

Paul Andrews  
One Danforth Place  
Durham, North Carolina  
27712 USA  
pwams2001@yahoo.com  
home: +1-919-477-1135  
office: +1-919-653-7051

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## **THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT DIE**

**Count Saint-Germain**

by Paul Andrews

## **FOREWORD**

I must state first off that I am not a Theosophist, nor am I a member of, or affiliated with, any of the various religious organizations that include Count Saint-Germain amongst their Ascended Masters. I am not a psychic who channels the Count, nor an expert on alchemy or the occult. I am simply a student of history with a fascination in the exploits of Saint-Germain. I have spent the better part of a decade researching and writing about the Count. My goal was not to favor any single theory about him, for there are many, but to present a clear retelling of his life and adventures with a non-biased, modern perspective. Since taking on this task, however, it has proven to be more of a challenge than I thought. For investigating the enigmatic Count is like trying to catch fog or learn from an echo. Perhaps that is why he remains to this day, centuries after his career, a man of profound mystery.

**TIMELINE OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**

1698 – 1702 Possible years of Count Saint-Germain's birth in Europe

1701 - 1714, War of the Spanish Succession – pitted France & Spain against England & Austria, begins upon the death of Spain's King Charles II

1706 Benjamin Franklin is born in Boston, Massachusetts

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1711 Hungarian Prince Rakoczi exiled to the Ottoman Empire after his rebellion fails

1715 Louis XIV, the Sun King of France, dies. First Scottish/Jacobite Rebellion fails

1719 Daniel Defoe publishes the first English novel, The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe

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1725 First reported sighting of Count Saint-Germain in Venice. Russian Tzar Peter the Great dies

1726 Johann Sebastian Bach performs the Brandenburg Concertos for the first time

1727 King George I dies - George II made king of England

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1733 - 1736, War of the Polish Succession – pitted France & Spain against Austria & Prussia, begins upon the death of King Augustus II of Poland

1737 The last Medici, Gian Gastone, dies in Florence, Tuscany. Count Saint-Germain seen in the Persian Empire with Nadir Shah

1739 Persia's Nadir Shah conquers the Mughal Empire at Delhi, India

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1740 - 1748, War of the Austrian Succession – pitted Prussia & France against Austria & England, begins upon the death of Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI

1743 George Frederic Handel's Messiah performed in London for the first time. An opera by Count Saint-Germain is presented at London's Haymarket Theater

1745 Prince Charles Stuart's Scottish Rebellion defeated at Culloden Moor. Count Saint-Germain arrested as a Jacobite spy in London

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- 1755 - The Black Hole of Calcutta atrocity occurs. Count Saint-Germain seen in India with General Robert Clive of the East India Company
- 1758 The French philosopher Voltaire publishes his most famous work Candide
- 1760 Count Saint-Germain attempts to negotiate a peace treaty to end the Seven Years War
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- 1760 British King George II dies - grandson George III coronated
- 1762 Count Saint-Germain in St. Petersburg during the coup that puts Catherine the Great on the Russian throne. Six year old Wolfgang Mozart tours Europe
- 1769 Napoleon Bonaparte is born in Corsica. James Watt patents the first rotary motion steam engine
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- 1774 Louis XV dies of smallpox – grandson Louis XVI take the French throne
- 1775 American War for Independence begins at Lexington and Concord.
- 1776 Ambassador Benjamin Franklin arrives in Paris. Adam Weishaupt founds the Illuminati in Bavaria
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- 1783 The Montgolfier brothers launch the first hot air balloon in France
- 1784 Count Saint-Germain's supposed death in Schleswig-Holstein
- 1789 Count Saint-Germain seen in Paris during the French Revolution. George Washington elected 1st U.S. president
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- 1793 Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette guillotined in Paris. French reign of terror begins, led by Maximilien Robespierre
- 1796 Physician Edward Jenner attempts smallpox vaccination in England
- 1799 French Consulate establishes General Napoleon Bonaparte as First Consul

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## Chapter 1

### THE DEATHLESS ONE

“He is the man who never dies and knows everything”

-Voltaire

They called him “The Deathless One”, “der Wundermann” and “The Man Who Could Not Die.” Those who knew him over the span of the 18<sup>th</sup> century swore he never aged. He had the same appearance near the start of the 1700’s as he did near its end, over eighty years later. The Count of Saint-Germain was always described as a handsome gentleman around 40 years of age, of medium height and athletic build. But those are the only ordinary things about this extraordinary man. Women remarked that he possessed ‘a rare perfection of form’ and ‘soft, penetrating eyes.’ Men commented on his ‘intellectual countenance’ and ‘princely liberality.’ He had black hair, a dimpled chin, and a striking face, often bearing a whimsical expression. He was always richly, yet tastefully dressed, accenting his wardrobe with an assortment diamonds and precious of gems. We hear of him all across Europe, performing alchemy for Louis XV at

Chambord, spying for Prince Charles in London, or plotting coups with Catherine the Great in St. Petersburg. In between, he vanishes from sight, sometimes for a decade or more, leaving only mystery behind.

