The purpose of this document is twofold:

1. To help extractors learn the skills needed to accurately extract French Records.
2. To serve as a reference manual for transcribing French records.

The trainer, who should be proficient in the language being extracted, may use this manual as will best serve the project extractors. It can be used as a self-study manual or as part of group instruction.
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CHAPTER ONE

OLD FRENCH RECORDS

The purpose of this chapter is to briefly explain the background of old French records and give you guidelines on extracting vital information.

The oldest register in France is from the parish of Givry near Chalon-sur-Saône. It is divided into two sections covering marriages and deaths from 1334 to 1357. Slowly the use of registers became accepted. By the early 15th century, many bishops and priests were keeping registers. These contained only the names of rich or famous people at first, but gradually commoners were also entered. During the latter part of the 15th century, bishops ordered burial registers to be kept. By 1539, 35 out of the 90 departments of France were keeping some sort of register.

The ordinance of Villers-Cotterêts in 1539, standardized the keeping of civil and criminal registers. This ordinance obligated the priest to keep death registers noting the time, day, month, and year of death and the location of burial by parish and village. The names of the deceased and surviving relatives were also recorded, as well as the names of godparents and occupations of parents. Baptismal records were not kept until later. Rules for keeping the registers were given with the stipulation that if the rules were not kept, the registers would be taken under royal custody.

Priests keeping the records had to provide witnesses and have the entry notarized, either by themselves or by an appointed notary. Each year the registers were subject to inspection.

Unfortunately, few of the parishes complied with these laws. The keeping of registers was erratic throughout the rest of the 15th and early 16th centuries.

The 24th session of the Council of Trent canonized the rules governing registers. It became law that all priests in charge of parishes keep baptismal, marriage, and burial records. Thus, shortly after 1563, more parishes began keeping these three registers, many of which were written entirely in Latin.

The Ordinance of Blois in 1579 called for an announcement of banns over three successive feast days and gave persons the opportunity to testify for or against a marriage. The approval of parents or guardians was necessary; otherwise one could be tried for kidnapping. This ordinance made priests or vicars responsible for recording baptisms, marriages, and burials. They were allowed to charge fees for creating each entry, with the fees being held as bond against errors found by the yearly inspection.

In order to establish a unified code for all registers, Louis XIV proclaimed a new ordinance known as Le Code Louis. It unified the rules and procedures for all registers. Articles 4-14 of title 20 were the most important. They set the time and place of registry inspection, besides combining all the other requirements of previous laws into one document. However, it called for the combining of all three registers (baptism, marriage and burial) into one book, with the entries set in chronological order.

Blank pages were to be crossed out, and the entries of a particular year confined to one volume. Rates or fees were set for each type of entry, and penalties for forgeries and loss of registers were given. The most important requirement of Le Code Louis was the signature of parents (or guardians) and godparents. Because of the penalties for losing registers, most parishes began producing a duplicate register.

Even with this unified approach, parish registers continued to reflect regional peculiarities according to the way a priest interpreted the law. By 1691 a standardized book was available with the titles and page numbers preprinted. In June of 1705, a new
registry office was created in each parish (which was to become the civil registry), and many parishes ceased making duplicate registers. An administrative style or "legal talk" also appeared. Most registers soon adopted it, with Latin phrases appearing in the entries. The Royal Declaration of 1736 required all parishes to deposit with the royal registry a copy of their registers each year. In 1746, baptisms, marriages, and burials were again separated into distinct volumes.

Following the French Revolution in 1792, the assembly of legislators met and pronounced the formation of the First French Republic. The Royal Registry was disbanded, and duplicate registers were mandated. One was to be retained by the municipality or commune, and the other to be sent to the departmental archives. Civil servants replaced priests, and all religious registers were collected by the new civil authorities. Religious registers of both Catholic and Protestant churches continued to be kept but only for their own use.

Ten-year indexes were also instituted along with the new Republican calendar. On 31 December 1805 the Republican calendar ended, but the ten-year indexes survived, providing the idea for a national census. Also surviving the Napoleonic era was the continuance of duplicate registers. These duplicate civil registers, as well as many other religious and legal registers, have continued in use until the present day.

As an extractor, you will be working with microfilm copies of these registers. You will come to know the development and individual characteristics of the records. You will become proficient in reading the text and format. You will develop a deep feeling for the records and a great appreciation for the people who created them.

The first time you encounter an old French record, you will be struck by the fact that old handwritten records are not the same as modern printed books and newspapers. You will see difficult handwriting styles, unfamiliar or even archaic words, ink blots, torn and worm-eaten pages, unfamiliar abbreviations, and other obstacles you must overcome. While some of these things may cause you concern, you will be able to overcome them quickly and be able to read and extract the vital information from these records.

The specific regulations governing registers created a very defined format, which is a tremendous aid in extracting. Naturally there were local and regional influences which affected the registers; however, there are also general similarities found in all records.

The following parish and civil entry examples have these general similarities boxed to introduce you to the format of the entries.

Study the boxed areas of the entries—there are several significant points which need to be emphasized.
PARISH BAPTISMAL REGISTER

Le mardi on est né homme de Sept-Sables. Il fut
lé batre quatrième François fils de François
Dumas et de Françoise. Notre de même
De Jean prêtre. Il a été baptisé par nous soussigné
Père a son de Bourguet. Il nommé par François
Maison de Colbert. Il parait un homme qui
ne signe que autre. Il est fait le 1er jour

Le dimanche dix-septième jour de Sept-Sables. Il fut
lé batre quatrième Louis fils de Louis Viller
de Marie talon. Il fut baptisé et mis en de même
prêtre. Il a été baptisé par nous soussigné. Il parait
de Bourguet. Il nommé par Louis. Il est
illustre né chât. Il parait un homme qui
ne signe que autre. Il est fait le 1er jour

Le lundi de qui fut né homme de Sept-Sables.
Look at the entries and note that—

1. The vital information is in approximately the same place in each entry.

2. The wording in the entries is nearly the same. When new or different words appear in an entry, this may indicate a significant change in the vital information.

3. The signatures of the involved parties change from entry to entry, but the officiating agent’s does not.

4. The information in the boxed-in areas appears in a specific order. For dates there are two common orders of entry: day, month, and year; or year, day, and month. The French placed dominance on the male gender; therefore, the father’s name, if given, precedes the mother’s name, and the godfather’s precedes the godmother’s. If the mother’s name appears first in a christening entry, this may indicate an illegitimate or a common-law child.

5. There are two types of phrases in an entry: the vital information phrases such as dates, names, and relationships; and the directional phrases, which contain key words directing the extractor to the vital phrases, such as \textit{baptisé} (baptised), \textit{mariage} (marriage), \textit{aujourd’hui} (today), and \textit{et de} (and of).

6. You are required to extract only a small part of the entry. Because of the similarities between entries, you need only a small vocabulary to extract. You do not need to be proficient in French. There are also similarities between French and English, which further ease the task of learning the necessary vocabulary.

7. Due to the close affiliation between France and the United States, the handwriting styles were similar and may even be in use today. Only in pre-Revolutionary parish registers would you encounter a different handwriting style.

From the two sample parish entries, this is the vital information to be extracted:

1. Christening date: 11 SEP 1684
   2. Principal’s name: FRANCOIS/
   3. Principal’s sex: Male
   4. Father’s name: PIERRE/DUVAL
   5. Mother’s name: FRANCOIS/BERENGER

1. Christening date: 17 SEP 1684
   2. Principal’s name: LOUIS/
   3. Principal’s sex: Male
   4. Father’s name: LOUIS/VITEL
   5. Mother’s name: MARIE/TALON

From the two sample civil entries, this is the vital information to be extracted:

1. Birth date: 14 PLUV 11
   2. Principal’s name: THERESSE JULIE/HOUBEAUT
   3. Principal’s sex: Female
   4. Father’s name: JOSEPH/HOUBEAUT
   5. Mother’s name: ELIZABETH/PICOT

1. Birth date: 17 GERM 11
   2. Principal’s name: ANNE/HOUBEAUT
   3. Principal’s sex: Female
   4. Father’s name: FRANCOIS/HOUBEAUT
   5. Mother’s name: ELIZABETH/NAGENT
CHAPTER TWO

PARISH CHRISTENING AND CIVIL BIRTH ENTRIES

The purpose of this chapter is to provide you with an example of a parish christening and a civil birth entry. It is designed to explain the various parts of each entry and give the keywords and characteristics that identify each part of the entry. This chapter will also point out differences and similarities between the parish christening entry and the civil birth entry.

Each christening or birth entry consists of several parts arranged in a particular order. Each part contains some phrases which change little from entry to entry. Often the specific information that will be extracted, such as names and dates, are the only words that change. Thus, by being able to identify each part by its keywords and phrases, you will be able to quickly locate the specific information and extract it.

Many times parish registers contain not only christening entries, but also burial and marriage entries. There may also be nongenealogical information entered, such as bishops’ visitations, marriage information, confessions, and confirmations. These other types of entries are covered in chapter four.

You may find misspellings, words run together and diacritical marks missing in the transcription of parish and civil entries. The transcriptions are meant to be written as they appear in the original record. The recorders often did not pay close attention to correct grammar and spelling.
Example of Parish Entry

Le Lundy onzieme jour de Septembre Mil
Six Cent et quatre-vingt quatre Francois fils de Pierre
duval et de francoise Berenger Les pere et mere
ne du Jour precedent et a esté baptisé par nous Soussigné
pbre curé de Bouquelon et nommé par francois Martin
et Marguerite colombel ses parrain et marraine qui
ont Signe en notre autre Registre L Perier.

Translation

Monday the eleventh day of September one thousand
six hundred and eighty-four. Francois, son of Pierre
Duval and of Francoise Berenger, the father and mother,
born the day before and was baptized by us the undersigned
priest of Bouquelon and named by Francois Martin
and Marguerite Colombel, his godfather and godmother, who
have signed in our other register. L Perier
Example of Civil Entry

Mairie Dehousséville

Arrondissement Communal De Luneville

Du Dix Sept Germinal an onze Dela Republique Francaise une indivisible
Acte de Naissance Deanne houbeaut né a housséville Departement Dela
Meurthe, le même Jour neuf heures Du Matin, fille Defrançois houbeaut
journalier a housséville et De Elizabeth Nagent Son Epouse le sex
Delanfant a Eté Reconue Etre la fille Dudit françois houbeaut et De Son
Epouse; premier témoin Joseph Nagent age De Vingt et un an Garcon
Chez Son père a forcelle Sous Guguey, Departement Dela Meurthe Cousin
issus Germain a la ditte Anné houbeaut, Seconde témoin Anne houbeaut, agée
De Vingt trois ans, fille Denteliere Demeurante Audit housséville, Cousinee
issus Germaine aladitte Anne houbeaut, Sur la déclaration a Moi faite parle
Citoyen françois houbeaut père Delanfant Denommée ey dessus et onts
Signes, Exemptes laditte Anne houbeaut qui a fait Sa Marque ordinaire
Nayant pas lusage Décrire.

françois houbeaut
Joseph Nagent
Translation
Mayoral of Housséville
Communal District of Lunéville

Of the 17th of Germinal, year eleven of the French Republic, one indivisible act of birth of Anne Houbeaut, born in Housséville, Department of Meurthe, the same day (at) nine hours in the morning, daughter of François Houbeaut, day laborer from Housséville, and of Elizabeth Nagent his wife. The sex of the child has been recognized as the daughter of the said François Houbeaut and of his wife. First witness Joseph Nagent, age of twenty-one years, a young man, residing at his father’s house in Forcelle Sous Guguey, Department of Meurthe, second cousin of the said Anne Houbeaut. Second witness Anne Houbeaut, age of twenty-three years, maiden, lace worker, residing at the said Housséville, second cousin of the said Anne Houbeaut. By the declaration to me made by the citizen François Houbeaut, father of the above named child, and they signed, except the said Anne Houbeaut who made her customary mark, not having the ability to write.

François Houbeaut
Joseph Najan

Marginal Notation

In some registers the officiating agent entered a short note in the margin next to the entry. This was used as an indexing system to enable a rapid search for a particular record. At times, this marginal notation contained information not found in the entry, such as legal name changes and adoptions.

As long as these notes are signed, the information given is accepted as legal. However, marginal notes were not always entered at the time the entry was made nor by the same person who originally created the entry. When they are unsigned, they should be used with caution. Entering marginal notes was a local procedure, and as a general rule they are only occasionally found in civil and parish records.

Example: Civil Entry

```
houbeaut
Omu
nèe le 17
Germinal
```

Date Phrase

Laws dictated that each entry be dated. This is generally one of the first phrases in an entry. However, because these laws were not strictly followed, the date may appear anywhere in an entry.

A parish entry will contain the date of baptism or christening and possibly the date of birth. A civil entry contains the date of registration which is the date of the entry and may give the actual birth date of the child.

Dates were most often entered in one of two formats. Usually the day, month, and year appear together in an entry. However, in a few localities the year was separated from the day and month.
The date is easily recognized for two reasons:

1. The date phrase contains words or numerals which are easily recognized.
2. The French words for the months of the Gregorian calendar are very similar to the English equivalents, and the months of the Republican calendar are very distinctive.

The keywords used to identify the date phrase are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jour</th>
<th>mois</th>
<th>an</th>
<th>année</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>month</td>
<td>year</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Days of the week, months, and numbers for the years, which are also keywords, are covered in chapter eight.

**Example: Parish Entry (Day, Month, Year)**

Le lundi 11 septembre 1684.

Monday 11th day of September of One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Four. (11 SEP 1684)

**Example: Civil Entry (Year, Day, Month)**

On neuf du La republique francaise le vingt deux jour de Germinal.

Year nine of the French republic, the twenty-second day of Germinal. (22 GERM 9)

**Locality or Residence Phrase**

The registration laws also required the officiating agent to define the locality where the register was created and where the people involved were from. The department, commune, canton, town hall, and city were all recorded at different times, leaving no doubt as to the locality.

The locality phrase generally follows the date phrase. However, many times the locality is divided in the entry.

There are occasions when the place of birth and even the residence of the parents differs from the locality of the records. This could be because they were residents of a smaller unit within the jurisdiction of the town hall and came there to register a birth.
Example: Parish Entry

De Bouquelon

of Bouquelon

The keywords used for localities in a parish entry are:

Paroisse: parish
Autorité ecclésiastique: ecclesiastical authority
(de) l'église: (of) the church

Ville: town
Village: village
Cité: city

De la localité: of the locality

The residence of the parents is given as well as the place of birth of the child—Housséville, department of Meurthe. In this entry the child was born in the same locality where the record was created.

Example: Civil Entry

Mairie de Housséville

La République: the republic

Arrondissement: county (district)
Canton: canton
Commune: community
Département: state
Les autorités: the authorities
Citoyen: citizen
Citoyenne: citizen (female)
Droits de: rights of
L'Etat: the state

Ceremony Phrase

Somewhere in the entry is a phrase that indicates what is being done. This is important because a birth or christening differs radically from a marriage or a death.

Example: Parish Entry

a été baptisé
has been baptized

The following keywords appear in parish entries, indicating a christening:

présentation: presentation
présenté un enfant: presented a child
baptisé: baptized
nommé par: named by

Example: Civil Entry

Acte De Naissance
Birth Certificate

This example gives:

1. Mayoral of Housséville
2. Communal district of Lunéville
3. Born at Housséville
4. Department of Meurthe

The keywords used for localities in a civil entry are:

Mairie, maison commune or hôtel de ville: town hall
The keywords used in civil records indicating a birth entry are:

- **acte de naissance**: birth certificate
- **né**: born (male)
- **née**: born (female)
- **në(e) au domicile**: born at home
- **faire naître**: to give birth
- **accouchée**: gave birth
- **jour de naissance**: day of birth
- **jour natal de**: birthday of
- **enfant naturel**: illegitimate child
- **fils or fille (de)**: son or daughter (of)
- **accompagné de**: accompanied by
- **est comparu**: was presented
- **sont comparus**: were presented
- **(a) été nommé**: was named or has been named
- **donné le prénom (de)**: given the name (of)

**Officiating Agent Phrase**

The Council of Trent and subsequent laws enacted by the state, required that whoever officiated in the events recorded, be named in both parish and civil records along with a description of his position and authority. The title or position and name of the agent was always listed in some part of the entry, either at the front or, as in the example below, at the end.

In a parish register the officiating agent will hold some ecclesiastical office instead of a civil position.

**Example: Parish Entry**

```

décédé à Bouqueton

L. Perier

ptre. (prêtre) curé de Bouqueton
L. Perier
Head priest of Bouqueton
L. Perier
```

The following keywords are used to identify officiating agents in parish entries:

- **Cure**: head priest
- **Calotin**: priest
- **Prêtre**: priest
- **Diacre**: deacon
- **Juge Ecclésiastique**: ecclesiastical judge

**Example: Civil Entry**

```

Père de Bouqueton

L. Perier

ptre. (prêtre) curé de Bouqueton
L. Perier
```

**Transcription**

Consaté par moi
Jean Dominique Jeandel
Maire De la Commune De housséville
faisant les fonctions D'officier public
de l'état Civil.

**Translation**

Verified by me
Jean Dominique Jeandel,
mayor of the city of Housséville,
performing the functions of public officer of the civil
government.

The following keywords indicate officiating agent in civil entries:

- **Officier Public**: public officer
- **Greffier**: Registrar or recorder
- **Conservateur de Registre**: keeper of the register
- **Garde**: keeper
- **Maire**: Mayor
Child Phrase

In a christening or birth entry, only the given name of the child normally appears. The surname is usually given with the parents’ names.

At times the date of the child’s birth is given as well as the hour of the day. The child’s name may appear in several locations in the record. It may—

precede: fils or fille de
[son or daughter of]

precede: né(e)
[born]

follow: a été nommé
[has been or was named]

follow: donné le prénom de
[given the name of]

follow: acte de naissance de
[birth]

Example: Parish Entry

Francois fils de

Transcription
Francois fils de . . .

Translation
Francois, son of . . .

Example: Civil Entry

Acte de Naissance De
anne Houbeaut, née . . .

Transcription
Acte de Naissance De
anne Houbeaut, née . . .

Translation
Birth certificate of
Anne Houbeaut, born . . .

Notice that the children are exactly where they should be, before fils de in the parish example, and after the acte de naissance in the civil example. Many times, however, the child (fils or fille) may be in another position in the entry; therefore, you need to be flexible and search the entire record until you find the child’s name. On rare occasions the name has been omitted entirely. In these cases, it is still possible to determine the sex so that the entry can be extracted.

Sex and Legitimacy Phrase

At times a phrase is inserted which precisely states the child’s gender.

For example, the civil entry reads:

le Sex Delfant a Eté Reconnu
Etre la fille Dudit françois
Houbeaut et De Son Epouse.

[The sex of the child has been recognized to be the daughter of the said Francois Houbeaut and of his wife.]

In French, nouns and pronouns carry gender, and from these words you can establish the gender of the child or principal.

However, as a general rule, you can determine the sex from the name itself. Names such as Pierrette, Françoise, and Nicolle denote a female, while names such as Pierre, François, and Nicolas denote a male.
Words denoting gender for either civil or parish entries are:

**un enfant:** child (male)
**une enfant:** child (female)

**né:** born (male)
**née:** born (female)
**fils:** son (male)
**fille:** daughter (female)

Using these three guides, the sex of the child is relatively simple to determine. For further information on determining sex, see chapter seven.

Phrases which denote legitimacy appear with the nouns and pronouns denoting sex. Although legitimacy is not extracted, the adjectives carry gender and can be used to determine the sex.

The keywords denoting legitimacy or illegitimacy are:

**enfant légitime:** legitimate child
**fils légitime:** legitimate son
**fille légitime:** legitimate daughter

**enfant naturel:** illegitimate child
**fils bastard:** bastard son
**fille naturelle:** illegitimate daughter
**fille adulterine:** illegitimate daughter
**un bastard:** a bastard
**Déclaré bastard:** declared bastard

**Ma légitime:** my legitimate (wife)

### Parents’ Phrase

One of the outstanding features of French records, and especially the civil records, is the detail taken in recording the parents. The husband or father is usually listed first, then his occupation, his age, and origin. The the name of the wife, her age, and origin. This order may change due to such circumstances as illegitimacies or deaths.

Parents’ names are usually found after such phrases for either parish or civil entries:

**fils (or) fille de . . .**
son (or) daughter of . . .

**du mariage légitime de . . .**
of the legitimate marriage of . . .

**un(e) enfant né(e) à . . .**
a child born to . . .

Also the parents’ names will be found in front of such phrases as:

. . . son père . . . sa mère:
. . . his father . . . his mother

. . . mère légitime de . . .
legitimate mother of

. . . père légitime de . . .
legitimate father of

The father’s given names are recorded first, followed by the surname if it is given.

The mother’s given names are recorded first, followed by her maiden name.

In this entry below, the ages of the parents are not given; however, their names, François Houbeaut and Elizabeth Nagent, and his occupation, day laborer, do appear.

**Example: Civil Entry**

[Signature]

*Fille Defrançois houbeaut*

*journallier ahousséville et*

*De Elizabeth Nagent Son Epouse*

**Transcription**

fille Defrançois houbeaut
Journallier ahousséville et
De Elizabeth Nagent Son Epouse.

**Translation**

 Daughter of François Houbeaut,
day laborer from Housseville, and
of Elizabeth Nagent, his wife.

### Occupations

Occupations were usually entered directly after the father’s name or, on very rare occasions, after the
mother's name. In the example below, François Houbeaut is a day laborer. For a list of occupations, please refer to Appendix A.

**Example: Civil Entry**

*Fille de François Houbeaut*  
*Journalier à Housséville*  

**Transcription**

fille de François Houbeaut  
journalier à Housséville.

**Translation**

daughter of François Houbeaut  
day laborer from Housséville.

### Godparents or Grandparents and Warning Phrase in Parish Entries

The custom of having godparents has long been traditional among Catholic parishioners. The duty of the godparents was to take the place of the parents if the need arose. This duty could be temporarily caring for the child in their home or spiritually overseeing the child, ensuring that the proper acts and ordinances were performed for and by the child. When grandparents were named instead of godparents, they were placed under the same obligation as the godparents.

When the priest makes reference to these obligations in a record, it is known as the warning phrase and is identified by phrases such as:

*Les a conseillé de leurs obligations paternelles:*  
Having counseled them of their parental obligations.

*L’a conseillé de son obligation paternelle:*  
Having counseled him of his parental obligation.

These phrases bound the child and the godparents religiously together.

The keywords indicating godparents are:

- **parrain:** godfather  
- **marraine:** godmother  
- **le fils de...** the godson of...  
- **la filleule de...** the goddaughter of...

The keywords indicating grandparents are:

- **père ou grand-père:** grandfather  
- **mère ou grand-mère:** grandmother  
- **père ou mère:** parents  
- **père de la mariée:** father of the wife  
- **père du marié:** father of the husband  
- **mère de la mariée:** mother of the wife  
- **mère du marié:** mother of the husband

### Witness Phrase in Civil Entries

In civil registers, at least two witnesses testified to the action. At times these witnesses were the grandparents or the godparents of the child.

