

From the Research page of the FCHSM website by Diane Wolford Sheppard:

Researching on Ancestry and Family Search: Ancestry (www.ancestry.com) contains databases for Michigan and Ontario civil records, census, as well as the parish records for Ste. Anne's (in Detroit), Michilimackinac (a translation of the records) and the records for French-Canadian parishes in Ontario, Québec, and Acadia, as well as the records for selected parishes in the French parishes of other states that were part of New France. You can access these records at your local library or LDS centers.

Family Search (www.familysearch.org) provides access to Québec Parish Records as well as selected parishes in Ontario. In addition, you can use their search form to access civil records and selected censuses.

From “**French-Canadian Genealogy—Sources and Resources**” by Suzanne Boivin Sommerville, FCHSM member; at http://habitantheritage.org/frenchcanadian_resources/research_guides

PRDH *Programme de recherche en démographie historique* – Currently *BEST* for records from the mother colony, to 1799, less complete for originally-French settlements in modern-day U. S. [In English: Program of research in historical demography]

PRDH is a NEW reading and computerization of actual extant records, begun in the 1960s and committed to ongoing corrections and additions. It was originally designed to support research in demographics, population patterns, as its title states, so links were not attempted among families in the book form edition. Spelling is as found on the records (or **as read by** whoever did the reading from the originals!). You may well find the same ancestor listed under varied spellings and one or more "dit" or "dite," the feminine version, (called or **also-known-as**) names, but names have been standardized on the Internet version to ease searching. Contains references from early censuses, confirmations, lists of patients at some hospitals, *etc.* The Internet edition provides family links. All names recorded in the text of a document are transcribed, such as parents, godparents (although not identified as such), witnesses, officiating priests, and sometimes brothers or sisters or other relatives of married couples, if mentioned in the text, for all records, basically, to 1765. Later “certificates” are not as complete. Names of those who only signed a document, such as a marriage contract, are NOT listed if the names do not appear in the text. I have found some interesting information by examining copies of the originals to see all of the signatures. Some labels on the “certificates,” such as whether an individual was present at an event (for example, the father and mother of a baptized child) can cause misunderstanding in interpreting the original event. All that can be said is that the parents were considered to be alive at the time of the record unless one or both signed as present.

PRDH: Programme de recherche en démographie historique (Program of research in historical demography). Gaëtan Morin Éditeur: <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca>

Also available in book format (Burton and Mount Clemens), records to 1765; on CD-Rom to 1799 (very expensive), and on the **Internet** to **1799**, with some deaths after 1799 now included. There is an English version online. You can browse the Internet site at no cost but must subscribe to see the full “certificates” available. Cost is very reasonable. Background material on the site is wonderful. Take the time to read it and to examine the sample documents and to consult the glossary. Note that **Name Standardization** now includes the thousands of British names that began to appear after 1763, for example, “French” **Couc** is now under “British” **Cook**. Be sure to check **Name Variations** for *dit* names and different spellings.

Fichier Origine updates its records periodically. Go there to see the original records that have been found in France. Some of these records may be there in digital format.

The Drouin Microfilms on Ancestry

These are primarily microfilms of **civil parish registers**, including late nineteenth- and early twentieth-centuries, some of them transcriptions. **As of early in 2007, Ancestry has made digital images of the Drouin microfilms available on the internet, with a subscription.** A partial, and flawed, index for some records became available in 2008. Problems with the indexing and reading of records continue. Be very careful with private files, especially those that do not cite a source but that just copy what others did. A transcription of the records, an index, and some of the ORIGINAL records for **Ste. Anne de Detroit** and **L'Assomption** (now Windsor, Ontario) are part of the **Early U. S. French Catholic Church Records** on ancestry.com under the letter D. This is a wonderful tool, but be sure you know which version you are consulting. Don't miss it. Some libraries (St. Clair Shores, Mt. Clemens) have subscriptions patrons can use.

Familysearch: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS)

Good news! The website of the Family History Library has added all of their Québec Parish records and also Ontario records to their **FamilySearch** site: <https://www.familysearch.org/>

Scan down to the world map and click on Canada. Both Québec and Ontario Parishes are available. For example, you can browse and view Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-**1979** and Ontario, Roman Catholic Church Records, 1760-**1923**. Most of these records will be the **parish version**, not the civil copy that is usually found on the Drouin digital images on Ancestry. Sometimes one version will have details that are missing in the other, and sometimes one version is more legible than the other. Since this site is free and the images can be magnified, it is very precious. Saving images to your computer is easy and allows cutting the image to the precise record you want to insert in a Word document. Citation of this source has been made easier because of a link at the left bottom of the screen. Click it and a very precise identification of the source, including the date of the visit, will pop up. Click Copy and then Paste into Notepad or a word processor.

Podcasts: Please see Sandra Goodwin's website for her podcasts. <http://maplestarsandstripes.com/about-maple-stars-and-stripes/> **Maple Stars and Stripes: Your French-Canadian Genealogy Podcast** was created as a way to share tips and tricks that might make it easier to research your French-Canadian family here in America as well as to trace them back in Quebec. **We'll discuss ways to make it easier to move around in French-language records, especially if you're not a native French speaker**, as well as take a look at different record groups, repositories, history, geography, culture, and methodology particular to French-Canadian genealogy. Printed notes are available to accompany the spoken podcasts.

Sandra Goodwin's lessons on the French language can be a real help to those of you who struggle with reading the old records, and the podcasts themselves are very informative.

Examples of French and French Canadian Parish Records:

Gail Moreau-DesHarnais' three-part series of articles about French and French-Canadian Parish Records should be read by all! In the articles, Gail provides the reader with numerous examples of parish records.

For each record, Gail presents you with an image, a transcription, and a translation of the act.

Deciphering French and French-Canadian Baptismal, Marriage, and Burial Records,

Part One - Baptisms by Gail Moreau-DesHarnais

Part 2: Marriages, by Gail Moreau DesHarnais

Part 3: Burials, by Gail Moreau-DesHarnais

In PDF on the FCHSM website: http://habitantheritage.org/french-canadian_resources/parish_records