



Quebec Research

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There are many great resources to use in order to be successful in searching for your ancestors in Quebec. This class will help you learn about Quebec research including what records to search, what they contain, how to access them, and how to be successful even if you don't read French.

OBJECTIVES

- Outline historical background
- Explain naming practices unique to Quebec
- Describe finding aids
- Discuss the major record types, what they contain, and where to start
- Define other records to search
- Identify internet resources

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1660–1763—Canada or New France formed
- 1763—New France turned over to Great Britain
- 1774–1784—Province of Quebec established
- 1791–1841—Name changed to Lower Canada
- 1841–1867—Name changed to Canada East
- 1867—Name changed to Province of Quebec

NAMING PRACTICES

- Maiden Names—Women kept their maiden names in official records, so look for death records for women under their maiden names.
- Spelling Variations—spellings were not standardized until recently. The names were spelled phonetically. French has some silent letters so pronunciation and spelling varies.
- Anglicized names—If an ancestor moved to the United States, their names may have been translated or anglicized in records. For example, Lamoureux to Lamora, Chartier to Carter, Roy to King, and Poissant to Fish.
- Dit Names (or Alias Surnames)—Dit=He is named or called. Second surnames to distinguish families with common surnames or different branches of the same family. Families may have adopted the dit name as the family name and dropped the original surname.
Dit Names help at: www.afgs.org/ditnames/index1.html
- Given Names—Children usually had several different names. If a child died young, another child may have been given the same name.

For help with names, see the FamilySearch Research Wiki at https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Canada_Names,_Personal

FINDING AIDS

FamilySearch Research Wiki

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Quebec,_Canada_Genealogy

French Word Lists

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/French_Genealogical_Word_List

French-English dictionary or Google translate

Maps

FamilySearch.org Records <https://familysearch.org/search>

FamilySearch Catalog <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>

Ancestry.com

Drouin Collection <http://search.ancestryinstitution.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1091>

Marriage Indexes such as Loiselle's Marriage Index

Genealogical Dictionaries such as Jette's or Tanguay's

GETTING STARTED

1. Search census records—census records show religion starting with the 1851 census
2. Determine if the ancestor was Catholic or Protestant
 - a. Look for surname hints—Did they have a French or Irish surname? If so, they may have been Catholic
 - b. Look for locality hints—Did they live in French counties or English counties?
3. If in English counties, search for Protestant Church Records in the town or county of residence
4. If they were Catholic, search church records available online at Ancestry and FamilySearch. If not found online, search microfilm church and notarial records
5. Search Loiselle's Marriage Index on microfilm
6. Search genealogical dictionaries for early ancestors

CENSUS RECORDS

- Early Census available from the 1660s
- Census districts are election or voting districts, not geographic counties
- Quebec (Lower Canada or Canada East)
 - 1825, 1831, 1842 (head of household only)
 - 1851–1921 (every name census)
- Online at FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com
 - 1851/52, 1901, 1911 at Automated Genealogy <http://automatedgenealogy.com/>

CATHOLIC CHURCH RECORDS

- Quebec was about 90% Catholic
- Church records were kept from 1621
- FamilySearch has filmed the church records to 1900 and are available online
- Ancestry.com has copies of civil records available online as the Drouin Collection

Baptismal Records (Baptême)

Includes name of the child; names of parents, including the mother's maiden name; date and place of birth and baptism; occupation of father; residence; names of witnesses

Marriage Records (Mariage)

Includes names of the bride and groom; names of parents, including the mother's maiden name; date and place of marriage; occupations of couple and parents; residence; witnesses

Burial Records (Sepulture)

Includes name of the deceased; date of burial and/or death; name of spouse, if an adult; names of parents, if a child; occupation of the adult; residence

STRATEGY

1. Find your ancestor in the Drouin index on Ancestry.com
2. View the image on Ancestry
3. Using the source information (date, parish, page, etc.) search the church record images on FamilySearch
4. Look at both records for verification of correct information or discrepancies

DROUIN COLLECTION ON ANCESTRY.COM

Indexes and images of records created by churches and sent to civil authorities as vital records or civil registration from 1621–1900s.

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG RECORDS

Catholic Parish Registers are available to view online from 1621 to 1979. There are name indexes for some parishes in Montreal and Trois-Rivières. Using the Search tab, click on **Records**, the map of **Canada** and **Quebec**. Under the title *Quebec Indexed Historical Records*, click on the link to **Show All Collections**. Look for the title **Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621–1979**. Click on **Browse Through Images**. Scroll through the parish names to find your ancestor's parish. Find the year and page number using the source information found in Ancestry, or view the images page by page.

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG CATALOG

Other records are available through the Catalog. Search the name of the parish and topics such as Church Records, Census Records, Maps, Notarial Records, etc.

Tip: Parish names with Saint, Saints, St., Ste may be listed in the catalog only under the full spelling of Saint or Sainte. Try different searches.

LOISELLE'S MARRIAGE INDEX

Available on microfilm and indexes 70–80% of all Catholic marriages before 1900. It is not complete because Loiseau died before he finished. It is very accurate. You can find marriages alphabetically either by the name of the husband or wife. For more information on this index see the FamilySearch Research Wiki at www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Loiselle_Marriage_Index Some of the microfilm index is available online. Use the FamilySearch Catalog to find the images.

GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARIES

Genealogical Dictionary of French Canadian Families (Tanguay Collection), 1606-1890

- Early families of Quebec available on Ancestry.com or in FHL book 971 D2t. The books include several volumes and supplemental volumes

Dictionnaire Généalogique des familles du Québec by René Jetté

- Dictionary of families from early settlement to 1730. FHL book 971.4 D2jr

PROTESTANT CHURCH RECORDS

- Church of England began in 1766
- Presbyterian Churches organized in 1770
- Less information than in Catholic Records
- Quebec Non-Catholic Parish Registers on FamilySearch.org 1763–1967 (images only)
- *A Checklist of Registers of Protestant and Jewish Congregations in Quebec* by R. Neil Broadhurst, FHL book 971.4 K23br

OTHER RECORDS

Immigration Records

Before 1865—No passenger arrival records before 1865. Use *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* by P. William Filby.

- Available on Ancestry.com or in numerous volumes. FHL book 973 W32p.
- If the ancestor moved to the United States, search U.S. records such as census records, and Canadian Border Crossings, 1895–1954

1865–1935

- Quebec 1865–1900
- Quebec, Montreal and other Canadian ports 1881–1935
 - Ancestry.com 1865–1935
 - FamilySearch.org 1881–1922

Notarial Records

Legal records containing marriage contracts, wills, deeds, transfers of property, guardian and indenture records, and more. Began in 1626.

- Some collections available on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

Helpful Internet sites

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Quebec,_Canada_Genealogy

Resources and links for finding Quebec records and families

www.nosorigines.qc.ca/genealogie.aspx?lng=en

Family trees and origins

www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1471015

Quebec Notarial Records

www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/search/Pages/ancestors-search.aspx

Library and Archives Canada website with database searches