

French Record Keeping

1539 – Villers – Cotterêts, reform of record keeping, discontinuation of Latin.

1563 – Council of Trent, Priests have to record baptisms, marriages and deaths

1667 – Code–Louis – 2 copies kept

1792 – Begin of Civil Registration

French Church Records

Baptismal Records – L'Acte de Baptême

- Date of event and birth
- Given name of child
- Name of parents, residence and profession
- Name of God parents
- Legitimate or not

Marriage Record - L'Acte de Mariage

- Date of event, and date of banns posted
- Full name of bride and groom, age and profession, permission to marry
- Consent of the parents, reference to a marriage contract
- Dispensation of consanguinity
- Witnesses

Burial Record – L'Acte de Sépulture

- Date of burial and death
- Name of deceased, age and occupation
- Sacrament of Extreme Unction
- 2 witnesses

Civil Registration

Civil authorities began registering births, deaths and marriages in 1792. Records are created in the local town halls and after 100years moved to the Departmental Archives. Indexes added at the end of each year and 10year Indexes (Tables Décennales).

Birth Register –L'Acte de Naissance

- Date, place and time of registration and birth
- Child's given and surname, gender
- Age and profession of parents
- If mother is single, name of her parents
- Name and age of 2 witnesses
- Marginal entries in birth records (1881) Recognition by parent, change of name, marriage, divorce and death.

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French Church and Civil Records

Marriage Record - L'Acte de Mariage

- Date and place of marriage
- Full name of bride and groom, their birth date and place, profession and addresses.
- Full name of their parents (including mother's maiden name), details of any previous marriages.
- Date and place of death for a deceased parents
- Addresses and occupations of at least 2 witnesses
- Acknowledgement of any children born before marriage

Death Record – L'Acte de Décès

- Name of deceased
- Age and birth place
- Parent's names, including mother's maiden name and whether parents are deceased
- Name of spouse and if spouse is still alive

How to find French Church and Civil Records:

- **Family History Library Catalog** (you can find a link to the records online, if available).
Pour rechercher en ligne une copie de ces registres dès le commencement à 1885, et tables décennales 1802-1902, cliquer <http://www.cg06.fr/culture/culture-archives.html> (mis en ligne à ce site web le 1 février 2008).
- http://www.francegenweb.org/~wiki/index.php/Carte_de_France_des_archives_en_ligne
http://www.francegenweb.org/~wiki/index.php/Archives_en_ligne#01
Below is an example of what records are available for Department 01, Ain

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| Archives numérisées | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Registres paroissiaux et état civil- Recensements 1836-1906- Listes électorales 1890-1910- Registres matricules 1867-1908- Tables de successions 1834-1959- Cartes postales, estampes, photos, films- Cartes et plans cadastraux 1806-1867 |
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- Within the last 100 years, if you are a direct descendant you can write for a birth, marriage or death record.
- For Paris
<https://teleservices.paris.fr/etatcivil/jsp/site/RunStandaloneApp.jsp?page=formengine&form=naissance>
- For the rest of France
<https://www.acte-etat-civil.fr/DemandeActe/Accueil.do>

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