# Making French-Canadian Genealogy Easy Using the Drouin Collections

John P. DuLong, Ph.D. Family History Seminar Lansing 28 April 2018

#### Acknowledgements

- Thanks to the Family History Library for inviting me to speak
- Also, thanks to the members of the French-Canadian Heritage Society of Michigan for all their support over the years

#### **Embarrassment of Riches**

- Best preserved and indexed genealogical records in North America
- Québec always led the way in the quantity and quality of genealogical records
- Now she is leading the way in making these records available online
- We are going to focus on what is perhaps the best and easiest of the online collections, that is, the Drouin Collection

#### **Topics**

- What is the Institut Généalogique Drouin?
- The Drouin Collection at GenealogieQuebec.com
  - LAFRANCE
  - PRDH
  - Other resources at GenealogieQuebec.com
- The Drouin Collection at Ancestry.com

#### Online Handout

- Point your browser to <a href="http://habitant.org">http://habitant.org</a>
- Select the link to "Making French-Canadian Genealogy Easy Using the Drouin Collections"
- There you will find the syllabus for this lecture
- And I have included this PowerPoint presentation

#### Website Address

http://habitant.org

## Focus on Catholic Parish Registers

- Most French Canadians are Catholic
- Catholic parish registers go back to 1621
- The Drouin Collections index these parish registers and have links images from the original registers

#### Parish Registers

- Church Copy
- Kept at the parish
- Microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Used by the PRDH
- Original record, fewer mistakes
- Few parish registers lost

- Civil Copy
- Kept at the regional branches of the Québec archives
- Microfilmed and used by the Drouin Collection
- A nearly contemporary duplicate record, but still considered an original reference
- Replacement of lost parish registers

## What is the Institut Généalogique Drouin?

- Imagine you have access to one of the largest and most thorough private genealogical collections
- This collection was closed to the public
- To benefit from it you had to pay a professional genealogist
- The Institut Généalogique Drouin (IGD) was a private genealogical firm

#### Institut Généalogique Drouin

- Leading Québec genealogical firm from 1899 to 1980 founded by Joseph Drouin and later run by his son Gabriel Drouin
- Impressive collection of microfilmed records
- The company ran into financial difficulties and Claude Drouin sold the collection to Jean-Pierre Pepin after 1980

## The Renewed Institut Généalogique Drouin

- Pepin decided to open the collection to the public through a subscription online service
- Working with Sébastien Robert, Pepin has digitized the records and created
   GenealogieQuebec.com
- Ancestry.com has purchased digital rights and indexed some of the collection

#### GenealogieQuebec.com

- English interface at <u>https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/</u>
- The records are in French
- LAFRANCE is the most important service at GenealogieQuebec.com and will be focusing on it
- There are several other important genealogical resources at this site, but they are not yet indexed

#### LAFRANCE

- 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

#### Other Genealogy Resources

- 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 genealogical dictionary
- The 47 published volumes of the PRDH
- And many more miscellaneous but at this time unindexed genealogical collections

#### Complete List of Resources

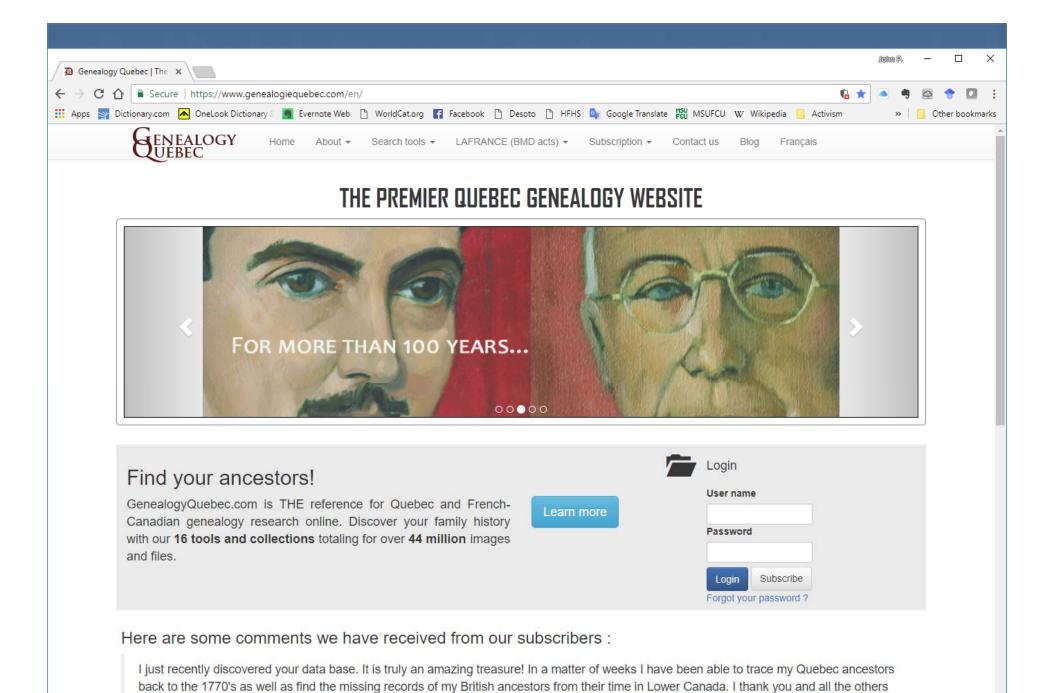
For a list of all the available records and collections at GenealogyQuebec.com see:

https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/about

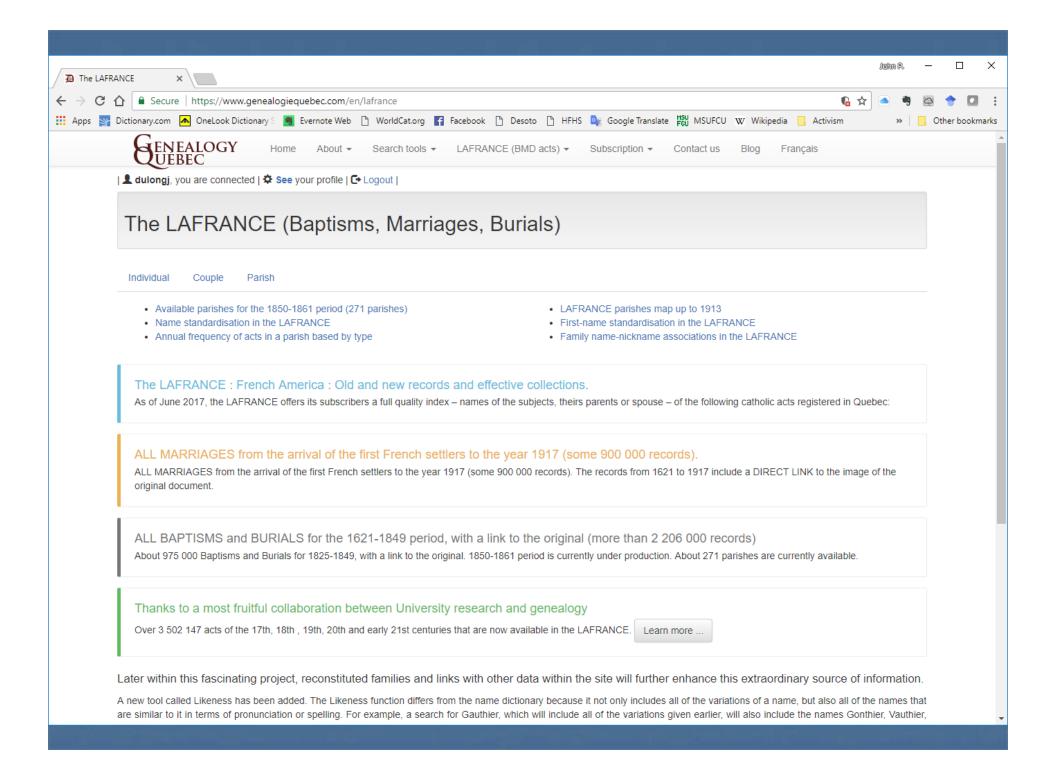
Most of these additional resources are NOT indexed at this time

