

HANDOUT FOR FINDING YOUR FRENCH ANCESTORS for the 2014 Conference

IMPORTANT HISTORICAL DATES FOR FRANCE FOR GENEALOGY

1. MANDATE OF PRIESTS TO KEEP Naissance, Marriage, Sepulture
- 1598 2. EDICT OF NANTES by King Henri IV
- 1685 3. REVOCATION OF THE EDICT OF NANTES by King Louis XIV
- 1789 4. FRENCH REVOLUTION 14 July 1789 - 1792
*everything should be equal and set up according to reason,
rather than by tradition or conservatism.*
- 1792 5. 1st REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE
 - a. New calendar system for 12 years
 - b. New months
 - c. New years
- 1830 6. COMMUNE OF PARIS
- 1871 7. COMMUNE OF PARIS (Burning of the Tuleries Building)
 - a. Destruction of historical records of Paris

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE OF FRANCE

1. SUBDIVISIONS OF FRANCE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

a. Communes in France	37,500+
b. Provinces of France	39

2. SUBDIVISIONS OF FRANCE AFTER THE REVOLUTION

a. Communes	36,552
b. Arrondissements	342
c. Cantons	
d. Départements	95
e. Régions	22
f. State	1

3. HISTORICAL RECORDS IN THE FRENCH COLONIES

LOCATION OF THE ARCHIVAL RECORDS

1. National Archives in Paris
2. Bibliothèque National in Paris
3. Départementals Archives in each Départemental
 - a. Census records (recensement)
 - b. Military Enlistment records
4. Municipal records in various Municipalities
5. Military records at the Départemental level

POPULATION OF FRANCE AT DIFFERENT TIMES

DATE	POPULATION
1600	20,000,000
1700	21,000,000
1800	27,500,000
1900	38,900,000

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LANGUAGES OF FRENCH RECORDS

1. French, Latin, German

USEFUL VOCABULARY AND WORDS WHEN READING FRENCH RECORDS

About 60% of English words come from French

EVENTS

Birth	Naissance
Baptism	Baptême
Marriage	Mariage
Death	Déces
Deceases	Défunts
Godfather	Parrain
Godmother	Marriane
Parish	Paroisse
Birth	Né, Née
Boy	Fils
Girl	Fille

OCCUPATIONS

Carpenter	Charpentier
Farmer	Cultivateur
Surgeon	Chirurgien
Doctor	Médecin
Instructor	Instructeur
Day Worker	Journalier

Use google translate.

FRENCH DIACRITICAL MARKS (11 of 16)

1	a with grave accent	à ALT + 133	À ALT + 0192
2	a with circumflex	â ALT + 131	Â ALT + 0194
3	a with tréma	ä ALT + 132	Ä ALT + 142
4	a e ligature	æ ALT + 145	Æ ALT + 146
5	c with cedilla	ç ALT + 135	Ç ALT + 128
6	e with acute accent	é ALT + 130	É ALT + 144
7	e with grave accent	è ALT + 138	È ALT + 0200
8	e with circumflex	ê ALT + 136	Ê ALT + 0202
9	e with tréma	ë ALT + 137	Ë ALT + 0203
10	i with circumflex	î ALT + 140	Î ALT + 0206
11	i with tréma	ï ALT + 139	Ï ALT + 0207

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