

The Pierrottie and Martel Marriages

By Murphy Miller, March 8, 2020

Charles Darwin and his wife Emma were first cousins. A cousin marriage is a [marriage](#) where the partners are [cousins](#) (i.e. people with common grandparents or people who share other fairly recent ancestors). The practice was common in earlier times, and continues to be common in some societies today, though in some jurisdictions such marriages are prohibited. Worldwide, more than 10% of marriages are between first or second cousins. (1)



Constantino "August Constant"
Pierotti
(Frances Pierrottie photo)

Accordingly, it is not uncommon to find cousin marriages in Southwest Louisiana. Moreover, the lack of mobility until the mid-20th century facilitated intermarriages as people lived in the same geographic area from birth to death when the U.S. was predominately an agrarian society. Parents frequently made room for a child by gifting property to farm. First cousins lived near each other.

Many people in southwest Louisiana are familiar with the Pierrottie families that began with Constantino Pierotti (1832-1892), also known as August Constant Pierotti. He was from Italy and emigrated to America in hopes of earning enough money to return to Italy, perhaps to bring back loved ones so they too could escape the poor economy in Northern Italy. His plan to settle in the ante-bellum South fell apart upon his 1855 arrival and later when he was drafted into serve in the Civil War.



Stephanie "Fanny" Martel
(Larry Hollier photo)

Thirteen months following the end of the American Civil War between the states, in May 1866, Constantino married Stephanie "Fanny" Martel (1848-1936). Stephanie is the daughter of Etienne Eugene Martel and Louise Mathilde Boutte. She is one of eleven children born to this couple. Her younger brother, Stephane Martel (1852-1934), married Ann Elizabeth Moore in 1877. Stephane and Ann had six children, Etienne (1885-1970)



Etienne & Theogene Martel, Circa
1888 (Murphy Miller photo)

and Theogene Martel (1885-1962), twins, were the third and fourth born to the couple.



Rosenia Pierotti
Renee Martel photo

Theogene Martel married his first cousin Rosenia Pierotti, the daughter of Constantino Pierotti and Stephanie Martel, in 1910. This marriage had three children; Blanche (1911-1991), Louis Thomas Martel (1916-1989) and Aubry Theo Martel (1924-1988). Their common ancestry is their grandparents, Etienne Eugene Martel and Louise Mathilde Boutte.



Theogene Martel
Renee Martel photo

Theogene and Rosenia are also 3rd cousins via the Chachere/Vauchere family lines. Their common ancestry is their great great-grandparents Louis Dominique Chachere (1760-1827) and Catherine Vauchere (1764-1825). The charts below better illustrate this marital union relationship.

The third union of the Pierotti family line and the Martel family line marrying are Gervis Paul Martel (1912-1994) and Mary Lillian Naquin (1923-1992). Gervis is the son of Etienne (1885-1970), twin of Theogene, and his wife Clementine Savoy (1889-1935). My mother, Mary L. Naquin (1923-1992), is the daughter of Olan Naquin (1904-1940) and Bernice Pierrottie (1904-1977), she, the granddaughter of Constantino and Stephanie Martel.

