

Making French-Canadian Genealogy Easy Using the Drouin Collections

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The genealogical records of Québec are among the world's best preserved, organized, and indexed sources of genealogical information extending back to the founding of New France in the early seventeenth century. The Drouin Collections make it very easy to find genealogical information for French-Canadian researchers.

- Institut généalogique Drouin (IGD) / Drouin Genealogical Institute: A professional genealogy firm started around 1899 by Joseph Drouin to research the ancestry of French-Canadian clients. His son, Gabriel Drouin continued the business until his death in 1980 when his relative, Claud Drouin, inherited the business.
- The IGD microfilmed the parish registers of Québec and the surviving records of Acadia as well as some parishes in Ontario and the United States. They also collected some notarial, census, and other records of genealogical interest.
- The IGD would produce family histories for paying clients.
- After 1980, Jean-Pierre Pepin acquired the rights to the IGD collection, formed the Drouin Institute, digitized the collection, and eventually founded GenealogyQuebec.com. In 2007, a deal was made with Ancestry.com to host and index some of the IGD collection.
- GenealogyQuebec.com at <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/>.
 - \$100 per year to access 1050 images per week.
 - Can also do a 24-hour access for \$5.00 for 75 images or a monthly subscription for \$13.00 per month for 75 images a day.
 - The most important resource at GenealogyQuebec.com is the LAFRANCE index
 - LAFRANCE offers access to the following:
 - Catholic Baptisms 1621-1861
 - Catholic Marriages 1621-1917
 - Catholic Burials 1621-1861
 - BMD 1862-2008, a collaborative database of vital acts collected by various Québec genealogy societies.
 - Protestant Marriages 1760-1849
 - Easy to search these records by individuals or couples. Can also search parishes.
 - Very well indexed. The database periodically grows as more records are indexed and linked.
 - When the user clicks on a link in a search an abstract of the record is produced.
 - The abstract includes a link to the original record in the parish register.
 - Also, LAFRANCE links to the family reconstruction data at the Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH, Research Program in Historical Demography), another subscription service.

- PRDH is at <https://www.prdh-igd.com/en/home>.
 - You pay for the number of “hits” you want, for example, 150 hits costs \$24.15.
 - Family reconstruction means that for a couple their parents and children are listed as well as other spouses and all known births, marriages, and burials are indicated.
- There is also access to many other records that for the most part are not indexed, but can be searched using traditional approaches, that is, knowing the parish of an ancestor and approximate period of residence, you can search the original parish register.
- Loiselle index to Québec marriages is available.
- The papers and card indexes for several important Québec genealogists, including Archange Godbout, Roland-J. Auger, and René Jetté can be found here.
- Previously published genealogical works of the IGD are included.
- Access to Jetté’s dictionary.
- The 47 published volumes of the PRDH.
- And many more miscellaneous but at this time unindexed genealogical collections.
- For a list of all the available records and collections at GenealogyQuebec.com see <https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/about>.
- Although the records are in French, an English interface is offered.
- Ancestry.com also has made available several of the Drouin collections:
 - Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1968 at <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1091>.
 - Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1802-1967 at <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1109>.
 - U.S., French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1695-1954 at <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1111>.
 - Acadia, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1757-1946 at <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1110>.
 - Quebec Notarial Records (Drouin Collection), 1647-1942 at <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1112>. This contains the repertory and occasionally the index for a notary and not the original notarial acts.
 - U.S. and Canada, Miscellaneous French Records (Drouin Collection), 1651-1941 at <https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1092>.
 - Need to subscribe to a World Explorer account to access these records, more expensive (\$299 per year) than the regular U.S. Discovery account (\$189 per year). May not be available at a local public library.
 - Some concern over the accuracy of the indexing of these records at Ancestry.com.
- In general, in my opinion, GenealogyQuebec.com is a better deal and easier to use than Ancestry.com.
- I encourage you to explore the GenealogyQuebec.com website to explore the records that are available and to try a daily or monthly subscription to see if it meets your needs.