# A Guide to Researching Genealogy
# At the Cloverdale Library

*Updated August 2017*

# Québec

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"View of Wintery Quebec City" 1872
Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

**SURREY LIBRARIES: FAMILY HISTORY**
*Finding your roots. Telling your story.*

This guide is intended to point you towards some starter resources for Québec Genealogy.

PLEASE NOTE - you will find frequent references to "**our guide book**" - **Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials held at the Cloverdale Library.**  Multiple copies of the print book are available in the department, but click on the link above for quick access.

# Databases

**Ancestry Library Edition** *(available in Cloverdale library only)* is an international online genealogy resource with a very large Canadian family history collection, searchable by surname. Many digitized, full records are available. Other collections within Ancestry are indexes that can lead you to an original record. The Library edition of Ancestry matches the *record set* of **Ancestry.com** almost entirely, with the exception of the historical book collection.  You will also not find certain *features* such as DNA testing and social networking that are only suitable for home subscriptions.

Resources relevant to Québec can be found by using the Card Catalog feature found under the BLACK "Search" tab.
A list of resources within Ancestry relevant to Québec, can be found by conducting a search by location:

Ancestry also includes the following record sets for Québec known as the Drouin collection. Many original digitized records are included.
- Québec Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621 - 1967
- Acadia, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1670 - 1946
- Québec Notarial Records (Drouin Collection), 1647 - 1942
- Miscellaneous French Records (Drouin Collection), 1651 – 1941
- Quebec, Canada, Land Grants, 1763-1890

**PRDH:**  (Le Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique / The Research Programme in Historical Demography): Baptismal, marriage & burial certificates in Catholic parishes pre-1800.This database is a major, well known resource for Québec genealogy.  The PRDH is available online at:  https://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/le-prdh

**Heritage Quest (HQ):**  Heritage Quest offers four types of searches.  Although Heritage Quest is best known for its US records, the online historical book collection is valuable for Québec residents as well.  In many cases, Québec family history is rooted in the United States.

# General Research Guides

Print

**Companions of Champlain: founding families of Quebec**
Larson, Denise.  Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield, [2016]
929.3714 LAR 2016

**Patriotes, reformers, rebels & raiders**
Cox, Kenneth. Toronto: Kenneth G. Cox, 2014
GEN 929.3713 COX 2014

**Finding Your Ancestors in English Quebec.**
Douglas, Althea. Toronto: Heritage Productions.
GEN 929.3714 DOU 2001

**French Canadian Sources: a Guide for Genealogists**
Geyh, Patricia Keeney. Orum, Utah:  Ancestry Publications
GEN 929.10720714 FRE 2002

*Names*

**Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes**
Tanguay, C. Montreal: Editions Elysees, 1975
GEN 929.3714 TAN

**Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles du Quebec: des origines a 1730.**
Jette, René. Montreal: Les Presses de l'Universite de Montréal, 1983
GEN 929.2 JET

**The French Canadians, 1600-1900; an alphabetical directory of the people, places and vital dates.** (3 volumes)
Montgomery, Noel Elliot, editor. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library, 1994
GEN 929.3713 FRE

To search for books in the branch by browsing, look at titles between the call numbers **929.3714** and **929.3715** in particular.  You will find numerous books with transcriptions of vital statistics for a variety of parishes.

**Library Catalogue**:  Use our online catalogue to search for books on a variety of Québec genealogy topics. Different searches tend to produce different results.
- If you know the *exact* title, try a "Title List" search.
- If you aren't quite sure, try a "Title Keyword"
- For the general topic, here is one suggestion - Under "Subject List" type in **Québec -- Genealogy** or **French-Canadians—Genealogy**.

# CD ROM Collection

**Roman Catholic Marriage Records for Counties:**  Argenteuil (1839-1960); Arthabaska (1840-1925); Brome (1851-1941); Compton (1858-1944).

**The Tanguay Collection:**  genealogies of early of French Canadian families (also in print).

**Vital Records Index North America:** (1631-1888): Birth, christening and marriage records for U.S. & Canada (7 discs).

# Census Records

Census returns can provide very useful information such as place of birth, origin, level of education, religion and more, depending on the census year.  General information about the census records from Lower Canada can be researched through **Library and Archives Canada, Censuses.**

Census returns for Quebec are available from 1666 to 1911. The more recent census returns can be found in more than one place online.  Earlier records (not yet online) can be found on microfilm here in the library.

