READING FRENCH-CANADIAN MARRIAGE RECORDS

Canada "How to" Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

August 2016

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract genealogical information from a French-Canadian marriage record by identifying key words and phrases.

INTRODUCTION

Most church parishes recorded marriages before civil governments did. Catholic parish registers are excellent records and are key sources for genealogists. Marriage records usually contain the following information:

- Date of marriage
- Name of groom
- Names of groom's parents and their residence
- Name of bride
- Names of bride's parents and their residence
- Whether parents are living or deceased

The place of marriage may not be written in the marriage itself, but can be found at the beginning of the record or the book.

Many French-Canadian records are available online at FamilySearch. The following links will take you to these collections:

Quebec, Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1979 (some indexes and images) https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1321742

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:

Inserting Special Characters

HOW TO

To begin your search in the marriage records, it helps if you know the following information:

- Name of bride or groom
- Approximate year and place of marriage

Key Vocabulary Words:

French	English
de cette paroisse	of this parish
fille majeure	adult daughter; daughter of age

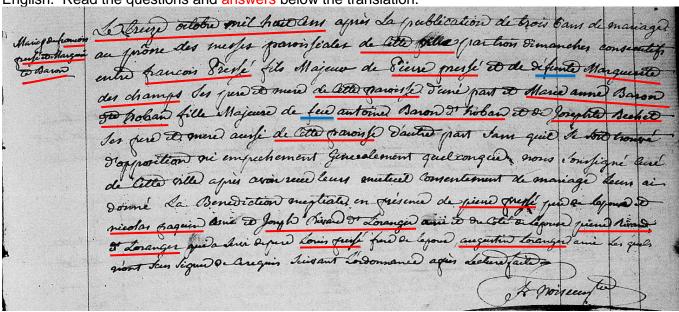
fille mineure	minor daughter
fils majeur	adult son; son of age
fils mineur	minor son
un empêchement	an impediment
aucun empêchement	no impediment
la bénédiction nuptiale	the nuptial blessing
défunt (or) feu (masculine)	deceased (for a male)
défunte (or) feue (feminine)	deceased (for a female)
époux / épouse	husband (groom) / wife (bride)

Format

In French-Canadian records, the date is usually spelled out. Thus, 10 January 1817 would appear in French as *le dix janvier mil huit cent dix sept*. For a word list containing dates, among other French words, see https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/French_Genealogical_Word_List.

Marriage records usually follow a similar format. The following is an example of a typical marriage record.

Sample Marriage Record. Following the image, the entry is written out in French, and then English. Read the questions and answers below the translation.



Source: https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JDRF-N9P

French transcription of Marriage Record, line by line

Mariage of François Pressé et Marguerite Baron

Le treize octobre mil huit cent après la publication de trois bans de mariage au prône des messes paroissiales de cette ville par trois dimanches consécutifs entre François Pressé fils majeur de Pierre Pressé et de défunte Marguerite des Champs les pere et mere de cette paroisse d'une part et Marie Anne Baron dite Hobard fille majeure de feu Antoine Baron dit Hobard et de Josephte Bech et les pere et mere aussi de cette paroisse d'autre part sans qu'il se soit trouvé

d'opposition ni empêchement généralement quelconque, nous soussigné curé de cette ville après avoir recu leurs mutuels consentements de mariage, leur ai donné la benediction nuptiale en présence de <u>Pierre Pressé</u> pere de l'epoux et <u>Nicolas Paquin</u> ami et <u>Joseph Rivard dit Loranger</u> ami et du coté du l'epouse <u>Pierre Rivard dit Loranger</u> qui a servi de pere <u>Louis Pressé</u> frere de l'epoux, et <u>Augustin Loranger</u>, ami lesquels n'ont su signer et ce requis suivant l'ordonnance après lecture faite.

Fr. Noiseaur, Ptr

English translation of Marriage Record, line by line.

Marriage of François Pressé and Marguerite Baron
The 13 October 1800, after the publication of three bans of marriage
in front of the parish mass of this village on three Sundays consecutively
between François Pressé, adult son of Pierre Pressé and the deceased Marguerite
des Champs, his parents of this parish of one part, and Marie Anne Baron
dite Hobard, major daughter of deceased Antoine Baron dit Hobard and of Josephte Bech
and her parents also of this parish, of the other part. Having found no
opposition nor impediment generally whatever, we the undersigned curator
of this village after having received their mutual consent of marriage, to them
give the blessing of marriage in presence of Pierre Pressé, father of the groom and
Nicolas Paquin friend and Joseph Rivard dit Lorranger friend on the side of the bride, Pierre Rivard
dit Loranger who served as father, Louis Pressé, brother of the groom, Augustin Loranger, friend which
do not know how to sign as is required by the law after the service was given.