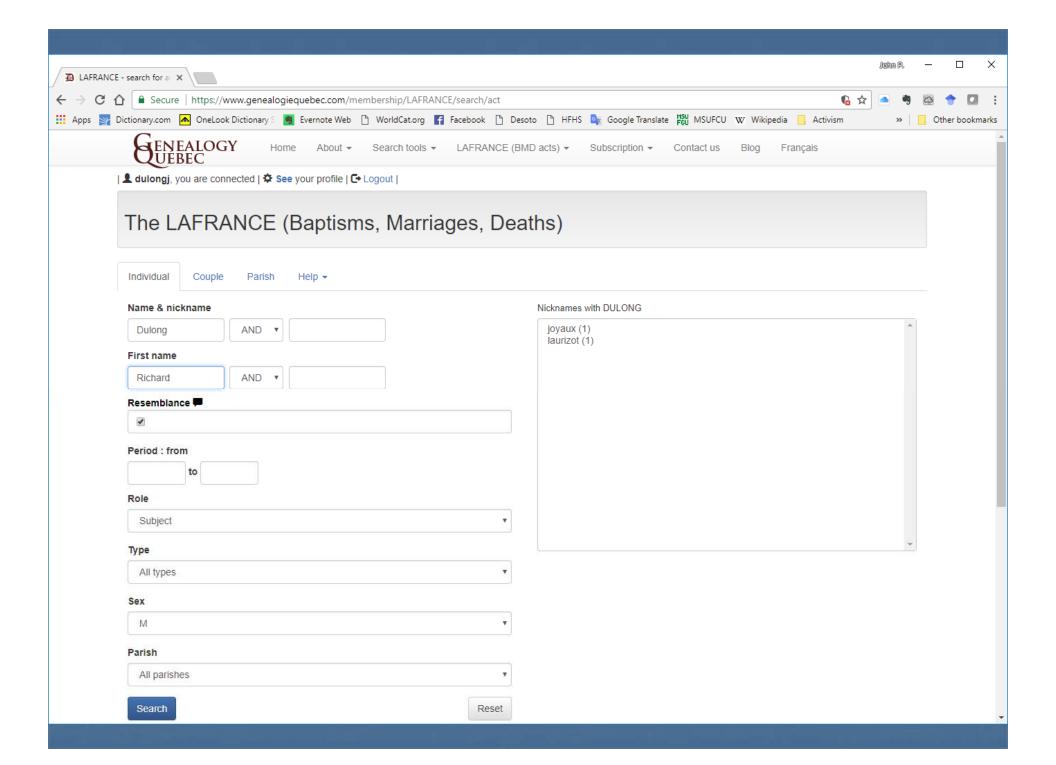
#### GenealogieQuebec.com Cost

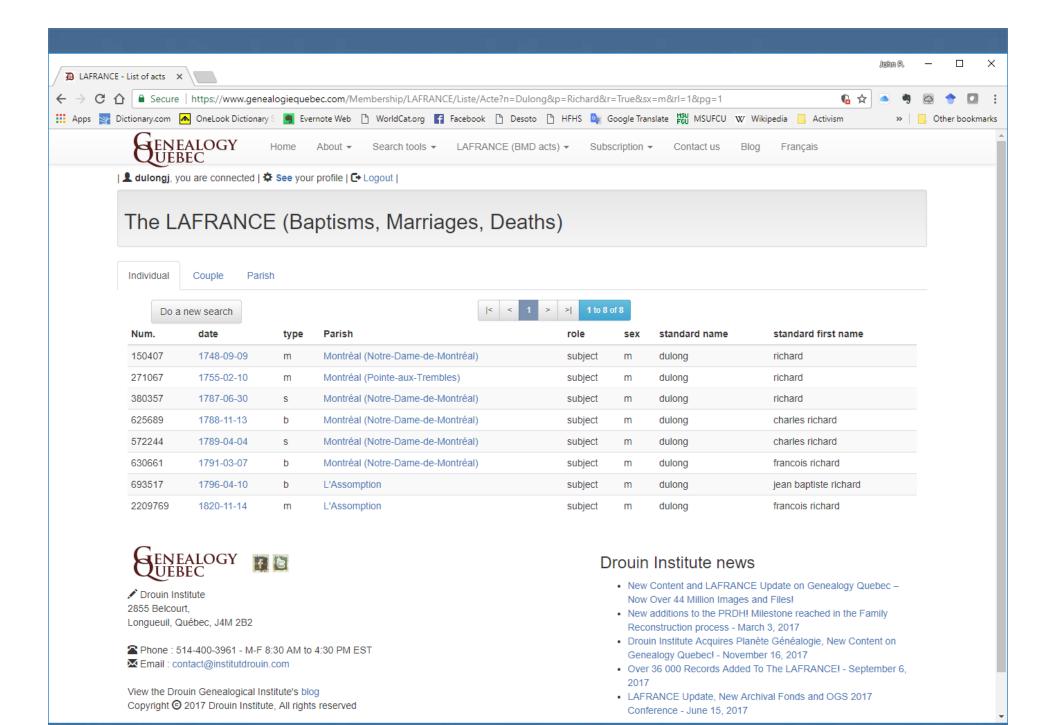
- Three plans as of April 2018:
  - 55.00 for 24 hours of access, 75 images
  - \$13.00 per month, 75 images per day
  - = \$100.00 per year, 1,050 images per week
- This pricing is much more reasonable than Ancestry.com and PRDH
- You can try a day subscription and see if it is worthwhile to get a longer subscription

