

Beginning Research in France

by Liane Lyle

1 Where did they come from in France?

-primary records : family bible, ship's passenger list details, etc

-secondary records: census records*, death certificate*, family letters,

books about immigrants*, history* of town/county they settled in

OPR (other people's research)

2 Départements? As in a store?

-what is a département and why do I have to know about them?

-geopatryme.com (tous les noms de famille entre 1891-1990, basé sur les naissances)

-how do I figure out which département my ancestor's town was located in?

Francegenweb.org → GenCom.org

-which départements have their records available online?

-geoportail.gouv.fr - old maps

-geneanet.org

- search style similar to ancestry, focused on western Europe

- paid site, accessible free in FHC

3 Calendars: Gregorian calendar (what we use today) started in 1582

-dates written out day, month year : jeudi le neuf août mil huit cent douze

-Napoleonic calendar Sept 22,1792 - 31 Dec,1805 (months don't match up ☹)

| | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Vendémaire | Brumaire | Frimaire |
| Nivôse | Pluviôse | Ventôse |
| Germinal | Floréal | Pairial |
| Messidor | Thermidor | Fructidor |

Convert the date online using:

FranceGenWeb.org Under Liens et Outils → Calendrier Republicain : le convertisseur

4 Consider History & Geography

-French Revolution 1789-1799

-Napoleonic marriages - 1810

- International and National history- see wiki for details

- Regional and département history – see wiki for details

- Municipal and commune history – see the wiki for details

5 Consider other search sites:

-ancestry.com (free at FHC)

-familysearch.org (free)

-en/geneanet.org (free at FHC)

6 Learn more on How to Research your French ancestors

<https://thefhguide.com/train-catalog.html>

<http://www.genealogy.com/>

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/France_Genealogy