

Catholic Parish Registers in Normandy (France) of the 17th & 18th Centuries

Registres paroissiaux en Normandie aux 17^e et 18^e siècles

Modern day : **Calvados – Eure - Manche – Orne – Seine-Maritime**

Cities : **Alençon - Bayeux – Caen – Cherbourg-en-Cotentin –
Dieppe - Évreux – Le Havre - Lisieux – Rouen - Saint-Lô - Vernon**

Archives départementales de France

Regional Archives of France

<https://genealogyensemble.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/archives-dc3a9partementales-de-france-revision-2018-04-16.pdf>

Archives communales de France

Municipal Archives of France

<https://genealogyensemble.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/archives-communales-de-france-2018-09-04-rev.pdf>

What to expect while researching online at about 92 Archives départementales de France - Free Online Searches with free downloads of original Church Registers or original Civil Registers or original Notarial acts through the web or smart phones. No memberships required with the exception of one archive and at the latter, the online research process is also free, once you have completed a one-page online request.

Note that all online search options posted to these 92 regional archives are in the French language. As such, if your knowledge of the French language is limited at best, take the proper steps in order to solve this issue.

First, for those with limited knowledge of France as a country. During the French Revolution of 1789-1799, administrators of the new Republic of France in 1793 decided that all Civil Registers (Parish Registers prior to 1793) in regard to births, marriages, deaths would be taken away from Catholic parishes of France and the task of recording and keeping of documents addressing births, marriages, deaths would be from 1793 onward the responsibility of the local Mairies (City Halls)

across France and said documents would be referred to as Registres de l'état civil.

Catholic baptism records began in many regions of France in 1539, some regions a few years later. Marriage documents five years later. Death about ten years after marriage dossiers. In a few Catholic parishes, acts of baptisms have survived dating back to 1334 and 1357 within the region of Saône-et-Loire.

In 2020, in order to access an act of baptism, marriage or death from about 1539 onward, one must determine from which "commune" (village, town, township, city), one's ancestor originated from. This decision reached in 1793 by the administrators of the new Republic of France specified that each document in regard to a birth or marriage or death as indicated above would be recorded by city halls and kept within the vaults of each city halls. Previously under the Old Regime under the Kings of France, Parish Registers were kept at the parish and a second copy of said annual book of baptisms, marriages, deaths kept at the regional court houses or at the regional Catholic Diocese Archives. Prior to 1793, Civil Registers in France did not exist.

Subsequently, both Parish Registers from about 1539 to 1793 (Registres paroissiaux) and Civil Registers from 1793 onward (Registres de l'état civil) were the responsibility of the newly created départements. In 2020, 95 such départements. A département is a mini state or mini province.

After the French Revolution, all "départements" of France continued the practice of cataloguing both the Parish Registers (Registres paroissiaux) prior to 1793 and the Civil Registers (Registres de l'état civil) after 1793 by "Communes" of France.

In 2019, the country of France listed 34,967 communes (villages, towns, townships, cities). In 1790 in France under the Old Regime (Ancien régime), listed 41,000 communes.

If one does know from which "commune" her or his ancestor originated from, the research process of an original act of baptism, marriage and death during the Old Regime period prior to 1793 and an act of birth, marriage, death during the Republic of France period after 1793, is greatly enhanced.

If your ancestor was a French Canadian who had settled in Nouvelle-France (New France) from 1621 to 1865, you are fortunate in your research process of about 90% of the pioneer families of Québec and of the Great Lakes Region, see; <https://www.fichierorigine.com/>. In regard to the 10%, see a few lines below.

If your ancestor was an Acadian, you are also fortunate in your research process in regard to about 90% of the pioneer families of ancient Acadie (Acadia) who had settled within this French colony from 1604 to 1763, see; <http://biblcham.umoncton.ca/cal/>. In regard to the 10%, see a few lines below.

For the North American family lineage researchers with antecedents in France who are not aware of the name of the commune or département, listed below the best free online research tool (my opinion) which greatly will enhance your family lineage research process.

Journal des Femmes – A highly precise online tool addressing all regions of France in which online databases, “family names” which are the most prevalent within a particular département are listed in order of importance within all 95 départements of France. One only needs to enter the name of the département of choice. For each family name listed and by simply clicking on the family name of your ancestor, Journal des Femmes outlines on back-up pages, precisely in which other départements of France, the family name of your ancestor is most common and to what extent.

<http://www.journaldesfemmes.com/nom-de-famille/>

Family lineage searches conducted online in France, the same in most European countries have impediment.

- > Missing years among the Parish Registers prior to 1793
- > An ancestor of yours might have resided in a rural region and the child was never baptized
- > The family might have been Protestants or Jewish.
- > The family name of the 17th and 18th centuries, the spelling might be different in comparison to the spelling in North America in the 21st century for same family.
- > The quality of handwriting (penmanship) on parish registers in some cases can be better described as scribble
- > The name of an ancient commune might have changed to another name in more recent time periods.
- > The digitizing process of both acts of Parish Registers and Civil Registers might not be completed for all communes within a particular modern-day département.

