

## Genealogical Societies:

- American Canadian Genealogical Society – 1 Sundial Ave., Suite 317N (P.O. Box 6478), Manchester, NH 03103; 603-622-1554; [www.acgs.org](http://www.acgs.org)
- American French Genealogical Society – 78 Earle St. (P.O. Box 830), Woonsocket, RI 02895; 401-765-6141; [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org)
- French Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut – 53 Tolland Green (P.O. Box 928), Tolland, CT 06084; 860-872-2597; [info@fcgsc.org](mailto:info@fcgsc.org); [www.fcgsc.org/](http://www.fcgsc.org/)
- Northern New York American Canadian Genealogical Society – 44 Emmons St. (P.O. Box 928), Dannemora, NY 12981; 518-561-5728; [www.nnyacgs.com](http://www.nnyacgs.com)
- Vermont Genealogy Library – 57 River Rd., Essex Junction, VT 05452 (P.O. Box 65128, Burlington, VT 05406); 802-871-5647; [mail@vtgenlib.org](mailto:mail@vtgenlib.org); [www.vtgenlib.org](http://www.vtgenlib.org)

## A Note about “Dit” names:

- Because many French sons were often named after their fathers, the custom arose to give them nicknames, such as “LeCourt” (short), “LeGrand” (tall), “Boucher” (butcher), “Boulangier” (baker) etc. These nicknames (or “dit” names in French) are often used in official records instead of their true names. Thus, someone could be registered at baptism, marriage, death under different names—but they’re all the same person!
- Many modern sources will flag these “dit” names, but not always—so be careful to search under both the original name and the “dit” name.

Shrewsbury Public Library  
609 Main Street  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
Phone: 508-841-8609

## French-Canadian Genealogy – The Basics!

### Introduction...

There are many resources and records of our French-Canadian ancestors, thanks to several 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century genealogists—and many of these resources are readily available online! So let’s get started...

### A couple of How-to guides:

- Douglas J. Miller: *Miller’s Manual, A Research Guide to the Major French-Canadian Genealogical Resources, What They Are and How to Use Them*
- Jeanne Sauve White: *Guide to Quebec Catholic Parishes and Published Parish Marriage Records* [see also on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)]

## Church records:

- The Drouin collection. A compilation of marriage records from Catholic parishes in the Province of Quebec, from the 1600s to the 1940s. These records have been digitized, and can be found online via Ancestry.com or FamilySearch.org or at NEHGS, ACGS, AFGS and many large public libraries.
- The Loiselle Index. A compilation of marriage records, from the 520 Catholic parishes in Province of Quebec, some from New Brunswick, Madawaska County (Maine) and Manchester (New Hampshire), from 1640 to 1963, by Rev. Antonin Loiselle.
- “The PRDH.” (Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique, or Research Program in Historical Demography) This is the latest and most accurate compilation

of church records, based on extensive, on-going research at the University of Montreal. Available in print or on-line at genealogical societies, larger public libraries, or online by personal subscription.

## Civil records:

- Civil records before 1900 (mostly copies of church records) are public records, and are readily available at various websites.
- Civil records after 1900 are available only to named persons or their legal agents. Contact: Directeur de l'État Civil, Service à la Clientele, 205 Rue Montmagny, Québec, QC, Canada G1N 2Z9, or phone: 418-644-3900, or online: [www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca)

## Canadian Census records:

- Early censuses (1600s, 1700s) are essentially lists of only “heads of households.”
- Province of Quebec censuses: 1825, 1831, 1842—called “Lower Canada.” 1851 and 1861—called “East Canada.” 1861 to 1911—called “Province of Quebec.” Many of these census records are available online at *FamilySearch.org*, *Ancestry.com*, and *collectionscanada.gc.ca/*

## Notarial records:

- Notarial records provide valuable information about property deeds and other transactions, wills, probate records, labor contracts, and information about orphans, etc.
- A helpful guide to notaries and their records is [\*The Notaries of French-Canada, 1626-1900: Alphabetical, Chronological, by Area Served\*](#), by Robert J. Quinton.