " dau Julia Birth cert. " " Florence
Ida Simmons							Jun 1896						1897	Jul 1898	Birth cert. for Ida

* Frances's death certificate (info given by son Isiah), gives her birthdate as 9 October 1900.
A correction by the record office changes it to agree with her birth registration—i.e., 15 October 1896.

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...														
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES	
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Source
Antoine Sémère				1858	1856-57	1858-59	Jun 1855	1851-52	1859						
• Armantine Rabot(te)							Sep 1864	1869-70	1861						
CHILDREN:															
Antoine Sémère Jr.	4	Feb	1886				Jun 1886	Apr 1886-87							
Arthur Sémère	10	Apr	1889				Apr 1890	1889-90							
Alida Sémère	13	Sep	1891				Sep 1893	1891-92							
Émile Sémère	17	Sep	1893				Aug 1894	1893-94	1893						
Regina Sémère							May 1900	1899-1900	1889						
Antonia Sémère							[not born]	1896-97	1901						
Armantine								1900-01	1903						
Françoise Sémère								1902-03	1905						
Cécile Sémère								1904-05	1907						
Corine Sémère								1909-10	1909						
Célestine Sémère									1911						
Robert Sémère [called "son" but probably g-son]									1919						

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...															
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES		
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Source	
Marcelite Sémère				1866	1866-67	1866-67	-[?]- 1864	1864-65								
• Onésime "Ozeme" DeBlanc Aka Despanet							1860	1854-55								
CHILDREN:																
Frances "Frank" Despanet	28	Nov	1892				Nov 1892	1894-95								.
Jean A. Despanet	12	Jun	1894				Jun 1894	1895-96								
Laurence Rolaine Despanet (f)		May	1895				May 1895	1896-97								
Octave Despanet			1897				Mar 1897									
Marie Selesie Despanet	2	Jul	1898				Jul 1898	Ap 1897-98								
Bernadette								1903-04								

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...														
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES	
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Source
Narcisse Sémère aka Simmons, Jr.				1851	1850-51					1840					
• Céleste Louis										1874					
CHILDREN:															
Marie Rosalla Sémère	28	Dec	1881												
Anuntia Sémère	26	Aug	1883												
Henry Clay Sémère	11	Jun	1887												
Alexandre Clovis Sémère	28	Apr	1889												

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...														
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES	
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Source
Émile "Isaac / Ike" Sémère aka Simmons				1866	1864-65	1868-69	Feb 1867	1868-69	1866			1886	1866	Church burial	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ophelia "Florence" Louis Kate [surname unknown] 							May 1880		1884						
CHILDREN:															
Samuel Simmons							Jan 1899						11 Nov 1898	Civil birth record	

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...														
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES	
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Sources
Frances Simmons							Oct 1895	1891-92	1900	1900	09 15	Oct Oct	1900* 1896*	15 Oct 1896 1895 1895 1899	Civil birth record Do. for son Isiah Do. for son Ernest Do. for dau. Julia Do. for dau. Florence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eddie Williams Frank Odom 									1882	1884				1883 1885	Do. for dau. Julia Do. for dau. Florence
CHILDREN:															
Isiah Williams									1914	1914				28 Sep 1914	Civil birth record
Ernest Eddie Williams									1916	1916				12 Mar 1917	Civil birth record
Celestine Odom									1918	1919	29	Nov	1920		
Julia Odom										1920				2 Feb 1921	Civil birth record
Florence Odom										1922	23	Dec	1924	22 Dec 1923	Civil birth record

*Frances's son Isaiah, at her death, reported her birth date as 9 October 1900. The registrar's office corrected it to agree with the date on her birth registration, 16 October 1896.

Table 6-A: Age Discrepancies in Records of Sémère aka Simmons Family

NAME	BIRTH MONTH/YEAR ACCORDING TO ...															
	BAPTISMAL ENTRIES			PAR. Marr. Rec.	CENSUSES OF ...						DEATH CERTIFICATE			OTHER SOURCES		
					1 Jn '70	1 Jn '80	1 Jn '00	15 Ap '10	1 Ja '20	1 Ap '30				Birth Date	ID of Other Sources	
Amelie Lovenia Sémère aka Simmons	16	May	1890			Dec 1889	1890-91	1892				8	May	1892		
• Leonard James																
CHILDREN:																
Lily James												6	Dec	1916		.
Calvin James												5	Apr	1925		