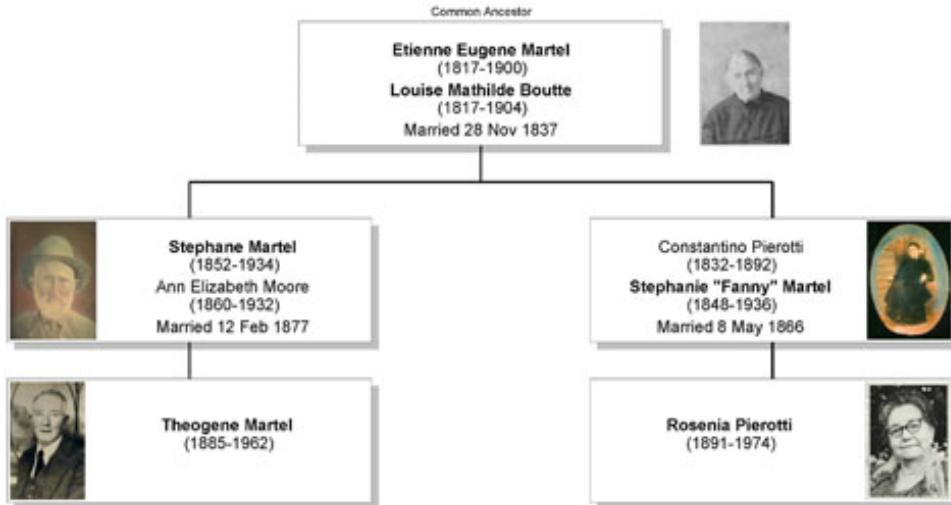


Gervis P. Martel Weds Mary Lillian
Naquin, 1948,
Murphy Miller photo

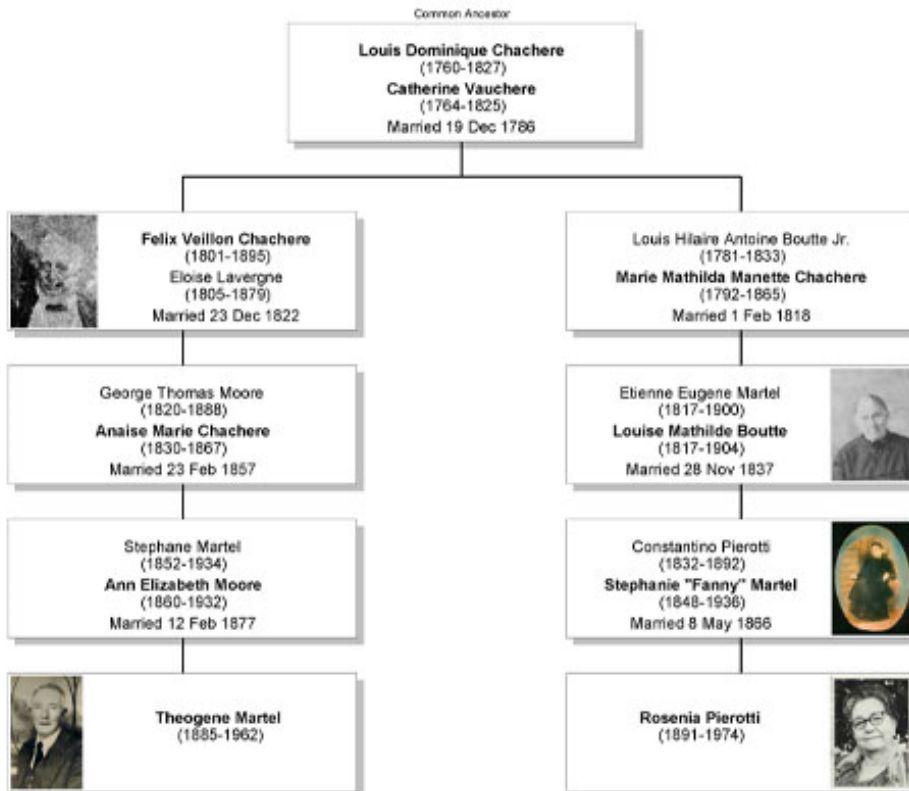
Gervis first married Ellenor Fontenot in 1931. She died in 1937. Gervis married Mary L. in 1948. Gervis "Slim" Martel was a master carpenter. He was employed as a Installation Superintendent and travel to the job to install store fixtures in stores like Macy's. In 1959, when he was 47 years old when he allowed me to live in his home with him, my mother and half-siblings. Both he, my mother and the entire Brandon community make a man out of a confused teenager. He was not perfect, but he gave me the break I needed at the right time in my life. For that kindness, I am grateful.

