Ernest Colas was a native of the Department of Eure-et-Loir in France. He had lived in Louisiana for about ten years and had previously held a position in the College of St. Louis in Paris. In Louisiana, Professor Colas served as cantor of St John the Baptist Church in Edgard. He died suddenly on 7 May 1859 at the age of about 50 years.

A death notice was published in Le Meschacébé issue of 14 May 1859. His burial is listed in the index to St John the Baptist Church Funeral Register 4, page 116.