By law, their names and places of residence had to be recorded. Other information was also given, such as age, occupation, and relationship to the child.

The keywords indicating witnesses are:

- **témoins:** witness  
- **certificateur:** certifier  
- **citadin:** townsman  
- **citoyen:** citizen  
- **attester:** to attest  
- **certifier:** to certify  
- **constater:** to confirm, verify
In this sample entry, Joseph Nagent is the first witness. He is 21 years old, single, living at home, and is second cousin to the child. The second witness is Anne Houbeaut, 23, maiden, lacemaker in Housséville. She is 23 years old and the second cousin of Anne Houbeaut.

Example: Civil Entry

\[\text{Signature: Joseph Nagent} \]

Certification Phrase

To certify that the acts or events were legal, the officiating agent had to sign each entry. This signature was preceded by a phrase setting it apart from the entry by citing the office and authority of the officiating agent.

In parish registers the priest created a separate certification which also served as the certification phrase. He then signed his name at the end of each entry. Common certification phrases in parish entries are:

- \text{devant moi... le curé de: before me... the priest of}
- \text{fait par moi... le pretre de: made by me... the priest of}
- or a Latin phrase such as:
  \text{ex (con) licencia parrochi: by (with) permission of the priest.}

The keywords indicating authorization or certification in a parish entry are:

- \text{a été baptisé par moi} \quad \text{was baptized by me}
- \text{soussigné: (the) undersigned}

The certification phrase ends with the officiating agent's signature. As you can see above, the signatures themselves were very embellished and decorative. They served as an official seal.
The keywords indicating authorization or certification in a civil entry are:

constaté: confirmed, verified
par moi: by me
Maire de: Mayor of
officier de l'état civil: officer of the civil state
officier public: public officer
secrétaire: secretary
greffier: registrar
citoyen: citizen
registre: register

Summary

Both christening and birth entries contain some information that should be extracted. The type of information and the order in which it appears will vary from entry to entry. The critical parts of the entry to look for are listed and briefly described below.

Marginal Notation

This is a short notation found in the margin of the register which gives the name of the child and possibly the date of the entry.

It served as an index to the record.

Date Phrase

Indicates the date, month, and year of the birth or christening. There can be more than one date given, such as the actual birth date, as opposed to the christening date or registration date.

Locality or Residence Phrase

States the locality of the event. In parish registers, it lists the parish and city; and in civil registers, the commune, canton, and arrondissement.

Ceremony Phrase

Identifies which type of ceremony is being performed.

Officiating Agent Phrase

Names the officiating agent, whether priest or registrar, along with his position of authority.

Child Phrase

Gives the name of the child or principal(s) the recipient(s) of the ceremony or ordinance.

Sex and Legitimacy Phrase

Indicates the sex of an individual and is very important in both christening and birth entries.

The other parts of a birth and christening entry serve as reference material to aid in identifying the surname or irregularities in the entry, such as twins, or stillborn.

There are those occasions when a declaration of illegitimacy is used to extract needed information. For example, when establishing the reason the father’s name was never given, or when establishing the sex of the child or principal from the gender carried by the word naturel or naturelle.

Parents’ Phrase

Gives the name of the father and the mother. In some cases of illegitimacy, only the mother’s name is given.

Occupations

Occupation appears after the father’s surname or godfather’s (witness’s) surname. It is very useful to be able to distinguish the occupations and not confuse them with the surnames.

Godparents and Grandparents and Warning Phrase in Parish Entries

The godparents’ names are not extracted. Once the godparents are mentioned in the text, it serves as a key indicating that the entry is ending, and no more vital information will be found.

Grandparents’ names are very useful in establishing the surnames and given names (and their spellings) of the parents and children.

The warning phrase explains the obligations of the godparents.

Witness Phrase in Civil Entries

This phrase appears in civil records in lieu of the godparents phrase. The function is the same in both registers.
Certification Phrase
Contains the signature of the officiating agent and the position he held. It makes the entry a legal document.

Self-evaluation

CHAPTER TWO
On a separate sheet of paper, translate the following keywords:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise 1</th>
<th>Exercise 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. baptisé</td>
<td>1. est comparu(s) . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. jour</td>
<td>2. donner le prénom de . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. curé</td>
<td>3. acte de naissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. mère</td>
<td>4. officier public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. nom</td>
<td>5. Maire de la commune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. fils</td>
<td>7. An 11 de la République Française</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. né</td>
<td>8. de Bouquelon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. enfant</td>
<td>9. un enfant du sexe masculin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. père</td>
<td>10. fille dudit citoyen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check your responses with the answers in Appendix C.
CHAPTER THREE

MARRIAGE ENTRIES

The purpose of this chapter is to provide information about the marriage entry which will enable you to extract it. Sample parish and civil marriage entries will be given. The parts of each entry will be explained so that you will be able to recognize the pertinent information.

A marriage entry is a brief legal description of a long elaborate ceremony. The earliest marriage entries were very brief, often giving only the date, given names of bride and groom, and the name of the officiator. Gradually they were enlarged, complete names given, parents' names added, witnesses listed, and occupations and other information relating to the betrothed included. The Council of Trent established specific procedures and standards for marriages performed by the officers of the Catholic Church which became uniform throughout the church.

The procedures were ordered into a logical sequence, and the marriage entry reflects that sequence. There was a presentation, confession, declaration, witnesses, marriage, and a recording of the marriage in most marriage entries.

Marriage entries give much of the same information as christening entries; however, there are a few differences. As a rule, they are longer than christening entries because two sets of parents are given. More Latin phrases and terms also appear in marriage entries.

A typical marriage entry may be composed of the following:

- Marginal notation
- Locality phrase
- Date phrase
- Officiating agent phrase
- Ceremony phrase
- Groom's information
- Bride's information
- Godparents and witnesses
- Certification and seals
Parish Marriage Entry

Transcription

L'an mil sept cent quatre le vingt et unieme Jour de Janvier
le Soussigné prebre curé d'ageville ay solemnelt.
conjoint en mariage Jean Deprey fils de francois deprey
manouvrier audt. ageville et Jeanette mougin son epouse audt. ageville et
Pierette dimey fille de francois dimey labr. et marianne
gauthier sa legitimate audt. ageville les trois banns ont
été publies en messes paroissiale dudt. ageville et
controlees au Registres a Chaumont. et les fiancailles
precedées les dts. deprey et dimey ont signé
pressens audt. mariage pierre deprey sabotier, Simon
mougin recteur d'ecole audt. ageville qui pareillement.
signé  L. Perier

Translation

The year one thousand seven hundred four, the twenty first day of January
(I) the undersigned priest of Ageville have solemnly
joined in marriage Jean Deprey, son of Francois Deprey,
day-laborer and Jeanette Mougin his wife from said Ageville and
Pierrette Dimey, daughter of Francois Dimey, laborer and Marianne
Gauthier his legitimate (wife) from said Ageville. The three banns have
been published in parish masses of said Ageville and
recorded and registered at Chaumont and the betrothal
preceded. The said Deprey and Dimey have signed.
Present at the said marriage Pierre Deprey sabot-maker, Simon
Mougin school director from said Ageville who likewise
signed.  L. Perier
Civil Marriage Entry

CING COMPLEMENTAIRE

MADAME

Marie de Lescarville

Grande de Lescarville récit que
composition pour compléter au De la
République française sous signataire

CITÉ DE LESCARVILLE de Joseph Grandidier apporté
en levée de la Commission de la Mission de la Nouvelle
Département de France, le tavas, le mois de juillet
par les feurs de mars de Robert Delfin mais de
Curt Souzane et qu'ainsi les lettres de Jean Thibaut
Dufur et de Catharine Mestes marchand de la cité

nous ont cuit en roseville et d'autre part entrelacé entre

leur nom de Marie de Lescarville fille aident Marie
Département de France

elle

fils, de Marie de Lescarville de la main du dit Joseph Grandidier qui a composé à

composition pour compléter au De la Mission de la Nouvelle

Département de France, le tavas, le mois de juillet

par les feurs de mars de Robert Delfin mais de

Curt Souzane et qu'ainsi les lettres de Jean Thibaut
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Dufur et de Catharine Mestes marchand de la cité

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Joseph houbeaut J. Pierre C. D. Bourrieir
Cinq complémentaire
10
Joseph
Grandidier
Mairie De housséville

Arrondissement communal De Lunéville
Du Cinquième jour complémentaire An Dix De la
République française une indivisible
Acte de Mariage de Joseph GrandDidier age
de vingt sept ans, Garcon Chez son pere et tailleur d'habit
a housséville, Departement De la Meurthe, Né a Marainville
Département De Vosges, le treize Du Mois de Juin Sur
les huit heures un quart de Relevé De l'an Mil Sept
Cent Soixante et quinze fils legitime De Jean Grand
DiDier et De Catherine Nicolas marchand touts Deux
vivant audit housséville, et d'autre part entre Margueritte
Picot age de trente et un ans fille et denteliere
Chez son Pere A housséville née audit housséville
Département De la Meurthe, le Dix
huit Octobre De l'an Mil Sept Cent Septante et un
fille legitime De Jean Francois Picot Citoyen De Cette
Commune étant domicilier a housséville, et De Catherine
Grillon Sa Mere Défunt audit housséville, les actes
préliminaires Sont Extrait Des Régistre Depublication
faite De Mariage fait a housséville le vingt cinq
fructidor an Dix et affichées aux terme Delaloi, et le terme
enormé, Detouts lesquel Actes ils a Eté Donnees lecture
par Moi officiers public Auterms Delaloi; Les Dits
Epoux présents, ont Déclaré prendre en Mariage Joseph
Grandidier, Margueritte picot; Margueritte picot
Joseph Grandidier, En présence de Joseph Grandidier
age de Cinquante et un ans oncle audit Grandidier marchand
de housséville, Département De la Meurthe; et De Alexice
Bourcier age De quarante cinq Ans, parrain Audit Grandidier
profession De vignerons, a Marainville Département des
Vosges, et de Joseph houbeaut age De trente trois ans
Journalier et beaupère a la future épouse,
A housséville departement de la Meurthe
et En présence De Jean Francois picot age de Soixante
Deux ans pere legitime A lafutur future Epouse, profession
De Journalier Domicilier A housséville, Apres quoi
Moi Jean Dominique Jeanbol Maire de Cette Commune
De housséville, faisant les fonctions D'officier public De
l'état Civil. J'ay prononcé au nom de la loi
les Dits Epoux Sont unis en Mariage, et ont les dits
Epoux et témoin Signes avec Moi le jour avant dit.

J. Grandidier Marguerite picot C. J. Grandidier
Joseph houbeaut J. Picot C. A. Bourcier
Translation

5 Complémentaire
10
Joseph
Grandidier
Mayoral of Housséville

Community district of Lunéville
The fifth complementary day of year ten of the
French Republic. An indivisible
marriage certificate of Joseph Grandidier, age
of twenty seven years, bachelor living at home, tailor
in Housséville, Department of Meurthe, born in Marainville
Department of Vosges, the thirteenth of the month of June after
eight fifteen in the morning of the year One thousand seven
hundred seventy five. Legitimate son of Jean Grandidier and of Catherine Nicolas, shop-keeper, both
living at said Housséville, and of the other part between Margueritte
Picot, age of thirty one years, daughter and lace-maker,
in the home of her father at Housséville, born at said Housséville,
Department of Meurthe, the eighteenth (of)
October of the year One thousand seven hundred seventy one,
legitimate daughter of Jean Francois Picot, citizen of this
community being a resident of Housséville, and of Catherine
Grillon, her mother deceased, of said Housséville, the
preliminary acts were extracts of the Register of publication
made for marriages made in Housséville, the twenty fifth
Fructidor, year ten, and attached by terms of the law and the term
set forth, of all the acts they have been given instructions
by me public officer of the terms of the law; the said
present engaged, have declared to take in marriage Joseph
Grandidier, Margueritte Picot; Margueritte Picot
Joseph Grandidier; in the presence of Joseph Grandidier,
age of fifty one years, uncle of the said Grandidier, shopkeeper,
of Housséville, Department of Meurthe; and of Alexice
Bourcier, age of forty five years, godfather of said Grandidier,
profession of vinedresser, of Marainville, Department of
Vosges and of Joseph Houbeaut age of thirty three years,
day-labourer and brother-in-law of the future bride,
at Housséville, department of Meurthe and in the presence
of Jean Francois Picot, age of sixty two years, legitimate
father of the future bride, profession, day laborer,
resident of Housséville, after which
I, Jean Dominique Jeandel, mayor of this commune
of Housséville, having performing the functions of public officer of
the Civil Register. I pronounced in the name of the law
(that) the said betrothed were united in marriage, and the said
betrothed and witnesses have signed with me on the above said day.

J. Grandidier, Marquerite Picot, C. J. Grandidier,
Joseph Houbeaut, J. Picot, C. A. Bourcier
Marginal Notation

As with birth or christening entries, the marginal notation appears in the margin exactly to the left of the entry. It may consist of one word indicating the type of an entry, or it may contain the names of the groom and bride (the principal(s)). Occasionally, name changes and divorces are written in the margin. These marginal notations served as an index, allowing an entry to be found easily.

In the example of a parish marriage entry, the marginal note indicates that this is a marriage entry, and that the principals' names are Jean and Pierrette.

Example: Parish Entry

\[ \text{MARIAGE} \]
\[ \text{DIJON} \]
\[ \text{MAME} \]

In the example of a civil marriage entry, the date, 5 Complémentaire 10, is noted along with the name of the groom, Joseph Grandidier.

Example: Civil Entry

\[ \text{CINQ COMPLÉMENTAIRE} \]
\[ \text{GRANDIDIER} \]

Locality Phrase

The parish entry contained a phrase which referred to the locality where the record was made and where the people were from. Many times the priest would record the locality at the beginning of each year or at the head of each page and simply refer to it in the entry. It wasn't until after the Council of Trent that localities were entered in each entry of the register. (This may not be the case in every register, because the Trentine format was not accepted immediately in some localities.)

The example parish entry referred to the locality as audt. ageville (from said Ageville). This indicates that both parents were from Ageville, as were the witnesses; however, no mention is made of the department in the entry.

Example: Parish Entry

\[ \text{JEAPE} \]
\[ \text{DIJON} \]
\[ \text{MAMÉ} \]
\[ \text{GRANDIDIER} \]
\[ \text{DIJON} \]
\[ \text{MAME} \]

By the time civil registers were kept in France, the content of the record was well established and the record keepers took great pride in specifying the precise locality of the record and where the participants were from.

In the civil entry, great care is taken to establish the locality. First, it gives Mairie de Housséville, the town hall of Housséville. Then it gives the arrondissement communal de Lunéville and in recording the residence of the parents the entry lists the department as Meurthe.

The record keeper continues and tells where the groom was born, in Marainville, in the department of Vosges. The bride was born in Housséville, in the department of Meurthe. The localities where the bride and groom presently reside, as well as the residences of the witnesses, are also given at times by the record keepers.

Example: Civil Entry

\[ \text{MARIÉ DE HOUSSEVILLE} \]
\[ \text{ARRONDISSEMENT COMMUNAL} \]
\[ \text{DE LUNÉVILLE} \]
\[ \text{MEURTHE} \]

Pre-Revolution Civil Jurisdictions (1792 and earlier)

Province (province): The major territorial division of central control and is composed of a combination of many lesser units.

Duché (duchy): An estate of land ruled by a duke.

Conté (contat): An estate of land ruled by a count.
Ville (town or city): The smallest governmental unit, but may include several town or city villages (village).

Post-Revolution Civil Jurisdictions (1792 to Present)

The levels of state government are set up similar to the governmental levels in the United States.

Département: The principal division of French government and is roughly equal to a state in the United States. Presently, there are 94 departments in France.

Arrondissement: The subdivision of a department and is composed of several (3-6) cantons. It is equivalent to a county in the United States.

Canton: The subdivision of an arrondissement and is composed of several (10-40) communes. It is the basic unit for elections in the French General Assembly.

Commune (ville): Administered by a maire (mayor) and or a conseil municipal (city council) or both. It is the smallest territorial unit in France and is equivalent to a city.

Territoire (territory): Jurisdictional territory of the Capitol. It is equivalent to the District of Columbia.

Colonie (colony): Governmental division of France outside its continental colony boundaries.

**Date Phrase**

A date was required to give legality to the ceremony performed. This is generally recorded in order of day, month, and year; however, the officiating agent may have entered the day of the week and the time of day the ceremony was performed.

In a parish marriage entry, several dates could be listed:

1. Engagement date
2. Presentation date
3. Three readings of the banns
4. Wedding mass or marriage date
5. Entry date

The meanings of these dates will be discussed under the Ceremony Phrase heading in this chapter.

**Example: Parish Entry**

L'an MDCCLIII et en quart quint avant

m. Jean De Gouvin

In the sample parish entry the date is recorded in order of year, day, and month: 1704 21 January. In many marriage entries, the dates of the three reading of banns are given in addition to the actual marriage date. On occasion, the announcement date is also given. With so many dates appearing in an entry, a great deal of confusion can arise as to which date is the actual marriage date.

In the following civil entry, the date reads 5th Complementary day, year 10, which is a French Republican calendar date.

French civil marriage entries contain a declaration (of marriage) date and the actual marriage date. There will always be exceptions; you should remain flexible in coping with any irregularities.

**Example: Civil Entry**

Voeux cinquième jour complémentaire

An De De la

République française

**Officiating Agent Phrase**

As with a christening entry, the officiating agent in a marriage entry must identify himself by name, giving his position of authority. In the earliest parish registers, the officiating agent remained anonymous, however, the Council of Trent dictated that the agent identify himself by name and state his authority. If the agent was the priest of the parish, his identification would be slightly different than deacons under his authority working in the same
parish. For this reason, the priest may give his name and then his title.

**Example: Parish Entry**

Joseph Colobré curé du village de . . .
Joseph Colobre priest of the village of . . .

par devant moi
in front of me . . .

Other priests working under the authority of the parish priest would give their name and then their position relative to him, such as:

ex licencia parroqui (Latin)
with license of the priest

suivant la disposition du curé
according to the disposition of the priest

Avec l'autorité du curé du village . . .
with the authority of the priest of the village . . .

In the example below, the prebre (pretre) curé,
or village priest, is the officiating agent.

**Example: Parish Entry**

*four curé Dageville*

The officiating agent in civil records was a civil servant, not a priest. The person directly charged with keeping the record was a greffier, a registrar or court clerk.

There were times when the maire (mayor) would actually write the entry; however, most of the time the greffier would write the entry, have the participants affix their signatures, and then have the officiating agent legalize it with his signature.

par devant nous: in front of us
par devant moi: before me

Maire et officier de l'état civil: mayor and officer of the civil registration
de la commune de . . . of the town of . . .
arrondissement de . . . district of . . .

département de: . . . department of
étant en la maison commune: being in the town hall

**Ceremony Phrase**

Every entry contains a word or a phrase which indicates the kind of ceremony being performed. In the earlier parish registers, it was simply the action of the verb which gave this indication.

The following verbs were all used to indicate a marriage:

conjoindre: to conjoin
marier: to marry
épouser: to espouse or marry
unir: to unite

Marriage entries made after the Council of Trent were much longer and contained whole phrases indicating different steps in the marriage ceremony.

The following phrases denote marriage:

donné la bénéédiction nuptiale: given the nuptial blessing
d'une part . . .: of the one part . . .
et d'autre part . . .: and of the (second) other part . . .
les ai épousé: (I) have married them
ay(l) solennellement conjoint en mariage: (I) have solemnly conjoined in marriage
célébré le mariage de . . .: celebrated the marriage of . . .

Between 1563 and 1792 the normal parish marriage consisted of several steps, each with their own function in the marriage ceremony. In a parish marriage entry, all or only a portion of the following steps may be mentioned:

- engagement
- presentation
- confession
- testimony of witnesses
- the three banns
- wedding mass and wedding
- entry date
The church marriage ceremony required the groom and bride to present themselves to the priest and declare their intention to marry. The priest obtained their individual information, such as names, parentage, age, residence, and occupation. The couple were then led in confession, wherein the priest would determine their worthiness to be married. If he found them worthy to be married, a schedule was drawn up specifying which day the banns would be read to the congregation and when the wedding mass would be held.

The reading of the three banns gave anyone the opportunity to present evidence for or against the marriage. The actual dates these banns were read often appear in the entry. The wedding mass was the culmination of the marriage ceremony. The betrothed were presented before the altar of the church and partook of the host. The rings of banns were blessed, then the bride veiled her face as the priest gave the nuptial blessing, and the rings were exchanged. The priest recorded the marriage at this time or possibly a short time later, finalizing the marriage before the church.

The following key phrases refer to the marriage ceremony:

**conjoint en mariage:** conjoined in marriage

**ont été or esté mariés:** have been married

**les trois bans ont été publiés:** the three banns have been published

**en messe paroissiale:** in parish mass

**et contrôlés (or contrôlé) et registrés à:** and verified and registered at

**les fiancailles précédés:** the preceding betrothal

**Acte de mariage:** marriage certificate

**d'une parte:** of the (first) part

**et d'autre parte:** and of the other (or second) part

**que nous avons vérifiés expresse:** that we have verified specially

**lesquels nous ont requis de procéder:** who have requested us to proceed

**au mariage projeté entre eux:** to the marriage ceremony planned between them

**ont eu lieu:** have taken place

**ainsi qu'il est constaté par:** such as is established by

**les actes inscrits:** the documents written

**sur les registres de cette commune:** on the registers of this town

**les mêmes publications:** the same publications

**aucune opposition au mariage:** no opposition to the marriage

**nous ayant signés:** we having signed

**faisant droit à la réquisition:** granting the request

**du mariage:** of the marriage

**nous avons demandé aux requérants:** we have asked the parties

**s'ils veulent se prendre:** if they want to take each other

**pour mari et femme:** for husband and wife

**et chacun d'eux ayant répondu:** and each of them having answered

**affirmativement, nous avons déclaré:** affirmatively, we have declared

**et déclarons au nom:** and we declare in the name

**le présent acte en présence de:** the present document in presence of

**parties contractantes:** contracting parties

**registres après lecture et collation:** registers after reading and agreeing

**du présent acte ce qu'ils ont fait:** to the present document that they have made

**ici présent et consentant:** here present and consenting

**Régistre de publication faite:** register of publication made
époux présens: present spouse (husband)
prendre en mariage: to take in marriage
sont unis en mariage: were united in marriage
sont publiquement comparus: were publicly presented

Keywords for the confession are:
confession: confession
aller confesser: to go to confess
confessé a: confessed to
la confessionnal: the confessional

The reading of banns appears in a parish register, and rarely in a civil. Keywords for the reading of the banns are:
les trois fêtes: the three feast (days)
declaré en trois: declared in three
jours de célébration: celebration days
les trois bans ont été publié: the three bans have been published

la publication de trois bans: the publication of three bans

Confession and Wedding Mass

These two ceremonies were performed only in the church; therefore, they never appear in civil registers. Prior to the marriage ceremony, the bride and groom had to come to confession with the priest. At this time the priest would question them to determine their worthiness to be married. If he found any problem which might impede the marriage, he would immediately prescribe the conditions of repentance so that at the time of marriage there would exist no offense toward God.