Fr. Noiseaur, Priest

- 1. Who is getting married? Look at image margin and lines 3 and 4 of the image François Pressé and Marie Anne Baron dit Hobard
- 2. What is the date of marriage? Look in line 1 of the image Le treize octobre mil huit cent (13 October 1800)
- 3. What is the name of the place they are getting married? Immaculée Conception, Trois-Rivières, Quebec, Canada. The parish name is not in the paragraph, but is found at the beginning of the original record book and in the indexed record. To find it, click on the source link below the image of the marriage record.
- 4. Who is the groom's father? Look in line 3 of the image Pierre Pressé
- 5. Who is the groom's deceased mother? Look in lines 3 and 4 of the image défunte (deceased) Marguerite des Champs
- **6. Who is the bride's deceased father?** Look in line 5 of the image feu (deceased) Antoine Baron dit Hobard
- 7. Who is the bride's mother? Look in line 5 of the image Josephte Bech
- 8. Who are the witesses? Look in Lines 10 and 11 in the image Nicolas Paquin (friend), Joseph Rivard dit Loranger (friend of the bride) Pierre Rivard dit Loranger (who served as father of the bride), Louis Pressé, (brother of the groom), Augustin Loranger, (friend).

Marriage Record. Now, try to identify the key words and phrases without a full translation.

Read the questions and answers below the image.

11	
Mariageent	Le dia neuf octobre Mil huit unsun agrès la publication de trois bans de
goseph	mariage faites auprove des messes paroissiales de utteville partrois
Padaret et	
Mario Coule	dimanches consecutifs entre Joseph Cadaret file majeur de fou antoine
Profie	ladaret et de defunte marie Braton Sespère et mère de la prerojfe de lap-
	de la magdeleine d'une part, et de maire Cécile Presse fille majeure de
	pierre profe et de défunte marqueritte Deschams sespère et mer de
	cette paroife d'autrepart, dans qu'il desoit trouve aucune empechement
	niopposition quelconque; nous soussigne pretrestrucion encette parois
	avons recu leur mutuel consentement de mariage et leur avons donné
	la béné diction nuptiale enprésence de Michel martin, destinel
	Bandri de Modeste Pressi ducaté du marie, de françois Presse.
	de Charles Presse, d'angele la combre de to la mariae il sont
	tous declare ne lavoir ligner de ce requis.
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Source: https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JDRF-GHC

- Who was married? Look in the margin and lines 3 and 5 Joseph Cadaret et Marie Cécile Pressé
- What was marriage date? Look in line 1 Le dix neuf Octobre mil huit cent un (19
 October 1801)
- 3. Who were the groom's parents? Look in lines 3 and 4 feu Antoine Cadaret et de défunte Marie Breton les père et mère (deceased Antoine Cadaret and of deceased Marie Breton the father and mother)
- **4. Where were the groom's parents from?** Look in lines 4 and 5 du Cap de la Magdeleine
- 5. Who were the bride's parents? Look in line 6 Pierre Pressé et de défunte Marguerite Deschams les père et mère (Pierre Pressé and of deceased Marguerite Deschams the father and mother)
- **6.** Where were the bride's parents from? Look in lines 6 and 7 de cette paroisse (of this parish). The parish name is not in the paragraph, but is found at the beginning of the original record book and in the indexed record: Immaculée Conception, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada. To find it, click on the source link below the image.
- 7. Who were the witnesses? Look in lines 10-12 Michel Martin, Michel Baudri, Modeste Pressé, François Pressé, Charles Pressé, Angele la Combre

PRACTICE

Look at the following two marriage records. Read the questions and look for the answers in the images.

