



Finding Your French Ancestors Online, Part 1

Brandon L. Baird

FamilySearch

brandonlee.baird@familysearch.org

Objective: Understand how to find different resources on the FamilySearch Wiki and find key record types available on FamilySearch and Ancestry.

FamilySearch Wiki

- Use the Wiki in both English and French.
 - On the French pages use Google Chrome to translate the page.
- Always look at the Département page.
 - You will find different resources on each page.
- Treasures
 - Direct links to the Archive website
 - Lists of the Communes (including old communes)
 - Genealogical Societies
 - Record extractions (**dépouillement**)
- Terms to look for
 - Dépouillement (Record extractions)
 - Associations généalogiques
 - Liste des communes
 - Numérisées (digitized images)
 - Registres d'état civil (Civil Registration Records)
 - Registres paroissiaux (Parish Records)

FamilySearch Record Collections

- There are indexed and digitized records available for many areas of France.
- Record Types available
 - Catholic Parish Records
 - Census (**recensements**)
 - Civil Registration
 - Protestant Church Records
 - Military Conscriptions
 - Family Genealogies
 - Inquiries of Consanguinity
- Steps to find the record collections
 1. Go to www.FamilySearch.org
 2. Click on the **Search** tab
 3. Under **Research by Location** click on Europe
 4. In the popout click on **France**
 5. Choose the collection you wish to view

Ancestry Record Collections

- Ancestry has 564 record collections that pertain to France. You can access them in English or in French. They are indexed or digitized.
- Important Record Collections:
 - Ille-et-Vilaine, France Passport Applications, 1926-1946
 - Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, French Citizenship Declarations
 - German Emigrants from France (Haut-Rhin Department) to America
 - Paris, France & Vicinity, Births, 1700-1899
 - France Historical Postcards
 - Census Collections
 - Civil Registration Collections
 - Catholic Church Record Collections
 - and many, many more!!!
- Steps to find the record collections
 1. Go to www.Ancestry.com
 2. Click on **Search**
 3. Click on **Card Catalog**
 4. Under **Filter by Location** click on **Europe**
 5. Then click on **France**
 6. Narrow down the results more by choosing a collection or a Département