Once permission had been obtained, the couple would schedule a wedding mass. This was a special mass which celebrated the united life of the couple. There is also a veiling ceremony that is optional in this mass and at times referred to in the records.

At times the priest may enter the final details of a marriage at a later date. If this is the case, the actual marriage date is usually not the first date in this entry, but appears later in the text. At all times an effort should be made to get the actual marriage date.

Groom’s Information

In both parish and civil registers the groom is listed first. The age of the groom, his occupation, date and place of birth, and present residence may all be given. The groom’s parents—father listed first, his age, occupation and residence, then his mother, her age and residence—are given. (The order of occurrence may vary, but the parents are always mentioned.)

There are several other items which might appear at this time: grandparents’ names, length of time at their present residence, their origin if they have recently moved, and whether they are living, dead, or infirm. Other children of the parents may be listed and given as witnesses, if they are present at the ceremony.

Note the groom’s information in the sample parish entry.

Example: Parish Entry

Jean Deprey, fils de
Francois Deprey
manouvrier
Jeanette Mougain
Ageville

Groom’s name: Jean Deprey, fils de (son of)
Father’s name: Francois Deprey
Father’s occupation: manouvrier (day laborer)
Mother’s name: Jeanette Mougain
Residence: Ageville

The groom’s information in the civil marriage entry is more complete.
Example: Civil Entry

**Name:** Joseph Grandier  
**Age:** 27  
**Status:** Garçon (single)  
**Residence:** (living at home) in Housséville, in the Département of Meurthe  
**Born:** In Marainville, in the department of Vosges  
**Birth date:** 13 June, 8:15 in the morning, 1775  
**Legitimacy:** legitimate son  
**Father's name:** Jean Grandier  
**Mother's name:** Catherine Nicolas  
**Status:** both living  
**residence:** Housséville

The keywords indicating the groom are:

**est comparu:** was presented  
**acte de mariage de . . .:** marriage certificate of  
**d'une part . . .:** of the (first) part  
**l'un des conjoints . . .:** the (first) of the conjoined  
**l'époux:** the groom  
**épouseur:** suitor  
**le marié:** the groom  
**fils légitime de:** legitimate son of

---

**Bride's Information**

The same basic information given for the groom is also given for the bride. French records have a tendency to give fewer details about women due to the dominance of the male gender in French society. The parish entry gives the following information for the bride:
Example: Parish Entry

Name: Pierrette Dimay
Sex: daughter (of)
Father: Francois Dimay (and)
Mother: Marianne Gauthier
Residence: (from) Ageville

Again, the civil record gives more details about the bride:

Example: Civil Entry

Name: Margueritte Picot
Age: 31
Sex: daughter
Status: living at home in Housséville
Born: 18 Oct. in Housséville, department of Meurthe, 1771
Father: Jean Francois Picot
Mother: Catherine Grillon (dead)
Residence: Citizen of Housséville
The keywords indicating the bride are:

l'autre conjoint: the (second) other conjoined
L’épouse: the bride
la mariée: the bride
d’autre part: of the (second) other part
et (de) mademoiselle: and (of) Miss
fille légitime de: legitimate daughter of

The keywords indicating both bride and groom are:

les futurs conjoints: the future conjoined
les fiancailles: the betrothal

Other information which may be given about the bride or groom will be covered in chapter four.

Godparents and Witnesses

In parish registers, godparents as well as witnesses may be given. The godparents are the modern extension of the two witnesses of ancient times. In a marriage they take a more subdued role than they take at christenings. Here they are called upon to act as spiritual guardians of the couple and have been admonished as such. The godparents may also be the actual witnesses to the marriage, if the priest or couple so desire. Otherwise, two witnesses are called to insure that the officiating agent performed his role in accordance to the law and that the couple presented good intentions. On occasion, the godparents or witnesses are related to the bride or groom, and this relationship may be given in the entry.

The keywords indicating relationship to the bride or groom are:

aïeu de la dite: grandfather of the said . . .
parrain: godfather
parrain et cousin germain de la dite: godfather and first cousin of the said . . .
petit-fils de: grandson of

arrière-grand-mère de
l’Époux: great-grandmother of the husband
tante de l'épouse: aunt of the wife
nièce de la promise: niece of the fiancée
marraine: godmother

Certification and Seals

On each document, whether parish or civil, there are certain words, signatures, and seals affixed that give validity to the ceremony performed either as the authorized agent or the testimony of a competent witness. In the older documents, the agent not only put his name on the document, but also his initials. These initials served as an official seal representing finality of contract. They were unique to the author and very decorative at times.

Since their origin about the 4th millenium B.C., seals have been used as a sign of contract. In the earlier parish registers, the decorative initials of the priests serve as seals.

Beginning in 1579, royal seals began to appear on parish registers. After being inspected by the royal inspectors of the crown, the registers were stamped with a seal and charges and fees collected or fines made. In 1667 under Le Code Louis, increasing numbers of denominations created and used seals. Localities could produce seals particular to their areas. Slowly, however, these seals and the charges were standardized.

The French Revolution brought a whole new series of seals into use. These were anti-Christian and anti-aristocratic in nature, with Greek and Roman figures depicted on them. By becoming familiar with these seals, you can distinguish record types and establish an approximate year.

Example of Royal Seals
Summary

The following is a summary explanation of each of the possible parts of a marriage entry for both parish and civil records.

Marginal Notation
When given, may contain vital information about the groom and bride.

Locality Phrase
When given, identifies where the ceremony was performed as well as other pertinent localities.

Date Phrase
Gives the date the ceremony was performed (usually in order of day, month, and year).

Officiating Agent Phrase
Identifies the authority of the agent, his position, and name.

Ceremony Phrase
Indicates the type of ceremony that is being performed, whether birth, christening, marriage, death, confession, burial, or communion, and the date of the ceremony.

Groom's Information
Identifies the groom by name, age, occupation, place of residence, and day and place of birth. It also gives parents' names, occupations, ages, and place of residence.

Bride's Information
Provides essentially the same information as is given for the groom.

Godparents and Witnesses
Lists the names of the godparents and witnesses, their age, present residence, and relation to principals.

Certification and Seals
Indicates that the said ceremony was performed and that it was valid. It also provides signatures and seals of contract.
Self-evaluation

CHAPTER THREE

Exercise 1

On a separate sheet of paper, indicate which type of phrases are presented.

1. Qui ont signé devant moi le Maire de . . .
2. Fils de Henri Duval et de Françoise de la Parr.
3. Et pour parrain Michael Drufort et pour marrain Jeannette Picot.
4. Lundi 6 vingtose de Novembre Mil Huit Cent trente six.
5. Mairie de Millery, Arrondissement de Nancy.
6. Acte de Mariage De Nicolas Gerrard . . .
7. Age de vingt cinq ans né à Diouville.
8. et d'autre part Barbe Grandier . . .
9. Par devant moi le maire de Housséville . . .

Exercise 2

On a separate sheet of paper, translate the following keywords:

1. mariage
2. épouser
3. demeurant
4. épouse
5. bénéédiction nuptiale
6. ban
7. maire
8. témoin
9. fille de
10. registration

Exercise 3

On a separate sheet of paper, translate the following phrases:

1. aïeul de la dite . . .
2. parrain et cousin germain de la dite . . .
3. Acte de mariage . . .
4. en le commune de . . .
5. les trois fêtes...
6. Résident (Habitant) de...
7. Sont comparus...
8. Profession de sabotier...
9. Les actes préliminaires...
10. la publication de mariage...

Please check your responses with the answers found in Appendix C.
CHAPTER FOUR

OTHER ENTRIES

The purpose of this chapter is to inform you of other entries such as deaths, stillborns and name changes and whether this information should be extracted.

Two systems for recording events were used in French registers: chronological and separate book. In the chronological system, the officiating agent simply entered in chronological order the events as they occurred, such as births, marriages, deaths, confirmations, or marriage information. The separate book system was most typically used in civil registers. It had marriages, births, and deaths recorded in separate books or in separate sections within the same book.

Below is an example of the chronological system in a parish register:
Death or Burial Records

Generally you will not extract death or burial entries, but you must still be able to recognize them because they closely resemble parish christening entries. A death or burial entry will contain the name of the deceased and may contain his age, residence, parents’ names and, if married, the name of his spouse. A death or burial record will not contain the names of godparents nor, at times, the witnesses. Death entries which immediately follow the christening entry of the same person may contain more information than the christening entry. This information may need to be extracted.

The keywords indicating a death entry are:

décédé: deceased
est mort: is dead, died

Le Vendredi quatorzième Jour d’Avril Mil Six Cent quatre-vingt quatre Jacques Talon fils de Noel aage vinon vingt-cinq mois décédé de ce Jourla a esté Inhumé au cimetière de cette parr. par nous Soussigne ptre. curé de Bouquelon pvre. de ce Noel pere de Jacques poulac de cette parr. le temigs qui ont Signé enziere autre Registre

L. Perier

Transcription
Le Vendredi quatorzième Jour d’Avril Mil Six Cent quatre-vingt quatre Jacques Talon fils de Noel aage vinon vingt-cinq mois décédé de ce Jourla a esté Inhumé au cimetière de cette parr. par nous Soussigne ptre. curé de Bouquelon pvre. de ce Noel pere de Jacques poulac de cette parr. le temigs qui ont Signé enziere autre Registre

L. Perier

Translation
Friday the 14th day of April 16
84, Jacques Talon, son of Noel, age
going on 25 months, died today and was interred
in the cemetery of this parish by us, the undersigned priest
of Bouquelon (and) by said Noel, the father of Jacques...
of this parish. The witnesses who have signed below in the other Register.

L. Perier
Stillborn Entries

Stillborn entries are for children who did not survive birth or died shortly thereafter. This entry resembles a birth entry; however, it will contain a phrase indicating the death of the child, such as:

mort en naissant: died during birth
né mort: born dead
né sans vie or né inanimé: born without life
mort en venant au monde: died while coming into the world

The midwife (sage femme) could baptize the child in cases of certain death, and this baptism would be recognized by the church.

baptisé par nécessité: baptized by necessity

There are occasions when it may be unclear whether the child was stillborn or died shortly after birth. In this case one of the following phrases may appear in the entry:

est venu apparemment mort au monde: came apparently dead into the world
expiré en venant au monde: expired on coming into the world
présenté mort: presented dead

Marriage Information and Engagements

Before the Council of Trent, marriage information was rarely recorded in parish registers. However, the Council's decrees established procedures and set standards for parishes throughout the Catholic Church. Marriage information entries typically contain the names, ages, birthdates, parentage, residence, occupation, and other particulars of the couple being married. Witnesses were presented to give character depositions of the valid intentions of the groom and bride. If everything was still in order, then they were married, with godparents attending as witnesses.

Letters of recommendation and confessions also may appear in marriage information entries. When they do, study them thoroughly to ensure that the couple was actually married; then determine the actual marriage date.

Because civil authorities were not concerned about the moral cleanliness of the betrothed, civil registers did not require the recording of a confession.

The keywords for marriage information are:

les préliminaires: the preliminaries
se fiancer: to become engaged
contrat de mariage: marriage contract
présentation: presentation
violation de promesse de mariage: breach (violation) of marriage contract (promise)
faire une promesse: to make a promise
promis mutuellement: promised mutually
sont comparus: were presented
déférer au tribunal: to present before the tribunal
fiancé(e): betrothed
fiançailles: engagement, betrothal
promettre: to promise
se marier: to marry (each other)

Name Changes and Legitimations

On occasion, in French civil records a legal name change has been noted either in the margin or near the entry. These name changes usually state both the person's former name and the new. They are also signed, making them legal documents. Many times this legal name change accompanies a child's legitimation entry.

In civil marriage information entries, couples who had lived together and those who had even had children were provided for by law. Couples living together were simply married. The children of unmarried couples were legitimatized by the marriage and were given the father's surname. These name changes and legitimacies appear as marginal notations in the christening registers and as appended entries in the marriage register. You
must consider these entries when extracting vital information, such as names and dates.

The scribes go back to the children's birth records and note each name change and legitimation. This is pertinent information, and you should extract it.

The keywords which denote legitimation are:

reconnaissance: recognition  
légitimé: legitimized

admis: admitted  
legaliser: to legalize

reconnu: recognized  
accepté: accepted  
reçu: received

**Confirmation Records**

In the Catholic church, the sacrament of confirmation represented an individual's acceptance or confirmation of faith in the church. Occasionally, confirmation records were entered in christening registers. They can be easily confused with a christening entry because they are similar in format; however, parents' names are rarely given, and godparents' names are recorded instead.

The keywords indicating confirmations are:

a été confirmé: was or has been confirmed

recevoir la confirmation: to receive confirmation

confirmé par l'église: confirmed by the church

**Signatures**

Signatures can be an excellent source for obtaining the correct spelling of names. Because of their size, many signatures are easier to read than the names in the entry. Always use caution, however, because the actual people involved did not sign their name, as in the example below.

Even though the names appear, the actual signature was the + mark because in many instances the individuals involved did not know how to write. The officiating agent wrote in the signatures of the individuals around their mark.

**Extracts**

In many civil marriage registers, extracts are entered which look very similar to birth entries; and they are, in effect, a birth certificate.

Whenever a groom or bride was from a locality other than where they were to be married, they had to present a birth certificate. This was the extract.

However they are not extracted. In the marriage entry itself, the officiant may refer back to this extract.

The keywords denoting extracts are:

extrait: extract

acte de naissance inscrit . . . : birth certificate inscribed . . .

sur les registres de la commune de: on the registers of the town of

délivré par extrait en donné forme: delivered by extract in given form

**General Instructions**

In parish and civil records, there are pages which contain nonextractable general instructions. They may be found on the first page of the register or at designated positions throughout the register (for example, at the beginning of each year or when a new record keeper was appointed). Although these have nonextractable material in them, they are excellent reference materials and give insight into conditions under which the records were kept.

This example of nonextractable information tells that this is a register of baptisms, deaths, and marriages for 1772-1773.
Self-evaluation

CHAPTER FOUR

On a separate sheet of paper, translate the following:

Exercise 1
1. mort
2. légitimé
3. recu
4. inhumé
5. accepté
6. fils légitime
7. le corps de
8. enterrement
9. admis comme
10. décédé

Exercise 2
1. confirmé
2. présentation
3. les préliminaires
4. contracté
5. soussigné
6. la marque de
7. mariable
8. contrat de mariage
9. le dit conjugal
10. promise

Exercise 3
1. reconnu
2. legaliser
3. la sépulture
4. signé
5. le fiancé
6. certificat
7. registre
8. paroisse
9. greffier
10. par moi

Check your responses with the answers in Appendix C.
CHAPTER FIVE

FRENCH HANDWRITING AND SPELLING

This chapter provides basic information, examples and guidelines for developing the ability to read French handwriting. Your success as an extractor will depend greatly upon adjusting to each new style of handwriting.

Introduction

The Pelasgic Script from ancient Greece was the first alphabet to contribute letters used today.

Example: Pelasgic Script

ΑΒΓΔΕΕΕΟΙΚΛΛΜΝΟΠΠΠΡΡΣΣΣΣΤΤΤΤΥΥ

The Greeks had borrowed several of their letters from earlier alphabets; however, it was in this early Greek alphabet that we can identify several of the modern letters.

The Roman square capitals of the fourth and fifth century made the next definite letter standard. This alphabet had a lower case, which was used during the fifth and sixth centuries, and later evolved into the Roman uncial script. It was from this uncial script that the first cursive alphabet developed.

Example: Roman Square Capitals

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Example: Roman Lower Case

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Example: Roman Uncial Script

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Example: Roman Cursive Script

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

The cursive script became so loose and irregular, that Charlemagne commissioned a new standard script, the Charlemagne Miniscule, which dominated the tenth and eleventh centuries in Europe. This script appears in some of the older French records.

Example: Charlemagne Miniscule

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

In northern France, the scribes were influenced by the German epithet, which the Italians dubbed Gothic script, after the barbaric Goths who left their mark on Italy centuries earlier.

Example: Gothic Script

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
Throughout the Loire valley and parts of southern France, another script had developed from the Roman cursive. This script was taken to England by William in 1066 and is known as French uncial script.

Example: French Uncial Script

```
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
```

The stage was now set for the many flowery scripts to emerge during the Renaissance, the time period of the earlier French registers.

Elements of Handwriting Style

Minims

The up and down strokes of letters are called “minims.” The letters e, i, m, n, u, v, and w are composed almost entirely of minims. When a word has two or more of these letters in a row, the letters can be hard to tell apart, as in the word commune below:

```
commune
```

Usually you can decipher the word from the context or the format of the record. However, you may have to count the strokes, figure out all the possible letter combinations, and choose the word it most likely resembles.

Linking Strokes

The small u-shaped strokes which connect minims in letters and connect letters in a word are linking strokes. Many French scribes, however, did not link their letters as we do today. Instead of the u-shaped stroke at the foot of the letters, they used an overhead stroke (\(^\wedge\)). Because of this difference in linking strokes, reading a record can be very confusing, especially when minims are involved. For example, note the linking strokes in the word champagne.

```
Champagne
```

Other scribes joined letters with very distinct strokes that at first appear to be a different letter. For instance, in the phrase baptise Jean below, the J could be mistaken for a G, but it is actually a J.

```
baptise Jean
```

Another problem caused by the overhead linking stroke is that letters are joined in ways different than you might expect. They may have joined d’s at the top, or crossed t’s by using the cross stroke to join the next letter. Thus, di may appear as d\(^i\) and tu may be written as t\(^u\).

Compare the various forms of de and et given below:

```
d e
```

```
et
```

Capitalization

Many of the earlier writing styles consisted entirely of capitals, or a combination of capitals and lower case letters. It wasn’t until the late 1800s that standardized rules for capitalization were internationally applied. Before this time capitals could be used anywhere in a word. Therefore, don’t depend on capitalization as a clue in determining the beginning of words, especially in the earlier records.

Example:

```
Leconde
```

```
Seconde
```

```
Joseph
```

```
eliabeth
```

```
elisaBeth
```

```
onZe
```

```
onZe
```
Double lowercase letters at the beginning of a word were used as capitals in some of the earlier records.

Temoin Nicolas

Identifying Letters

Letters are the building blocks of words. Of all the letters, vowels are the most important because in French they indicate gender, such as un (masculine) and une (feminine). Vowels also separate the consonants, giving a musical quality to the spoken word. The problem of reading old handwriting is to identify the vowels because of their power to change the words.

Diacritical Marks

In French there are five diacritical marks. All of these marks are either placed over vowels or under the letter c to indicate a change in their usual pronunciation. Do not extract these marks; however, they can be used to identify vowels when the writing is difficult to read.

These diacritical marks are:

\[ \text{grave} \quad \text{aigu} \quad \text{circonflexe} \]
\[ \text{tréma} \quad \text{cedilla} \]

The grave and aigu accents appear only over e’s. The circonflexe and tréma appear over any vowel which uses their particular phonetic value. The cedilla is placed under the letter c to give it an s-sound. The dots over i’s and j’s may appear as an accent mark in French records but in reality are not.

Finally, you should remember that these marks were only standardized in the late 1700s, and that they appear erratically in earlier records. Diacritical marks from the earlier periods emulated the Latin accent marks, which will be covered under the Brevigraphs heading in this chapter.
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</tbody>
</table>

50
Mariage  Anne  quatre

Brater  baptisée  Laboureur  décembe

Crepet  seconde  cent  nicolas  cette
Vendredi 28 d'Avril Denommé

étienné Lunéville Epouse elizabet

Frimaire Dofficier fil François

Signé vingt mariage Grandpère

Inhumé Joseph huit Aujourd'hui

Aymomin

Journalier Jean

Kaiser Kolb Kleber

Luis DeGuillem Republique Cultivatrice
Marie ncome pronomes Communal

Naisance ans parrain marraine donne

Nicolas témoin joseph

le père por présence baptisée pour

quel Dominique quatre quarante

que Dominique quatre quarante

Greffier Ruffier Catherine déclaré

Sept Savoir Nicolas Six

et Mathieu Laufant Jean Baptiste

et Mathieu auvant (enfant) Jean Baptiste

Audit Brumaire Laboureur Jour

audit Brumaire Laboureur Jour
Vendémiaire  Victoria  veuve
Willimin  VVeibcx  Wilhelm
Dix  deux  Sexe
Citoyen  corps  harry
Citoyen  en yver (en hiver)  harry
Elizabeth  onze  sieziem (seizieme)

NOTE:

Many examples of letters and styles have been presented here and should serve only as examples. There will always be occasions when you will find a letter that is entirely different from these examples. When this problem arises, there are three extraction techniques that can help you.

First, consider the letter in the context of the word and sentence. This may help you recognize the meaning and hence the letter.

Second, compare the unknown letters of a word with the known letters in the same entry. Many times you can decipher the unknown letter.

Third, keep in mind the order of vowels and consonants in the word. This can help you identify the word.
Numbers

Numbers are normally written out in most of the parish and civil records; however, there are many records which contain numeric characters. These can be very difficult to interpret at times due to their similarity to alphabetic characters.

The major problems you will encounter are mistaking 5’s for 6’s; and 7’s for 9’s; and vice versa.

Abbreviations

In the medieval period it was very common for lawyers, scribes, priests, and other scholars to use abbreviations when creating legal documents. Abbreviations were much more common a century ago, because paper and ink were expensive items, and writing with the old quill pens was very laborious. To save paper, ink, and especially time, scribes shortened their words by abbreviating.

Many times abbreviations were used so extensively that it is almost impossible for modern readers to understand the texts. Because not all scribes used the same abbreviations, learning the language enables the reader to overcome this obstacle. The types of abbreviations encountered in French records are contractions, elisions, raised letters, and brevigraphs.

Raised Letters

For several centuries scribes indicated omitted letters within a word by writing the last letter or letters of the word slightly above the line; thus: Majie (Majestie), sacrem (sacraments), Jph (Joseph). Many scribes put a period under or slightly to the right of the raised letters. Raised letters, however, did not always indicate an abbreviation, so you should check closely when they appear in an entry.

Contractions

The most common method of abbreviating words was to omit one or more letters. This is called contraction, and there were no rules as to which letters should be dropped. The context of the record enables the reader to determine the meaning of the word. Such words as saint (st, ste, s, or ss) notre (nre, nte), and pretre (pte, ptb, ptre) are examples of contractions found in French records.