Online

- **Automated Genealogy** for 1901 and 1911
- **Ancestry Library Edition** in the library (or Ancestry.com at home) offers the following years online for Québec:
  - 1851, 61, 71, 81, 91, 1901, 1911, and 1921

To locate Quebec Census records on microfilm, consult these guides in the branch or online:
**Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1666-1891.**  This catalogue can be searched online at Library and Archives Canada. (Search by location for microfilm numbers).

**1901** and **1911** have their own Finding Aid binders in the same shelf area.

Microfilm numbers are listed by location and year. Search the above mentioned print catalogue for your township, village or county – the listings are cross referenced.  (You might also require maps of Quebec, found on our atlas stand.)

The microfilm records are recorded in geographical order.  As you scroll through the film, watch for your district and sub-district on the column headers, section by section.  Search through all the names in your chosen location until you find your people.

# Vital Records / Parish Records

Civil registration in Quebec did not begin until 1926 and initially only applied to births. Marriages were added in 1960, but the Roman Catholic Church and other denominations continued to be the only source of death records. Full civil registration in Quebec only began in 1994.

Prior to civil registration, each parish sent a copy of its baptism, marriage and death records to the prothonotarial district at the local Palais de Justice (courthouse).  In effect, these records *became* civil records.

All pre-1900 prothonotarial district records of births, marriages and deaths are held at 9 regional branches of the **National Archives of Québec** and are available to the public.  Contact the Archives for more information.
(English or French - use the toggle in the upper right corner of the site).

All post-1900 birth, marriage and death records are held by the **Directeur de l'état Civil** in Quebec City and Montreal. Access to these records is subject to eligibility and approval.

*Note:*  Our **CD ROM COLLECTION** also includes vital statistics – see page 5.

**Family search** has several collections for Québec vitals that have been digitized:
- Quebec Births and Baptisms, 1662-1898

- Quebec Notarial Records, 1800-1900

- Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1900

A discussion about vital records in Québec can be found at **Global Genealogy**

**Fichier Origine** from **La Fédération Québécoise des Sociétés de Généalogie**:
Birth and baptism records for French and foreign migrants who came to Quebec between 1621 and 1865(In French only).

**Southwestern Québec Genealogical Resources** (Protestant)
Searchable database for 19th century baptism, marriage & burial records of the protestant churches in Southwestern Québec.

Online records at the **National Archives of Québec**
**Notarial Records,** found at **Library and Archives Canada.**

[Acts of Divorce 1841-1968](#) through **Library and Archives Canada.**

[Revues et journaux québécois](#)   (Newspapers from Quebec online)

<u>Microfilm</u>

*Cloverdale Library*

[Marriage Bonds of Upper & Lower Canada 1779-1858](#).  An online index to this microfilm collection, searchable by name, can be found at **Library and Archives Canada**.  Obtain your microfilm number this way, or use our guide book in the branch.

**Fabien Index 1657-1974.**  Jacques Henri Fabien, deceased in 1974, compiled a significant card catalogue of births, marriages and deaths that occurred in Ontario, Quebec and parts of PEI.  Also now available online at
[http://heritage.canadiana.ca/](http://heritage.canadiana.ca/)

**Loiselle Marriage Index 1642-1963.**  Covers mainly the Province of Quebec, indexing over one million records in 520 parishes. This resource is an old style card catalogue that was microfilmed. The alphabetical order makes it very easy to use.

<u>Print</u>

*Note:*  The following book suggestions offer information *about* parish records in general. Numerous books can be found in the branch that offer actual transcriptions of birth, marriage and death registrations for the various parishes.

**A Register of Deceased Persons at Sea and on Grosse Ile in 1847**.
Carbonneau, Andre and Doris Drolet. Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1997
GEN 929.3714 CHA

**Checklist of parish registers, 1986 / Repertoire de Registres Paroissiaux**:  lists parish registers held by the National Archives that are available via interlibrary loan.  Enquire with staff about interlibrary loans.
GEN 016.929371 NAT 1987

## Cemetery Records

<u>Online</u>

If you have the name of a cemetery you suspect your ancestors are resting, see if that cemetery has a website, and further, if they have their interments listed online. Having names posted online is increasingly common.
Also, the link to **CGHL** listed in this guide under "General Resources" has a number of links to cemeteries.

<u>Print</u>

The library also has books that provide transcriptions of cemetery headstones.
To find out if we have cemetery records for a particular place, go to the library catalogue online and use the "Subject List".  Type in the following exactly:       Cemeteries -- Quebec -- [place name]

## Estate Records

The Québec system for estate records differs from the rest of Canada.  The same process is used to find Notarial Records of any type.

