

## Joseph's Biography

### Joseph Jarvis (Amable Gervais)

[8 April 1831 – 31 May 1906]

Joseph Gervais was married to Delima Mongeon (Montjean). They had 12 children:

Marie Eugenie (Mary) Jarvis (Gervais) 1849 – 1910

Jemima (Jane) Jarvis (Gervais) 1852 – 1900

Noe (Louis) Jarvis (Gervais) 1854 – 1937

David Jarvis (Gervais) 1856 – 1922

Delia Jarvis (Gervais) 1858 – 1924

Francis (Francois) Jarvis (Gervais) 1860 – 1930

Henry Jarvis (Gervais) 1863 – 1922

Edmund Jarvis (Gervais) 1864 – 1930

Luc (Lucas) Jarvis (Gervais) 1867 – 1870

Emma Jarvis (Gervais) 1869 – 1936

James Jarvis (Gervais) 1870 – 1920

Benjamin Jarvis (Gervais) 1874 – 1935

The family lived in Chateaugay, New York beginning in the late 1850's.

Three records for Joseph have proved elusive to researchers: his dates of birth, death and the names of his parents.

The identity of Joseph's parents has confounded Gervais/Jarvis family researchers for years and has been a brick wall for me for the last 30 years. However, in the last 5 or 6 years, I have done extensive research on the Gervais/Jarvis families in Northern New York and am now convinced that he was born "Amable Gervais" son of Pierre Gervais and Therese Simard. Although all of the evidence is circumstantial (his birth, marriage and death records have never been located), the connections to Pierre and Therese prove, in my opinion, that he was their son.

While Joseph's birth record has not been found, I was always confident that he was born sometime from the late 1820's to the early 1830's. I have found him in 4 US Census enumerations (1860, 70 and 80 in the Town of Chateaugay and 1900 in the Town of Clinton):

In 1860 he was listed as 31, making his DOB about 1829

In 1870 he was listed as 42, making his DOB about 1828

In 1880 he was listed as 50, making his DOB about 1830

In 1900 he was listed as 74, making his DOB about 1826

It was not uncommon during those times for actual dates of birth to be represented in a variety or range of times, especially in view of the fact that Joseph could neither read nor write according to the census information.

## His Parents

After all the research I have done, I find myself in agreement with some of our family's other historians who feel that this Joseph is most likely "Amable Gervais", son of Pierre Gervais and Therese Simard. Amable's recorded DOB is 8 April 1831 according to the Drouin database. That is within the range of dates listed for this Joseph. Also, there are so many connections among the members of Pierre and Therese's family with this Joseph and his family, that the circumstantial evidence becomes very convincing. I am currently writing a chapter of my family history about the Gervais and Mongeon families. In that summary, I will lay out the examples and connections that have led me to believe that this Joseph is, indeed, Amable.

For instance, Joseph Gervais (the son of Pierre and Therese who is documented by that name) had 2 daughters who both went by the name "Effie". So, I don't think it out of the question that Amable could have chosen to go by "Joseph", the same name as his older brother.

I have included information about Pierre and Therese's family within my family tree, and have connected my Joseph to them. Prior to this, I had always listed him with no known parents. Without definitive proof and no birth, marriage or death records for him, I had hesitated in making the connection to Pierre and Therese in my tree but have finally decided to do so. Therefore, you will see this both "Joseph" (my gggrandfather) [originally listed as Amable] and the "Joseph" who was baptized with that name and who married Maria Hudgens both included as sons of Pierre and Therese in this tree.

Amable was always listed with a birth date of 8 April 1831 and a birthplace of Chateaugay, Quebec in the Drouin database. As noted above, my Joseph's birth date could easily have been that, given the range of birth years that appear in the US Census data.

Pierre and Therese Simard Gervais had 12 children:

Pierre Gervais 1813 –

Theophile Gervais 1815 –

Hubert Gervais 1816 –

Antoine Gervais 1820 – 1890

Francois Gervais 1821 – 1883

Edouard Gervais 1822 – 1864

Celestin Gervais 1824 –

Marie "Aglae" Gervais 1825 – 1903

Joseph Gervais 1826 – 1909

Joseph (Amable) Jarvis (Gervais) 1831 – 1906

Salomee Gervais 1831 – 1860

Other researchers have listed him, variously, as the son of Etienne Gervais and Marie Ann Amyiot or of another Pierre Gervais and Felicite Dupre. I have never found documentation proving a connection to either and have found very few, if any, circumstantial connections with the families of these two couples.