Contractions may also be indicated by a flourish, which may appear as a short stroke above the area where letters have been dropped (Franc) or a longer flourish originating in the area of the dropped letters (Conse). One of the oldest and most frequently used marks indicating contractions was a crescent with a dot above the word. The short abbreviating stroke above an m or n within a word indicated that an m or n followed the previous
letter. For example, Ane = Anne and Etienne = Etienne.

Placing a period at the end of a group of letters also indicated a contraction, such as Niv. for Nivose.

In the earlier records, the last four months of the year were frequently abbreviated numerically. This was a carry over from the Julian calendar. These abbreviations should be easy to remember because each month begins with the same sound as the French word for the corresponding number, except eight.

7 bre = Septembre 7 = sept
8 bre = Octobre 8 = huit
9 bre = Novembre 9 = neuf
10 bre = Décembre 10 = dix

The letter x was often used as an abbreviation for Christ; for example, in names such as Christophe = Xophe, Christian, Xstian or Xian, Christina = Xstina.

Double letters may be employed as an abbreviation for marrain or parrain as MM or PP, and AAPP has appeared as a plural abbreviation for aieules, (grandparents). When working with French records containing abbreviations, you should be aware of the methods of abbreviating, and realize that each scribe employed his own peculiar method.

**Elisions**

This type of abbreviation occurs between two words, the first ending in a vowel and the second beginning with a vowel or a silent consonant. The most frequent is the omission of the e in le or the a in la before words beginning with a vowel. For example:

le honneur = l'honneur
le enfant = l'enfant

The elision is indicated by the inclusion of an apostrophe in place of the omitted letter. However, the inclusion of the apostrophe depended on the scribe in many cases.

**Brevigraphs**

Often in the earlier records, you may encounter unusual letters and symbols in the text and be confused as to their meaning. The officiating agents of the earlier records were first trained in Latin, and Latin is a cumbersome language. As a result, a unique shorthand was developed that allowed scribes to speed up the writing process. This Latin shorthand was used by priests whenever they were rushed or encountered an idea which did not presently exist.

It consisted of bars, dots, accent marks, and other symbols and letters. For example: the horizontal bar through an otherwise uncrossed letter meant that it was an abbreviation.

$\bar{b}xe \bar{f} \bar{i} \bar{q}$

There were other symbols that when combined with the first letter of the word, became its abbreviation:

$\bar{q} \bar{q}$ quia

$\bar{p} \bar{p}$ par, per
$\bar{q} \bar{q}$ quem

$\bar{p} \bar{p}$ praee
$\bar{n} \bar{n}$ non

$\bar{p} \bar{p}$ pro
$\bar{n} \bar{z}$ neque

$\bar{q}$ qui
$\bar{v} \bar{v}$ ven

$\bar{q}$ quod
$\bar{v} \bar{v}$ videlicet

$\bar{q}$ quae
$\bar{e} \bar{a}$ vir, vri

$\bar{q}$ quod
$\bar{e} \bar{a}$ em, en

$\bar{q}$ qui
$\bar{c} \bar{c}$ cur

$\bar{q}$ qua
$\bar{a} \bar{a}$ bar, ber

$\bar{q}$ qua
$\bar{a} \bar{a}$ bre, bir
Symbols which appear frequently as words in these records are:

\[ \sim = \text{et} \quad \checkmark = \text{esse} \]

\[ \mathbb{C} \mathbb{C} = \text{con, cum, cun} \quad \cdot \cdot = \text{est} \]

There were other symbols carrying meaning that were also used in the early records.

Days of the week were named after the planets, sun, and moon.

- **1** Solis Sunday
- **<** Lunae Monday
- **0** Martis Tuesday
- **4** Mercurii Wednesday
- **0** Jovi Thursday
- **2** Veneris Friday
- **0** Saturni Saturday

Symbols were used to describe the condition of or events of an individual's life.

- ++ Death
- ++ Married
- ++ Divorced
- ++ Birth
- ++ Woman
- ++ Man
- ++ Christened

In the last quarter of the sixteenth century, the following punctuation marks were at the disposal of writers:

- Slash
- Period
- Comma
- Double period
- Inverted question mark
- Question mark
- Exclamation mark
- Colon
- Horizontal dash
- Semi-colon
- Parenthesis
- Inverted paragraph marks
- Quotation marks

The use of punctuation marks remained erratic up to the first part of the 1700s before finally becoming standardized.

**Variations in Spelling**

Although French was standardized in the early 1700s, scribes continued to spell words phonetically in many parts of France. Because some letters are pronounced the same or sound very similar, the scribes often interchanged such letters. The chart which follows shows the letters most often interchanged, and then gives examples of these interchanges in actual words. If a word you cannot recognize in the document contains one of the letters below, try replacing it with the corresponding interchangeable letters.

There will be occasions when you need to interchange more than one letter before you recognize the letter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. -E</td>
<td>Janvier—Jenver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-OI</td>
<td>Vannesson—Voinnesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-UA</td>
<td>Vannesson—Vuinnesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU. -AUL</td>
<td>Maujean—Mauljean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. -S</td>
<td>Francoise—Francoise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. -X</td>
<td>Arnoud—Arnoux</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Self-evaluation

CHAPTER FIVE

On a separate sheet of paper, transcribe the following words:

1. Nucléo
2. Souvenir
3. Baphélie
4. Cénus
5. Désie
6. Lit
7. Magt
8. Serif
9. Joseph
10. Cattivatum
11. Maria
12. maria cina
13. lepère
14. quatre
15. Zuffier
16. Mathieu
17. Groupe
18. Gito yen
19. Suziems
20. Ciffrerix

Please check your responses with the answers in Appendix C.
CHAPTER SIX

NAME IDENTIFICATION

The purpose of this chapter is to enable you to correctly identify the names of all individuals in an entry, and to avoid those words that can be mistaken for names.

Introduction

The name is the single most important item used to identify an individual. Therefore, it is critical that names are read and extracted accurately.

Three important skills are needed in order to extract names. First, you must be able to locate the name in the entry. Second, you must be able to decipher the spelling of the name (to ensure that it is correct). Third, you must be able to distinguish between given names and surnames, and between personal names, occupations, titles, and relationships.

Techniques for Locating Names

Before a personal name can be extracted from a christening or marriage entry, it must first be located. In the introduction to this manual, three general extraction techniques were given. As a review, the techniques were:

1. Format
   There is a definite order to the information in each entry. Male names precede female names, and fathers come before mothers.

2. Signatures
   The signatures at the end of the entry can help decipher or identify a name.

3. Keywords and Key Phrases
   By locating the keywords in each entry, the extractable information is quickly located. Chapters 1 and 2 presented keywords and key phrases which introduce or set apart personal names and dates.

There are several additional techniques which help locate names. They are as follows:

1. Scanning
   It is good to scan several pages before beginning extraction to familiarize yourself with the format and the names in the record.

2. Comparison
   Many registers contain the entries of several officiating agents. The difference in their handwriting style can be used to decipher names in the entries.

3. Repetition
   Parents and families tend to use the same given names for their children and grandchildren. By scanning a film, these given names and surnames can be deciphered.

4. Regionalisms
   Because of regional naming customs, a peculiar name may occur several times in the same register. Perhaps on one of these occasions, the name is in a recognizable form.

5. Verify
   When you encounter an unfamiliar name, check it against the names catalog to verify that it is an actual name. The names catalog is a very useful tool that lists known given names and surnames alphabetically.

You can also use this verification method for hard-to-read names. If the first few letters are legible, but the remaining letters are illegible,
locate the names that begin with the same letters. From the group of possible names, select the one name which best fits the illegible portion of the name. No names catalog contains every possible given or surname. Therefore, if the name you are verifying cannot be found, it still may be a proper name.

6. **Negative Verification**

   If a name cannot be found in the names catalog, compare it to occupations, titles, or relationship terms. See Appendix A for occupations and the list of relationship terms in this chapter.

7. **Consultation**

   Trainers and extraction specialists are always available to consult if you still cannot identify a name.

**Identifying Names**

Before a personal name can be extracted from a christening or marriage entry, it must be located. Chapters 1 and 2 presented format information, which gave phrases that introduce the names of the people involved. It is necessary to learn these phrases to locate names.

**Given Names**

There is no substitute for being familiar with as many French names as possible. There are several advantages in working with French names. First, French given names are very familiar, because many French names are used by English speaking people. Also, there is frequent contact with French cultures today and, hence, an exposure to French names. The following are examples of common French given names in use today.

- Philip
- Augustin
- Pierre
- Joanne
- Albert
- Nicolas
- Maurice
- Bernadette
- André
- Charlotte
- Michelle
- Claude
- Yvette
- Paulette
- Nicole
- Roland

As you study French names, you will notice that the given names can be categorized into several groups. They are as follows:

**Romantic—Poetic**

French is a very emotional and romantic language, and French given names reflect these poetic feelings through names such as:

- Béatrix
- Désiré
- Honoré
- Léger
- Célestine
- Douce
- Hypolite
- Modeste
- Felicité
- Fortuné
- Justica
- Olympe

**Object**

Other French given names reflect objects or colors:

- Claire
- Luce
- Basile
- Amélie
- Fleur
- Aurore
- Janne
- Hélène
- Romain

**Greek—Roman**

There are many French given names which are of Greek or Roman origin.

- Apollonie
- Augustin
- Alexandre
- Hadrien
- Hector
- César
- Dionne
- Justin
- Théophile
- Janne
- Hélène
- Romain

**Biblical**

Biblical names appear because of the predominance of Catholicism in France.

- Marie
- Adam
- Salomon
- Daniel
- Jean
- Josèphe
- Paul
- Mathieu
- Aaron
- Marc
- Jacob
- Joel

**Double Given Names**

A person can receive more than one given name and may have a hyphenated given name such as:

- Marie-Amélie
- Jean-Baptiste
- Marie-Célestine
- Jean-Claude
- Marie-Thérèse
- Jean-Paul
Surnames

French surnames are quite difficult to recognize for anyone who is not familiar with them. However, many French surnames can be classified as follows:

Proper Nouns

- Agate
- LaViole
- Grand Pierre
- Agramonte
- La Bouteille
- Roux
- Agnelle
- Perdeletemps
- Gateau
- Beaumont

Origin

There are surnames which indicate place of origin, such as:

- Du Pont
- Delatour
- La Place
- Pléchaud
- Duval
- Dumont
- Laval
- Queyroy
- Dubois
- Chedeville
- Lafontaine
- Delangle

Professions

Several of the professions have become surnames. For example:

- Halbique
- Tisserand
- Tribut
- Cosson
- Brimbeur
- Mitterand
- Fournier
- Moisson
- Gatelier
- Chantrier
- Parmentier
- Dimier

Patronymic

The smallest group of French surnames is patronymic names, which usually occurs in areas of Germanic influence. These appear as a combination of du + a noun. For example, Durobert means (son) of Robert.

- Dubail
- Ducat
- Dubault
- Duchartre
- Dubel
- Duclair
- Dubernard
- Dugour
- Dubure
- Ducarme
- Dumonet

The surnames, Pierson and Jennesson, represent a rare group of patronyms that are also French but different from the first group.

Double Surnames

Double surnames also appear in French records as well as hyphenated surnames. For example:

- DuJardin-Beaumetz
- Ducray-Duminil
- Guyton de Morveau
- Joliot-Curie

The easiest rules to follow in deciphering French surnames are: 1. Anything that comes after the given name which isn’t a title, or locality may be the surname. 2. Those words after the given name that have no recognizable meaning may be surnames. 3. Because occupations can be used as surnames care must be taken to differentiate between the two. (See Appendix A for a comprehensive list of French occupations.)

Titles

One problem in working with French names is the frequent appearance of titles. Titles can be found in front of the given name, just behind the given name or directly after the surname. Some titles are associated with a particular piece of land or locality and, therefore, the location of the property is included in the title.

Example:

Geofroi Comte d'Anjoue
  Geofroi—(Given name)
  Comte—(Title-Count)
  d'Anjoue—(locality)

The following are common titles found in French records:

Nobility

- Roi
- Prince
- Princesse
- Dauphin
- Duc
- Comte

- king
- prince
- princess
- crown prince
- duke
- count
Comtesse
countess
Marquis
marquis
Vicomte
viscount
Vidame
wife of the viscount
Chatelain
squire
Chevalier
knight
L’ecuyer
squire
Baron
baron
Seigneur
lord

ECCLESIASTICAL
Pape
pope
Cardinal prêtre
cardinal priest
Cardinal diacre
cardinal deacon
Archeveque
archbishop
Eveque
bishop
Prévat
provost
Curé
priest
Archidiacre
archdeacon
Diacre
deacon
Abbé
abbot
Abbess
mother superior
Supérieur
superior

RELIGIOUS ORDERS
Trappistes
Trinitaires
Célestins
Franciscains
Cordeliers
Recollets
Clarisses
Capucines
Carmes
Dominicains
Benédicitins
Chanoines de Saint-Victor
Prémontrés
Saint-Augustins
Jesuites

Hospitaliers De Saint Gilles
Hospitaliers de Temple

LAY ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES
le doyen
dean
le sous-prévôt
assistant prévôt
le sous-doyen
assistant dean
le chanteur
lead vocalist
le prechantre
vocalist
le sous-chanteur
vocalist
le trésorier
treasurer
l’écolâtre
school inspector

CIVIL TITLES
Directeur
director
Juge
judge
Secrétaire
secretary
Maire
mayor
President
president
Greffier
registrar
Conseiller
councilor
Citoyen
citizen
Chambellan
chamberlain
Bachelier
bachelor
Bailli
bailli
Licencié
licentiate
Sénéchal
seneschal
Maître
master
Consul
consul
Docteur
doctor

RELIGIOUS ORDERS OF KNIGHTS
Hospitaliers De Saint Antoine
Hospitaliers De Saint Jean De Jérusalem

Terms Denoting Relationship

In addition to the principals involved in the ordinance being performed, French records list many individuals not directly involved in the procedures. Aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, and many other relatives are mentioned in the registers. These terms of relationship can cause confusion, especially if they appear out of context or in bad sentence construction; therefore, it is vital to know and recognize the relationships on the following list.

The French articles "l', "le" or "la" are disregarded in alphabetizing, and are alphabetized under the
first letter of the next word. Ex: l'aîné is listed under “a”.

aïeul  grandfather
aïeule  grandmother
aïeules, aïeules  grandparents
l'aîné  the elder (Sr.)
arrière-cousin  distant cousin
arrière-grand-mère  great-grandmother
arrière-grands-parents  great-grandparents
arrière-grand-père  great-grandfather
arrière-neveu  grandnephew
arrière-nièce  grandniece
arrière-petite-fille  great grand-daughter
arrière-petit-fils  great grand-son
arrière-petits-enfants  great grand-children
beau-fils  stepson or son-in-law
beau-frère  brother-in-law
beau-père  father-in-law or stepfather
beau-petit-fils  son of a stepson or stepdaughter
beaux-parents  father and mother-in-law
belle-famille  the in-laws
belle-fille  daughter-in-law
belle-mère  mother-in-law
belle-soeur  sister-in-law
bisaïeul  great-grandfather
bisaïeule  great-grandmother
bru  daughter-in-law
 cousin(e)  cousin
 cousin germain  first cousin
 cousins issus de germains  once removed
demi-frère  half brother
 demi-soeur  half sister
 enfant  child
 épouse  female spouse, wife
 époux  male spouse, husband
 femme  wife, woman
 fille  daughter
gilleul(e)  godchild, godson or daughter
 fils  son
 frère  brother
 frère aîné  elder brother
 frère cadet  younger brother
 frère de lait  foster brother
 frère german  full brother
 frère utéris  half brother (by the mother's side)
gendre  son-in-law
grande-mère  grandmother
 grand-oncle  great uncle
 grand-parents  grandparents
 grand-père  grandfather
 grande-tante  great aunt
 homme  husband, man
 le jeune  the younger (Jr.)
 jumeaux  twin(s), masculine
 jumelle(s)  twin(s), feminine
 mari  husband
 marié(e)  married man or woman
 marraine  godmother
 mere  mother
 mère nourricière  foster mother
 nièce  niece
 nourricier  foster father
 nourricière  foster mother
 oncle  uncle
 orphelin  orphan
 parent(e)  relative
 parents  parents, relatives
 parrain  godfather
 père  father, sire
 père nourricier  foster father
 père vitrique  stepfather
 petit enfant  infant, baby
 petite-fille  grandson
 petit-fils  granddaughter
 petit-neveu  grandnephew
 petite-nièce  grandniece
 proche parent(e)  close relative
 promis  promised (fiancé or fiancée)
 soeur  sister
 soeur de lait  foster sister
 soeur germane  full sister
 soeur utérine  half sister (by mother's side)
tante  aunt
 trisaïeul  great-great-grandfather
 trisaïeule  great-great-grandmother
Self-evaluation

CHAPTER SIX

Write the following words on a separate sheet of paper, and use a slash mark "/" to separate the given name(s) from the surname(s). Be careful not to include relationships, occupations, titles and localities.

Exercise 1

1. Pierre Bayard
2. Bernard Palissy Verrier
3. Lazare Hoche
4. Jean-Paul Colbert
5. Giorné Viard
6. Jules Hardouin-Mansart
7. Claude-Louis Vassé
8. Henri Poincaré
9. Monseigneur Joseph Lamor

Exercise 2

1. Marie August Manier
2. Julienne Jacob
3. Phanie Colson de Manoncourt
4. Michele Musquar
5. Marie Celeste Franiatte Cultivatrice
6. Anne-Louise Pérot Grande Tante
7. Roseline Bartrand Gudien
8. Renée Geoffroy de Croismare
9. Elisa Dardaine décédée

Please check your responses with the answers in Appendix C.
CHAPTER SEVEN

GENDER

The purpose of this chapter is to enable you to determine the sex of any individual named in a christening or marriage entry.

Most of the time, the sex can be determined using the first given name. However, there are many names which can be either male or female and, therefore, other factors must be considered to establish the gender of the individual.

The gender of an individual many times positions them in a proper relationship to other people named in an entry.

Phrases Denoting Gender

If the sex of an individual cannot be determined from the first given name, other words in the entry which carry gender can be used. The most common words that indicate a person's sex are listed below. Notice that verbs which end in -ee refer to females; those that end with consonants or one e usually refer to males.

- fils .............. son
- fille .............. daughter
- un enfant ......... male child
- une enfant ....... female child
- né ................. (male) child
- née ................ (female) child
- jumeau ............ twin (male)
- jumelle .......... twin (female)
- jumeaux .......... twins (masculine)
- jumelles ......... twins (feminine)
- veuf .............. widower
- veuve ............. widow
- garçon ............ unmarried boy
- mademoiselle ..... unmarried young woman
- marié ............ married man
- mariée ........... married woman

The following phrases refer to females:

Ma légitime
my wife
fille légitime de...
legitimate daughter of...
une enfant légitime
legitimate child
fille de Marie Thérèse et de père inconnu
daughter of Marie Therese and father unknown
d'autre part Natalie Beaudoin, age de vingt cinq ans
the other part Natalie Beaudoin, age 25 years
et de Francoise Belot née a housséville
and of Francoise Belot, born in Housseville
et Josephine Didier age de cinquante sept ans, son épouse
and Josephine Didier age 57 years, his wife

The following phrases refer to males:

le fils de Pierre
the son of Pierre
un enfant né le troisième jour de...
a child born the 3rd day of...
un enfant du sexe masculin.
a child of the masculine sex.
donné le prénom de Jean
given the name of Jean
fils légitime de Marcelle Collet.
legitimate son of Marcelle Collet.
le fils illegitime de Marie Picot et de pere inconnu.
Illegitimate son of Marie Picot and of (a) father unknown.

Occasionally, you will find a scribe who was careless or inconsistent, either with spelling the names or with denoting the gender. He may have written—

"baptisé le fils de Jean et Marie et . . ."

baptized the son of Jean and Marie and

donnée le nom de sa mere, Marie:
and given the name of his mother, Marie

Here the scribe recorded a son but gives a feminine name.

The verb (donnae) indicates that the child is a female. In such cases, consider all the evidence, and use your common sense to arrive at a conclusion. The predominant consideration should be the child's first given name.

In the given example, the child is most likely a girl, and the scribe probably was not aware of the mistake.

Marginal Notations

Another aid in determining the sex is the marginal notation. Some scribes wrote the first given name of each child christened, in the margin beside their corresponding entry.

In marriage entries, the marginal notation often includes the given name(s) of the bride as well as the groom. Sometimes a scribe would write a more complete name in the margin. For example, a scribe may have written in the entry baptisé Thérese fille de . . . , and in the margin written Marie Thérese. This additional name helps many times to clarify the sex of the individual. In another instance, the entry may contain only the name Arsene, which can be either sex. In the margin, however, the scribe adds Jean (Arsene), which would indicate the person was a male.

Self-evaluation

CHAPTER SEVEN

On a separate sheet of paper, determine the gender of the person in each phrase below and enter either M for male or F for female.

1. Marie Gabrielle, fille legitime de Henri Grillot . . .
2. et donnée le nom de Angélique . . .
3. Lisette Labard, son épouse . . .
4. et pour parrain, René Mircourt . . .
5. Yvette, née le premier jour de Mai . . .
6. Connue par le nom Thomas . . .
7. Claude Arne le père nourricier de la . . .
8. et sa jumelle Pernette . . .
10. Chrétien Savigny, le maire de ce village . . .

Please check your responses with the answers in Appendix C.
CHAPTER EIGHT

DATES

The purpose of this chapter is to enable you to correctly identify dates recorded in birth, christening, and marriage entries.

Overview of Calendar Systems

Several calendar systems affected the French registers over the course of their existence. The earliest registers were created under the Julian calendar. Established in Rome in 46 B.C., this was a calendar of twelve months of thirty or thirty-one days, except for February, which had twenty-eight days. Every fourth year was a leap year, with twenty-nine days in February.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII proclaimed a revision to this calendar to compensate for a ten-day discrepancy between the positions of the sun and the calendar. In that year, the day after October fourth became October fifteenth, and the first day of the year was moved from March fifteen to January first. Because of this adjustment, the calendar became known as the Gregorian calendar. In France, the Gregorian calendar began on December 15, 1582 and was used until the French Revolution.

On the 22nd of September 1792, the first assembly of legislators proclaimed the French Republic. They also instituted a new calendar. Known as the French Republican calendar, it consisted of twelve months of thirty days each. Each month was divided into three ten-day periods or decades. Because this totaled only 360 days, five complementary days were added to the calendar at the end of the year, with six complementary days every fourth year. Sundays and all Christian feast days were replaced with Republican feast days. The French Republican calendar was adopted by Napoleon and used during his years of conquest in those countries he occupied. On 31 December 1805, Napoleon discontinued the Republican calendar and returned to the Gregorian calendar as a gesture of conciliation to the Pope. However, not all registrars began using the Republican calendar at the same time nor did they all end on 31st of December, 1805.

Gregorian Calendar—Months and Days of the Week

The French word for month is mois, and it appears in christening-baptism records and marriage entries for both parish and civil records. Many times you will encounter this word in the phrase “au mois de” (in the month of) and find it followed directly by the name of the month.