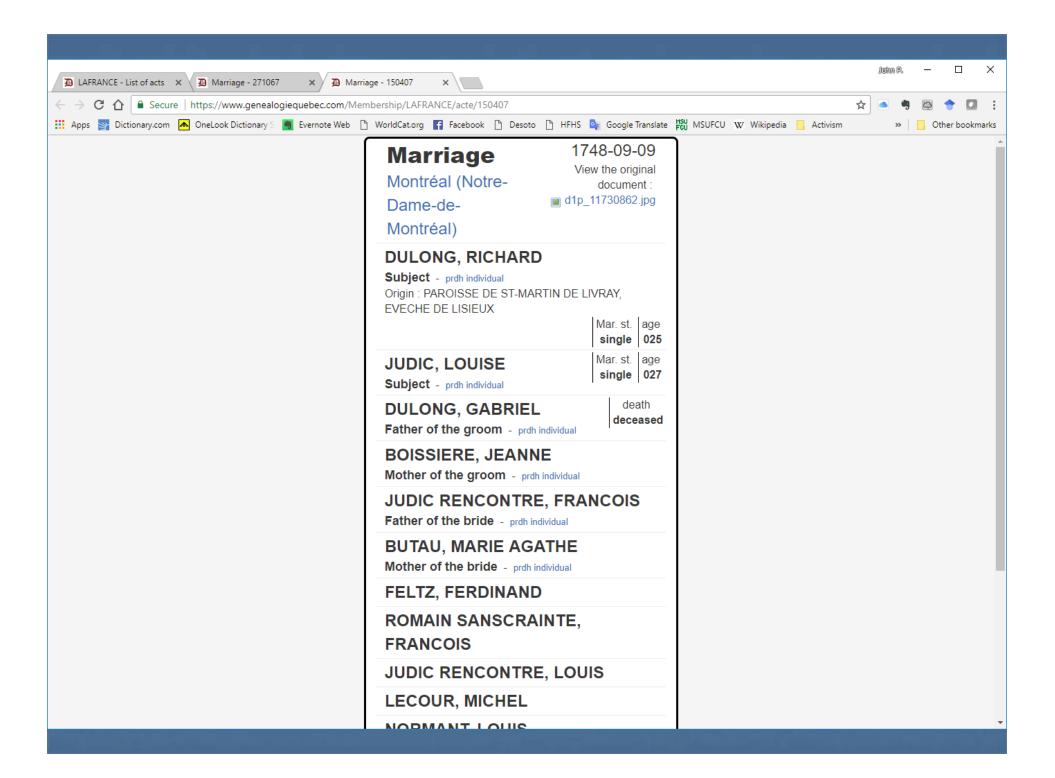


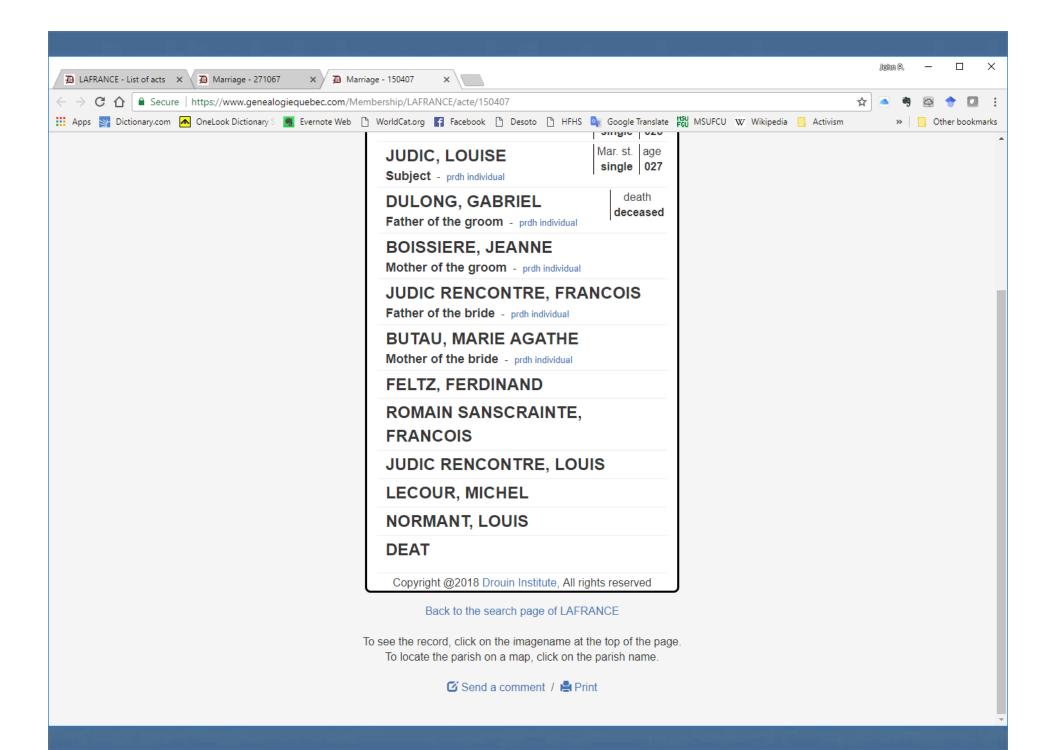
who have put so much effort into making these records so accessible.