Wills are deposited with a notary who is required by law to retain them. On the retirement or death of the notary the records (or greffe) are transferred to the Court House of the Judicial District in which the notary had practiced law.  A copy of a will may be obtained from the Judicial Archives of the district, from the notary who drew it up, or from his successor. An excellent article regarding Notarial Records (with links) can be found here.

A list of notaries for each location can be searched by the notaries name, the district or the region:  (French only)

## Passenger Lists and Immigration Records

Online

Passenger lists in Canada were not required by law *before* 1865, and are not available to the public *after* 1935, unless by application to Citizenship and Immigration Canada directly.

Extensive information *about* immigration records of all types is available at Library and Archives Canada.

This page from LAC provides links to a number of small databases regarding immigration, and includes for example, a search engine to over 33,000 immigrants detained at the Grosse-Île Quarantine Station between 1832 and 1937.

**Ancestry.com** and **Ancestry Library Edition** both provide transcriptions and digital images of all Canadian passenger lists from 1865 - 1935, including the ports of Montréal and Québec.

Another resource for earlier records is www.theshipslist.com

The **Montreal Emigrant Society Passage Book (1832)** is a searchable index that references almost 2000 people who received aid from the Montreal Emigrant Society between May 12 and November 5, 1832.

Our guide book, *Canadian Family History Resources*, available in the branch *or* online, offers an index organized by date and port to determine what microfilm you might need.  Instructions for use and film numbers for the following microfilm records can be found in Section 3.

Microfilm

The collection **Canadian Passenger lists, 1865 - 1935** is also available on microfilm in the branch.  This option is useful if you have difficulty finding your ancestors by surname due to spelling or transcription errors.

**Form 30A**: For the time period 1919 - 1924, a separate record for each individual was used called Form 30A. To search the microfilms for this time period, an index by surname can be found in our guide book.

Print

Print resources offer immigration information going further back in time, covering the first immigrants to Québec in the early 1600s as well as more recent arrivals.

Check the shelves or the online catalogue for call numbers in the range 929.3714 for books like these:
**Before the King's Daughters: the Filles à Marier, 1634 - 1662**
Gagné, Peter J. Pawtucket R.I.: Quintin Publications

GEN 929.3714 GAG 2002

**Émigration Rochelaise en Nouvelle-France.**
Godbout, Père Archange. Montreal: Editions Alysee, 1980
GEN 929.3714 GOD

**First Métis families of Quebec**
Morin, Gail.  Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield, 2014
GEN.3714 MOR 2014 V1-3

**King's Daughters and Founding Mothers: the Filles du Roi, 1663 -1673**
Gagné, Peter J. Pawtucket R.I.: Quintin Publications
GEN 929.3714 GAG 2002

# Border Crossing Records

<u>Online</u>

**Ancestry.com** and **Ancestry Library Edition** (in the branch), provide border crossing records from the U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935, and from Canada to the U.S., 1895 – 1956.

<u>Microfilm</u>

These records are also on microfilm.  To view a list of ports of entry and the corresponding microfilm numbers, please see our guide book, *Canadian Family History Resources* section 3-41.

# Directories

<u>Online</u>

**Ancestry Library Edition** and **Ancestry.com** offer a large but patchy collection of directories. To see the entire list:
- Click on the **Black** Search drop down list
- Choose Card Catalog type "**Quebec**" in the title field
- Either browse the collections listed or
- go to "Filter by Collection" and choose; **Schools, Directories, and Church Histories**.

**Library and Archives Canada** has a collection of [Canadian [Historic] Directories](#) that can be searched online and some cover portions of Québec.

The **National Archives of Québec** also has digitized [Lovell Directories](#) posted online.

<u>Print</u>
Cloverdale has a good collection of BC directories, but we also have this one by Lovell for Montréal that includes a "criss-cross" look up by street:
**Montreal Directory 1868-69: containing an Alphabetical Directory of the Citizens and a Street Directory.**
Lovell, John.  Milton, Ontario: Global Heritage Press, 2000.
GEN 917.1428 MON

# Land Records

Land distribution in Québec was established in 1627, based on a "seigneurial" system (similar to the European feudal system) that was used until 1854.  The King granted "Seigneuries" to elites called "Seigneurs," who were responsible for allotting concessions to tenants called "censitaires".  The granting of land then produced a notarial act - a contract that details the names of the people involved, the size and location of the land, and the obligations of the "censitaire."

In 1763, a township system was introduced to Québec, dividing land into counties and further, into townships or "municipalités de paroisses." A "land petition" is a request for a land made by an applicant that includes the reasons for eligibility; for example, because the applicant was in the military. An online index with digital images of the original **Lower Canada Land Petitions** is available at Library and Archives Canada.