French months for the Gregorian calendar are very similar to their English equivalents. Notice that the first three letters of the French months are almost exactly like the first three letters of the English months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Janvier</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Février</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avril</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mai</td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juin</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juillet</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Août</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septembre</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octobre</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novembre</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Décembre</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The French days of the week however, are quite different from their English counterparts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dimanche</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lundi</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mardi</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
French Republican Calendar— Months and Days of the Week

The French Republican calendar months were completely different from the Gregorian months. They tended to be poetic descriptions of the seasons of the year. Notice that the months are separated into four distinct groups according to their endings.

- **Vendémiaire** (vendange: grape gathering season)
- **Brumaire** (brume: fog)
- **Frimaire** (frimas: hoarfrost)
- **Nivôse** (neigeux: snowy)
- **Pluviose** (pluvieux: rainy)
- **Ventôse** (venteux: windy)
- **Germinal** (germe: seed, sprout)
- **Floréal** (floral: flowery)
- **Prairial** (prairie: meadow)
- **Messidor** (messier: cropwatcher)
- **Thermidor** (thermal: hot)
- **Fructidor** (fructifère: fruitful)
- **Complémentaire** (complementary)

The French Republican calendar simply numbered the days of the week from one to ten.

1 Primidi  6 Sextidi
2 Duodi    7 Septidi
3 Tridi    8 Octidi
4 Quartidi 9 Nonidi
5 Quintidi 10 Decadi

Despite the names of the weekdays, although the days of the week often appear in the entry, they are not used for extraction. You should, however, be able to recognize them and use them for a reference point in locating the rest of the date. Parish and civil records for all calendars refer mostly to the day of the month by number and only add the day of the week as a more precise indicator of the date.

Numbers

The day of the month may be entered either as a numeral or as a number written out in longhand. You should be able to recognize a number recorded either way.

The French used the same base ten system we use today. There are definite similarities between English and French numbers which makes the task of learning them much easier. Once you learn these numbers, they will serve as the foundation for learning the other numbers.

Except for **un** (one), **ième** is added to the cardinal stem to form the ordinal number. Ordinal numbers beyond **deuxième** (2nd), do appear in the registers but they are the exceptions rather than the rule. The numbers **un** (one) and **onze** (eleven) are the only numbers starting with vowels.

**Group One: 1 - 9**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinals</th>
<th>Ordinals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>un</strong> (une)</td>
<td>premier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>deux</strong></td>
<td>deuxième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>trois</strong></td>
<td>troisième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>quatre</strong></td>
<td>quatrième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>cinq</strong></td>
<td>cinquième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>six</strong></td>
<td>sixième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sept</strong></td>
<td>septième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>huit</strong></td>
<td>huitième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>neuf</strong></td>
<td>neuvième</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Group Two: 10 - 19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinals</th>
<th>Ordinals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>dix</strong></td>
<td>dixième</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>onze</strong></td>
<td>onzième</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the years in the French Republican calendar changed with the month, the days of the week remained the same.
douze  twelve  douzième  12th
treize thirteen  treizième  13th
quatorze fourteen  quatorzième  14th
quinze fifteen  quinzième  15th
seize sixteen  seizième  16th
dix-sept seventeen  dix-septième  17th
dix-huit eighteen  dix-huitième  18th
dix-neuf nineteen  dix-neuvième  19th

The letters “ze” at the end of the numbers onze to seize indicate that they are teens. The numbers seventeen to nineteen are formed by adding ten before the digit. Except for the multiples of ten, all other numbers are compounds of more than one number. For example: dix (ten) + sept (seven) = 17.

For numbers greater than twenty, a compound number is formed by adding units to the tens. For example, twenty and one, or twenty and two and so forth. In the older registers, the “et” was continued through all higher numbers. You should be aware that on occasions, the officiating agent may exceed thirty-one when numbering days. Thirty-three has appeared as a date, even in the month of February.

Group Three: 20 - 39

Cardinals

vingt
twenty
vingt-et-un
twenty-one
vingt-deux
twenty-two
vingt-trois
twenty-three
vingt-quatre
twenty-four
vingt-cinq
twenty-five
vingt-six
twenty-six
vingt-sept
twenty-seven
vingt-huit
twenty-eight
vingt-neuf
twenty-nine
trente
thirty
trente-et-un
thirty-one
trente-deux
thirty-two
trente-trois
thirty-three

Ordinals

vingtième
vingt-et-unième
vingt-deuxième
vingt-troisième
vingt-quatrième
vingt-cinquième
vingt-sixième
vingt-septième
vingt-huitième
vingt-neuvième
trentième
trente et unième
trente-deuxième
trente-troisième

eetc.

Years

The French word for year is an or année and appears frequently in an entry. At any one time, you will be called upon to extract records from the late 1400s up to 1885.

The Gregorian years will be expressed with four digits, such as 1742. However, the French Republican Calendar will be expressed with 1 or 2 digits since it began with the year 1 and ended with the year 13.

Many times a scribe would confuse the two calendars by entering the day and month from one and the year from the other, such as 12 Mars year 2. When this occurs, refer to the conversion table at the end of this chapter to correct the date.

Because the year is the most important part of the date to be recorded, care should be taken to correctly identify and translate it on the card.

The numbers from forty to sixty are formed in the same way as group 3. Numbers ending in “ente” or “ante” indicate that the number ends with a zero.
Group Four: 40 - 79

quarante  forty
cinquante  fifty
soixante  sixty
septante  seventy (old, dialect)
soixante-dix  seventy 60 + 10
soixante-et-onze  seventy-one 60 + 11
soixante-douze  seventy-two 60 + 12
soixante-treize  seventy-three 60 + 13
soixante-quatorze  seventy-four 60 + 14
soixante-quinze  seventy-five 60 + 15
soixante-seize  seventy-six 60 + 16
soixante-dix-sept  seventy-seven 60 + 10 + 7
soixante-dix-huit  seventy-eight 60 + 10 + 8
soixante-dix-neuf  seventy-nine 60 + 10 + 9

The following number group creates the most problems and a great amount of practice should be done to familiarize yourself with them.

Group Five: 80 - 99

quatre-vingt  eighty (four twenties)
quatre-vingt-et-un  eighty-one 4 20's + 1
quatre-vingt-deux  eighty-two 4 20's + 2
etc.
nonate  ninety (old dialect)
quatre-vingt-dix  ninety 4 20's + 10
quatre-vingt-et-onze  ninety-one 4 20's + 11
quatre-vingt-douze  ninety-two 4 20's + 12

When written out, the thousands come first followed by the hundreds and then tens and ones, just as it is done today. The French word for one hundred is cent, as in century, and the word for one thousand is mil or mille. All other uses of these numbers must contain a numerical quotient. Note the following examples of one hundred and two hundred.

Group Six: 100 +

cent  one hundred 100
cent-un  101
cent-deux  102
cent-dix  110
cent-onze  111
cent-dix-sept  117
cent-vingt  120
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Term</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>deux-cent</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trois-cent</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quatre-cent</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cinq-cent</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six-cent</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sept-cent</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>huit-cent</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neuf-cent</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil cinq cent</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil six cent</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil sept cent</td>
<td>1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil huit cent</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mil neuf cent</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deux mil</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- mil cinq cent quatorze = 1,514 = one thousand, five hundred and fourteen
- mil sept cent quatre-vingt-huit = 1,788 = one thousand, seven hundred and eighty eight
- mil six cent soixante-deux = 1,662 = one thousand, six hundred and sixty two
- mil huit cent trente-neuf = 1,839 = one thousand, eight hundred and thirty nine
- neuf cent vingt-six = 926 = nine hundred twenty six

The French also use the hundred system to indicate the year as we do in English. See below.

**Example:**

DIX SEPT CENT = MIL SEPT CENT (1700)
Seventeen hundred = One thousand seven hundred

DIX HUIT CENT = MIL HUIT CENT (1800)
Eighteen hundred = One thousand eight hundred

Years may also be entered as numerals within an entry. As can be seen, the most unusual numerals are the 1, 5 and 8. Copy them until you become familiar with them.

**Example of Numerals:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Numerals</th>
<th>French Numerals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31, 10, 16, 1553</td>
<td>31, 10, 16, 1553</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Twos:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2, 22, 26, 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>429, 427, 12, 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th, 27, 22, 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review

Cover the answers at the right as you determine the numbers in the left column:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row 1</th>
<th>Row 2</th>
<th>Row 3</th>
<th>Row 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>1,572</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,856</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>1,638</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,266</td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td>572</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,569</td>
<td>2,165</td>
<td>1,560</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,582</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>1,555</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>1,605</td>
<td>1,590</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Row 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1578</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Roman Numerals

In the older registers, the date may be given in Roman numerals. There is also a cursive style Roman numeral, which is considerably more difficult to transcribe.

1 = I  11 = XI  12 = XII
2 = II  12 = XIII
3 = III  14 = XIV
4 = IV  5 = V  15 = XV
6 = VI  16 = XVI  17 = XVII
8 = VIII  18 = XVIII
9 = IX  19 = XIX
10 = X  20 = XX
20 = XX  30 = XXX  40 = XL
50 = L  60 = LX  70 = LXX
80 = LXXX  90 = XC
100 = C  100 = CI
101 = CI

Note that in numbers 4, 9, 14, 19, 24, 39, 40, 90, and 400 and 900, the letter preceding the larger value is to be subtracted. Care should be taken to arrive at the correct date.

Examples:  IV = 5 - 1 = 4
            XC = 100 - 10 = 90
            CD = 500 - 100 = 400

Otherwise, the extractor simply adds up the values to arrive at the correct date.

Examples:  MDCCXXVI = 1000 + 600 + 26
           = 1626
           MDCCCLVII = 1000 + 700 + 57 = 1757

Example:  Viii (8)    Xii (12)    Xvi (16)
          Xviii (18th)    Xxvi (26)
          Xv (15)        Xvi (16th)

Variations in Dates

In some entries you may find the day, month, or year missing. In its place, the scribe may have used a substitute phrase. Many times this occurs when there are several entries for the same date or in the same month. It may read, “On the same day, month, and year,” or it may refer to only part of the date, “of the same month and year.”

This may have been done to save time, space or to avoid writing the same thing repeatedly. In most cases this phrase refers to a date given in a previous entry or to a date given at the top of the page.

Example:

“J’ai baptisé Jean le même jour, mois et an . . .”
I baptized Jean the same day, month and year

Some common substitute date phrases:

le même jour, mois et an:
the same day, month, and year

de ce jour: of this day

au mois instant: in the same month

au mois passé: in the past month

Fixed Feast Days

There are times that feast days replace the regular date phrase in an entry.

The feast days of the Republican calendar usually fell on the tenth day or décade of the month, as well as on the complementary days at the end of the year.

These dates must be calculated to their Gregorian calendar equivalents.
Fixed Christian Holidays of the Gregorian Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nouvel An</td>
<td>New Year’s</td>
<td>1 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiphanie</td>
<td>Epiphany</td>
<td>6 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purification de Marie</td>
<td>Purification of Mary</td>
<td>2 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharistie</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>20 Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annocation</td>
<td>Annunciation day</td>
<td>25 Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assompition de Marie</td>
<td>Assumption of Mary</td>
<td>15 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naissance de Marie</td>
<td>Birth of Mary</td>
<td>8 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michel l’Archange</td>
<td>St. Michael the Archangel</td>
<td>29 Sept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toussaint</td>
<td>All Saints Day</td>
<td>1 Nov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immaculée Conception</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>8 Dec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noël</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>25 Dec</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fixed Holidays of the Republican Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fête de la Fondation de la République</td>
<td>Feast of the Foundation of the Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fête de la Jeunesse</td>
<td>Feast of Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fête des Epoux</td>
<td>Feast of the Spouses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fête de la Reconnaissance</td>
<td>Feast of Gratitude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fête de l’Agriculture</td>
<td>Feast of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fête de la Liberté</td>
<td>Feast of Liberty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fête des Vieillards</td>
<td>Feast of the Old Men</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complementary Days

The Republican calendar consisted of twelve thirty-day months. Because this totaled to only 360 days, five complementary days were created at the end of the twelfth month (Fructidor). On leap years, six days were added. For a short period, these days were called sansculottide in memory of the very violent republicans of the French Revolution. Later, during the Napoleonic era, the name was changed to complémentaire. Whenever a jour complémentaire date is used in a register, the date should be transcribed exactly as it was recorded.

Example:

Le troisieme jour complémentaire an cinq = 3 COMP 5
5 sansculottide an 3 = 5 COMP 3

(For further information about conversions from the Republican calendar to the Gregorian calendar, refer to the conversion tables before the self-evaluation exercises at the end of this chapter.)

Ecclesiastical Calendars

In the early parish registers there were two other methods of dating an entry. One method used the Saints Calendar or fixed dates. This meant substituting the name of a Catholic Saint for the date. Each day of the year is known by the names of one or more canonized Saints. One problem with the system is that there are more canonized Saints than there are days in the year.

Compounding this first problem is that a Saint can be celebrated on more than one day, such as a birth, canonization, death, martyrdom, ascension, or appearance. For example, Saint Sabinas was
born 31 Dec., was translated 19 Oct., and is honored on both days along with other canonized Saints and uncanonized local Saints.

When you encounter such a date, convert it to the Gregorian date. An alphabetical list of Saints is available at all extraction centers. There are also several Saints catalogs available at any local library or bookstore.

The other dating system was the movable date calendar or the Easter calendar. The Easter calendar named each Sunday of the year according to its position to Easter. However, since Easter is defined as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, it can occur on a different Sunday from one year to the next.

When working with the movable calendar, establish the exact date of Easter before dating any other day of the year. This dating system rarely appears in parish registers.

The following presents the weekly sequence of Sundays with the intermediate holidays of the Easter calendar.

Note: Because Easter can occur on different dates, the septuagésime Sunday may begin on any one of the four January Sundays.

1er Premier Dimanche (First Sunday)
2e Deuxième Dimanche
3e Troisième Dimanche
4e Quatrième Dimanche

Septuagésime 9e avant Paques (9th week before Easter)
Sexagésime 8e avant Paques
Quinquagésime 7e avant Paques
Dimanche Gras Shrove Sunday
mardi suivant Mardi Gras

Mercredi de Cendres Ash Wednesday Pre. jour de Carême (First day of Lent)
Quadragesime Pre. dimanche de Careme (First Sunday of Lent)
Mercredi Quatre-Temps Ember Days
2e Dimanche de Careme
3e Dimanche de Careme
4e Dimanche de Careme

Dimanche de la Passion
Dimanche des Rameaux Palm Sunday
Lundi Saint
Mardi Saint

Mercredi Saint
Jeudi Saint
Vendredi Saint
Samedi Saint
Paques
Premier Dimanche après Paques
2e Deuxième Dimanche après Paques
3e Troisième Dimanche après Paques
4e Quatrième Dimanche après Paques
5e Cinquième Dimanche après
Lundi—Mere des Rogation
40 jours après Paques = jour de l’Ascension
Ascension day)
6e Dimanche après Paques
Vigile (49e jour apr ès Paques)
50 jours après Paques = Pentecôte
Quatre—Temps = Ember Days
Pre. Dimanche Trinitas
Premier Jeudi Fete-Dieu
2e Dimanche Trinitas
3e Dimanche Trinitas

Premier Dimanche (First Sunday of the
de l’Avent Noël Advent of Christmas)
4e* Dimanche Trinitas
5e* Dimanche Trinitas
6e* Dimanche Trinitas

25 Dec NOEL Christmas

Dimanche dans l’octave de Noël (Eight days between Christmas and New Years)

* Coinciding with the offset at the beginning of the year, the advent of Christmas can begin on any of the 4th through 6th Trinity Sundays.
# Conversion Chart for the French Republican Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republican Years</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
<th>VIII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gregorian Years</td>
<td>1792</td>
<td>1793</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>1796</td>
<td>1797</td>
<td>1798</td>
<td>1799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Vendémiaire =</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
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<td>1 Frimaire =</td>
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<td>1 Pluviôse =</td>
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<td>1 Floréal =</td>
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<td>1 Messidor =</td>
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<td>1 Thermidor =</td>
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<td>1 Fructidor =</td>
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<td>1 Complémentaire =</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The date must be entered as all Republican or all Gregorian. Usually this entails converting the year only. Use this chart to do this partial conversion. Remember that each Republican month has 30 days. There are 5 complementary days in each year and 6 in a leap year. Years 3, 7, and 11 of the Republican calendar are leap years. 1796 and 1804 were leap years in the Gregorian calendar, which have been accounted for on this chart.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republican Years</th>
<th>IX</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>XI</th>
<th>XII</th>
<th>XIII</th>
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<td>1802</td>
<td>1803</td>
<td>1804</td>
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<td>1 Brumaire =</td>
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<td>1 Frimaire =</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>1 Nivôse =</td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td>1 Pluviose =</td>
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<td>1 Ventôse =</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Germinal =</td>
<td>22</td>
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<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Floréal =</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Prairial =</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Messidor =</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Thermidor =</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Fructidor =</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Complémentaire = 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>1801</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Self-evaluation

CHAPTER EIGHT

On a separate sheet of paper, convert the following into numerals:

Exercise 1: Numbers

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>deux</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>six</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>treize</td>
<td>11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>sept</td>
<td>12.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>six</td>
<td>13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>onze</td>
<td>14.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>quatre</td>
<td>15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>seize</td>
<td>16.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>un</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>vingt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>trente-deux</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>quarante-six</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>vingt-et-un</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>trente</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>vingt-sept</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>vingt-neuf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 2: Years

On a separate piece of paper, convert the following years into their numerical equivalents:

1. mil cinq cent quatre-vingt onze
2. mil huit cent soixante treize
3. mil six cent trente neuf
4. mil vingt-sept
5. mil sept cent quarante cinq

Exercise 3: Month Abbreviations

On a separate sheet of paper, write in capital letters the English three-letter abbreviation for the Gregorian months or the first four letters of the Republican calendar months.

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Exercise 4: Date Conversions

On a separate sheet of paper, convert the following years and days to their numeric equivalents and convert the months using the directions from Exercise Three:

1. Au mois de février de mil huit cent soixante treize.
2. Aujourd'hui le vingt-cinq de mai.
3. L'an huit du calendrier Républicain, le dix-sept de Pluviôse.
4. L'an mil cinq cent quatre-vingt quatorze le premier de mai.
5. Au date du premier de Janvier de mil huit cent trente-deux.
6. Né le neuvième jour d'octobre de mil sept cent quatorze.
7. Le premier de la République le vingt-quatre de messidor.
9. Le douzième de décembre de mil six cent cinquante huit.
10. Né le quinzième d'août de mil huit cent quatre-vingt-cinq.
Exercise 5: Roman Numerals

On a separate sheet of paper, translate the following into Arabic numbers:

1. MDCCCLXV
2. MDCCXCII
3. MDCII
4. MDCLXXXIX
5. MCCCLXVII
6. MCDXXXIV
7. MCDXLV
8. MDIII
9. CMXCIV
10. MCMLXXXII

Please check your responses with the answers in Appendix C.
CHAPTER NINE

PUTTING IT ALL INTO PRACTICE

This chapter provides practice texts of christening, marriage, and death entries reproduced in their original form. Use the various extraction techniques summarized below in deciphering these practice texts.

Extraction Techniques: Summary

Chapter one presented three basic techniques that you should always use.

1. Format

There is a definite order in which the information is recorded in the entry. This is known as format. Because a particular format is used repeatedly by the scribe, the only words which change from entry to entry are the names and the date. This makes it very easy for you to recognize the words which change in each entry.

2. Keywords

Due to the consistent use of one format, there are several words that stand out from the rest and become keywords. These words point out the information to be extracted. By locating the keywords, which don’t change from entry to entry, it is easy to locate that information which should be extracted.

3. Signatures

Although not extracted, the signatures can be compared against unknown words or letters to identify or decipher names.

In chapter five, several other techniques were introduced:

4. Scanning

Beginning with the first of the film, scan several pages to familiarize yourself with the format and names in the record. Note unusual characteristics which may help you in extraction.

5. Comparison

Many registers contain the entries of several officiating agents. Use the difference in their handwriting styles to decipher an entry.

6. Letter Comparison

Letters which are unintelligible in one word may be found in another that can be deciphered. For example, an r in one word may look like an x. If the same letter in another word can be nothing but an r, you can thus decipher the original letter in doubt.

7. Regionalisms

Parents and families tend to use the same names in each generation. Scan the later time periods of the film to decipher these names.

8. Repetition

Because of regionalisms, a peculiar name may occur several times in a register; on one of these occasions the name might appear in a recognizable form.
Extraction Techniques
Using a Names Catalog

9. Verify

When you find an unfamiliar name, check it against the names in the catalog to see if it is an actual name. You can also use the names catalog as verification for hard-to-read names. If the first few letters are legible, but the remaining letters are illegible, locate alphabetically those names beginning with the same letters. From the group of possible names, select the one name that best fits the illegible portion of the name.

10. Negative Verification

If a name cannot be found in the names catalog, compare it to occupations, titles, races, or relationship words to see if it is one of these. If it is still not found, it may be a name. Compare it to other unusual regional names in the register.

11. Consultation

Trainers and extraction specialists are always available for consultation if you still cannot determine a name. It is very important for you to learn the language.

12. Phonetics

A person who knows the language has a distinct advantage in being able to sound out the words phonetically and then identify them. There are occasions when spelling variations make recognition difficult. Being able to sound the word out may enable you to recognize it.

13. Indexes

French civil records contained indexes at the end of each year or, in the more common decade index at the end of each ten years. Search and compare these indexes with the entries to help identify unrecognizable names and dates.

14. Review

Put a clip on those cards that have problems. Once the batch has been completed, go back and review the entries; then make the final decision. Many times the name can be identified because it appeared repeatedly throughout the register.

Putting It All Into Practice

On a separate sheet of paper, practice extracting from the entries provided. Remember the rules of extraction as you record your answers. Try using some of the extraction techniques previously mentioned to find the methods you will be most comfortable using.

As you read through the christening entries, look for and record the following when present in the records:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMES</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LOCALITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Birthplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>Birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td>Death</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you read through death entries, record only those deaths that apply directly to christening as dictated by the rules of extraction.

For marriage entries, record the following information when it is present:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMES</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>LOCALITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Groom</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>Marriage place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groom's parents</td>
<td>Groom's birth date</td>
<td>Groom's birthplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride</td>
<td>Bride's birth date</td>
<td>Bride's birthplace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride's parents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Not all of the information listed will be given in a particular entry; however, when it does occur you should extract it.

When you have completed extracting, check your extractions against the answers found at the end of this chapter.

You will note that the entries vary in difficulty, but are representative of the types of handwriting that you will encounter. An analysis sheet follows the answer section. Use the sheet to help you analyze the areas you may have had difficulty with.
ACTES DE MARIAGES, DIVORCES ET ADOPTIONS.