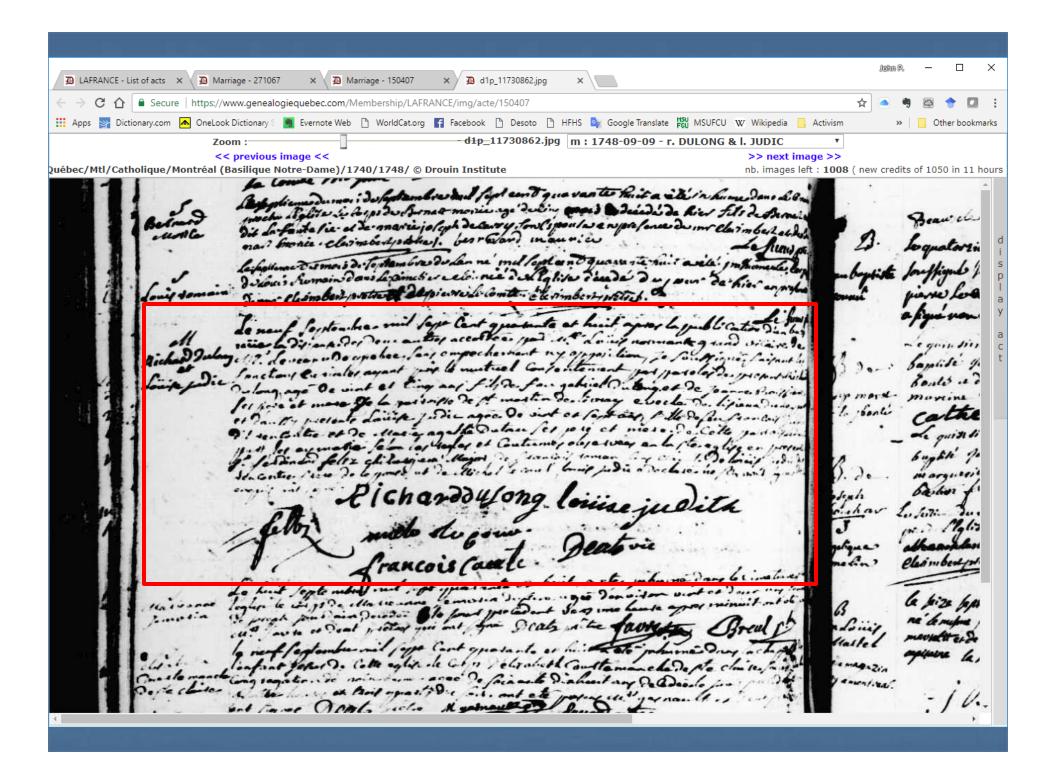


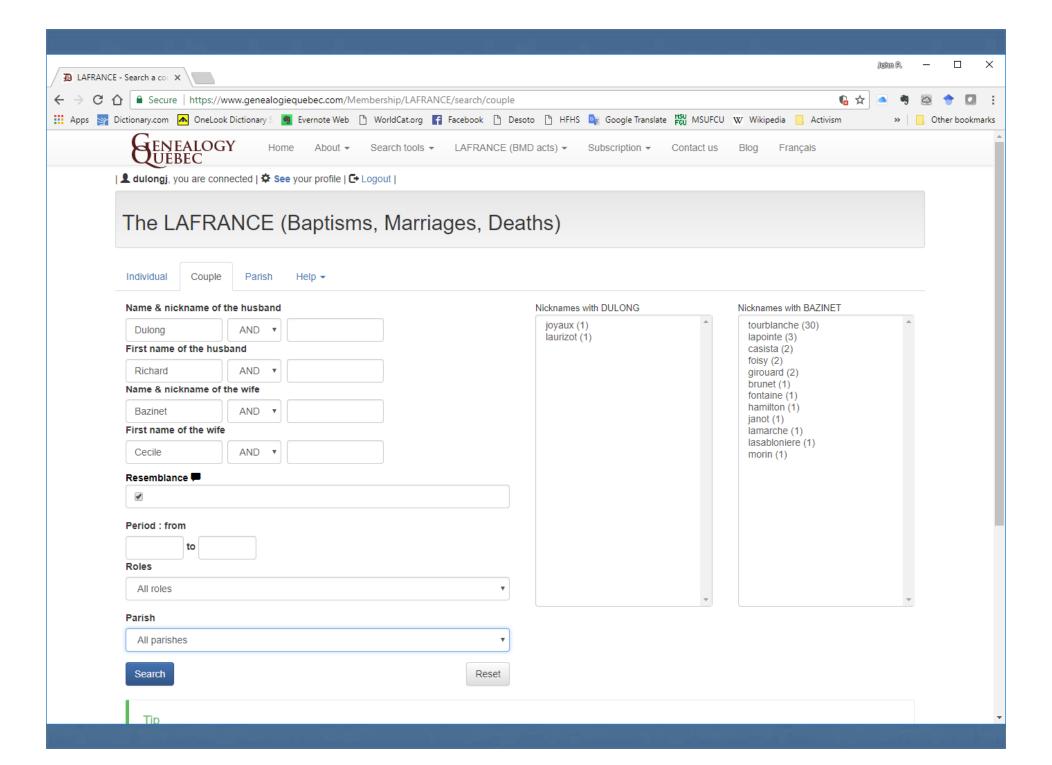


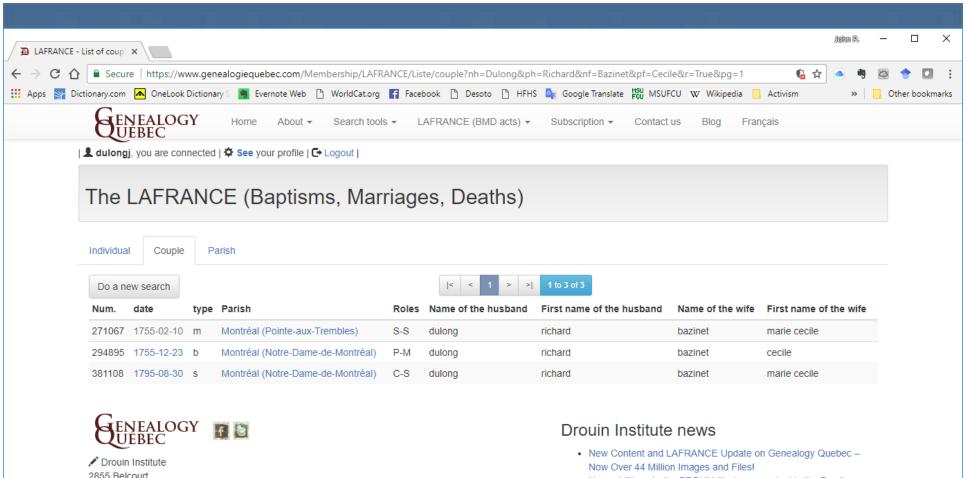












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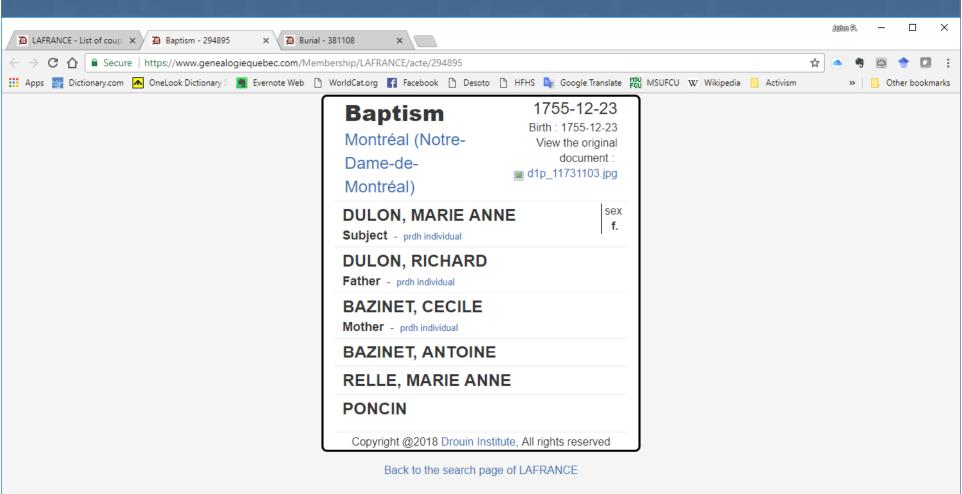
Longueuil, Québec, J4M 2B2

Phone: 514-400-3961 - M-F 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM EST

Email: contact@institutdrouin.com

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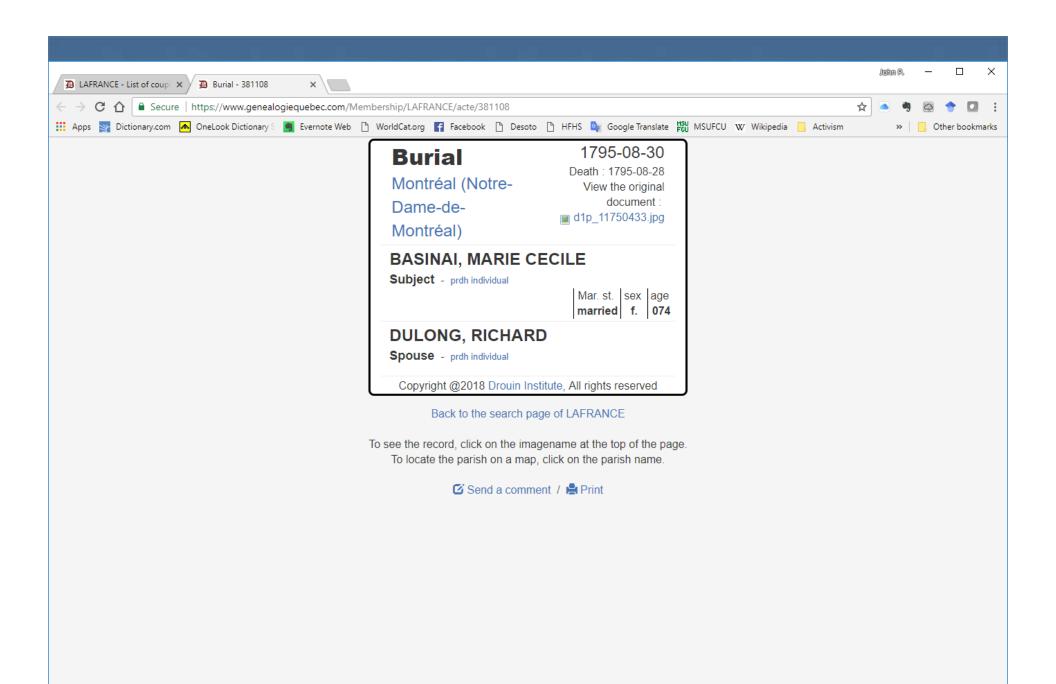
- · New additions to the PRDH! Milestone reached in the Family Reconstruction process - March 3, 2017
- · Drouin Institute Acquires Planète Généalogie, New Content on Genealogy Quebec! - November 16, 2017
- · Over 36 000 Records Added To The LAFRANCE! September 6, 2017
- · LAFRANCE Update, New Archival Fonds and OGS 2017 Conference - June 15, 2017

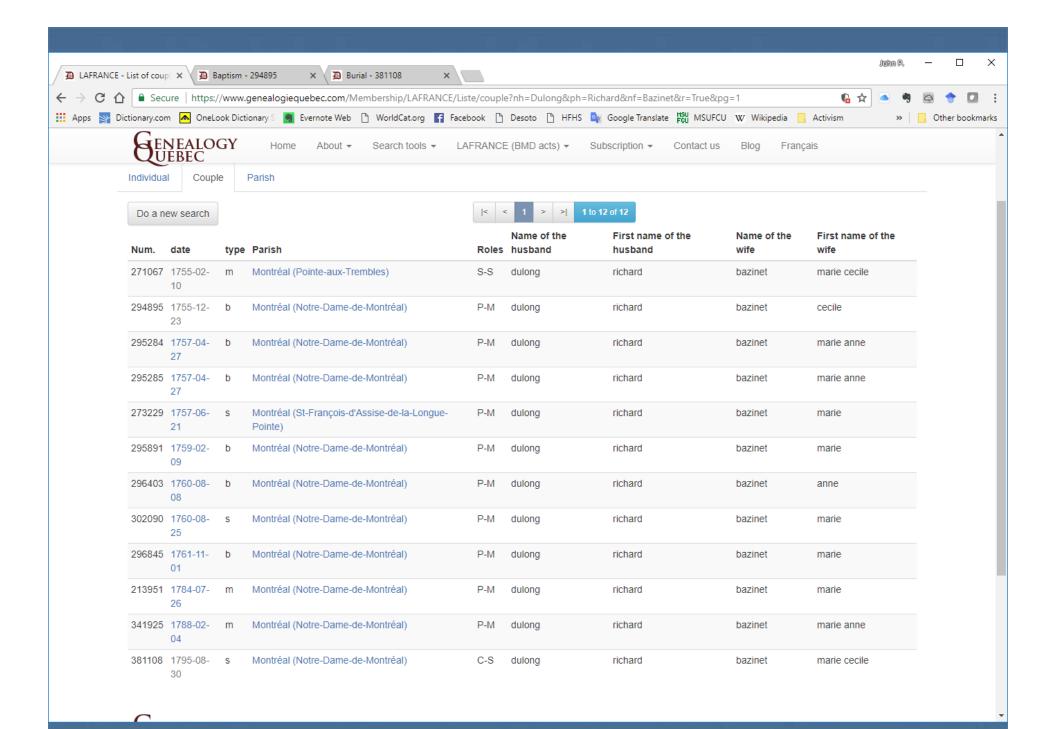


To see the record, click on the imagename at the top of the page.

