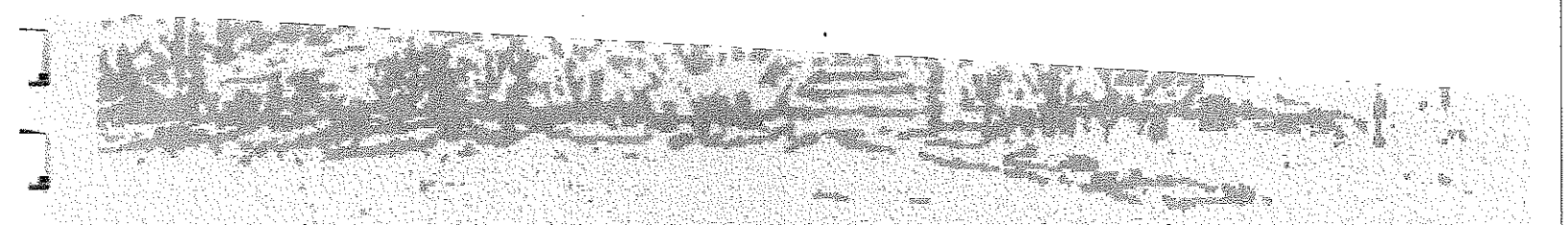




Beginning French- Canadian Research



**French- Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut
53 Tolland Green, Tolland CT
860-872-2597
www.fcgsc.org**

[What we have that's unique]

- Jette, Tanguay, Talbot family genealogies
 - Drouin Marriage Index
 - Loiselle Index to Marriages
 - Cemetery, BMS, records created locally
 - Vertical file created by members
 - Hébert Acadian Collection
 - Canadian and U.S. genealogical journals
 - Individual family name genealogy books
 - Reports of the Québec archivist
 - Individual parish BMS repertoires
- ... and

Slide

2

Before You Can Get to Canada

You'll need to identify

- at least one person born in Canada, their approximate birth date, and/or the names of their parents

OR

- one couple married in Canada, their marriage date, parents, or other means of confirming the identities of the couple

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3

Before You Can Get to Canada

Do your homework in the U.S.!

- Start with yourself
- Review family records, stories
- Look for
 - ▷ Census records
 - ▷ U.S. Baptisms, marriages
 - ▷ Deaths, obituaries/funeral home records
 - ▷ Civil War, WWI & WWII draft records

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4

Should You Use Immigration Records?

- Border Crossings
- Passenger Lists
- Naturalization Records

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In Canada

Once you

- know who you're looking for
- and have ways to identify them

You need just a bit more info before tackling Canadian records!

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Three Areas of Difference

- Kinds of records
- Types of problems
- Standard source materials

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Record-Keeping in New France

Church Records	Civil (Notarial) Records
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Baptisms (include birth dates) ◆ Marriages ◆ Burials (include death dates) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Censuses ◆ Marriage Contracts ◆ Donations <i>entre vifs</i> ◆ Inventories ◆ Land Records ◆ Wills

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Content of BMS Records

- Québec vital records prior to 1993 classified by religion
- Catholic records follow standard format, provide more information than English records
- Married women are recorded under maiden names; surnames of all parties are listed
- Witnesses to BMS are listed in church records.
- The age of majority for marriage without parental consent in French Québec was 25 for women, 30 for men, until 1782

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Identifying Ancestors in Canada

Start with

- Marriage Records
- Census Records
- Baptism/Birth Records
- Death/Burial Records

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Marriage Records

- Drouin Index to Marriages – the "Blue Drouin"
- Published Québec Parish Records – "Repertoires"
- Indexed parish records online - Ancestry.com
- Free online sources – Nos Origines, Familysearch, FichierOrigine
- \$ online sources – Ancestry, PRDH, BMS2000, Gencam, Mésaieus, many others
- Protestant marriages - http://www.swquebec.ca/church_registers/search2.html

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You CAN Read the Registers

- Marriages, baptisms & burial records follow standard record format
- You need to be able to identify dates (use internet for that) to find the record you want
- Then locate names in the document
- Learn just a few simple words
- Example: [Familysearch](#)

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Census Records

- Begin in 1666
- Exist for various years & parts of Québec
- Some missing, some not complete or are inaccurate
- Normally list only head of household
- Some local parish censuses taken during the 1800s: information varies
- National censuses since 1851 (i.e., 1861, 1871, 1881, etc.): available through 1921