XIᵉ ANNÉE RÉPUBLICAINE.

REGISTRE contenant deux feuillets cotés et paraphés, par premier et dernier, par le Préfet du Département de la Haute-Marne, soussigné, pour inscrire, dans la Commune d'Aiguillette pendant la onzième année républicaine, les Actes servant à constater les Mariages, Divorces et Adoptions, conformément au titre II de la Loi du 20 Septembre 1792.

FAIT à Chaumont, le 30 Fructidor 10 de la République française, une et indivisible.

Mariage

[Signature]

La présente acte d'acte de mariage est établi en deux exemplaires, l'un conservé par le maire de la commune de Quiche, l'autre remis au demandeur.

Le présent acte est signé par le maire de la commune de Quiche, à la préfecture du département de la Haute-Saône, en date du...
Nuptiales

Jean-Pierre Zélie

Changement à Chalons

Marie Thérèse Magnier

Linge

Date

Signature
ACTES DE MARIAGES, DIVORCES ET ADOPTIONS.

An 1813.

PAR NOUS Alexandre François, Marquis de Lanty, Juge du Tribunal de première instance s'étant à Chaumont, Arrondissement de Chaumont, Département de la Haute-Marne, le présent Registre, destiné à recevoir les déclarations des Mariages, Divorces et Adoptions, pendant l'année mil huit cent treize, a été coté et paraphé par premier et dernier feuillet, et contient quarante-feuilles.

Fait double, à Chaumont, le 1er Décembre 1812.

Marquis de Lanty

Marie Trapani,

marie de seigneurie,

d'ordonnance du personnel de Chaumont.

A nombre de la mairie

victoire de la mairie,

et de Marie Trapani, âgée de vingt et un ans, fille de seigneurie, née à Chaumont, et de Marie Trapani, veuve de Trapani, de seigneurie, le jour d'octobre de l'an dix-huit cent treize.

Paroisse de Chaumont, tenue et recueillie en l'église.

Le marquis de Lanty, maire et conseiller municipal de Chaumont.
Le présent registre a été plastifié par moi, maître notaire de la commune de ..., le ..., en conformité avec les dispositions légales en vigueur.

Maître notaire de la commune de...

[Signature du maître notaire]
Denierent se neglige, lesquels se sont accordés que l'honorable messire du Sieur de la Haye
entierement satisfait de la remise du tailleur, et qu'il va dans six mois, à la date de la présente
d'après cette déclaration et un état actuel de sa santé,
se rétablir. La présente note que devant lui, sous minuté
à l'égard de son état de santé, a été faite après
pour n'avoir jamais été témoin aucun par l'intermédiaire après la lecture, faite le 1er août

Aujourd'hui, pour ce faire, ont été conviés son devoirs et de
libre. De plus, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin, enfin.
de la communauté, témoin, témoin, témoin, témoin, témoin, témoin, témoin, témoin, témoin,
de demain, demain, demain, demain, demain, demain, demain, demain, demain,

Fait, comme il a été le présent note, que l'état mémoire,
ont figé avec une épaule têtue à son acte relatif.

Déc. 1722

Le présent registre a été fait avec la concurrence de
affaire. Favori, ministre de la communauté, témoin,
ouvrier de la paroisse. Le jour de la
presente, dernier ladite têtue, tout enchainé de deux hommes

Seul chanoine
ACTES DE MARIAGES, DIVORCES ET ADOPTIONS.

XIV.° ANNÉE.

REGISTRE contenant quatorze feuillets cotés et paraphés, par premier et dernier, par Nous HENRY
S. de B. juge du Tribunal de première instance du dudit Arrondissement, pour inscrire, dans la Mairie d'Auvernelle pendant l'an quatorze, les Actes servant à constater les Mariages, Divorces et Adoptions, conformément au titre II de la Loi du 20 Ventôse an XI.

FAIT à Chaumont, le premier Fructidor an treize.

ACTES DE L'AN XIV.

Mariages......... 4.
Divorces.........
Adoptions.........

Sous les yeux de la République la Princesse un Soireri davant nous François Sauvè, maire officier de l'état civil de la commune d'Auvernelle département de la Haute-Marne Juzen de Mogune, son compagnon, fiancé du second de ses père Pierre Sauve de Lemau, son, en celles Communes, parmi les habitants de ce dudit village, des paroisses voisines suivant son acte de naissance, dommages et usufruit de la possession de diverses maisons en la paroisse de la Princesse de la Seine et de Sainte Paul de la Ville de Longueville, ville de Longueville, Princesse un Soireri davant nous François Sauvè, maire officier de l'état civil de la commune d'Auvernelle département de la Haute-Marne, nous avons reçu le procédé à la célébration du mariage projeté entre eux et dans les publications...
... en est fait en la maison de monsieur le marquis de...

Francois Beauf Pauline...
J'ai fait venir pour la présente cure de messe
D’où le curé François Lagrange
Le procureur Pierre Collet à l’âge de vingt et un ans
Manouvrier domicilié à Angerville-le-Moron 3
De Jean François Collet vivant Manouvrier domicilié
à Angerville et Dame Semovois
De Margueritte Haguin âgée de vingt et un ans
à Angerville et au domicile de Jean Jean Haguin
D’où la presente est que tous les quéluck de ces
presentes sont en bon etat et que le nom est en
procédé à la célébration du mariage par procès verbal
pour les publications qui ont été faites dans les
principaux ports et des paroisses de notre diocèse
D’où la présente est que le 3ème jour du mois de
Mai est qualifié de jour de mariage de la seconde
de cinq heures vingt-cinq minutes à la dix heure du matin
aucune opposition au mariage non une après
être signifier pendant l’année à la cure de ce diocèse
avec dame Jeannette de la preuve et donné
mentionnée ci-dessus sous les lettres du père civil
institué de mariage par la demande de l’année
à la cure de la paroisse de cette paroisse
déclaration de ces faits et que le mariage a été
procès verbal et prononcé par le curé François Lagrange
D’où la présente est que les paroisses de
procès verbal ont été signifiées par François Lagrange
de la paroisse de la diocèse de la même paroisse
D’où la présente est que le cœur de

Janvier 17...

Janvier 23...

Jean...
en mil huit cent soixante-dix-sept ans...
Câble des Mariages de l'an 1806

1. Arquignut François Marie à Marie fille de Pierre Marie 01 Jan
2. Collin Pierre marié à Marguerite Hacquin le 03 Jan
3. Deschamps Abraham marié à Anne Renouard 22 Jan
4. Mathieu Nicolas marié à Anne Catherine Bridel 10 Fev
Municipalité de Rouencaux

Année 1792

REGISTRE DE MARIAGES.

Registre de l'année mil sept cent quatre-vingt-treize, servant à inscrire dans l'étendue de la Municipalité de Rouencaux, les Actes de Mariages qui y auront lieu du premier Janvier mil sept cent quatre-vingt-treize au trente-un Décembre suivant.

Le présent Registre en quatorze feuillets, paraphés par premier & dernier, par nous Président de l'Administration du District de Grandvilliers, en exécution de la Loi du 20 septembre 1792, & remis à l'Officier public de ladite Municipalité de Rouencaux.

A Grandvilliers, le vingt-six Décembre mil sept cent quatre-vingt-douze, l'an premier de la République Française.

[Verso]
General Delas comme de Houorneaux, Departement des Sais, en ce quarante et ve novembre deux mille et quatre cent, que les actes de naissance, mariage, de la seigneurie des sieurs, sont engagés dans les mains communes, pour contenir, mariage d'une part, Joseph Dervieux, bourgeoisie de vingt six ans, et de Véronique Dervieux, fille d'Augustin Dervieux, de la seigneurie de vingt ans, deux dous, deux sous, et dix marcs, autre part, Marie-Françoise Jolliet, domiciliée au lieu de l'indigent, de la seigneurie duquel, faisant aujourd'hui, accouplée en sa personne, a été déclarée par ses propres mots, d'Augustin Dervieux, en l'état de jehan Dervieux, de Véronique Dervieux, en sa personne, et sa femme, est venue en sa personne, ainsi que sa femme, devant ses lieux, ayant avoué et livré en peur de pénaliser à la personne, par le notaire, en l'état de la seigneurie, par jehan Dervieux, en l'état de quatre sous, qu'il est bien taire, qui constate que cité de la naissance de Marie-Françoise Jolliet, en l'état de la publication des naissances de mariage, entre le sieur,
Aujourd'hui, le 30 octobre dernier, j'ai eu l’occasion de recevoir une lettre de mes parents, qui m'annoncent qu'ils ont célébré leur anniversaire d'union. Je vous prie de bien vouloir me permettre de vous souhaiter une santé durable et une longue vie. Je vous embrasse tendrement.

Louis Descroix

Jean Baptiste Descroix

[Signature]
Bien que non passés pour l'ensemble du génie, de
maturité, ces mots sont autant de mesures qui ont
été prises depuis la Révolution française.

Les mères des députés généraux de la commune
de la comtesse de France, en dépit de leur âge,
ont été invitées à se réunir pour assister à leur
abeille. Les maris de deux des citoyens plus
sage dans les maisons communes pour contracter mariage.

D'une part, Charles-Denis, garçon majeur âgé de
quinze ans, domicilié dans le coin de France,
Désiré, âgé de seize ans, député français, frère
Désiré, âgé de vingt ans, député français.

Jadis, François, maître devassier, âgé de vingt-cinq ans
avant devenir de député. Les députés majeurs,
Jean, ce qui, un jour, les inviter à se réunir lorsqu'ils
furont conjoints étaient accompagnés, d'autre
semblable âgé de quarante ans, frère de Jules,
frère de Jean. Jean, frère de Charles Dupont, âgé
de vingt ans, devenu député. Les députés majeurs,
qu'est-ce que devenir avec l'aide de leur
de leurs ancêtres. Sous réserve, de chacun,
François, maître devassier, près de l'auberge.
Guillaume d'Angervilliers, seigneur, en sa ville de Vignory, en vertu de la municipalité de la commune de Vignory, en tant que témoins, sont devenus pour les fins de la reconnaissance de la naissance de son fils, François d'Angervilliers, âgé de 25 ans, au lieu des marques de la naissance, à Paris, le 15 décembre 1700.

Le dit François d'Angervilliers est né le 15 décembre 1700, et son acte de naissance a été déposé le 15 décembre 1700, par ses parents en la mairie de la commune de Vignory, en présence de la mairie et de l'administration municipale.

Le présent acte est déposé en la mairie de la commune de Vignory, le 15 décembre 1700, et sera affiché à la mairie de la commune de Vignory, en présence de la mairie et de l'administration municipale.

Les témoin(s):

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
J'aurai moi-même, par ces actes ci-dessus, signés par les parties, déclaré a férule pour les prendre mutuellement, pour grands et petits, qui peuvent en nous déloyer que Charles Jeanne du même Jeanne Bravouri sont en un mariage, et j'y ai signé la plante avec quelles parties, et pour avoir signé, ainsi que tous les autres, avec mes devoirs et mon delikt, pour n'oublier de donner et de donner des frais, en les mains commun, de mon camp et les leurs, en mon saint, y c'est croix
Maria Gagné, Beaulieu
Antoin Houillard
Jeanne Galigne, Antoin Leclerc
Adrien Beausseins, Françoise Touron
Jeanne Jacques, Jean Beausseins
Joseph des croix, an 63, 64
Monsieur, Gens blesse
H. et B.
Benoit David, jour de ma naissance, dans le quartier de la république française, devant moi, son auteur, Devissieu fils de Devissieu, écrivain du conseil de rouen, en son quartier de rouen. Le jour de la quatrième heure du matin, il est vingt-trois heures du mois de novembre dernier, pour célébrer la cérémonie de mariage. Leur décès, en son quartier, la rue des marais, n° 20.

Premier acte du mariage, demeure Joseph François Dumonchy, âgé de vingt-six ans, fils de Michel Joseph Dumonchy, de la rue du faubourg De l'Isle, demeurant à l'arbre municipalité de Rouen, et Marie Anne de la même rue de l'Isle, âgée de dix-huit ans, fille de Jean Baptiste Demonic, de la rue Charles Demonic, à Rouen, et de Marie Charlotte Demonic, de dix-huit ans, fille de leur conjointe.

Leur décès, en son quartier, la rue des marais, n° 20. La cérémonie de mariage, en son quartier, la rue des marais, n° 20.
Joséph Du mouchy, demeurant à Montmagny, canton De l'Isle, département de la Somme, étoit
Joséph Gilles Descours, âgé de vingt-trois ans, frère
Celui de contrat, de demeurant à Saint-Clair,
municipalité de Rouen, département de la Somme, moy estant Devière fils, aprè s avoir
failli écrire le 13 de l'acte de naissance de Joséph
François Dumouchy, en date du vingt-cinq juin 1767,
qu'il est né le même jour du mariage
légitime entre l'élue Joséph Dumouchy, demeurant
Lieu De Bray, et de l'acte de naissance de Marie
Joséph Descours, en date du vingt-deux novembre
1757 et est frère tierce, qui, constatant qu'elle est né du mariage légitime entre Jean Descours
et Marie Charlotte Descours, 15 ans, avoir permis
Convenant au mariage de Marie Charlotte Descours,
qu'elle a prononcé en haste et intelligible voix.
1° De l'acte de publication et prononcée de mariage
sur le futur conjoint, Demi-père et demi-tante
Devise, fils de la dix marcs dernier, de affirmer le
marié joint et la folle esterinence de la mauger commune
De souvranger, apres avoir que Jean-François
Du mouchy, 34 marie robe et en Descours, ont en
Valleray 20 haste, non ne prendre nullement pour
equiv, il a prononcé au nom de l'éluque que Joséph
François Du mouchy demeurant 1 lieu de
Dernier fort de marquis de la vay et son testament qu'ensuivit avec une certaine faute en la maison commissaire de coeur en l'espace de sa vie
Joseph Dumont
marie-priscille de croix

Marie Charoix de croix
Joseph Descry
Jean Louis Montandon
alex de Descry
Joseph Bojena

Toujours cher qu'en la ville est fort ent qu'aussi tôt être les froids des républiques françaises des froids des malécions, père devant moy autant que moy. Toujours. Il est membre du conseil général des communes de Saintonge Département de la Charente, les quatre novembre dernier pour rédiger les actes des naissances, mariages et décès des citoyens, sont conquis dans les maisons communales pour contracter mariage d'une part et Joseph Descry de la part de Marie. Toujours en Saintonge.
Je suis, en fait, l'aîné des trois frères, âgé de cinquante-quatre ans, que vous avez vu et entendu hier dans la maison du curé de la paroisse. Mon nom est François Delahousse, je suis le septième enfant de Jean Delahousse, un marchand de draps et de tissus. Mon frère ainé, Charles, est un boulanger, et mon frère cadet, Pierre, est un fermier. Nous vivons dans une maison à la campagne, à la limite du village de la paroisse. Nous avons vingt-trois servants et vingt-quatre domestiques. Je suis marié à Marie Dupont, une jeune femme de vingt ans, et nous avons quatre enfants. Je vous prie de bien vouloir me believinge et de bien vouloir me aider à résoudre les problèmes de la paroisse.
Le présent écrit, il était le 24. 
renouveau

Le 24 de l'acte de 

Germaine aux fetes de ladite 

en 1757, il est certes 

l'acte, qui est 

jusqu'à ce jour 

en la main de 

l'acte de renouveau 

Ils ont signé 

l'acte, qui est 

en la main de 

l'acte de renouveau 

Délivré en sa seconde 

fait en les mains de 

leur mariage 

Délivré en sa seconde 

Délivré en sa seconde 

Délivré en sa seconde 

Délivré en sa seconde
Aujourd'hui seize avril, il est exactement treize heures, le second jour de la république francoise. Un jeune homme de matiere, pourtant, est un jeune homme. Il est membre du conseil général de la commune de
Dourcie, departement des Loires. Le second novembre dernier pour rediger les actes de mariage,
marriage, et deux de celibat, sont disponibles. Dans
l'actes de mariage pour le contrat de mariage. Il est
par acteurs jugé marqué marchand. Il est arrivé
âgé de vingt et un ans, quatre mois, fils de
Francis, Marquès dit Ilmar et de Florence. Depuis,
Dourcie, au nom de, l'acteur écrit. Florence.
Elle est une femme de son temps, une jeune fille.
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Audit d'une donation à Michiel Lembé

Michiel Lembé est un homme de trente ans, fils d'un moine et de Marie Moreau, de la paroisse de St-Pierre-Antienne. Il est marié à Marie Moreau, de la paroisse de St-Pierre-Antienne, et a six enfants. La donation a été faite en sa qualité de père de famille.

La donation a été faite le 12 septembre 1673.

Michiel Lembé a reçu en donation le domaine de la paroisse de St-Pierre-Antienne, comprenant la maison et le terrain, ainsi que les biens mobiliers et immobiliers appartenant à la paroisse.

La donation a été faite par acte notarié, attesté par les signatures des parties intéressées.

Ministère, 12 septembre 1673

Michiel Lembé, donateur

Signature de l'acte notarié
Le vœu au curé de Saint-Domin, Jean Charles Descoux,Hier, en présence de l'Échevin Jean Baptiste Gersaint, Jean Baudin et Pierre Magnier.

Joseph Descoux, Jean Charles Descoux, Jean Baptiste Gersaint, Charles Baudin, Pierre Magnier.

Des actes des naissances des Marie de la Seconde delicte et de la seconde delicte de Marie de la Seconde delicte le jour de la Sainte-Catherine de 1707, qui ont été faits par le sieur J. de la Seconde delicte et de la seconde delicte pour la publication des naissances de Marie de la Seconde delicte et de la seconde delicte le jour de la Sainte-Catherine de 1707.

[Signature]

[Seal]
Mariage

Le neuvième jour de Juillet, est quatorze cent quinze ans, ont été mariées par nous, par curé, et par la commune de la paroisse, François Vaille, dit Le Bon, et Marie Martin, par tous vœux de cette paroisse après la publication des trois jours, et ne semblant aucun empêchement. Canonne, par le curé, le même jour.

Jean le maire.

Le Curé, le même jour.

Marriage

Sera au champigny, touchant marié au pont, et Marie Carrier, par tous ses fiefs, et sans aucun empêchement. Canonne après la publication est mort ici du quatrième jour, le même mois.

[Signatures]

Mariage

Le samedi, quatorze jours de Juillet, est que le curé, et par l'assistance du même curé, a fait dans sa maison, touchant aux gens de champigny, Jeanne Gaudin, par procédé de mariage, et dit Jean, le même jour, et par tous ses fiefs, et sans aucun empêchement.

[Signatures]

Premier jour de Juillet.

[Signatures]

[Signatures]
Informations

Le lundi premier jour de septembre, est inscrite en
légistre de cette paroisse, par mon père curé de
ste-Chapelle,

marguerite, femme a y a été demeurée avt. Vidame,

Mariage

Le samedi, septième jour de septembre, ont été mariés
par mon père curé de Ste-Chapelle, le champagne de
Pierre de... et madame quant au tout désiré de la paroisse
de St-Ray de Saumur, après que nous y a été exact qu'y a eu aucun
empêchement, canoniquement, à cause que ne le dit, ne le suis
— cause de la apostrophe, protestant des témoins et après des sommes

Le moine de la chartreuse J. de Noyant,

madame, Julie de...

le brise du feu

Jacques Bonv

le moine de... quarré

M cancelled

le moine de... quarré


e poyem

Le mercredi, septième jour de septembre, a été baptisée par mon
père curé de Ste-Chapelle, madame quant au tout désiré de mariage
de Tranquin, fils et gentilhomme nommé par Lucie, dont il
assiste de... quarré.

De moine de... du père... d'autre

M cancelled

Le mercredi, septième

les moines

M cancelled

le moine de... d'autre

M cancelled

Le samedi, septième

M cancelled

De moine de... de...
REGISTRE contenant quatre-seuils côte et paraphés par le Sous-Préfet de l'arrondissement de Lunéville, pour servir à la rédaction des actes de naissance de la commune de Bouxwiller pendant l'an onze.

FAIT à Lunéville, le cinquième jour complémentaire du dix de la République française.

[Signature]

Notaire de Bouxwiller

[Signature]

Notaire de Bouxwiller
C'est le Prince qui a ordonné de procéder à cette proclamation publique.

Honoré Dubois,

Vénérable Conseiller du Roi.

Le Prince a ordonné que la proclamation soit faite en place publique.

Honoré Dubois,

Vénérable Conseiller du Roi.

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Vénérable Conseiller du Roi.

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Vénérable Conseiller du Roi.

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Honoré Dubois,
Marie Dehoux

Ouvrois d'armes & Tambours du Roy.

Jules

Dehoux, son fils, de Joseph, son beau-frère, de Pierre, son oncle, de Louis, son frère.

Préfet du département de la Marne.

Paroisse de Nuits-sur-Marne.

Février 18th, 1791.

[Signature]
Mairie de la commune de St.-Maurice

Le 1er jour de mai, année 1753, en la République française indivisibles, sous le nom de la République française, on a réuni le conseil municipal de la commune de St.-Maurice, lequel, après avoir sélectionné, choisi et désigné un représentant de la commune de St.-Maurice, a désigné M. de Delaunay, maire, et M. de la Motte, adjoint, pour présider à la réunion. Les délibérations ont été prises par l'accord de la majorité des membres de la commune.

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Dit davantage pour que sa peine fût faite plus ou plus faible.

Marie Dubois,

 directeur.

Je ne suis pas dans le bon sens pour que sa peine fût faite plus ou plus faible.

Marie Dubois.
J'ai déclaré que Dominique, maire de la commune, faisait la fonction d'officier public d'état civil.

Mairie de la commune.

Le 31/12/1768.

Dominique.

Surname.

Témoin.

Signature.
L'aprisant Agistre à l'Es es arrête le dimanche
aout de Prémiers en Donzay par eur poudomique
grand Mme Delaunay Deliblute de faire le pretion
Doffine publie Deliat ejet. D'Armes.
REGISTRE contenant deux feuillets cotés et paraphés par le Sous-Préfet de l'arrondissement de Lunéville, pour servir à la rédaction des actes de mariage de la commune de Noupartville pendant l'an onze.

FAIT à Lunéville, le cinquième jour complémentaire an dix de la République française.

[Verso du document]
[Old French text redacted for confidentiality]
Nicolas Christophe fils legitime de Simon Nicolas Simonin, habitant de Sauvigny et de demeure à Ancy.

Né le 29 février 1715.

Le présent acte est rédigé et signé par deux témoins, au profit des parties intéressées.

Signature du maître de notaire, François Troncourt.

Signature des parties concernées.