To locate the parish on a map, click on the parish name.

☑ Send a comment / ♣ Print





#### **PRDH**

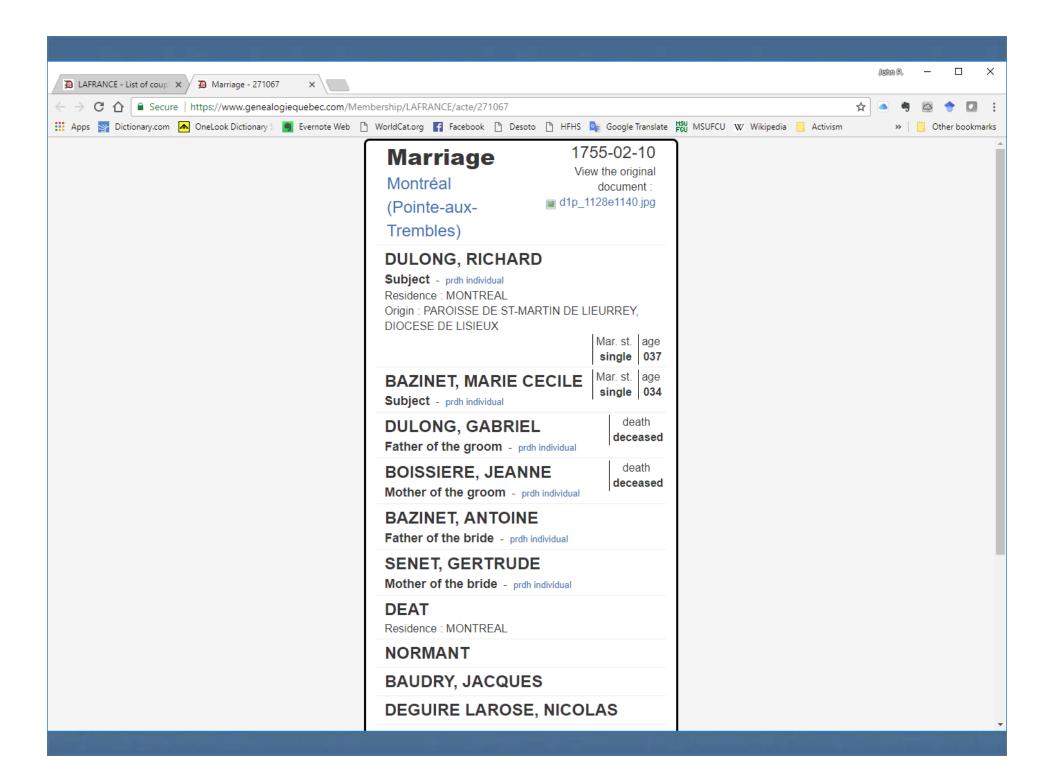
- Le Programme de recherche en démographie historique (The Research Program in Historical Demography), University of Montréal
- Started in 1966 by demographers, but has only been online for a few years
- Computerized population registry
- All baptism, marriage, and burial records of Québec from 1621 to 1849 and a little beyond in some parishes
- Based mostly on the church copies of the parish registers
- Census, confirmation, lists of passengers, etc., records also included
- They reconstruct families
- Have a collaborative relationship with GenealogieQuebec.com

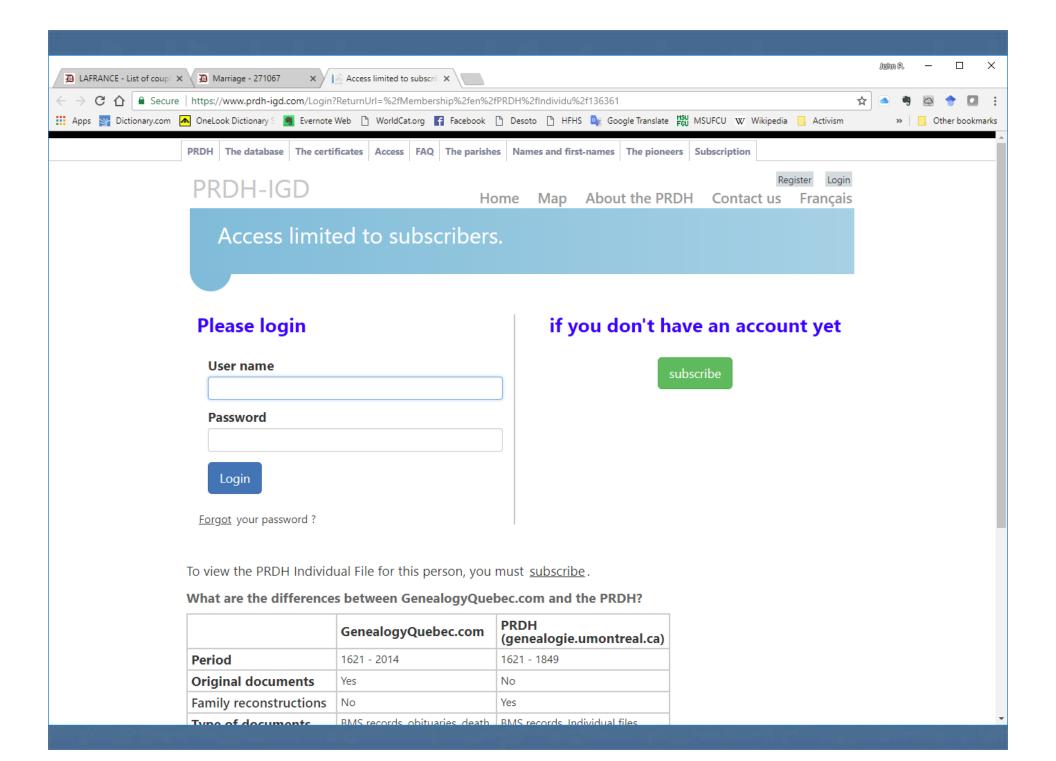
#### PRDH

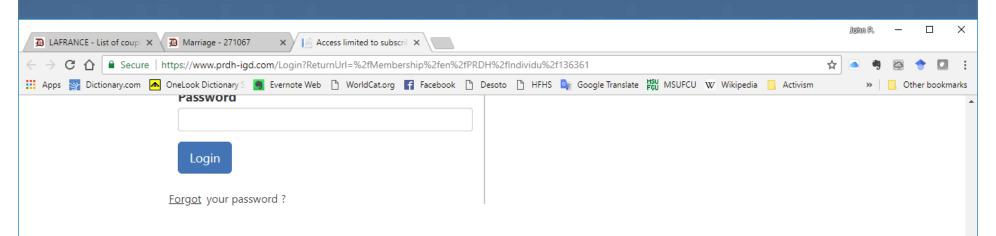
- Offers three sections that can be searched:
  - Repertory of Vital Events (1621-1849), individual, couple, parish, and number
  - Genealogical Dictionary of Families (1621-1824), individual, family, individual number, and family number
  - Repertory of Couples and Filial Relations (1621-1824), couples and couple number
- Each individual and couple event has a certificate
   number associated with the record, can use in citations

#### **PRDH**

- Very limited coverage of frontier locations in the Great Lakes, Acadia, and Louisiana
- Index is free, but you must pay to view records
- Fees are reasonable, for instance, 500 hits for \$43.95 Canadian, 16¢ per hit
- Family reconstruction very helpful
- Does not link to original parish register







To view the PRDH Individual File for this person, you must <u>subscribe</u>.

