

AARON COOK COLLINS.

THIRD child of Daniel Collins and Lois Cornwall. He married Love Lee.
Their children:

Elizabeth—Married Frederick Boughton, of Pittsford, New York.

Lafayette—Born January 24, 1796, at Guilford, Connecticut. Married Elizabeth Hayden, of Waterbury, Connecticut.

Love Lee—Married T. Buell, of East Bloomfield, New York.

Frederick W.—Married Olivia Chapin.

Sarah—Married Barney Sprague, of Rochester, New York.

William Augustus—Married Emily Bowers, of Cooperstown, New York.

Simri Collins and his brother, Lafayette, were educated for the legal profession. They went from Ontario County, New York, at an early day, to St. Louis. Simri became associated with Pierre Choteau in the fur trade. His brother opened a law office. Simri established a trading post among the Osage Indians. His journeyings took him along the Platte River to the Rocky Mountains. He dealt with the Kickapoos, Sioux and Mandans. He adapted himself to their mode of life; became skillful with the bow and arrow. He was chosen a chief. He experienced many hardships. On one of his journeys he was attacked by a violent fever, and without food or water laid down to die; in his last extremity a wandering trapper found him and nursed him back to health.

He was at the head of a delegation of Osages who rowed down the Missouri River to St. Charles, dressed Indian style, with feathers and blankets. The treaty was negotiated through an interpreter; he did not disclose the fact that he understood the English language, and enjoyed the remarks of the frontier people who indulged in complete freedom of expression, as they assumed they were not understood by their savage visitors.

After living with the Indians eight years, he returned to East Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York. He afterwards went to California, where Lafayette and his two sons had settled. Remaining there two years, he returned and opened a law office in Rochester. In 1869 he sought health and a mild climate, buying a plantation in Louisiana, where he died of consumption, in 1876. He married Emily Parmelee, in 1841. His widow lives in Hartford, Connecticut.