

I. We cannot be certain that Silas Zachariah Simon was the son of Valentine Simons and Annie (Nancy) Durbin because of a near absence of official records. William Jesse Durbin spoke of a Silas Simons in the family, and we must rely on family traditions and the names of children in the family in order to say he was a son, and the oldest child. We do feel certain, after years of research, without proof to carry Silas in this line.

Silas Zachariah, son of Valentine Simons and Annie (Nancy) Durbin, was married to Mary Sarah, daughter of Christopher Durbin, Jr. and Honor Logsdon, in Edmonson County, April 23, 1828. The marriage was performed by Thomas Butler, not a Catholic priest.

April the 10th 1828 Mr Dineson the
Honorable Clerk of Edmonson county Court
Good sir please to issue license for the Marriage
of my daughter Sally to Mr Silas Simon
and oblige your Me-obl servant

Christopher Durbin
As I do not know the law as regards issuing
License for Marriage but this I know that
Silas and Sally are both their own men
and women by some years; and you can
sustain no harm by issuing the License
yours Respectfully C Durbin

We the undersigned have every Moral certainty
that Silas Simon and Sister Sally are their own men
and women

Charles Durbin
Everist Durbin
Richard Durbin

In 1831, Silas paid taxes on 100 acres of land situated on Beaver Dam Creek. Beaver Dam Creek is just west of Brownsville, and empties into the Green River at that point. Silas continued to pay taxes on this land until 1835, when he paid taxes on 205 acres on Bear Creek. In 1836, the land was listed as being on Sunfish Creek, and it alternated between Bear Creek and Sunfish Creek until 1844. From 1844, his land was always listed on Sunfish Creek. We believe it was 1835, or near 1835, when St. John the Evangelist Parish was formed and Catholic families started settling Sunfish.

In Court Order Book #2, page 211:

"Joseph Logsdon made a motion to have Silas Simons, et al, determine the best way for a change in the road by his house."

In Court Order Book #1, page 223:

"Ordered that James Jones be appointed surveyer of that part of the Clover Road lying between Bear Creek and Honaker's Road, and that Charles Durbin, the widow Durbin's hand, John Durbin and hands Silas Simons and Robert Jones, and all persons that may hereafter live at any place which any of the hands now live at, do aid and assist said Jones in keeping said road in repair."

In Court Order Book #

"Silas Simons appointed surveyer of the road from Houchin's Ferry to Leitchfield, from the Grayson County Line to Lick Branch."

Silas Zachariah Simons was awarded three land grants, or land warrants, in Edmonson County, and they made up a large portion of his land holdings.

Survey Book "A", page 173

May 17, 1844, warrant #53

Fifty acres of land on the west side of Sunfish Creek. Witnesses were: Elijah Durbin, Christopher Durbin, John Goodman and Martin Durbin.

Survey Book "A", page 177

May 17, 1844, land warrant #53

Eighty-five acres of land on the west side of Sunfish Creek. Witnesses were: John C. Durbin, Christopher Durbin, John Goodman and Martin Durbin.

Survey Book "A", page 262

May 31, 1858, land warrant #235

Forty acres of land "which lie on a ridge on the West side of Sunfish Creek". Witnesses were: Woodford Meredith, William Robinson and Jackson Simon. (This last witness must have been Joachim, son of Silas Z. Simon.)

On the census of Edmonson County, 1850:

Silas Simon	46
Sarah	46
Joachim	19
Anastasia	17
Valentine	15
John	12
Silas A.	10
Sarah Ann	8
Christopher	6
Joseph	4
Martin J.	1

One other child, Mary H., was married before 1850.

The census of 1860 listed the name of Silas' wife as Mary. It wasn't until we found the following baptisms that we knew her name was Mary Sarah, or Sarah Mary.

From the records of Father August Degauquier at St. John the Baptist Parish, Rineyville:

May the 12th 1836 I baptised Silas Joseph, son of Silas Simon and Mary his wife, born last night. Sponsor: Mary J. Durbin.

April 9, 1838, I baptised John Elisha, son of Silas Simon and Sarah (baptised Mary) Durbin. Born March 4, 1838. St. Vincent, Union County.

April the 1st 1840 I baptised Silas Augustin, son of Silas Simon and Mary his wife. Sponsor: Mary Durbin.

May the 10th 1843, baptised by Rev. E. Durbin, Sarah Ann, daughter of Silas Simon and _____ his wife. Sponsor: Mary Durbin.

June the 27th 1844, I baptised Christopher Z., son of Silas Simon and Mary his wife. Sponsor: Rebecca Durbin.

September the 27, 1846, baptised by Rev. E. Durbin, Joseph Charles, son of Silas Simond and Sarah his wife.

