

French Genealogy is Easy

by Jacquie Krieps Schattner

Before you begin any research overseas it's good to have:

- 1) good current map like Michelin, 2) French-English dictionary,

Find European information by:

- 1) Websites 2) LDS films 3) write yourself, 4) hire someone 5) plan a trip!

Books

International Vital Records Handbook by Thomas Jay Kemp – how to write to other countries for records

In Search of Your European Roots by Angus Baxter – good general book

Tracing Your European Roots – W. Daniel Quillen – Mt. Prospect library

The French Genealogy Blog – Anne Morddel - American

History

1661-1715 – Sun King

1789-1799 – French Revolution

1799-1815 – Napoleon in power – better schools, , church power reduced, helped all classes construction of buildings and roads, individual freedom, central bank, metric system

1815-1848 - Monarchy

1848-1870 – 2nd Republic, 2nd Empire

1871-1914 Belle Époque

WWI

WWII – 5th Estate

French Revolution and Napoleonic eras influence on genealogy

- 1) Church records were turned over to the government in 1791
- 2) Civil Registration
- 3) Archives – includes BMD, census, wills etc.
- 4) Military conscription
- 5) The French Revolutionary Calendar

Locating Commune is essential – vital records of family members, neighbors, census, surname websites, [familysearch](#)

How to Locate Town once you have name – [google](#), [mapquest](#), [familysearch](#), plot, old map, [rootsweb](#)

Church records – baptism, marriage, marriage banns, death

- 1) Marriage by finding all of the siblings of a child. Using the oldest child, go a few years previous that date to find marriage.
- 2) Guess that someone got married at 18-25 years old. Find birth record.
- 3) Locate the death record, and usually the age, and perhaps the parent/spouse is written. Use that to find the birth and marriage.
- 4) Assume that the mother is about 18-25 when a child is born to find the mother's birth record. The father may be the same age or older.
- 5) Record all of the BMDs for one name, gather the information of siblings & parents to put a tree together. Easier when name is to the side or underlined.

6) Use the witnesses and godparents to help put the family together. Sometimes a witness is in many records and suddenly is not. Check for a death record about that time.

7) Sometimes you have to look at the other documents to get an idea wording.

8) Siblings records are helpful also. Surprisingly, people born in the early 1700's can live almost 100 years, when civil records are available.

Remember French records go back to the 1500's You might be lucky and to go back that far!!!

Names, Confirmation, Signatures

Civil Records – Birth, Marriage, Death, 10 year Annexes, Archival vs. Local notes, Witnesses

Archives-www.archivesdefrance.culture.gouv.fr (France)

www.genealogy.tm.fr/ (France)

<http://www.francegenweb.com/~wiki/index.php/Accueil> (France)

<http://search.arch.be/> - (Belgium)

<https://www.wiewaswie.nl/> - (Netherlands)

Census – finding on browseable images at familysearch.org

- 1) Usually lots of little towns on one census. Look at front few slides to see if the towns are in order, or there is an index of surnames. Look at the last few slides, the index can be at the end.
- 2) You might have 400 pages of census. Try going every 10 pages or 20 pages and you will have a lot less clicks to find your town.
- 3) Many times, the next census, the towns are in the same order, so if you find it at the end of one census, start at the end of the next census
- 4) The names are sometimes in alpha order – lucky find!
- 5) If they live in a large city you are probably out of luck.
- 6) Use two computers at one time, start at the end, and beginning on the other.
- 7) Check the beginning and the end. If there are 800 pages listed at the top, but the end shows you are one page 350, there are probably two censuses on the roll, so then the first one should end at about 400. Go to that page and see the page number.
- 8) I do this while in front of the TV etc. Be patient.
- 9) Or you can wait a couple of years until they are indexed.

Calendar

French Premier Genealogical Website – www.Geneanet.org – people helping people

Maps and other visuals– Cassini <http://cassini.ehess.fr/cassini/fr/html/>

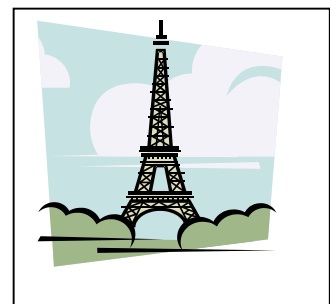
Why did they come?

[www. Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) – library edition

Genealogical societies – www.genefede.org

Enjoy!

Email: eatatjacquies@gmail.com



Best Websites for French Ruled Countries

France

www.geopatronymie.com - where people with your surname are living in France from 1891-1990.

<http://cassini.ehess.fr/cassini/fr/html/> - Cassini maps as discussed in class

www.geneanet.org - free for people to look up other people's trees. Pay for archives and advance searches. Sign up and get your top names sent to you weekly. Covers Belgium, Luxembourg, and other countries. (Commercial)

<http://www.genealogie.com/v4/genealogie/Search.mvc/TreeSearch> - (Commercial -\$9-\$15 per month, depending on number of months purchased.) Easy to use, just put in surname to look for family trees

<http://www.planete-genealogie.fr/recherches/recherche.html> - this is connected to Heredis- very similar to our familytreemaker connected to ancestry. People who use the Heredis database put their trees on line at this site. I tried it and found names for free. Good for family trees.

www.genealogy.tm.fr/ - Provides links to other genealogical sites. Lists Archive addresses and when open for research. (Very important when planning a visit) Has other general information on French research.

www.francegenweb.org or <http://www.francegenweb.com/~wiki/index.php/Accueil>

You will first get French, but hit the translation button in the upper right hand corner for an English translation. Lists many online French records, including each of the archives. This will be your go-to spot. Start by going to "help and tools", click on "archives" then "Map of France Archives Online". This will take you to a colored map that will show you which will give you great information about the information available for each department. Click on the department you are looking for information about, and you will see how to contact the department and by clicking on "digital archives" you'll access the online information listed. They add information regularly. By going to this website you are really finding all 101 websites for each of the 101 departments. Includes maps, and gazetteers for communes, and a conversion for the French Republican calendar.