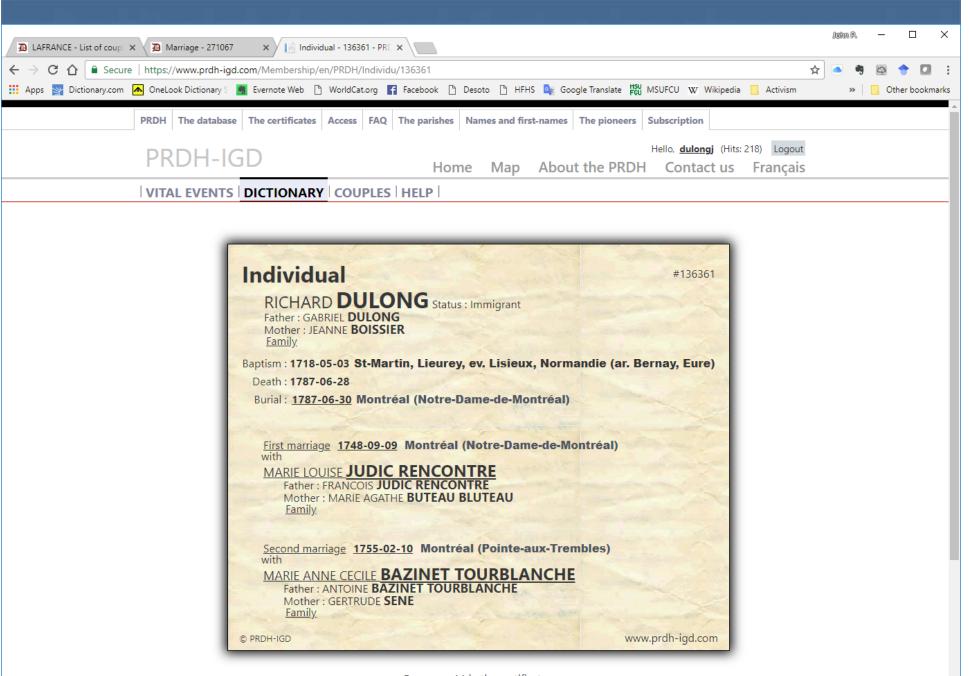
#### What are the differences between GenealogyQuebec.com and the PRDH?

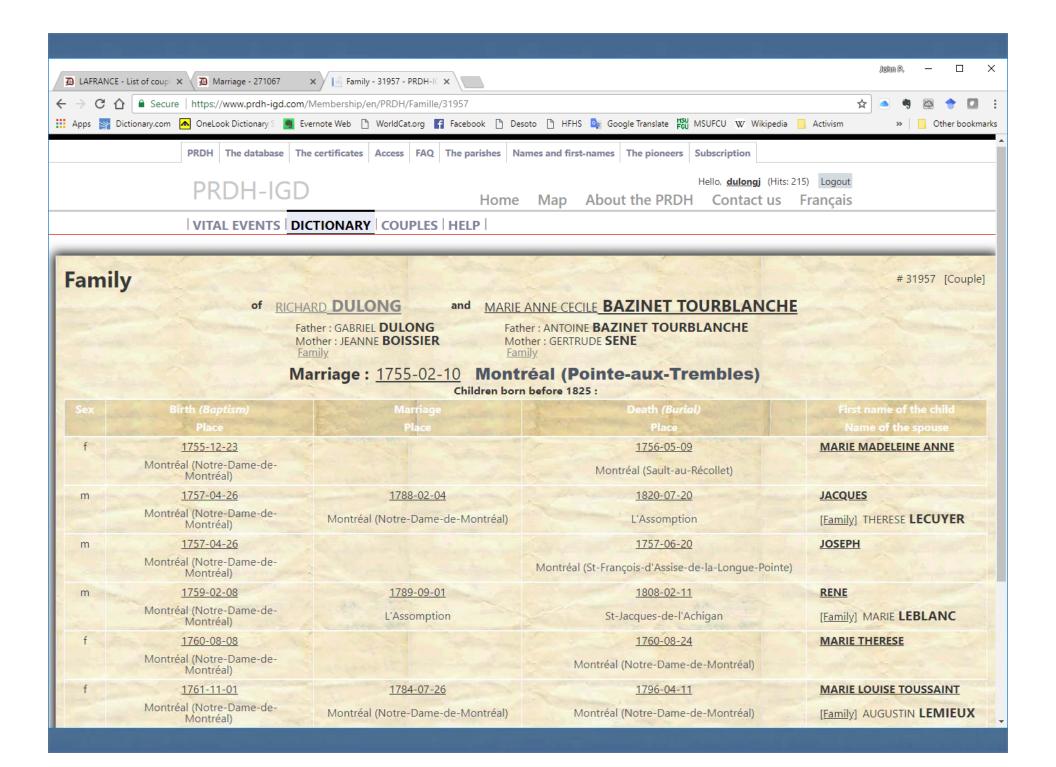
	GenealogyQuebec.com	PRDH (genealogie.umontreal.ca)
Period	1621 - 2014	1621 - 1849
Original documents	Yes	No
Family reconstructions	No	Yes
Type of documents	BMS records, obituaries, death cards, tombstones, notarized documents, censuses, marriage repertories, parish records, postcards	BMS records, Individual files, Couple files, Family files
Subscription type	Time based (24h, 1 month, 1 year)	Purchasable "hits"

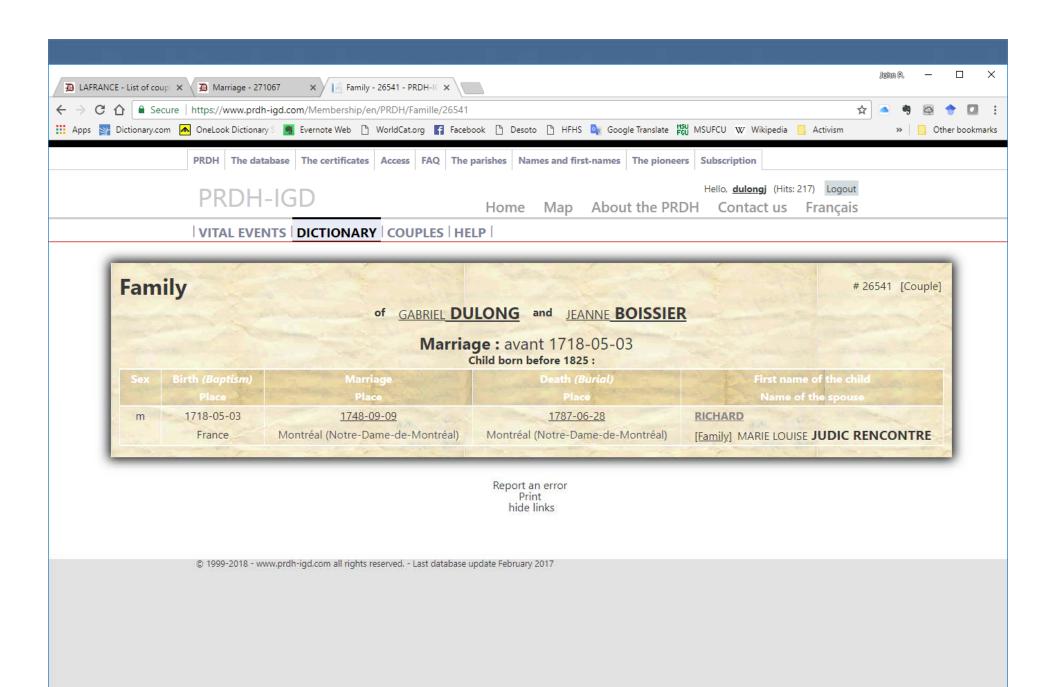
#### What are the benefits of being a member of both sites?

