

St. Germain dit Brisard, Simon (1859-1941)

Simon was born in St. Norbert on May 17, 1859, son of Joseph St. Germain (b. 1820) and Annie McGillivray (c1825-1912), on 14 October 1878 he married Maria Rose Hamelin (c1855-1953), the daughter of Joseph Hamelin¹ and Joseph Hamelin.

They had at least ten children:

- Joseph Napoleon “Nap” St. Germain (1879-1958),
- Maxim “Max” St. Germain (1882-1964),
- Ernest “Ernie” St. Germain (1885-1951),
- Raoul “Ralph” St. Germain (1888-?),
- Marguerite Marie Ida Eliza St. Germain (1889-1982, wife of Arthur Mathew Carriere),
- Marie Lucie St. Germain (1891-?),
- Olivine Marie St. Germain (1896-1987, wife of George Eugene Deslauriers, later wife of John Williams),
- Simon Joachin Jules St. Germain (1893-?),
- T. McGillivry St. Germain (1900-?), and
- Solomon “Sam” St. Germain (1901-1977).

After their marriage, the couple took up residence in the RM of Ritchot where he was a Councillor (1894). Both he (1895-1907) and Rose (1908-1932) served as Postmasters of the Ritchot Post Office. The couple celebrated their 60th anniversary in the Glenwood School auditorium with a crowd of some 400 friends, residents, and dignitaries.

By 1901, the family had taken up residence off St. Mary’s Road on Lot 139 in the RM of St. Vital where he was the leading force in the establishment of the St. Germain School District, serving as School Board Chairman (1906-?). He was also a Councillor in the 1920s and early 1930s.

He was an Immigration Officer and was known as the “suitcase judge” on account of how the federal courts sent him to numerous places to preside over legal proceedings. He was a charter member, Secretary, and multi-year President (including 1907) of the Union Society of St. Joseph and the first Secretary (1887-?) of the Métis Society [Union Nationale de Métisse].

He died in St. Boniface on 25 May 1941 and was buried in the St. Norbert Cemetery. He and his wife were commemorated with the naming of Ritchot Post Office (opened on 1 April 1937) as the St. Germain Post Office, and St. Germain School in the Louis Riel School Division was named for him.

Well-known entertainer Ray St. Germain is a descendant of Simon St. Germain and Rose Hamelin.

¹ Scrip affidavit for Hamelin, Joseph; born: August 1833; father: Salomon Hamelin (Métis); mother: Elizabeth Vandal (Métis); claim no: 1825; scrip no: 10722; date of issue: 20 September 1876; amount: \$160

Scrip Records:

Scrip affidavit for St. Germain Jr., Joseph; born: 27 April 1846; father: Joseph St. Germain Sr. (Métis); mother: Annie McGillvry (Métis); claim no: 1936; scrip no: 10833; date of issue: 20 September 1876; amount: \$160.

Scrip affidavit for Hamelin, Rose; born: 2 November 1857; father: Joseph Hamelin; mother: Josephte Sayer.

Scrip affidavit for St. Germain, Joseph; concerning the claims of his children: Alexandre St. Germain, born: 1 January 1861; Simon St. Germain, born: 17 May 1859.

Reference: Manitoba Historical Society: “Simon St. Germain [Simon dit Brisard St. Germain] (1855 [sic]-1941).” http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/stgermain_s.shtml.



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