Signature du prêtre, abbé François Troncourt.
Le mariage du sieur Jean de Bouqueton et de la belle madame Angélique, fille de Jean de Bouqueton et de Jeanne de Châtillon, a été célébré le 1er mai 1670. Le témoignage du mariage a été rédigé par le curé de la paroisse. Les signatures des parties contractantes, ainsi que celles des témoins, figurent sur la page suivante.
Le jeudi, quatorzième jour de May, a été célébré, dans la quatrième heure du matin, le mariage de Jehan Cambier et Jehan de Blon, en la paroisse d'Oingt. Le mariage a été célébré devant le prévôt et les extraordinaires, qui ont signé en leur absence. Le registre...
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2 death entries

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<tr>
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<td>Bride:</td>
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<td>Age:</td>
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<td>CECILE / DU FRAY</td>
<td>Bride's father:</td>
<td>JEAN BAPTISTE / DESCROIX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride:</td>
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<td>Bride's mother:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bride's birth date:</td>
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<td>11. Marriage Date:</td>
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<td>Bride's mother:</td>
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<td>Age:</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Marriage Date:</td>
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<td>Groom's father:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groom:</td>
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<td>15 APR 1793</td>
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<td>MARGUERITE / GORET</td>
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<td>MARIE / D'AUTRESONE</td>
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<td><strong>ANNE</strong> / F</td>
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<td><strong>19 MESS 11</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 FRUC 11</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MARIE RENE / HARDICHE</strong></td>
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| Event: | | | | | | | | | |

| 29. Principal: | | | | | | | | | |
| 30. Principal: | | | | | | | | | |
| 31. Principal: | | | | | | | | | |
| 32. Principal: | | | | | | | | | |
| 33. Principal: | | | | | | | | | |
| 34. Marriage Date: | | | | | | | | | |
| 35. Marriage Date: | | | | | | | | | |
| 36. Marriage Date: | | | | | | | | | |
| 37. Marriage Date: | | | | | | | | | |
38. Marriage Date: 
Groom: 
Groom's father: 
Groom's mother: 
Bride: 
Bride's father: 
Bride's mother: 
Event date: 
8 JAN 1765
PIERRE / AYMONIN
PIERRE / AYMONIN
BOULANGER
MARIE / DIDIER
JOSEPH / DIDIER
FRANCOISE / HALGUE
MARIE ANNE / F
9 JAN 1765
9 JAN 1765
JOSEPH / GROS
MARIE / ALEXANDRE

39. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
44. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
19 FEB 1765
20 FEB 1765
NICOLAS / THRION
ANNE / MESSAGER
CATHARINE / F
21 FEB 1765
21 FEB 1765
JEAN / PIERCON
MARIE / NICOLAS

39. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
45. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
46. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
47. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Death date: 
Father: 
Mother: 

40. Marriage Date: 
Groom: 
Groom's father: 
Groom's mother: 
Bride: 
Bride's father: 
Bride's mother: 
15 JAN 1765
FRANCOIS / DIDRY
FRANCOIS / DIDRY
ANNE / TABOURIN
THERESE / NICOLAS
FRANCOIS / NICOLAS
ANNE / FURY

One death entry

One engagement

41. Marriage Date: 
Groom: 
Groom's father: 
Groom's mother: 
Bride: 
Bride's father: 
Bride's mother: 
12 FEB 1765
FRANCOIS / SIMON
FRANCOIS / SIMON
CLAUDE / SIMON
DUFAMY
ANNE / GERARDOT
DOMINIQUE / GERARDOT
MARGUERITTE / SIMON

42. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
43. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
44. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
45. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
46. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
FRANCOISE / AYMONIN
JEANNE / F
18 MAR 1765
18 MAR 1765
6 APR 1765
CHARLES / DIDIER
ANNE / PERRIN

47. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Death date: 
Father: 
Mother: 

48. Principal: 
Sex: 
Birth date: 
Event date: 
Death date: 
Father: 
Mother: 
FRANCOIS / M
7 APR 1765
7 APR 1765
8 JUN 1765
NICOLAS / MANSUI
FRANCOISE / EQUERRE
49. Principal:  
   JEAN PIERRE  
   NICOLAS /  
   Sex: M  
   Birth date: 10 APR 1765  
   Event date: 11 APR 1765  
   Father: / BALLY  
   Mother: MARGUERITTE / COLIN  

   50. Principal:  
   LEONARD /  
   Sex: M  
   Birth date: 12 APR 1765  
   Event date: 12 APR 1765  
   Father: JOSEPH / MARCHAND  
   Mother: ELIZABETH / GROS  

   One death entry

51. Principal:  
   MARGUERITTE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 5 JUN 1765  
   Event date: 5 JUN 1765  
   Father: FRANCOIS / RUCHE  
   Mother: ANNE / PASSEREL  

   One death entry

52. Principal:  
   JEAN PIERRE /  
   Sex: M  
   Birth date: 24 JUN 1765  
   Event date: 24 JUN 1765  
   Father: JEAN CHARLES / CLAUDEL  
   Mother: FRANCOISE / TROU  

   One death entry

53. Principal:  
   MARGUERITTE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 14 JUL 1765  
   Event date: 15 JUL 1765  
   Father: JOSEPH / SIMONIN  
   Mother: BARBE / PIERRON  

   One death entry

54. Principal:  
   PIERRE /  
   Sex: M  
   Birth date: 8 JAN 1771  
   Event date: 9 JAN 1771  
   Father: CLAUDE / NOISSETTE  
   Mother: ANNE / PHILIPPIOT  

55. Principal:  
   CATHERINE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 12 JAN 1771  
   Mother: REINE / HABOUT  

56. Principal:  
   MARGUERITTE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 18 FEB 1771  
   Event date: 19 FEB 1771  
   Father: JEAN / BIGARE  
   Mother: MARIE / CHARDARD  

57. Principal:  
   MARGUERITTE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 10 MAY 1771  
   Event date: 10 MAY 1771  
   Death date: 10 MAY 1771  
   Father: TOUSSAINT / GAUTHIER  
   Mother: FRANCOISE / BOUVARD  

58. Principal:  
   ELIZABETH /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 10 MAY 1771  
   Event date: 10 MAY 1771  
   Death date: 10 MAY 1771  
   Father: TOUSSAINT / GAUTHIER  
   Mother: FRANCOISE / BOUVARD  

   One entry, two deaths

59. Principal:  
   JEANNE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 21 OCT 1771  
   Event date: 21 OCT 1771  
   Father: NICOLAS / LAMY  
   Mother: MARGUERITTE / JULIEN  

60. Principal:  
   MARGUERITTE /  
   Sex: F  
   Birth date: 21 OCT 1771  
   Event date: 22 OCT 1771  
   Father: JOSEPH / PAGET OR LA FRANCE  
   Mother: CHARLOTTE / NICOLAS  

   Two death entries
61. Principal: PIERRE / 
   Sex: M 
   Birth date: 12 DEC 1771 
   Event date: 12 DEC 1771 
   Father: LOUIS / LAMOTTE 
   Mother: BARBE / CUNY 

62. Sex: M 
   Birth date: 27 DEC 1771 
   Event date: 27 DEC 1771 
   Death date: 27 DEC 1771 
   Father: JOSEPH / MIROF 
   Mother: MAGDELAINE / BARE 

Two death entries

63. Principal: GENEVIEFUE / 
   Sex: F 
   Birth date: 15 MAR 1684 
   Father: JEAN / HERICHER 
   Mother: MARGUERITE / BUCQUET 

64. Principal: CATHERINE / 
   Sex: F 
   Birth date: 24 MAR 1684 
   Death date: 15 APR 1684 
   Father: PIERRE / COUREL 
   Mother: CHARLOTTE / TALON 

65. Principal: MARIE ANNE / 
   Sex: F 
   Birth date: MAR 1684 
   Father: EUSTACHE / COLOMBEL 
   Mother: CATHERINE / LE FORE 

66. Principal: MARIE / 
   Sex: F 
   Birth date: 11 APR 1684 
   Father: CLAUDE / MOULIN 
   Mother: MARIE / POULAIN 

One death entry

Interrupted marriage

One death entry
For each incorrect answer in the practice entries in chapter 9, place an 'X' in the box(es) opposite the reason for the error.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REASON FOR ERROR</th>
<th>WHERE TO FIND HELP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Misread date</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Extracted name incorrectly</td>
<td>Chapters 6, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Used sex designators improperly</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Mistook occupation, locality, etc. for name</td>
<td>Chapters 4, 5, 6</td>
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<td>5. Misinterpreted abbreviations</td>
<td>Chapters 5–8, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Extracted wrong name</td>
<td>Chapters 2–4, 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Misread handwriting</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In which category did you have the greatest number of errors? Turn to the chapter(s) listed opposite your largest number of errors, and study the materials carefully. Continue this process for each category of errors until you feel you have eliminated your problems.
APPENDIX A

FRENCH OCCUPATIONS LIST

Many of these occupations may also appear in their feminine form in the records. They can be distinguished by these feminine endings: euse, iere, ere, trice, née, ale, euse, ienne, esse.

Occupations which are phonetically similar to the English equivalent are omitted.

A

accoucheur
accoucheuse
adjudicateur
admodiateur
agent des postes
agent national
agent voyer
anspessade
apothicaire
appareilleur
appréteur
arboriculteur
(arboriste)
arichochanclier
archichapelain
archidiacre
archiviste
argenteur
argentier
argoulet
argousin
armateur général

armurier
arpète
arquebusier
arrimeur
artificier
artilleur
ascensionniste
asservisseur
asseureur
assureur
aubergiste
avant-coureur

aviculteur
avocat
avoyer

B

bachoteur
bailleur
bailly
bailleur
ballonnier
bandagiste
bardeur
barilleur or barilier
barnum
barreur
bateleur
bècheur
bedeau
berger
bétomnière
beurrier
biffin
billardier
biteur
blasonneur

bloqueur
bluteur
boiseur
boiseller
bossetier
boucher
boucheur
bouchonner
bouilleur
boulanger
bourgeois

poutry farmer
lawyer, barrister
Swiss cantonal
magistrate

ferryman
lessor (banier)
bailiff
buoy tender
balloon vendor
truss maker
stone carrier
cooper
showman
helmsman
juggler
ditch digger
church usher, verger
shepherd
concrete mixer
butter man
infantryman
billiard, table maker
hoer (farmer)
interpreter of coats of arms
brakeman
bolt maker
timberman (mining)
bushel maker and cooper
glass blower
butcher
cork vendor or maker
distiller of spirits
baker
townsman, citizen
| bourrelier | harness maker | charlot | public executioner |
| bousillier | adobe builder | charpentier | (eighteenth century |
| boutillier | cup bearer | charretier | Paris) |
| boutonnier | button maker | charroon | carpenter, shipwright |
| boyaudier | gut spinner | chasse-marée | wagggoner |
| braconnier | poacher | chasseur | wheelwright |
| briquetier | bricklayer | chasublier | fish cart driver |
| briquetier | brick maker | châtelain | hunter |
| bûcheron | woodcutter | châtelain | church furnisher |
| buffetier | room keeper | châtelain | gelder |
| burineur | engraver | castellan | castellan |
| | | lime merchant | lime burner |
| | | thatcher | thatcher |
| C | | hosier | hosier |
| cabaretier | tavern-keeper | shoe salesman | shoe salesman |
| cadranier | dial maker | cavalry major | cavalry major |
| cageur | raftman | bandmaster, conductor | bandmaster, conductor |
| caillouteur | roadman | station master | station master |
| calligraphe | penman | railuyman | railuyman |
| calotin | churchgoer, priest | shirt maker | shirt maker |
| calottier | cap maker | knight-errant | knight-errant |
| calvanier | laborer in harvest time | rider, horseman | rider, horseman |
| cambrioleur | burglar | light cavalryman | light cavalryman |
| canetière | spooler (woman) | wholesale meat salesman | wholesale meat salesman |
| canoteur | oarsman | goat girl | goat girl |
| cantonnier | roadman (worker) | code maker, cipherer | code maker, cipherer |
| canut | silk weaver | chemist | chemist |
| capitoril | town councillor | palmist | palmist |
| cardinaliste | partisan of Richelieu or | surgeon | surgeon |
| carreleur | Mazarin | chorister | chorister |
| cartomancien | floor tiler | Christian | Christian |
| cartonnier | fortune teller | chronicler | chronicler |
| casernier | book binder | time keeper | time keeper |
| catalogueur | barrack warden | cement maker | cement maker |
| catégoriseur | cataloguer | shingler | shingler |
| centurier | one who categorizes | wax worker | wax worker |
| certificateur | maker of belts | carver, sculptor | carver, sculptor |
| chagrinier | certifier | nail maker | nail maker |
| chaineur | shagreen maker | coachman, driver | coachman, driver |
| chainiste | chain measurer | co-editor | co-editor |
| chambrer | chain maker (surveyor) | joint tenant | joint tenant |
| chambrier | chamberlain | pigeon breeder | pigeon breeder |
| chamelier | camel driver | colonist, planter, farmer | colonist, planter, farmer |
| champêtre | village policeman | coal porter | coal porter |
| champignonniste | mushroom grower | trader, merchant | trader, merchant |
| chanoine | canon | member of the Paris commune | member of the Paris commune |
| chansonnier | song writer | clerk | clerk |
| chapelier | hatter | accountant, expert | accountant, expert |
| chapier | cope bearer | compatable auditor | compatable auditor |
| charcutier | pork butcher | grantor (will) | grantor (will) |
| chargeur | loader, stoker | doorkeeper, janitor | doorkeeper, janitor |
conclaviste
condisciple
conférencier
confiturier
connaissseur
conteur
contrebandier
contrefacteur
convoyer
copain
copernuante
copreneur
corailleur
cornemuseur
corroyeur
corsetier
courrier
cousette
couturier
couventine
croque-note
cuisinier
curé

attendant priest at
conclave
schoolfellow
lecturer
preserve maker
expert
story teller
smuggler
counterfeiter
conveying officer, guard
pal, friend
one who exchanges with
another
co-lessee, joint tenant
coral fisher
piper
currier, leather worker
corset maker
messenger, courier,
post-boy
apprentice of a dress
maker
seamstress
nun, convent school girl
street musician
cook
priest
doreur
douaneur
drameur
droguiste
drusseeur
gilder
custom officer
raftsman, wood floater
druggist
wool combor

É
ébaucheur
ébéniste
éboueur
ébourgeonneur
écailler
échangiste
échanson
échevin
éclusier
écuyer
écorcheur
écorceur
écosseur
écraseur
écuereur de marmites
édificateur
élagueur
embatteur or
embaumeur
emmancheur
émondier
émouleur
épaillleur
encadreur
encaissier
encaqueur
enchériisseur
engagé
enquéteur
entrebailleur
entreposeur
entrepreneur de
transports
entrepreneur de
pompes
funèbres
entrepreneur de
maçonnerie
épistolargrapher
escrieur
essayeur

workman employed to
rough-hew
cabinet maker
road sweeper, scavenger
bud trimmer, vineyard
pruner
oyster man
exchanger, free trader
cup bearers
sheriff, alderman
sluiceman, lock-keeper
knacker, fleecer
supervisor
shelter
crusher
sponger
builder
pruner
cooper, smith
embalmer
handle maker
pruner, trimmer
knife sharpener
chair mender
frame maker
cashier
herring packer
biddor (auction)
pledged to military,
egaged to be married
investigator
door porter
warehouse keeper
forwarding agent
undertaker
master mason
letter writer
fencer
assayer, estimator
essayiste  
estampeur  
étonneur  
étameur  
évaluer  
éventailiste

fabbriquoir  
fausseur  
fauconnier  
femme de chambre  
femme de charge  
femme de lettres  
femme poète  
femme sculpteur  
femme médecin  
femme-agent  
femme-soldat  
ferblantier  
fermier  
ferrant  
ferreux  
figeleur  
flabustier  
flottard  
fondeur  
fontainier  
forban  
foireur  
forceron  
fouilleur  
fouilleur  
fourbisisseur  
fourier  
fournier  

fourrageur  
francs-tenancier  
frangeuse  
frondeur  
fréteur  
frocard (coll.)  
fromager  
frotteur  
fuyard

essayist  
stamper  
in inspector of weights  
tinner, one who makes  
mirrors  
valuer, appraiser  
fan maker

G

gabelou  
gagne-deniers  
gagne-pain  
gagne-petit  
gainier  
galibot  
gantier  
garan  
garantisseur  
garçon de cabine  
garçon d’honneur  
garçon tailleur  
garde  
garde de cheval  
garde-porte  
gargotier  
garnissaire  
garnisseur  
gaugier  
gazier  
gazier  
gemmeur  
géolier  
gérant  
giboyeur  
gigollette  
giletier  
gindre or geindre  
gitan  
gitane  
glacier  
gobeletier  
godilleur  
goujat  
gourmandine  
gradé  
grainier  
graisisseur  
grand seigneur  
grand-prêtre  
grand-prêve  
grand vendeur  
grapiller  
gréeur  
greffeur  
greffier  
workman who collects  
salt tariffs  
unskilled worker  
breadwinner, livelihood  
knife grinder  
sheath maker, scabbard  
maker  
pit boy  
glove maker  
guarantor  
warranter  
cabin steward  
bestman  
journeyman tailor  
guard, watchman  
horse guard  
harbor master  
keeper of cook shop  
bailiff’s man, garrison  
member  
trimmer  
gofer, maker of waffles  
gas fitter  
gauze maker  
tapper  
jailler  
manager, editor  
fowler, sportsman  
street walker  
waistcoat maker  
journeyman baker  
gypsy (male)  
gypsy (female)  
glazer  
cup maker or seller  
sculler, oarsman  
soldiers’ servant, hod  
carrier  
ahlopot  
noncommissioned officer  
seedman  
oiler, lubricator  
grand lord  
high priest  
provost marshal  
master of the hounds  
grape gleaner  
rigger  
grafter  
registrar, recorder
grimpeur
grieveur
gruyer
guëtrier
gueusard, gueux

H

habilleur
hache-légumes
hache-paille
hache-viande
haleur
hallier
harengère
Hébraissant or Hébraiste
herbager
herbière
herboriste
hercheur
histrion
homme de cheval
homme de journée
homme de loi
homme de peine
homme de robe
homme-grenouille
homme-sandwich
horloger
hôte, hôtesse
hôtelier
houilleur
hucier
huissier

climber
clerical position, prevot
gaiter maker
beggar, ragamuffin
dresser (theater)
vegetable mincer
chaff cutter
mincer
haulier, boat tower
market or stall keeper
fish-wife
Hebraist (specialist in Hebrew)
grazier
herb woman
herbalist, dealer in herbs
haulage boy
actor, stage player
horseman
day laborer
lawyer
laborer
lawyer
frogman
sandwich man
clock maker
host, hostess
innkeeper, host
coal miner
bin maker
crier of the court, usher

J

jardinier
jaugeur
journalier
juge
juré

K

Jardinerie
Kissinger

L

laboureur
laineur
lainier
lamaner
lameur
lampiste
langueyer
larron
laveur
layetier

le vicaire de Jésus Christ
lecteur

lépreux
lesteur
Lévide
libraire
ligner
limur
limonadier
lisseur
littérateur
loueur
loueur de bateaux
loueur de bicyclettes
lubrificateur
lunetier
lutteur

M

magister
maleur
gardener
gauger, one who measures capacity
journeyman, day laborer
judge
juror, juryman
plowman, farmer
tea seller
wool merchant, worker
harbor or river pilot
hedge maker
flattener, roller
lampmaker, lamplighter
examiner of hog's tongue
thief, robber
washer, scurrer
box maker, packer case maker
the pope
reader,
proofreader
leper
ballast heaver
Levite, ecclesiastic bookseller, trader
kinsman
filer, wood finisher
lemonade seller
polisher
literaryman, author
hirer out, hired hand
boat keeper
bicycle renter
lubricator
spectacle maker, optician
wrestler

village schoolmaster
(Belgium) mayor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French Word</th>
<th>English Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mairese</td>
<td>mayoress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maître d'école</td>
<td>school teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maître d'équipage</td>
<td>boatswain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>malletier</td>
<td>trunk maker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maître</td>
<td>maitman, maitster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maitôtier</td>
<td>tax gatherer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mandant</td>
<td>employer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manieur</td>
<td>handler, manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manoeuvre</td>
<td>common worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manoeuvrier</td>
<td>expert seaman, tactician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manutentionnaire</td>
<td>manager, army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maquignon</td>
<td>storekeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maraîcher</td>
<td>horse dealer, go-between</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marbreur</td>
<td>market gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marbrier</td>
<td>marbler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marquerie</td>
<td>marble cutter, polisher,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>quarry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marque (euse)</td>
<td>stable person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marcarie</td>
<td>retail merchant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marchand en détail</td>
<td>marshal, field marshal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maréchal</td>
<td>fish salesman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maresyeur</td>
<td>married man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marié</td>
<td>matchmaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marieur</td>
<td>inlayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marqueteur</td>
<td>marker, scorer, tally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marqueur (euse)</td>
<td>keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>marteleur</td>
<td>hammerman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matelot</td>
<td>sailor, seaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mastrocquet</td>
<td>pub keeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mécanicien</td>
<td>mechanic, machinist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mécanicienne</td>
<td>sewing girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>médailler</td>
<td>die sinker</td>
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<tr>
<td>mélissier</td>
<td>tauer, leather dresser</td>
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<tr>
<td>mendiard</td>
<td>beggar</td>
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<tr>
<td>menuisier</td>
<td>joiner, carpenter</td>
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<tr>
<td>mercier</td>
<td>haberdasher</td>
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<tr>
<td>messire</td>
<td>sire, master, squire</td>
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<tr>
<td>métreur</td>
<td>appraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>meunier</td>
<td>miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>milicien</td>
<td>militiaman</td>
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<tr>
<td>miroitter</td>
<td>looking glass maker,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vendor</td>
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<tr>
<td>modéliste</td>
<td>monk, friar</td>
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<tr>
<td>modélistor</td>
<td>coiner, minter</td>
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<tr>
<td>moine</td>
<td>my lord, archbishop</td>
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<tr>
<td>monnayeur</td>
<td>setter, mounter of jewels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monseigneur</td>
<td>showman, exhibitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>monteur</td>
<td>cabin boy, ship boy</td>
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<tr>
<td>montreur</td>
<td>mulatto</td>
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<tr>
<td>mousse</td>
<td>mussel breeder</td>
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<tr>
<td>moulêtre</td>
<td>enameller in niello</td>
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<tr>
<td>mytiliculteur</td>
<td>leveller</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pilot, boatman</td>
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<td></td>
<td>freighter, charterer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>classificator of illnesses</td>
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<td>notary, solicitor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>wet nurse</td>
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<td>cow keeper, cattle feeder</td>
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<td>newswriter, short story</td>
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<td></td>
<td>writer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>wine connoisseur</td>
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<td>half pay officer</td>
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<td>petty officers</td>
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<td>bird catcher, fowler</td>
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<td>bird seller</td>
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<td>olive grower or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>manufacturer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>sculptor, painter of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ornaments</td>
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<td></td>
<td>gold washer, seeker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>oyster growers</td>
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<td></td>
<td>tool maker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>dealer in straw</td>
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<td></td>
<td>groom, ostler</td>
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<td></td>
<td>bread store keeper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>slipper maker</td>
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<td></td>
<td>packer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>parchment maker</td>
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<td>floor layer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>captain, steersman,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>coach driver</td>
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<td></td>
<td>licensed dealer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>tennis court keeper</td>
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<td></td>
<td>payer, pay clerk master</td>
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<td></td>
<td>landscape painter</td>
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<td>skinner, skin dresser</td>
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<td></td>
<td>fisherman</td>
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<td>pediatrician, children's</td>
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<td></td>
<td>doctor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>wool combber</td>
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<td></td>
<td>comb maker, seller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>painter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
peintre verrier  painter on glass, stained  glass maker
peloteur  ball maker
péquenot  peasant, bumpkin
perrier  quarryman
perruquier  barber, wigmaker
peseur  weigher
philatéliste  stamp collector
piqueur  outrider, overseer
piquier  pike man
pilote  pilot, guide
tout, tracker, spy
placere, registry office  keeper
plaqueur  silver plater
plombier  lead worker, plumber
plombier  lead worker, plumber
plumassier  feather merchant
poêlier  stove dealer or maker
pointilliste  stipple engraver,  pointillist
polisseur  polisher
pompier  pump maker, fireman
pompiste  pump attendant
pontier  bridge keeper
porcelanier  porcelain maker, worker
porion  fireman in coal mine
toter, carrier
porte-aige  hod carrier
porteballe  pedlar, packman
porte-étendard  standard bearer, coronet
portefaix  porter, street porter
torchbearer, linkman
portageur  mace bearer
porion  one who lays down
stones
posticier  wig maker
postier  post office employee
poste-école  chemist's clerk
pointilliste  gunpowder maker
poulterer  footsloggers, infantryman
prêcheur  tutor, teacher
premier-né  preacher
précepteur  firstborn
précatrice  lender
prêtre  pawnbroker
prieur  priest
priseur  priestess
procureur de la  fencing master's
République  assistant
prochain  provost of the guards
procureur général  prior (superior of a
propriétaire  convent)
prosateur  snuff taker
protuteur  neighbor
proviseur  public prosecutor
pugiliste  attorney general
prior (superior of a
teacher)
plombier  landholder
plombeur  prose writer
plombier  acting guardian
plombier  headmaster
plombier  boxer, fighter
plomber  ship repairer, caulker
plombier  sugar refiner
plombier  gatherer, collector
pompier  piecer, patcher, cobbler
pompier  mender
pompier  striker (of skins)
pompiers  census taker,
pompiste  enumerator
pontier  postmaster
pontier  writer, clerk, editor
porcéanier  knight-errant
porcion  managing editor
porteur  rammer (of a gun)
portageur  regulator (of clocks), one
who rules
porteur  huckster, dealer in
porteur  vegetables and cheese
porte-école  mender (furniture)
porte-école  German horse soldier
porte-masque  fox catcher
poseur  renter
posticheur  knife grinder
postier  private teacher, coach,
potard  chorus master
poudrier  plaintiff, applicant
pourhille  resignee
poussé-cailloux  resin tapper
précédent  tippler, boozer
précepteur  rhymer, versifier
précepteur  lawyer
prévot de salle  brass smith
prévot des  rockwork maker
d'armes  rock climber
prévot des  prowler, vagrant
marchands  novelist
ronchonnot  old retired officer
rosiériste
rôtisseur
rouleur
roulier
rubanier