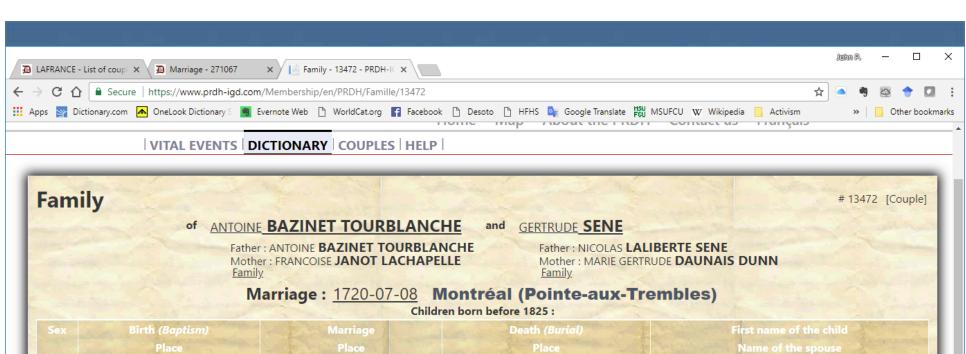
Members who are subscribed to both GenealogyQuebec.com and the PRDH have access to the following exclusive features:

- 1. View the original document (parish register) on *GenealogyQuebec.com* from any *PRDH* certificate 2. View the *PRDH* individual file of any individual named in a *GenealogyQuebec.com*'s *LAFRANCE* certificate
- 3. 10% bonus PRDH hits free of charge on purchase for GenealogyQuebec.com subscribers

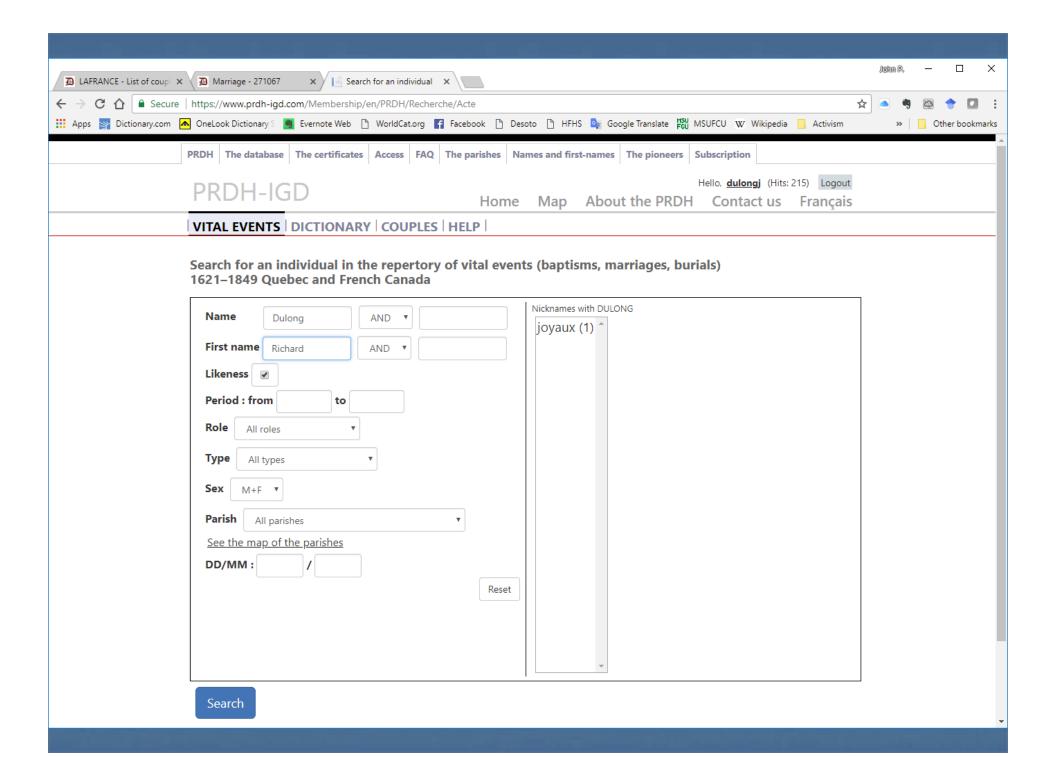


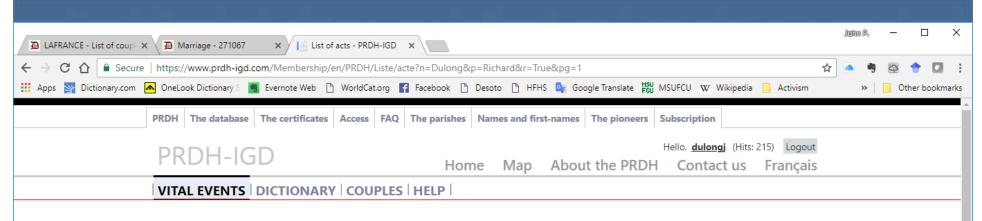






Sex	Birth (Baptism)	Marriage	Death (Burial)	First name of the child					
	Place	Place	Place	Name of the spouse					
f	1721-04-02	1755-02-10	1795-08-28	MARIE ANNE CECILE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	[Family] RICHARD DULONG					
f	1722-10-20	1745-03-01	<u>1779-10-17</u>	MARIE FRANCOISE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	[Family] FRANCOIS JOSEPH <b>DEBLED</b>					
m	1724-10-04	1754-01-14	<u>1791-04-12</u>	JOSEPH					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Pointe-Olivier (St-Mathias)	[Family] MARIE MARGUERITE LOISELLE					
f	1726-02-27	and the same of	<u>1726-10-13</u>	MARIE ANNE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)		Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)						
m	1727-06-01	1760-02-11	1797-03-08	ANTOINE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Chambly	St-Charles-sur-Richelieu	[Family] MARIE MARGUERITE BEIQUE LAFLEUR					
m	1729-09-15		1747-07-08	JEAN BAPTISTE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)		Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)						
m	<u>1731-10-17</u>	1757-02-21	<u>1766-11-18</u>	MAURICE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	[Family] MARIE AGATHE MILLET					
f	1734-05-04	1756-02-23	<u>1794-06-14</u>	MARIE ANNE AMABLE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	[Family] FRANCOIS BRICAULT LAMARCHE					
m	<u>1736-06-01</u>	A STATE OF THE STA	<u>1759-11-26</u>	CLAUDE					
	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)		Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)						
£	1720 00 20	1761 07 27	1024 01 12	MADIE DODOTHEE					





### New search

#### 1 - 1 to 40 on 40

Num.	date	type	Parish	role	sex	standard name	standard first name
148796	1746-07-23	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)		m	DULONG	RICHARD
150407	1748-09-09	m	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	subject	m	DULONG	RICHARD
293315	1750-02-06	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)		m	DULONG	RICHARD
293675	1751-06-26	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)		m	DULONG	RICHARD
293756	1751-10-07	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
298421	1752-04-10	m	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)		m	DULONG	RICHARD
294074	1752-12-04	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
273153	1753-05-22	S	Montréal (St-François-d'Assise-de-la-Longue-Pointe)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
294315	1753-10-29	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
294602	1754-12-02	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
271067	1755-02-10	m	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)	subject	m	DULONG	RICHARD
294895	1755-12-23	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
271070	1756-02-09	m	Montréal (Pointe-aux-Trembles)		m	DULONG	RICHARD
295284	1757-04-27	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
295285	1757-04-27	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
273229	1757-06-21	s	Montréal (St-François-d'Assise-de-la-Longue-Pointe)	father	m	DULONG	RICHARD
295822	1758-12-05	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)		m	DULONG	RICHARD
295888	1759-02-03	b	Montréal (Notre-Dame-de-Montréal)		m	DULONG	RICHARD

# Drouin Collection at Ancestry.Com

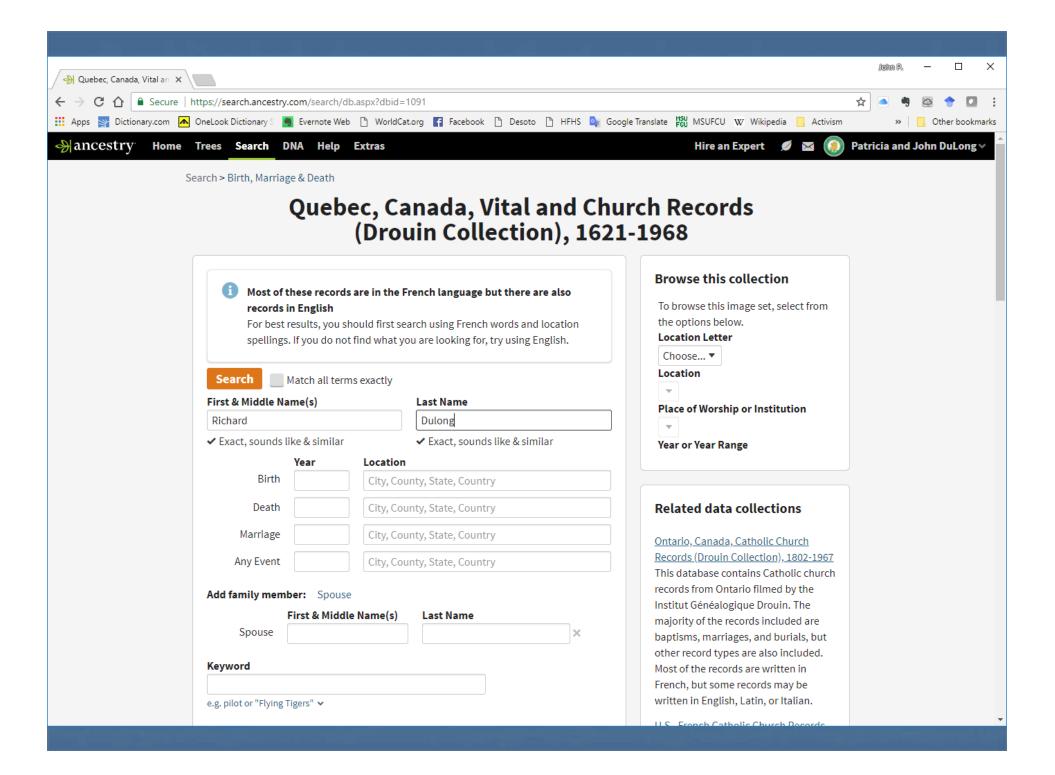
- Not all of the record sets are indexed
- Until a record set is indexed, you must know a location and period to search
- The digital images vary in quality
- Usually it is the civil copy of the parish register
- Some transcriptions of records are included
- Coverage diminishes for the twentieth century
- Frontier locations are included