Relationship Chart

Rosenia Pierotti is the 1st cousin of Theogene Martel

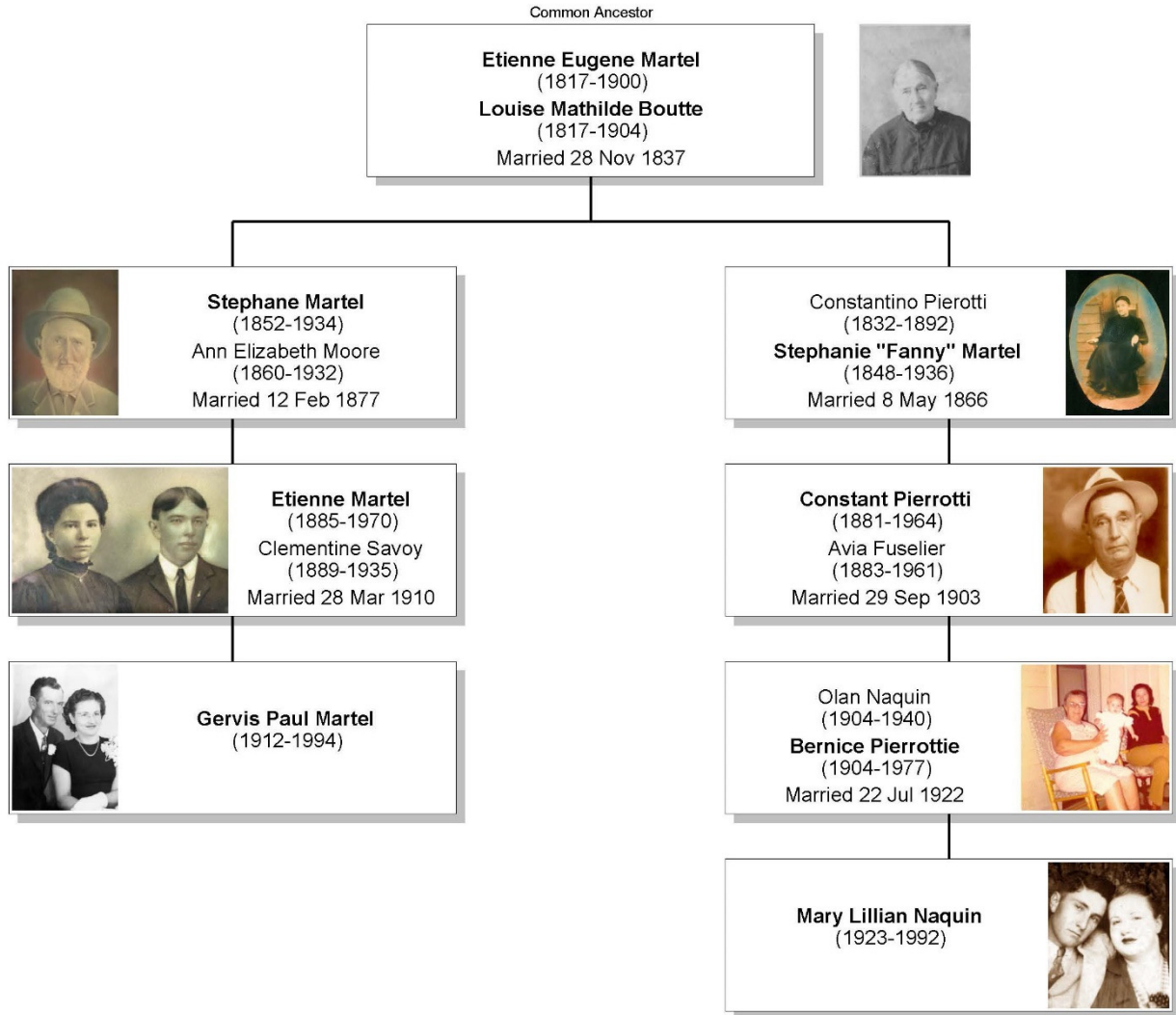


Rosenia Pierotti is the 3rd cousin of Theogene Martel



Relationship Chart

Mary Lillian Naquin is the 2nd cousin once removed * of Gervis Paul Martel



(1) Wikipedia

www.FamilyAtLouisiana.com for more details.