In 1841, the government created registration offices, which today are called the Bureau de la publicité des droits. Records of land transactions subsequent to the original grant or purchase are in the custody of the Bureau de la publicité des droits for each county or district.

Online

**Lower Canada Land Petitions**

Online historical **Maps of Quebec** **at Marianopolis College**.

**Historic Maps of Québec** **at the Québec National Archives:** (in French)

Microfilm

See our guide book *Canadian Family History Resources: A guide to the materials held at the Cloverdale Library* for microfilm numbers:

Lower Canada Land Index and Petitions 1764-1841 section 6-1, 6-2
Quebec/Lower Canada Land Books 1787-1835 section 6-3

Print

**Alphabetical Index to the Land Grants By the Crown in the Province of Quebec from 1763 to 31$^{st}$ December 1890.**
Dunn, Robert and Hopkins, Derek. Eds. Pointe-Claire, Québec: Quebec Family History Society, 2005.
929.3714 ALP 2005

*Atlases & Maps*

**Historical & Genealogical Atlas of Quebec from Antiquity to the 20$^{th}$ Century**
Quintin, Robert J. Editor. Pawtucket, Rhode Island: Quintin Publications, 1995
929.3714 HIS

**Researching Canadian Land Records.**
Murphy, Sharon L. Toronto: Heritage Productions. 2001.
GEN 929.1072 MUR

**Atlas stand:** Check the large folder of maps for Quebec.

# Biographies

Online

**Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online**

**Fichier Origine :** A database of Québec pioneers (in French only)

Print

**Dictionary of Canadian Biography**.  Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966.  (15 volumes)
GEN 920 DIC

## Local Histories

The library has many local histories for various places in the province of Québec.  These are very valuable for discovering more about your ancestors than names and dates can provide. To see if the library holds a history of a particular town or area, look in our online catalogue under the subject:  [place name] (Quebec) -- History.  For example, to locate a history of **Compton**, select "Subject" from the pull down menu and type in:  Compton (Quebec) -- History.  You may also browse the bookshelves in the call number area 971.4.

You may also try searching **Google Books** for your family names or locations - if you find a good result but the book is not fully available online, check to see if Cloverdale owns it, or ask us about Interlibrary loans to obtain the book.

## Indigenous and **Métis** Research in Québec

Online

**Québec First Nations** band contact list.

**Métis National Council**.
Métis National Council Historic Online Database: http://metisnationdatabase.ualberta.ca/MNC/ (no longer available?)
Or http://www.barbau.ca/content/how-use-repository

**Nation Métis Québec.**

Print

Local history books can be useful for this topic, for example:

**First Métis families of Quebec**
Morin, Gail.  Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield, 2014
GEN.3714 MOR 2014 V1-3

**Old Quebec**: the Fortress of New France
Parker, Gilbert.  London: MacMillan & Co., 1903
971.4 PAR

For more information on records related to native peoples in Quebec, see Pistard, the online research tool of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. In French, use the search term *autochtones.*

This Wikipedia article contains information about native groups in Quebec:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aboriginal_peoples_in_Quebec

## Military

Online

More recent military records for **Canada** will be federal and the following websites could be useful:

**Canadian First World War Attestation** papers can be found on Ancestry.com, or through Ancestry Library Edition in the Cloverdale branch.

**Veteran Affairs Books of Remembrance**

**Soldiers of the First World War**

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

**Canadian Virtual War Memorial**

**Canadian Military Heritage Project**

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Military History specifically related to Québec:

**Plains of Abraham**

**Family Search - early Québec military**

**Rolle des Soldats du Régiment de Carignan-Salières qui se sont faits habitans de Canada en 1668**

# Huguenots

Online

**National Huguenot Society of Canada**

**Huguenot Timeline**

Print

**Canada's Huguenot Heritage**: **proceedings of commemorations held in Canada during 1985 of the tercentenary of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes**
Harrison, Micheal. Toronto: Huguenot Society of Canada, 1987
305.645 CAN

# General Internet Resources for Québec

Online

**Family search wiki** – Québec, Canada Genealogy

**Project Québec GenWeb**
The resources are broken down into places, resources, and links.

**National Archives of Québec** collections. Can be viewed in English but most information is in French.

**Fédération Québecois des Société de Généalogie** (FQSG) in French

**Canadian Genealogy and History Links** (CGHL) Québec - A web portal to a variety of resources

**British Columbia Genealogical Society Québec Special Interest Group** - locate Québec Special Interest Group

**Québec Family History Association**

**Alberta Family History Society, Québec**

**Mary's Genealogy Treasures, Québec**