

Simon Jude Chancognie Biography

- ❖ Born c. 1769 most likely in Dordogne, France.
- ❖ In September 1801, Simon Jude was appointed to the French Commissary General's Office in Charleston, SC by the French Commercial Charge d' Affaires Louis Andre Pichon. He was also recognized as an agent in North Carolina by Governor & Commander-in-Chief Benjamin Williams.
- ❖ In 1801, a reception in welcoming Simon Jude to Charleston was discussed between Governor John Drayton & President Jefferson.
- ❖ Louis Andre Pichon was instrumental in aiding the organizing of the Louisiana Purchase between the U.S. & France in 1801-1803, which Simon Jude assisted him in an undisclosed manner. Mr. Pichon was close with President Thomas Jefferson and Secretary of State James Madison, and aided the diplomats sent to France to arrange the purchase, as France was about to go to war with England, and needed funds.
- ❖ In 1802, Simon Jude wrote to Governor John Drayton about the incident of the "incendiary negroes" landing at Charleston, relaying that "my government or agents do not intend any unfriendly act toward this government, such as the illegal act of landing negroes". Governor Drayton then relayed this letter to President Jefferson in Washington.
- ❖ In 1803, Simon Jude married Marie Susannah Delaire, the daughter of James Delaire, a merchant from Saint Domingo. Mr. Delaire was a known Jacobin in Charleston, and was publicly critical of the French Government's handling of its colonies, especially at Cap-Francois where he and Marie Susannah lived before coming to Charleston just prior to the Haitian Revolution.
- ❖ Also in 1803, Simon Jude is still listed as a Commercial Agent of the French Republic at 5 Charles Street.
- ❖ In 1805 Simon Jude purchased 13 Laurens St. (aka 48).
- ❖ In 1806, Simon Jude was naturalized as a citizen of the U.S., while also retaining his French citizenship.
- ❖ 1806, Simon Jude started his merchant business at 7 North Pitt Street in Charleston. He continued working as a French Commercial Agent during this time.

- ❖ By 1809, in addition to his merchant business, Simon Jude added a counting house service to his repertoire.
- ❖ In 1809, he was promoted and named French Consul to Charleston. His office was located at 15 Laurens Street.
- ❖ Simon Jude purchased the Alexander Street house in 1811.
- ❖ A French legal proceeding was started against Simon Jude in 1814 in Dordogne, although it was not adjudicated until 1817. This is speculated to be the reason why Simon Jude had to leave the U.S. and return to France permanently. It was concerning his work as French Consul, but the record was not entirely discernable as it was in French, not English.
- ❖ An advertisement on April 28, 1815 in “The City Gazette & Daily Advertiser” states that Simon Jude must leave the country.
- ❖ By 1816, Simon Jude was no longer a French Agent. It is unclear why he lost his post, but it is speculated that it was due to the pending legal proceedings back in France against him.
- ❖ In early 1816, Simon Jude entered into a co-partnership with unknown parties as “S.J. Chancognie & Co” at no. 7 Fitzsimmons Wharf. Simon Jude had his merchant business just prior at no. 5 Fitzsimmons Wharf.
- ❖ Also starting in March 1816, it is possible that Simon Jude co-partnered with William Smith and Eugene Jarrossay, as advertisements in the “Mercantile Advertiser” newspaper mention both these names in connection with Simon Jude at no. 7 Fitzsimmons Wharf. There is no record definitively confirming this, though.
- ❖ In 1817, Simon Jude was issued a U.S. Passport. He is described as being 5 feet 8 inches tall, with dark hair, dark eyes and dark complexion. Aged 48 years.
- ❖ Between 1817-1819, Simon Jude proceeded to close his business, sell his properties, and leave the U.S. permanently.
- ❖ The only subsequent information we found that shows Simon Jude probably returned to France was a record of a donation to 2 hospices in France, one in Charente-Les, the other in Dordogne. Each donation was for 1,500 Francs. They were made in 1840 and were made by S.J. Chancognie. Coincidentally, the court case that was made against Simon Jude was filed and adjudicated in Dordogne.