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Marriage	Record 1

	1
. 175	Le Vingt lix Soptembre wil hint cent Soixante, bile,
Jun Acistotule	appris la publication d'un ban de mariage lant encette
Monule.	purois so qu'en colle De Vantienil, Jans erupo Normener ni apportion
A	la Sispense De Deur burns ayant été attenue de mossies
ma 1 1 se	Il . It Man No in Prince & Solve Bining Many Poste
M. Hryele 11 Dose	Hippolyte Moreau, Visione General de la divise name, Prette.
· Cousfam	Dersonword de atte parangle, Noisto igane, chiving lette se mainte
	Consenservent de mariage de feur austobile d'elle
	Besservour to atte paringle, Sunssigné, cerons rem le mutuel consenservour de immiage De ferm Bristobule Béruhé, fai len la Sunsigné de Venutionil, file
	Daniel John Milling (Melle Colorede Colorede)
	Maistillo) dit il gescheines de l'estre pransisse, d'une parti,
	De Mario angele Pano Confirmat, Tomicilice Indette
	paroine, fille unjeune des Sélantes Basile Conspainte,
	parome, like impenes del delimine sonte, or strate
	of angil Manuel Sit Lebent, des Bruis Miviones, Venutre
	part : & lever avenes durine la biend iction propriales delon les
	I & Construmes Observees at he varite tylise, en preserve
	des vice de l'epony, de foient ambert Derville, von
	fière A de pierre d'autin, lunosignées avec laponel.
	L'eponse n'a du Juguer. De St aulis
	de house hasin organ
	Soun tristabule Berubi
	J. J. Beinte & Gibandons.
	I. J. Beinhe & Gibandons
6	Il dernoe Ser, de M. D.

Source: https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JDT2-23L

- 1. Who was married? Look in the margin and lines 7 and 11 Jean Aristobule Bérubé and Marie Angèle Rose Toussaint
- 2. What was the date of the marriage? Look in line 1 Le vingt-six septembre mil huit cent soixante seize (26 September 1876)
- 3. What were the names of the groom's father and mother? Look in lines 9 and 10 -Jean Aristobule Bérubé and Marie Miville dit Deschènes
- 4. What were the names of the bride's father and mother? Look in lines 12 and 13 -Basile Toussaint and Angèle Manuel dit Lebert
- 5. Are the bride's parents living? Look in line 12 No, des défunts (the departed plural)
- 6. Where were both families from? Look in lines 10 and 13 cette paroisse (this parish). The location is not found in the paragraph but is found in the indexed record: Trois-Rivières, Trois-Rivières, Québec, Canada. To find it, click on the source link below the image.
- 7. Who were the witnesses? Look in lines 16 and 17 Jean Lambert Bérubé, son frère,

Marriage Record 2

44.0	0
113	Le trente Avril mil huit cent somante et un après la publisation
Oierre,	des trois bans de mariago, tant en cete paroise qu'en celle de 8-
	Pie dans emberte Birthisti de la
& J	Pie, sans empeihement ni opposition, je prêtre soussigne, auto
pf. 5.	were a cer effet agant priste mutuel consentement has parale
nelomene	de present de viere Lamontagne journalier vent de Julie
Philomeine Chicoine	Dion de cette paroisse d'une part et de Philomène Chi
	esine, dominilie en cette paraiste, fille magune de défunt
	Joseph Chicoine, cultivateur et de Souice Martin, de Se Paul
C	d'Abbotslad d'aut la l'aire superiore, de l'aire
	d'Abbotsford d'aute part les ai maries serviant les lois et
	graves sousique, d'Autoine Lamoureny, et d'Ensèle Bol-
	I de l'unique, a Mutome Lamoureny, et d'uniche Bol-
	Signer lesquels ainsi que les épony, out declare ne savoir
	Higher
	Jeograves TH. Pilvos Ante
	The Vilvos fyte
4.50	

Source: https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JDTF-LDN

- 1. **Who was married?** Look in the image margin and lines 5-7 Pierre Lamontagne and Philomène Chicoine
- 2. What was the date of the marriage? Look in line 1 Le trente avril mil huit cent soixante et un (30 April 1861)
- 3. What was the groom's first wife's name? Look in lines 5 and 6 veuf de (widower of) Julie Dion
- 4. What were the names of the bride's father and mother? Look in line 8 Joseph Chicoine and Louise Martin
- 5. Where were the bride's parents from? Look in lines 8 and 9 St Paul d'Abbotsford
- 6. Is the bride's father living? Look in line 7 défunt (deceased) Joseph Chicoine
- 7. Where did the marriage take place? Look in line 3 Banns at St-Pie. The marriage took place at Nôtre-Dame, Montréal, Québec, Canada; this name is found in the indexed record. To find it, click on the source link below the image.
- 8. Who were the witnesses? Look in lines 10-12 George Groves, Atoine Lamoureux, Eusèbe Bolduc

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the guide! <u>Click here</u> to try out the Activity.