In addition, I recently had a DNA analysis completed by Ancestry.com. It showed me to be a descendent of Mathieu “Le Parisien” Gervais (1646-1728), a soldier in the Grandfontaine Company of the Carignan Regiment who arrived in Quebec on 18 August 1655 as a 19 year old.

Pierre Gervais (husband of Therese Simard) and Etienne Gervais (husband of Marie Ann Amiot or Amyiot) were both grandsons of Jean Baptiste Gervais (1723-1818) and great grandsons of “Le Parisien”. The other Pierre Gervais (husband of Felicity Dupre) was not a descendant of “Le Parisien”.

Based on that analysis, Joseph can not be the son of Pierre and Felicity. He is the son of either Etienne or the Pierre who married Therese Simard. In all of the records I have checked in Chateaugay and surrounding area, only one reference is made to Etienne while dozens of interconnected references are made to the family of Pierre and Therese.

Joseph and his wife, Adelina, Delima or Jemima Montjean keep appearing over and over in situations (baptisms, marriages, residences, etc.) with the other children of Pierre and Therese. There are an unusually large number of connections that have turned up as I done research; too many to be just coincidence, in my opinion.

## His Death

By the time of the **1900** Federal Census (data recorded 9 June 1900) Joseph (listed as “Joseph Garvis” on the Ancestry.com transcription of the census, although I think it looks like “Jarvis”) was living with his daughter Delia and her family in the Town of Clinton (locally referred to as Churubusco). The Town of Clinton’s population stood at 1574 according to the Census.

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Delia and her husband, Albert Gokey (originally Gauthier), owned their own farm. Delia and Albert had three children, all living with them, Addie age 22, Edward 20, and Frank 16. The two sons presumably worked the farm with their father.

According to the local newspaper, the “*Chateaugay Record*”, Joseph died at age 74, on 9 June 1900 in the Town of Clinton. His death was noted in a short listing. A complete obituary was never published in the paper. By coincidence, this is the same day the Federal Census was recorded for the Gokey household. His death record has not yet been found in the Town of Clinton. It appears that the records for 1900 were destroyed in a fire.

Recently, I have found some conflicting information regarding Joseph’s death:

Information in the records of St. Philomena's Church, which is now known as Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Churubusco (a hamlet in the Town of Clinton); his daughter, Delia Gokey (Gauthier), paid \$2.00 for his grave and burial, and states that he died May 31, 1906. His remains were buried in the Old Cemetery in Churubusco. Facing the Church, the Old Cemetery is on the right. There are only a few stones left in the Old Cemetery but there is none for him. The actual death record was destroyed in a church fire. The above information comes from the St. Philomena’s Cemetery and Burial Records.

I will again contact the Town Clerk and have the Town of Clinton records for 1906 checked but I am now assuming his death took place in 1906 as the burial records specifically mention his daughter, place of burial and a specific date.

Conclusions

Until documentation is found to prove he is **not** the son of Pierre and Therese, I'll make the connection in my family tree, assuming that he **is**.


I believe he was born Amable Gervais, son of Pierre and Therese Simard Gervais on 8 April 1831 in Chateauguay, Quebec. He married Adelina (Delima or Jemima) Mongeon (Montjean) before 1849. He was about 18 or 19, she 15 or 16. He was widowed when Delima died in Chateaugay, NY 29 July 1881 at the age of 48. Joseph died at the home of his daughter, Delia, on 31 May 1906 in Churubusco, New York at the age of 75 years.


In my family tree, I have changed his name from "Joseph Jarvis (Gervais)" to "Joseph (Amable) Jarvis (Gervais)" and have changed Pierre and Therese's son's name from "Amable Gervais" to "Joseph (Amable) Gervais" as well.

I will soon be adding all of the documented connections between Joseph and Adelina and the families of Pierre and Therese’s other children to this biography that helped lead me to these conclusions.

Michael J. Jarvis

(16 November 2012)

 **MickJarvis** originally shared this

 16 Nov 2012  story

In other family trees

Tondorf

 ntondorf

Hall Family Tree

 nurse4468

Lebeau Family Tree

 norm1341