Archives - Repositories

France Archives

<https://francearchives.fr/fr/decouvrir>

Basse-Normandie – Lower Normandy

Calvados – Caen – **Archives du Calvados** – Regional archive

<https://archives.calvados.fr/>

Manche – Saint-Lô – **Archives de la Manche**

<https://www.archives-manche.fr/>

Orne – Alençon – **Archives départementales de l'Orne** – Regional archive

<https://www.archives-departementales.com/index.php?article63/archives-en-ligne-de-l-orne-numerisees>

Haute-Normandie – Upper Normandy

Eure – Évreux – **Archives départementales de l'Eure** – Regional archive

<http://archives.eure.fr/>

Seine-Maritime – Rouen – **Archives départementales de la Seine-Maritime** – Regional archive

<http://www.archivesdepartementales76.net/>

France – **Archives municipales en ligne** – Online Municipal Archives – 49 municipal archives across France with online dossiers addressing families of the past.

<https://www.archiveenligne.fr/liste-archives-communales/>

Archives communales (municipales) **d'Alençon** – Municipal archive - Orne

<http://archives.ville-alencon.fr/>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Bayeux** – Municipal archive - Calvados

<https://www.archiveenligne.fr/category/bayeux/>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Caen** – Municipal archive - Calvados

<https://archives.calvados.fr/archdesc/b390a9da-aecb-4b76-9fe8-a0fd048d2958>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Cherbourg-en-Cotentin** – Municipal archive - Manche

<https://www.cherbourg.fr/infos-services/culture-et-loisirs/archives-municipales-1872.html>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Dieppe** – Municipal archive – Seine-Maritime

<https://patrimoine.dieppe.fr/collections/>

Archives communales (municipales) **d'Évreux** – Municipal archive - Eure

<https://evreux.fr/mes-demarches/les-archives-municipales/>

Archives communales (municipales) **de la Ville du Havre** – Municipal archive – Seine-Maritime
<https://archives.lehavre.fr/>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Lisieux** – Municipal archive – Calvados
<https://www.archiveenligne.fr/category/lisieux/>
<https://archives.calvados.fr/archdesc/c0283e63-709a-445a-a6af-957e5c68050a>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Rouen** – Municipal archive – Seine-Maritime
<https://rouen.fr/archives-municipales>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Saint-Lô** – Municipal archive - Manche
<https://www.saint-lo.fr/votre-mairie-et-ses-services/vie-municipale/archives-municipales>

Archives communales (municipales) **de Vernon** – Municipal archive - Eure
<http://www.vernon27.fr/la-ville/histoire-de-vernon/archives-municipales/>

Genealogy – Généalogie

Calvados – Cercle de Généalogie du Calvados
<http://www.cegecal.org/>

Eure – Cercle Généalogique de l'Eure
<http://eure-genealogie.org/>

Manche – Cercle Généalogique de la Manche
<http://www.cg50.org/>

Orne – Centre Généalogique de l'Orne et du Perche
<https://www.orne-perche.org/>

Seine-Maritime – Cercle Généalogique Rouen Seine-Maritime
<https://cgrsm.org/>

Calvados – Filae.com
 <https://www.filae.com/archives-calvados/etat-civil-genealogie-calvados-14.html>

Eure – Filae.com
 <https://www.filae.com/archives-eure/etat-civil-genealogie-eure-27.html>

Manche – Filae.com

\$\$\$ <https://www.filae.com/archives-manche/etat-civil-genealogie-manche-50.html>

Orne – Filae.com

\$\$\$ <https://www.filae.com/archives-orne/etat-civil-genealogie-orne-61.html>

Seine-Maritime – Filae.com

\$\$\$ <https://www.filae.com/archives-seine-maritime/etat-civil-genealogie-seine-maritime-76.html>

History – Histoire

Gallica – BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/>

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/presse-et-revues>

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/revues-savantes-par-zones-geographiques>

Normandie – Gallica BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France – Revues savantes de la Normandie

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/revues-savantes-normandie>

Calvados – Gallica BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France – Revues savantes du Calvados

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/calvados>

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/revues-savantes-du-calvados>

Eure – Gallica BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France – Revues savantes de l'Eure

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/france/revues-savantes-de-leure>

Manche – Gallica BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France – Revues savantes de la Manche

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/presse-et-revues/revues-savantes-de-la-manche>

Orne – Gallica BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France – Revues savantes de l'Orne

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/france/revues-savantes-de-lorne>

Seine-Maritime – Gallica BnF – Bibliothèque nationale de France – Revues savantes de la Seine-Maritime

<https://gallica.bnf.fr/html/und/france/revues-savantes-de-seine-maritime>

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