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Census Records 1851 & 1861

- Multiple census schedules as in U.S.
- Basic questions in all Censuses:
 - Name
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Marital status
 - Occupation
 - Religion
 - Place of Birth
- Additional questions:
 - Race (Colored, Mulatto, Indian)
 - Whether resident a member of family or not

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Census 1871 - 1921

- 1871: Province divided into Québec & Ontario
- 1881:
 - Relation to head of household
 - Families in same house numbered separately
 - Country of birth or name of province/territory
 - Origin (could be different from country of birth)
- 1891: birthplace of parents
- 1901-1911:
 - Full birth date (day/month/year)
 - Immigration year
 - Racial or tribal origin
 - Nationality (i.e., citizenship)

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Census: Summary

- Available in microfilm and print versions in libraries & Fam. Hist. Centers
- Available on line at multiple fee-based and free sites
- Indexed by Ancestry and others
 - Indexes are helpful but not always accurate
 - Use as a guide but check the original doc

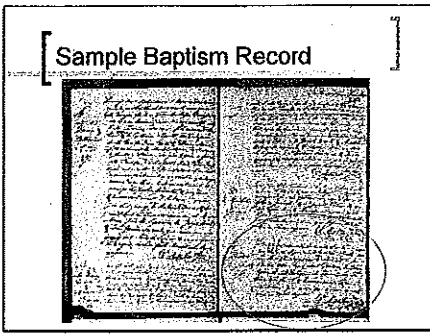
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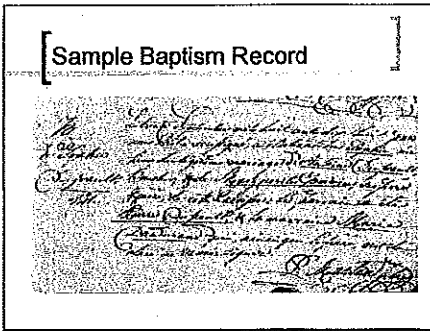
Baptism & Burial Records

- Parish register entries follow set format
- Baptisms include date of birth, parents
- Baptismal sponsors are often relatives, can provide clues to identity of parents
- Burial records include date of death
- Both types sometimes include info about relationships of person to witnesses

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Land Records

- Québec land distribution based on seigneurial system, in use 1627-1854
- Land granted by the King to important individuals, members of the bourgeoisie, or military officers
- Created feudal rights and obligations between King and seigneur and between seigneur and his tenants
- From 1763, lands granted according to the township system. (Québec divided into counties divided into townships)
- Index & images of Lower Canada Land Petitions, 1764-1841 available in a searchable database online (free)

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Problem: Those Dratted "dit" Names

One person, many names:

- Pierre Louis Roy
- Pierre Louis Lausier
- Louis Pierre Roy dit Lausier
- Louis Lausier
- Pierre Roy dit Lausier
- Pierre Louis Lausier dit Roy

and on, and on, and on...

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Problem: Multiple Names / Mistakes

- ▣ Catherine Isabel → Isabel Cath
- ▣ Vincent Richard → Richard Vincent
- ▣ Claude Vincent (actually Claude-Vincent Menneson)
- ▣ Marie Philomène Héloïse Plante → Philomène Plante; Eloïse Plante; Marie Louise Plante; Louise Plante

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Problem: Evolving Names

- ❖ Gaston Guay → Gastonguay → Castonguay
- ❖ Anne Vafé → Marie-Anne Raphése
- ❖ Chayé → Chaillé → Chayer
- ❖ Cyr → Syre → Seare

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Problem: Variant Spellings

Maihiot	Mailliot	Mailout
Maihet	Maillou	Mailoux
Maihiot	Mailoit	Maily
Maihou	Mailion	Mailot
Maill...	Mailiot	Mallou
Maillard	Maillou	Maily
Maillau	Mailloud	Maiot
Maillet	Mailous	Maiou
		and more...

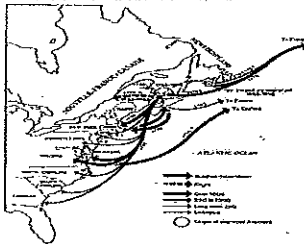
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Problem: Anglicized Names or the Reverse

- French names were made to sound English or American:
 - Napoléon → Paul Léon
 - Roy → King
 - LeBlanc → White
 - Desjardins → Jordan
- And the reverse: About 1700, an Irishman named Morris Reilly from Limerick became Jean-Baptiste Maurice Riel dit L'Irlandel

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Problem: Acadian Diaspora 1755-1785



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Problem: First Nations Records

Problems:

- Few written records
- Often no parents' names
- Native/Metis not easily identifiable
- Efforts to hide mixed blood

Sources:

- Western land claims 1870-1924
- Specialized libraries/ tribal rolls
- Periodicals & internet sites
- Census Records

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French-Canadian Sources

- ❖ Published Print Records (Repertoires)
- ❖ Internet sites (Ancestry, Nos Origines, FamilySearch, BANQ, Nos Racines, etc.)
- ❖ Published Genealogies
- ❖ Microfilm/fiche of parish records
- ❖ Specialized libraries
- ❖ Writing to Québec

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Which Books to Use When?