S
sabotier
sabreur
sacristrate
saigneur
saleur
sandalier
sans-emploi
sans-filiste
sans-patrie
sans-travail
sapeur
sapeur-télégaphiste
sardiniere
sasseur
satineur
saucier

saunier
sauveteur
savant
savonnier

scrutateur
seccouriste
sectateur
seigneur
seillier
semainier
séanceur
sergent-instructeur
serger or serger
serrurier
sertisseur
servreuse
sicaire
sioniste
siroteur
soiriste
soldat réformé
sommelier
soudard
souffleur de verre
sous-bibliothécaire

rose grower
cook shop keeper
traveling journeyman
wagoner, carter, carrier
ribbon maker or vendor

sabot-maker, shoemaker
swashbuckler, cavalry
soldier
vestry nun
bleeder, blood letter
salter, curer
sandal maker
unemployed person
wireless operator
person without a country
unemployed person
sapper
soldier of the signal corps
sardine fisher or packer
sifter, winnower
satiner, glazer
sauce maker, sauce
setter
salt-maker, vendor
rescuer, lifeboat man
scholar, scientist
soap boiler,
manufacturer
investigator
qualified first aider
follower, votary
lord, nobleman
saddler
officer, monk, actor
hacker
drill sergeant
serge weaver
locksmith
setter, moulder
dry nurse
hired assassin
zionist
tippler
drama critic
invalid veteran
butler, cellarmen
old soldier, mercenary
glass blower
assistant librarian

sous-chef
sous-commissaire
souscripteur
souscrivant
sous-diacre
sous-directeur
sous-économe
sous-fermier
sous-gouverneur
sous-intendant
sous-lieutenant
sous-lieutenant
aviateur
sous-locataire
sous-officier
sous-préfet
sous-secretaire
statuaire
stockiste
sucrérier
deputy head clerk or
manager
undercommissary,
assistant paymaster
subscriber, underwriter
underwriter
subdeacon
submanager
subtreasurer
under-lessee
deputy-governor
deputy-commissary
second lieutenant
pilot officer
undertenant, subtenant
noncommissioned officer
subprefect, under-sheriff
under-secretary
sculptor of statues
warehouseman or agent
sugar maker, vendor

T
taillandier
tailleur d'habits
tailleur de pierre
talonnier	amuseur
tamisier	fanteur
taupilier
tavernier
taxateur
teilleur or tilleur
tenturier
tendeur
teneur de livres
theatin
timbreur
timoner
tiraillleur
tireur
tisserand
tisseur
titulaire
tollier
toisseur

tailor
stone cutter
heel maker
sifter
sieve maker or vendor
feeler, taster, waverer
mole catcher
tavern keeper
taxer, assessor
scutchter
dyer
setter of snare
bookkeeper
theatine (monk)
stamper
steersman, helmsman
sharpshooter, skirmisher
marksman, rifleman
weaver
weaver
titular, incumbent,
bearer
dealer in linen,
manufacturer of linen
measurer, quantity
surveyor
tôlier  manufacturer of sheet-iron

tombeur  housebreaker, demolition worker

tondeur de drap  cloth shearer
tonsuré  cleric, priest
tordeur  twister (silk)
tourbier  peat worker, runner of peat bog
tourier  monk or nun attending the turn box
tournesau  thrower of pottery
traitant  tax farmer
traiteur  restaurant keeper, caterer
traqueur  beater (in hunting)
travailleur  worker, labourer
trayeur  milkman
treillageur or treillagiste  trellis maker or vendor of lattice
trempeur  temperer, whetter
trésorier  treasurer
tresseur  plaier, braider
tricoteur  knitter
trier  sorter, picker
trimardeur
tringlot  tramp, vagabond workman

U

urbaniste  city designer, town planner

usinier  manufacturer, mill owner

usurier

V

vaguemestre  baggage master
vandevilliste  vaudeville writer
vannier  basket maker
veilleur de nuit  night watchman
velite  light armed soldier, skirmisher
veloutier  velvet weaver

W

wattman  train driver

X

xylographe  xylographer, wood engraver

Z

zingueur  zinc worker
APPENDIX B

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

Following are some common abbreviations found in French records. The list is not complete. As new abbreviations are discovered they can be added to this list.

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For modes of abbreviation in Latin and French documents and inscriptions from the fifth to the sixteenth centuries, see the introduction to L.A. Chassant’s Dictionnaire des abréviations, pages ix to lxiv.

Prénoms (Given Names):

A. Abram
   Albert
Albt
Abraham
Alexdre
Alexandre
Anth, Ant ne
Antoine
Antnette
Antoinette
Armd
Armand
Augte
Auguste
Augtine
Augustine
Bapt., Bapt
Baptiste
Bmi, Bmy, Bmy
Barthelemy
Barthelemi, Barthelemy
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APPENDIX C

ANSWERS TO SELF-EVALUATION EXERCISES

CHAPTER TWO: Parish Christening and Civil Birth Entries

Exercise One
1. baptized
2. day
3. priest
4. mother
5. name
6. birth
7. son
8. born (male)
9. child
10. father

Exercise Two
1. was presented
2. to give the name of...
3. birth certificate
4. public official
5. Mayor of the commune
6. In the month of...
7. Year 11 of the French Republic
8. of Bouquin
9. a child of the male sex
10. daughter of the said citizen

CHAPTER THREE: Marriage Entries

Exercise One
1. Officiating agent phrase
2. Groom's information
3. Godparents phrase
4. Date phrase (26 Nov 1836)
5. Locality phrase
6. Ceremony phrase
7. Age and locality phrase
8. Bride's information
9. Officiating agent phrase

Exercise Two
1. marriage
2. to marry
3. residing
4. wife
5. nuptial blessing
6. bann
7. mayor
8. witness
9. daughter of
10. registration

Exercise Three
1. grandfather of the said...
2. godfather and first cousin of the said
3. marriage certificate
4. in the commune of
5. the three feast (days)
6. resident of
7. were presented
8. profession of shoemaker or sabot-maker
9. preliminary acts or documents (marriage registration)
10. publication of marriage
CHAPTER FOUR: Other Entries

Exercise One
1. dead
2. legitimized
3. received
4. buried
5. accepted
6. legal son
7. the body of
8. burial
9. admitted as
10. deceased

Exercise Two
1. confirmed
2. presentation
3. the preliminaries
4. contracted
5. undersigned
6. the mark of
7. marriageable
8. marriage contract
9. the said betrothed
10. promised, engaged (female)

Exercise Three
1. recognized
2. to legalize
3. burial place, tomb
4. signed
5. the engaged (man)
6. certificate
7. register
8. parish
9. recorder, clerk
10. by me

CHAPTER FIVE: French Handwriting and Spelling

1. Nicolas
2. Brumaire
3. baptisée
4. Cent
5. décédée
6. fils
7. vingt
8. huit
9. joseph
10. Cultivateur
11. Marie
12. marriane
13. le père
14. quatre
15. Ruffier
16. Mathieux
17. Epouse
18. Citoyen
19. Sieziem (Seizième)
20. Asterix

CHAPTER SIX: Name Identification

Exercise One
1. PIERRE / BAYARD
2. BERNARD / PALISSY
3. LAZARE / HOCHÉ
4. JEAN PAUL / COLBERT
5. GORNE / VIARD
6. JULIES / HARDOUIN
7. CLAUDE-LOUIS / VASSE
8. HENRI / POINCARE
9. JOSEPH / LAMOR
10. HENRI-PHILIPPE /

Exercise Two
1. MARIE AUGUSTE / MANIER
2. JULIENNE / JACOB
3. PHANIE / COLSON
4. MICHELE / MUSQUAR
5. MARIE CELESTE / FRANATTE
6. ANNE-LOUISE / PEROT
7. ROSELINE / BERTRAND
8. RENEE / GEOFFROY
9. FLORENCE / DANOT
10. ELISA / DARDAIN
### CHAPTER SEVEN: Gender

1. F  
2. F  
3. F  
4. M  
5. F  
6. M  
7. M  
8. F  
9. M  
10. M

### CHAPTER EIGHT: Dates

#### Exercise One: Numbers

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#### Exercise Two: Years

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#### Exercise Three: Month Abbreviations

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 2 | JUL | 8 | NIVO | 14 | AUG | 20 | VEND |
| 3 | SEP | 9 | JUN | 15 | PLUV | 21 | FRIM |
| 4 | OCT | 10 | THER | 16 | FLOR | 22 | MESS |
| 5 | APR | 11 | FEB | 17 | FRUC | 23 | VENT |
| 6 | DEC | 12 | MAY | 18 | JAN | 24 | PRAI |

#### Exercise Four: Date Conversions

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<td>9 OCT 1714</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25 MAY</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>24 MESS 1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17 PLUV 8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>APR 1761</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 MAY 1594</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12 DEC 1658</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 JAN 1832</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15 AUG 1885</td>
<td>17</td>
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#### Exercise Five: Roman Numerals

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1865 | 6 | 1434 |
| 2 | 1792 | 7 | 1445 |
| 3 | 1602 | 8 | 1503 |
| 4 | 1789 | 9 | 994 |
| 5 | 1347 | 10 | 1982 |
|   |   |   |   |   |
Glossary

Please disregard articles (le, la or l'). Words are alphabetized under the first letter of the noun. For example, "le bureau" is under "B" not "Le".

A

a été = has been, was
a été confirmé = was confirmed
accepté = accepted
accompagné de = accompanied by
accouché, accouchée = delivered
l'accouchement = delivery
accoucher = to give birth
l'accouchuse = midwife
acheter = to buy
les actes = records
actes de décès = death records
actes de mariage = marriage records
actes de naissance = birth records
les actes préliminaires = preliminary requirements
admis = admitted
adopté, adoptée = adopted
l'adultère = adultery, adulterer
âgé, âgée = old, aged
ai donné = (I) have given
aïeul = grandfather
aïeule = grandmother
l'an = year
l'année = year
l'anniversaire = birthday
août = August
après = after
l'après-midi = afternoon
l'arrière-grand-mère = great grandmother
l'arrière-grand-père = great grandfather
l'arrondissement = district
attester = to attest
au = at the
aujourd'hui = today
auquel = to whom
aussi = also
l'autorité ecclésiastique = ecclesiastical authority
les autorités = the authorities
l'autre = the other
avec = with
l'avocat = lawyer
avoir = to have
avril = April

B

le baptême = baptism
baptisé, baptisée = baptized
baptiser = to baptize
un bâtard = a bastard (male)
le beau-fils = stepson
le beau-frère = stepbrother
le beau-père = father-in-law
les beaux-parents = parents-in-law
la belle-fille = step-daughter; daughter-in-law
la belle-mère = mother-in-law; stepmother
la belle-soeur = sister-in-law
bénédiction nuptiale = nuptial blessing
la bonne = maid
le bureau = office
la bru = daughter-in-law

c

calotin = priest
Canton = canton, township
catholique = Catholic
ce, cet, cette = this
célébrer le mariage de = to celebrate the marriage of
le(la) célibataire = bachelor; single
celle = the one (feminine)
celui = the one (masculine)
certifier = to certify
ceux = those
le château = castle
chevalier = knight
le cimetière = cemetery
citadin = citizen
cité = city
le citoyen = citizen (male)
la citoyenne = citizen (female)
civil = civil
comme = like
la commune = community
comparu = appeared, reported
la concubine = concubine
confirmé par l'église = confirmed by the church
les conjoints = the couple
connaissance = knowledge
le consentement = consent
conservateur de registre = keeper of the register
constater = to prove
la contrée = district, region
le cordonnier = shoemaker
la cordonnière = woman shoemaker
le corps = body
le cousin, la cousine = cousin
les cousins = cousins
le cousin germain = first cousin (male)
la cousine germaine = first cousin (female)
le curé = parish priest, clergyman, vicar, rector, minister

le divorcé = divorcee (male)
la divorcée = divorcee (female)
divorcer = to divorce
le document = document
le domicile = residence or home
le domicile mortuaire = the house of deceased (person)
la donation = donation, deed of gift
donner = to give, donate
dont = of which, of whom
la dot = dowry
droits = rights
du = of the
du matin = of the morning
d'une part = of a (first) part (hand)

D

dame = lady
la date = date
d'autre part = of (the) other part
de = of
de ce lieu = of this place
de l' = of the
de la = of the
décédé = deceased
décéder = to die
décembre = December
le décès = death
déclarant(e) = person who declares
déclarer = to declare
le défunt = the deceased (male)
la défunte = the deceased (female)
les défunts = the deceased (plural)
demain = tomorrow
demeurant, demeurante = residing at, living at
demeurer = to live (in a house or home)
demoiselle = miss, young lady
département = department
dessous = below
dessus = above
devant = before, in front of
devenir = to become
devoir = to be obliged, to have to
diacre = deacon
la dîme = tithing
le directeur = father confessor; director
le district = district
dit (du) = said (of the)
le divorce = divorce

E

l'écrit = document
l'église = church
L'Église Catholique Romaine = The Roman Catholic Church
e lle a = she has
e lle a accouché = she delivered
empêchement = obstacle
l'emploi = occupation
en = in
en présence = before, in the presence of
en retraite = retired
en vie = living
enceinte = pregnant
l'endroit = place
l'enfant = child
l'enfant naturel = natural child; illegitimate child
ensemble = together
enseveli = buried
l'enterrement = burial
enterrer = to bury
entre = between, among
environ = about, circa
épouse = wife
épouser = to marry
époux = husband
est = is
et = and
était = was
l'état = state
état civil = civil registration (civil status)
bêtre = to be
expiré = expired
l'extrait mortuaire = death certificate
d'extrême onction = last rites
extrait = extract

F

la famille = family
faire naître = to give birth
la femme = wife, woman
le fermier = farmer (male)
la fermière = farmer (female), farmer's wife
feu = the late, deceased; fire
février = February
les fiançailles = engagement
fiancé = betrothed
fille adulterine = illegitimate daughter
la fille = girl, daughter
la fille legitimate = legitimate daughter
filleul = godson
filleule = goddaughter
le fils = son
fils bâtard = bastard son
fils du feu = son of the late
le fils naturel = natural son; illegitimate son
le forgeron = blacksmith
la forteresse = fortress
français = French (masculine)
française = French (feminine)
le frère = brother
le futur = groom; future
la future = bride
les futurs conjoints = bride and groom (the future marrieds)

G

le garçon = boy
le gendre = son-in-law
le genre = sex, gender
la grand-mère = grandmother
le grand-père = grandfather
les grands-parents = grandparents

H

habiter = to live (in a house, or home); to inhabit
l'héritage = inheritance, legacy
l'heure = hour, the time of
l'heure de naissance = the time of birth
hier = yesterday

l'homme = man
honneurs funèbres = funeral honors
l'hôtel de ville = the townhall

I

ici présent = here present
il a = he has
il est mort = he is dead
il est né = he is born
il fut baptisé = he was baptized
il mourut = he died
il naquit = he was born
ils ont = they have
inanimé = dead
inhumation = interment, inhumation
inhumer = to bury

J

janvier = January
je = I
je les ai épousé = I married them
la jeune fille = young lady
je suis = I am
jour natal de = birthday of
le jour = day
le jour du baptême = day of baptism
le jour suivant = the following day
la journée = day
juillet = July
juin = June
jumeau = twin (male)
les jumeaux = the twins
jumelle = twin (female)

L

la = the (feminine)
l'autre = the other
le = the (masculine)
légaliser = to legalize
légitime = lawful, legitimate
lequel = which
les = the (plural)
lesquels dits = which said
leur = to them
le lieu = place
le lieu de naissance = birthplace

167
la localité = locality
la loi = the law
lui = him, to him
l’un = the one

M

ma légitime = my legitimate (wife)
mademoiselle = miss
mai = May
le maire = mayor
la mairie = town hall
la maison = house
la maison communale = community hall, town hall
le marchand = merchant
marche funèbre = death march
la marraine = godmother (obscure)
le mari = husband
le mariage = marriage
la mariée = bride
le marié = groom
les mariés = the wedded couple
marque ordinaire = ordinary mark
la marque d' = the mark of
la marraine = godmother (more common)
mars = March
le matin = morning, in the morning
meme = same
le même jour = the same day
le même mois = the same month
la mère = mother
la messe = (Roman Catholic) mass
le métier = occupation, trade
moi = me
le mois = month
la montagne = mountain
la mort = death
le mort = the deceased person
mort-né = stillborn
mortuaire = funerary, mortuary
mourir = to die
mutuellement = mutually

N

la naissance = birth
naitre = to be born
né, née = born
né mort = born dead
necio = unknown (Latin)
le neveu = nephew
la nièce = niece
le nom = name
le nom de famille = family name
nommé = named
nommé par = named by
nommer = to name
le notaire = notary
nous = we, us, to us
les nouveaux-mariés = the newlyweds
le nouveau-né = the newborn
les nouveaux-nés = the newborns
la nouvelle mariée = the new bride
novembre = November
la nuit = night

O

octobre = October
officier = officer
l'orphelin = orphan
l'oncle = uncle

P

la page = page
par = by
par devant = in front of
le parein = godfather (obscure)
les parents = parents
la paroisse = parish
le parrain = godfather (more common)
le patrimoine = inheritance
le pays = country
le pays natal = country of birth
pendant la nuit = during the night
le père = father
la petite-fille = granddaughter
le petit-fils = grandson
pour = by, for
premier, première = first
prendre = to take
prendre en mariage = to take in marriage
prendre sa retraite = to retire on a pension
prénom(s) = given name(s)
présenté un enfant = presented a child
présenté mort = presented dead
présentation = presentation
le prêtre = priest
Q

qu' = that, which
le quartier = section of town, quarter
que = that, which
qui = who

R

le recensement = census
recevoir = to receive
recevoir la confirmation = to receive the
confirmation
les recherches généalogiques = genealogical research
reconnu = recognized
la république = the republic
reçu = received, receipt
réformé = reformed
réformer = to reform
la région = district
le registre = register
les registres paroissiaux = the parish registers
les registres de l'Etat civil = the civil records

S

sa fille = his or her daughter
sa mère = his, her mother
sa soeur = his, her mother
les sacrements = sacraments
la sage femme = midwife
la saison = season
sans vie = without life
savoir = to know
se fiancer = to get engaged
se prendre pour mari = to take for a husband

T

la tante = aunt
témoin = to witness
le témoin = witness
le temps = time
le testament = will
la tombe = tomb
le tome = volume
le travail = work
trois bans = three bans
trois fêtes = three feast days
tu es = thou art, you are (familiar form)

U

un, une = a
un homme = a man
uni = united
l'union = union
unir = to unite
urbain = urban
l'usage = custom, practice

V

le vendeur = salesman
la vendeuse = saleswoman
vendre = to sell
vendu = sold
venir = to come
venir au monde = to come into the world
venu = came
le veuf = widower
la veuve = widow
le village = village
la ville = town or city
(de cette) ville = (from or of this) city
vivant = living
le vocabulaire français = French vocabulary
le voisin = neighbor
vouloir = to wish, to want
vous êtes = you are (polite form)
BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Books most recommended are preceded by an asterisk [*].)


Contains many given names.


Takes the work out of converting dates from the French Republican calendar. Available at the Genealogical Society Library in Salt Lake City.


The various editions of this dictionary contain at the back an excellent encyclopedia of valuable information for anyone doing French research. The encyclopedia gives information from a French point of view, such as the French names for foreign cities and other geographical and historical data.


Contains copies of documents in Latin, French, and Dutch with transcriptions in French and Dutch. Available from S.C.G.D., Maison des Arts, 147 Chaussee de Haecht, Schaerbeek, 1030 Brussels, Belgium.