The Count is not fiction; he is a true historical adventurer with daring exploits that spanned the globe. Official records on the Count are suspiciously thin however. What is unknown about him far outweighs the known. His escapades are documented primarily in the letters and memoirs of his 18th century contemporaries. Through those rare accounts, the veil of mystery surrounding the Count is raised and we are allowed to witness the enigmatic Saint-Germain. The Count would not divulge his true name and used other titles when it suited him. There is only speculation as to his true lineage, the source of his considerable wealth, the timing of his supposed death, as well as numerous sightings thereafter. Estimates of his age at the time ranged from a hundred to over a thousand years old.

The Count's amazing skills attracted as much attention as his suspected immortality. People hailed him as a gifted musician, a trusted spy, a learned alchemist and a confidant of kings. He could speak over dozen languages with such skill people thought him a native, no matter where he traveled. And travel he did, from the gilded halls of Versailles to the exotic capitals of Persia and India. A skilled raconteur with a prodigious memory, Saint-Germain regaled his listeners with stories from prior centuries. He spun tales with such exquisite detail he made the listeners believe he had been present in the flesh. He would often slip into the first person, then back to narrator, leaving his listeners to wonder if he'd witnessed the events himself. Needless to say, many believed he was hundreds of years old and possessed the secret of eternal youth. Though never

affirming these beliefs, he was sly and evasive in denying them.

As for his other abilities, the Count was also an accomplished composer. He played several musical instruments ‘like an orchestra,’ including the violin and harpsichord. While in London, Saint-Germain presented a pasticcio opera and published several of his pieces. His chemistry skills were known far and wide as he offered ladies beautifying cosmetics for the skin and pomades for their hair. For the Russian Navy he developed a purge tea, for the Venetians he started a factory to dye fabrics, skins and wood. Bordering on the uncanny, he entertained royals by writing with both hands simultaneously, composing different verses with identical handwriting. Unlike his rival Casanova, the Count’s dealings with the ladies were far more discrete. Saint-Germain never married, but is reported to have had love affairs with several women from the courts of Louis XV and XVI. Later chapters will explore the Count’s romances and lovers in more detail.

Saint-Germain was a central member of several secret lodges in Europe and elsewhere. He was whispered to be a member of the Illuminati, the Knights Templar and perhaps the most secret society of all, the Rosicrucians [Brotherhood of the Rose and the Cross]. Rumors abounded he possessed the philosopher’s stone, as well as the ability to fuse gems, cleanse diamonds, and enlarge pearls. In typical fashion, he neither confirmed nor denied such fantastic statements. His detractors called him a rake or a charlatan. To his credit, they were never able to prove Saint-Germain a rogue. He offered his services to many kingdoms, but asked for nothing in return. Though at times vague and wily, he never swindled any of his patrons. Today we would label such a man eccentric, but in the Count’s day, his intellect and talents made him a true Renaissance man.



Even his death remains a riddle. His reported demise was between 1782 and 1784 in Schleswig Holstein [southern Denmark]. He was staying with the Landgrave of Hesse-Kassel, but his patron was not present at his burial. Sightings of the Count continued for decades afterward. He was spotted at a Freemason Convention in Germany the following year, in a Paris prison during the French revolution, and supposedly tried to warn Marie Antoinette of the coming terror in France.

To complicate matters, witnesses later sighted the Count in Paris during the Napoleonic era, when he would have been over 100 years old. This was at a time when the average life expectancy was a mere 60 years. Some claim he appeared to them decades later, in the late 1800's and early 1900's. How could this be? Perhaps he was a clever charlatan who used a lucky youthful appearance to fool the gullible. Or maybe he was a freak of nature who lived to be well over 200. Was he perhaps a master or servant of a greater power? When Madame Pompadour questioned him about the rumors of his advanced age, he neither confirmed nor denied, replying with a sly grin:

‘These foolish Parisians declare that I am 500 years old and I allow them to believe the idea since it pleases them. I amuse myself, not by making people believe, but by letting them believe, that I have lived from time immemorial.’<sup>1</sup>

### **Many Theories ...**

So who was this profound man of mystery? The answer lies in which source you trust. He used a French title but was not French. To confuse matters more, the Count used other names to remain temporarily incognito. This should not cast undo suspicion on him as many aristocrats traveled under an alias to avoid unwanted attention. Some organizations today believe him to be Cartaphilus - the legendary Wandering Jew, or

Merlin the Magician, or Nicolas Flamel, or Sir Francis Bacon. Or if you prefer, all the above, an immortal ‘Ascended Master’ who was born in the days of the Egyptian pyramids and now lives on in another plane. Hosts of other wilder theories exist. Is he the reincarnation of the above men? The last surviving Atlantean? A fallen earth-bound angel? A time traveler from the distant future? A visitor from another galaxy? Or (not surprisingly) an immortal vampire? Modern science has begun to determine the genetic causes of aging. Perhaps the Count had a simple gene alteration that somehow increased his longevity.