Basic print sources and their time periods are:

- 1600-1730: Jette
- 1600-1800 (approx.): Tanguay
- 1608-1760: Drouin *Repertoire National*
- 1600-1765: Charbonneau & Legare (better known as the PRDH)
- 1600-1950 (approx.): Talbot genealogies
- 1760-1935: Drouin *Repertoire Alphabetique*
- Acadia, earliest to mid-20th century: Arseneull, Bergeron, White

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Drouin: Repertoire Alphabetique

AN	1600-1730	1730-1800	1800-1935
1600-1730	Jette	Tanguay	Talbot
1730-1800	Tanguay	Drouin National	Drouin Alphabetique
1800-1935	Tanguay	Drouin Alphabetique	Talbot
1935-1950	Tanguay	Drouin Alphabetique	Talbot

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Tanguay *Repertoire Alphabetique*

Available on line at

<http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/dicoGenealogie/>

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Jetté: *Dictionnaire généalogique*

- Family groups of Québec residents from 1600-1730.
- Gives couple's names, parents, marriage date, names & birth dates of their children, previous marriages, & marriages of children which occurred before 1730
- Information stops at 1730: children born or marriages after 1730 omitted
- Gives burial dates, the husband's or wife's age at various censuses, husband's occupation
- Also names & residence in France of the parents of the original Québec settler in each line.

Mes chers parents, comme prout
de mariage et la cérémonie capitulaire

je suis à la présence de l'archevêque et de

Monseigneur le cardinal de Paris, et de

Monsieur le comte de Harcourt, et de

Monsieur le comte de Montmorency, et de

Monsieur le comte de Noailles, et de

Monsieur le comte de Sancerre, et de

Monsieur le comte de Tancarville, et de

Monsieur le comte de La Rochefoucauld, et de

Monsieur le comte de La Roche-Guyon, et de

Monsieur le comte de La Rochefort, et de

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Some Useful Web Sites for French-Canadian Research

Compiled by French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut Library, 2016

Canadian Cemeteries

<http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org>

<http://www.interment.net/can/index.htm>

Canadian Gravestones

<http://canadianheadstones.com/qc/search.php>

<http://billiongraves.com/pages/search/index.php#>

Census

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/> (Canada)

www.Ancestry.com

HeritageQuest at iCONN (U.S. Census only): <http://researchitct.org/genealogy/> (free but requires sign-in with bar code from any Connecticut town library)

www.Familysearch.org (US Census with images; Canada census indexes only, no images)

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx> (Canada)

First Nations

<http://www.maquah.net/Historical/HalfbreedScrip/index.html>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/7993968/Original-Half-Breed-Scrip-Part1>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/7993965/Original-Half-Breed-Scrip-Part2>

[http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~texlance/records/bia\(dc\)7.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~texlance/records/bia(dc)7.htm)

<http://www.ojibwe.info/scrip/LakeSuperior/names/index-P.html>

General

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/places/Pages/quebec.aspx>

http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/index.html?language_id=1&bnq_langue=en

<http://www.canadagenweb.org/>

Land Records

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-petitions-lower-canada-1764-1841/Pages/land-petitions-lower-canada.aspx>

http://genealogy.about.com/od/land_records/tp/canada-land-records.htm

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research_guide_205_land_records.pdf

Newspapers

<http://libguides.bgsu.edu/c.php?g=227443&p=1507147>

<http://libguides.bgsu.edu/CanadianNewspapers>

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/canadian-newspapers-french/index-e.html>

<http://www.cyndislist.com/canada/newspapers>

<http://eco.canadiana.ca>

<http://www.cangenealogy.com/newspapers.html>

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?hl=en>

Notarial Records

<https://thediscoverblog.com/2014/08/21/notarial-records>

http://www.banq.qc.ca/archives/genealogie_histoire_familiale/ressources/bd/

Appendix B: Format of Parish Records

Form of Marriage Entry

In Margin: number of entry, names of couple

Entry Text:

On (date of the marriage), after the publication of three banns of marriage done from the pulpit at our parish masses between (name of groom), (groom's occupation), adult [or minor] son of (name of groom's father) and of (name of groom's mother), of this parish [or name of parish where they reside], on the one hand; and (name of bride), adult [or minor] daughter of (name of bride's father), and of (name of bride's mother), also of this parish [or name of parish where they reside] on the other hand; having found no impediment, and the respective parents having declared their consent [included in case one or both of the couple are minors], I, priest undersigned, received their mutual consent and granted them the nuptial blessing, in the presence of [here follows a list of individuals present and witnessing the marriage] who have signed below [or declared that they are unable to sign].

Witnesses' signatures or marks.

Signature of Priest

NOTES: Some variations on this form that may occur include notation of dispensation from publishing one or more of the banns of marriage; omission of the occupation of the groom; addition of the occupations of the fathers; addition of "late" [feu] to indicate that a parent is deceased; where one party to the marriage is widowed, the name of the late husband or wife is given in place of the person's parents; notation of dispensation in cases where the couple are within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity; and identification of witnesses' relationship to the couple (for example brother of the groom; uncle of the bride, etc.).

Form of Baptism Entry

In Margin: number of entry, name of child

Entry Text:

On (date of baptism), I undersigned priest, baptized (name of child), born (date of birth) of the lawful marriage [or illegitimate union] of (father's name), (occupation of father), and of (name of mother) of this parish [or name of the parish where they reside]. Godfather, (name of godfather), godmother, (name of godmother), who have signed below [or declared that they are unable to sign].

Witnesses' signatures or marks.

Signature of Priest

Form of Burial Entry

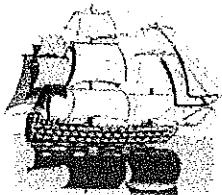
In Margin: number of entry, name of deceased

Entry Text:

On (date of burial), I, undersigned priest, buried in the cemetery of this parish [or name of other cemetery], the body of (name of deceased), (occupation of deceased), husband of/wife of/child of (name of spouse or of parents if a child), who died on (date of death). He/she was (age) old. Present were (name of first witness) and (name of second witness), undersigned [or who declared that they are unable to sign].

Witnesses' signatures or marks.

Signature of Priest



Looking for Acadian Ancestors

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Arsenault, Bergeron, White and others. The volumes that follow are standard works on Acadian families and Acadian history. They are alphabetically arranged by individuals or by families, and are indexed. All of these works are used just as any biographical or historical dictionary would be used, and should pose no problem to the inexperienced researcher.

There is a comprehensive list of helpful books and web links for Acadian genealogical research at <http://www.acadian-cajun.com/genacbk.htm>

Arsenault, Bona. *Histoire et généalogie des Acadiens*. Editions Lemeac: Ottawa, 1978. 6 vols. Arsenault, along with Bergeron (below) are the two earliest sources for Acadian family research. This French language series presents the historical background of Acadian settlers as well as references to specific families and individuals.

Bergeron, Adrien. *Le grand arrangement des Acadiens au Québec: Notes de petite-histoire genealogiques: France, Acadie, Québec de 1625-1925*. Editions Elysee: Montréal, 1981. 7 vols. French language. The more immediately useful of the two primary family histories on Acadia. Contains information on French ancestry of the original settlers of Acadia.

Griffiths, N.E.S. *The Contexts of Acadian History, 1686-1784*. McGill-Queen's University Press: Montréal, 1992. English language. Good history of the settlement of Acadia and the dispersal of her people during the expulsion by the British.

Ledoux, Albert H. *Les Mariages Acadiens du Quebec*. State College, PA: Ledoux, 1981.

White, Stephen A. *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Acadiennes*. Moncton, N.B.: Centre d'Études Acadiennes, Université de Moncton, 1999. 2 vols. French language. These two volumes are actually Part I of a larger work in progress. They cover the time period 1636 to 1714. Stephen White is the director of the Centre D'études Acadiennes at the University of Moncton, New Brunswick, and the world's foremost authority on Acadian culture, history, and genealogy.

Some useful historical works:

Harvey, D. C. *The French Régime in Prince Edward Island*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1926.

Hébert, Donald J. (Rev.). *Acadians in Exile*. Cecilia, LA: Hebert Publications, 1980.

Mahaffie, Charles D. *A Land of Discord Always: Acadia from Its Beginning to the Expulsion of Its People, 1604-1755*. Camden, ME: Down East Books, 1995.