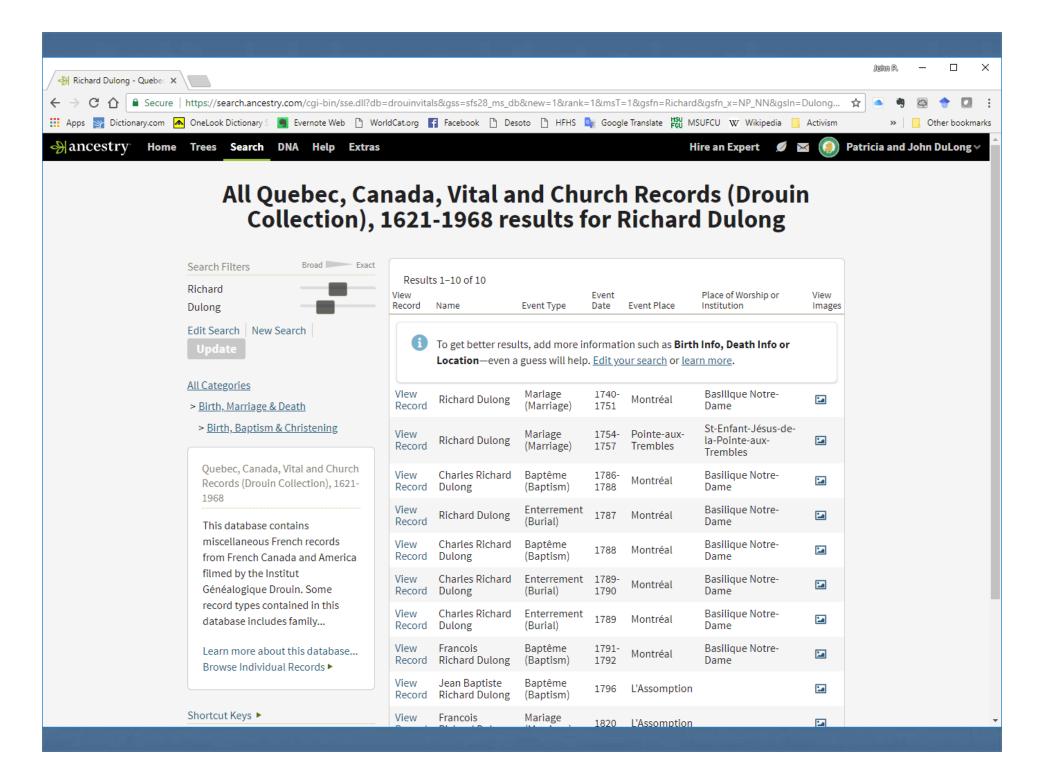
## Drouin Collection Record Sets

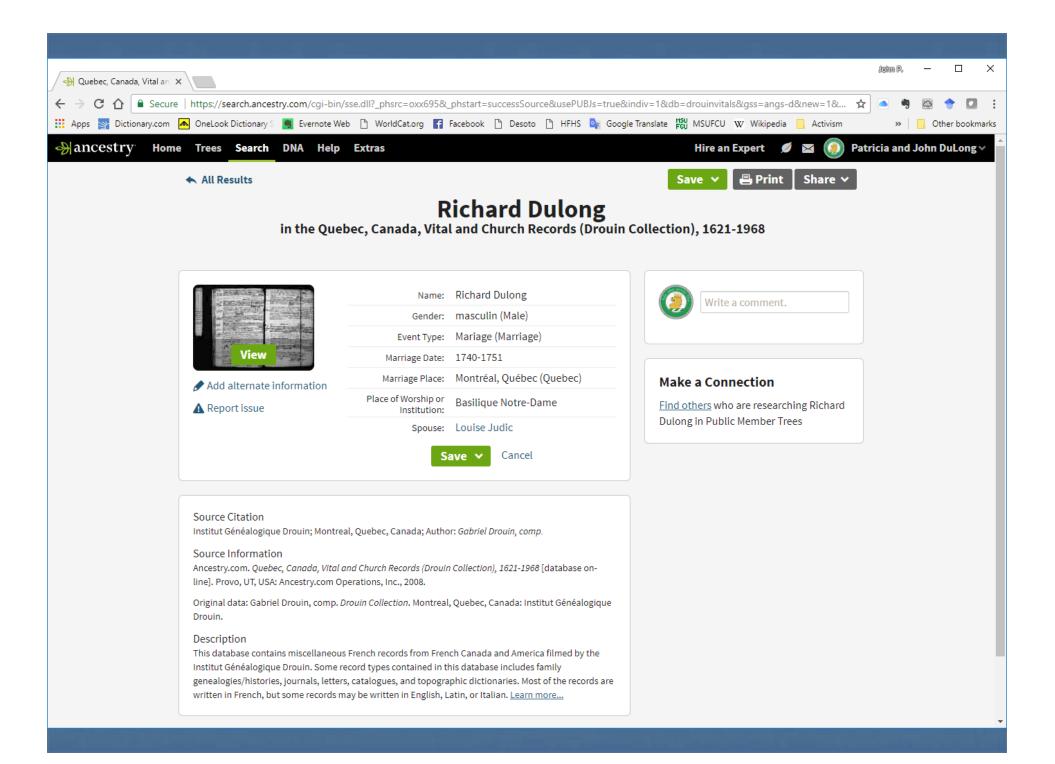
- Quebec, Canada, Vital and Church Records, 1621-1968
- Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records, 1802-1967
- U.S., French Catholic Church, 1695-1954
- Acadia, Canada, Vital and Church Records, 1757-1946
- Quebec Notarial Records, 1647-1942
- U.S. and Canada, Miscellaneous French Records, 1651-1941

### **Drouin Collection**

- To use the Drouin Collection you must be a World Explorer subscriber
- This subscription costs \$299 a year or \$149 for six months
- Well worth it if you have an abundance of French-Canadian ancestors and other European ancestors you are tracing, but if just researching French-Canadian ancestors, then GenealogieQuebec.com is probably better for you
- Frankly, I am still learning what is and is not indexed in the Drouin Collection at Ancestry.com







# Benefits of Using the Drouin Collection

- Offers you the leisure to search the parish registers from the comfort of your home
- The digital images are easier on the eyes than the microfilm images
- The parish registers are indexed and easily searched
- Can do research quicker and with less expense than in the past

# **Future Developments**

- The records indexed at GenealogieQuebec.com will continue to be expanded
- The Family History Library has launched a massive digitization project to convert all its microfilm collection
- This will eventually include all the Québec parish registers and notarial records
- Many of these records are available now, but are not yet indexed
- You will be able to search these records from your home for free

## Les Misérables

- Those who can not make a connection back to Québec's records
- Keep trying, do not abandon hope
- Try the family approach, perhaps a brother or sister of your ancestor has left a record behind
- Try a demographic approach to narrow your search
- You too can enter what the late René Jetté called the genealogical paradise of Québec