April the 17 1849, I baptised Martin Spaulding, son of Silas Simon and Mary his wife.

We have not found baptismal records for the first children, but believe they were baptised by Fr. Elisha Durbin.

Silas Zachariah died prior to April, 1868, for his will was probated in the April term. The following is his will:

State of Kentucky, Edmonson County, this February 26th 1868.

I, Silas Simon, bequith to my wife and children. I will to my son Christopher Z. Simon all the land that I own West of a line beginning at the nearest point of a cliff above Mary H. Durbin's spring, thence in a strait line to the bend of Brunk Branch where the fence stands, leaving a pathway between Joachim Simon and Mary H. Durbin, for which Christopher Z. Simon has paid sixty four dollars, and the said Christopher Z. Simon is to pay Anastasia Logsdon fifteen dollars, to wit, five dollars in the year 1868, five dollars in the year 1869, and five dollars in the year 1870, and if she leaves here before the year 1869, the said C.Z. Simon is to pay her five dollars and no more, and a ?? of a passway between Christopher Z. Simon and Joachim Simon. I will to my wife, Mary Simon, all the ballance of my land her life time. I will to my wife, Mary Simon, one sorrell horse her lifetime. I will to my wife two safes, three bedsteads and one press, and my household furniture and kitchen furniture her lifetime. I reserve my sheep, hogs, and paltry for my wife, Mary Simon, to do as she pleases with. At the death of my wife, Mary Simon, I bequeath to my son Joseph C. Simon a tract of land lying North of the Brunk Branch and on both sides of Sunfish Creek. Beginning at the mouth of Brunk Branch running out of Mary H. Durbin's field, a corner to Joachim Simon, thence a strate line to Joachim Simon's old fence, thence with the fence to the well, back Branch, then down said branch to the mouth, crossing Sunfish Creek, thence with meanders of Sol Creek to the mouth of the Branch known as John Cockerill's Mill Branch, thence with the meanders of said Branch to a beach and sugar tree, thence a Southern source with a line to a beech near a small drain, thence down said drain to the fence, thence with the fence a Southern course to the Bend of Sunfish Creek, thence up said Creek with its meanders to the mouth of Brunk Branch to Christopher Z. Simon's corner. I will to my son Martin J. Simon a track of land beginning at a point of a cliff above Mary H. Durbin's spring, Christopher Z. Simon's corner, thence with his line to the Brunk Branch, thence down the Brunk with its several meanders, to the Sunfish Creek, thence with Joseph C. Simon's line down said Creek to the bend of said Creek, a corner in Jos. C. Simon's line, thence with Joseph C. Simon's line to a beech in the original line. Including all the ballance of my land that I now own to my son Martin J. Simon. I will my wife, Mary Simon, my oxen and wagon her life time, and at her death, I will my son Martin J. Simon and Joseph C. Simon, my oxen and wagon and two safes and two bedsteads. I also will all my farming utinsels. I will to my son Silas A. Simon one bedstead and one male cow, ?? the bedstead at the death of my wife Mary Simon, and the cow now. Given under my hand this 26th day of Feb. 1868.

his
Silas X Simon
mark

I, Silas Simon, make an addition to my will. I will my son Joachim Simon all the land that I own West of Joseph C. Simon's land, all North of Christopher Z. Simon's land, also I will my son Joachim Simon one hundred and twenty seven dollars that he owes me. My will is for my sons Martin J., and Joseph C., when they come in possession of their land, to pay Joachim Simon five dollars each, also to pay Sarah Ann Durbin five dollars apiece. I will to my son Martin J. Simon a yellow two year old filly, also a yearling heffer.

Given under my hand this Feb. 29th 1868.

his
Silas X Simon
mark

Witness:

John Cochriel

his
Ferrel X Willis
mark

It is apparent Silas was on his deathbed when this will was written. We have no idea where Brunk Branch or Cockerel's Mill is located. My father said he was born on a farm up Happy Holler where Gifford Lowe lived in the 1930's and 1940's. I assume this was the farm of Joachim Simon. The farmhouse was on the east side of the road, just over the hill from the Martin Richard Durbin farm. We have no idea where Silas Simon is buried, or for that matter where any of his sons are buried except Silas A., who has a military headstone and is buried in St. John's Cemetery.

Mary Sarah, wife of Silas Z., was not found on the census of Edmonson County, Grayson County, Butler County, or any other county near Sunfish in 1870. In the marriage records of St. Joseph we found where James Higdon was married to Mary Simon, in Sunfish, December 24, 1871, by Father Vandemergel. This could only have been the widow of Silas Zachariah Simon. We have not found anything on her since the marriage.