Of all the varied theories on his lineage, two are the most plausible. Saint-Germain may have been the son of the widowed Queen Maria of Spain. Or, he could be the son of the Hungarian Prince Ferenc Rakoczi. Both hypotheses would put his birth near the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Either theory explains his wealth and aristocratic bearing. Evidence exists to support either one and later chapters will explore them. How or why he became the ageless, enigmatic Count Saint-Germain is a mystery. Why the Count concealed his true identity is also unknown. Perhaps it was to hide his lineage from the enemies of his royal parents.

### **An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Perspective**

In order to comprehend the Count best, one must hear the opinions of his contemporaries. The following account, published in the Brussels Gazette, is typical of the thoughts surrounding the Count at the time. The editor wrote it in 1760, at the height of the Count’s notoriety in Europe.<sup>1</sup>

‘Count Saint-Germain speaks German, French and Italian and expresses himself well in English. He has a smattering of all the arts and sciences, is a good

chymist (sic), a virtuoso in music and a very agreeable companion. Whatever may have been the business of a certain foreigner here ... there is something in his most unintelligible history that is very entertaining, which bounds nearly on the marvelous. The high title he assumes is not the right of lineage or the gift of Royal favour. What his real name is, is perhaps one of those mysteries which, at his death, will surprise the world. He has supported himself always at considerable expense and in perfect independence, without any visible or known way of living. He does not play, nor is there a person in the world who can say, he has enriched himself at their expense.'

The article goes on to list some of Saint-Germain's adventures known at the time.

'The country of this stranger is as perfectly unknown as his name. He is a connoisseur in gems, antiques, and metals. In France he was a fop, in Germany a chymist. With regard to music, he not only played but composed and both in high taste. From Austria he carried into France the reputation of a high and sovereign alchymist, one who possessed the secret powder and in consequences, the universal medicine. The whispers ran this stranger could make gold. He was watched for two years and while he was thus watched, he lived as usual, paid for everything in ready money and yet no remittance came in the kingdom for him. He was understood to possess the grand secret of a remedy for the infirmities in which time triumphs over the human fabric.'

One can see why Europe buzzed with stories of the enigmatic Count. Then, as today, people are drawn to a genuine mystery.

### **The Clues History Reveals**

We know the Count played significant behind-the-scenes roles in many pivotal events of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Just a short list includes the Persian invasion of India, Bonnie Prince Charles' doomed Scottish Rebellion, the Seven Years (aka French & Indian) War, and the coup d'etat that put Catherine the Great on the Russian throne. But what were his motives in doing so? If he was independently wealthy, it was surely not for money. For his trouble he was arrested as a spy in London and nearly thrown in the Bastille in France. One of his lovers said he prophesized the French Revolution to Marie Antoinette, but he may also have played a role in its instigation! He crossed the globe, not once but twice, to visit the Himalayas. Why take such risks? To use a cliché, the plot thickens the deeper one delves into the life of Count Saint-Germain. Later chapters will explore these adventures, and many others, in greater detail.

Regardless whether you conclude he was factual or fraud, you will agree he was an intelligent, well-studied, versatile man far ahead of his time. He intrigues because he blended qualities that appear contradictory - chemist and composer, diplomat and spy. What type of destiny drives such a man? What would you do with eternity? The closest we have to such a man in modern times would be a figure like Harry Houdini or Howard Hughes.

The trail of the Count does not end in the past. Several modern-day religious organizations consider Saint-Germain one of their 'Ascended Masters,' existing on in another plane. They claim he speaks to their members via chosen psychics who channel the Count. Is Saint-Germain perhaps still alive today? Maybe he continues to work behind-the-scenes to guide the world and shape our current history. It is certainly a comforting thought as we humans are no better at controlling wars, hatred and violence

than we were 200 years ago. History certainly has its turning points, when the right event happened just in the nick of time to prevent a darker future. What would have happened if the Nazis developed the atomic bomb first, or if the Berlin Wall hadn't fallen to end the Cold War? Maybe the Count, or those like him, are still at work. If so, who would Saint-Germain be today - a wealthy philanthropist working behind the scenes, a humanitarian rock star still pursuing his music, or an elder statesman trying to achieve world peace?

What follows is a detailed compilation of the Count's life and times, facts and theories, tales and legends, so that you the reader can come to your own conclusions on the mysterious Count of Saint-Germain. But be forewarned, investigating the Count is like casting a light upon a shadow, just when you think you have him, he vanishes into the ether.



Perhaps the only known portrait of the Count,  
painted in 1783 for the Marquis d'Urfe and  
dedicated to the Comte de Milly, with the following inscription:<sup>1</sup>

**LE COMTE DE ST. GERMAIN**

**CELEBRE ALCHEMISTE**

Like Prometheus, he stole the fire  
from which the world was formed  
and from which all things breathe,  
Nature, to this man's voice, obeyed and died.

If that's not God himself,  
a God then powerfully inspired him.