<http://www.geneawiki.com/> - click on the English flag for about 50,000 articles about French genealogy

<http://www.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/arn/> aka National Archives

Many records are kept at the department level, but some are at the National level.

<http://www.guide-genealogie.com/> - information on sources, methodology and more. Click on genealogy abroad for information on Belgium.

www.geneafrance.org - This site links to the actual records online, and to many genealogical websites. Click on British flag to translate into English. It gives details about births, marriages, and forms to send to get civil records. Lots of good information.

www.francegenweb.org/~protestants/ - Useful for Huguenot Research

www.bnf.fr/ - National Library of France - many digital collections

<http://www.france-genealogie.fr/> - Archives of France and the French Federation of Genealogy working together, known as the official genealogy website

<http://www.geneapass.org/> - a directory of genealogical websites in France

www.gencom.org/ - Access to Google, Bing, and Michelin, as well as the Cassini Maps. (These maps were completed in 1783 and show even the smallest village in detail.) Also some information about the towns, mostly landmarks - church, statues etc.

<https://sites.google.com/site/freefrenchancestry/> - kind of a Cyndi's list for free French websites.

Three French Revolutionary Calendar conversion websites:

<http://stevemorse.org/jcal/french.html>

http://www.napoleon.org/en/essential_napoleon/calendar/index.asp

<http://www.stevepugh.net/revcalendar.html>

<http://www.vieuxmetiers.org/> - Old French professions - click on Metiers A-Z

www.genefede.org - lists of (safe) French genealogy societies by location, to hire someone if needed

The French Genealogy Blog by Anne Morddel - She is an American genealogist specializing in France, who gives great information several times a week and her archives of information are awesome.

Alsace Lorraine websites

<http://population.bas-rhin.fr/ellenbach/index.php> - Several censuses for Bas-Rhin 1819-1885 if available

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fraalsac/alsaceaz/admin.htm> - lists over 200 communities, populations and religion in the Alsace Lorraine area

Belgium

<http://search.arch.be/> - The archives website. It includes church, civil, military and notary records.

<http://search.arch.be/fr/tips/98-registresparoissiaux> - loading pre 1800 church records weekly - new

<http://search.arch.be/fr/tips/101-etat-civil> - Belgian civil records on line - keep checking back both new sites

Instructions: Register and activate your registration after checking your email.

Then click on the link above and go to the town of your choice, then make sure you click on the second tab from the left "Archives Numeriques" It will load all the images for the particular register you want to see, so be patient. Then browse through the pages of the register. Not all towns are available, so keep checking back.

<http://belgium.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index.html> - an active rootsweb site. You can sign up to be on the mailing list which is also active

http://www.eupedia.com/belgium/belgian_surnames.shtml - information on Belgian surnames

<https://sites.google.com/site/belgiumancestry/> - a listing of free Belgian websites - a little Cyndi's list
Many civil records available at familysearch.org

Luxembourg

<http://www.deltgen.com> - this is a little known site with lots of information. A huge tree and many (100ish) links. Rob Deltgen is miniature Cyndi for this tiny country. E

<http://www.familux.org/> - lots of information on Luxembourg - American genealogy. Try the genealogy resources tab

Many civil and census records available at familysearch.org

Netherlands

https://www.wiewaswie.nl/*E The core of the old Genlias' more than 15 million records on more than 64 million individuals remains its post-1811 civil registers, the most important source for Dutch ancestors, which is also adding early Netherlands parish records and inheritance declarations.

<https://sites.google.com/site/freedutchancestry/> - a small Cyndi's list of free websites for Dutch research

<http://www.meertens.knaw.nl/nfb/> - Surname index of the 1947 census. Put in surname and a map will pop up showing you which areas the name is popular

<http://www.traceyourdutchroots.com/roots/> - general information on Dutch genealogy

<http://www.begraafplaatsenonline.nl/index.html> - Netherland's findagrave

militieregisters.nl - Dutch military records, in the upper left hand corner, you'll see English. You will see at the bottom of the list where to find the surnames. The older the record (1800s) the better.

[Many civil and census records available at familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)

Italy

www.italiangenealogy.com - genealogists helping one another

www.italiangen.org - based out of NY, links to Italian research

www.italyworldclub.com/genealogy - list of surnames, meanings and the commune they come from and other information

Finding Italian Roots - John Philip Colletta - includes many websites

Italian-American Family History - Sharon Debartolo Carmack

French computer terms

Aide - Help

Accueil - Welcome

Chargement en cours - Loading

Choisissez - Choose

Comment s'abonner -How to subscribe

Disponible - Available

Données - Data

Effacer - Erase

Fermer - Exit

Imprimer - Print

J'accepte ces conditions - I accept these conditions

Lieu - Place

Mode d'emploi - Directions

Mode d'emploi - Directions

Nom - name

Ordinateur- Computer

Plein ecran -Full screen

Prochainement - Next

Rechercher - Search

TD - Tables Décennales - 10 year indexes

Télécharger - Download

Toponyme - Place name

Valider- Search