

# Using the AFGS Collection of French-Canadian Marriages - MALE Index

This collection of French-Canadian Marriages, entitled "Répertoire Alphabétique des Mariages des Canadiens-Français", contains over 1,000,000 marriages alphabetized on the groom surname. The collection is commonly called the "Blue Drouins."

Although these marriages might give you a good start on your research, they are secondary sources and should always be checked against a primary source. Primary sources might include, but are not limited to, parish or city hall registers and the Canadian microfilm collection owned by AFGS.

## PAGE INDEX FORMAT

The marriage index lists the Groom and Bride of the FIRST marriage on each page of the French-Canadian Marriage volumes.

**The Groom Index** is listed alphabetically by Groom Last name, then by their First name. The image below represents 5 pages of marriages, listing only the first marriage of each page. It shows that Belanger grooms from 'Adolphe' to 'Albert' will be on the 'Belanger, Adolphe' page.

Groom (last, first)	Bride (last, first)
Beland, Severe	Ricard, Caroline
Beland, William	Bettner, Elisa
<b>Belanger, Adolphe</b>	<b>Dagenais, Adeline</b>
Belanger, Albert	Corbin, Agnes
Belanger, Alexis	Brien-De-Rocher, Angelique

There may also be 'Adolphe Belanger' marriages on the previous page (Beland, William), if the bride's maiden name is alphabetically before 'Dagenais'.

In the above example, the marriage for 'Abraham Belanger' would be on the 'Beland, William' page, because the groom given name 'Abraham' is alphabetically before 'Adolphe'.

**Brides** are listed alphabetically within the groom's given name, as shown below for the 'Joseph Belanger' grooms.

Groom (last, first)	Bride (last, first)
Belanger, Joseph	Berube, Marie-Mathilde
Belanger, Joseph	Cadieux, Melina
<b>Belanger, Joseph</b>	<b>Carlos, Flora</b>
Belanger, Joseph	Descoteaux, Josephine
Belanger, Joseph	Gagnon, Marie

If you are looking for 'Joseph Belanger' that married 'Arthemise Cote', the marriage would be on the page where 'Carlos, Flora' is the bride, because the bride maiden name 'Cote' is alphabetically after 'Carlos'.

However, if you look for 'Joseph Belanger' that married 'Adele Carlos', the marriage would be on the page where 'Cadieux, Melina' is the 1st bride, because the bride given name 'Adele' is alphabetically before 'Flora'.

There may be the odd chance that the names are out of alphabetical order, as shown below in the marriage of Julien Fortin and Genevieve Gamache, where 'Gamache' is listed between 'Morin' and 'Navers'. Be sure to check all the grooms with that given name.

fortin	julien	morin	m.-adelaide	l'islet	
	ignace fr.-thibeault		michel-couillard	17 janv.	1815
	m.olie.		deaprès m.joe.		
"	julien-lavie m.	gamache	ganay.	n.-dame que.	
				11 nov.	1652
"	jean-clou'ier agnès	navers	m.	obateau richer	
			ja bte-gauvin m.fran	7 fév.	1736

## HOW TO USE THE INDEX

To begin a new **Search** from anywhere in the index, click the [New Search] button at left.

You may search for a full **Surname**, enter the first few letters of a surname (to account for spelling variations), or select a surname abbreviations from the bottom list. To search for a different surname, just click the [Surname] button at left.

You may also include the first initial of the **Given Name** in the search, or select it from a list of given names once you have selected the surname.

Select any **Marriage** in the top listing to view the page that **BEGINS** with that marriage. The list at the bottom of the page provides shortcuts to Surnames or Given names to help you make a selection.

Record the marriage information you need and make sure to click the **[Citation]** button and copy it for your records.

Don't forget to check both **Part-1** and **Part-2** for the marriage record.

### READING A MARRIAGE RECORD

These volumes typically contain marriages from 1760 to 1935 and in the case of Montreal, the records often go to 1945. Each volume is divided into two sections. The front section covers 1760 to 1879 and the second section covers marriages from 1880 to 1935. These dates are not firm so you should always check both part-1 and part-2 of each volume.

The part-2 of each book contains marriages from New Brunswick that are not date sensitive. The information corresponds to the Moncton Files.

This collection contains many abbreviations for the given names of the bride and groom, as shown in the appendix on page 4.

The marriages are listed alphabetically by the last name of the groom. The last name is always listed at the top of each new page.

GABOURY - PIERRE				
gaboury-	pierra	rondseau	malvina	st-jean de matha
gabory	xavier-charron	ducharme	jean-bélanger	stéphanie 5 oct. 1858
"	"	fr-a	véronique	st-édouard
"	ambl. larose-ladoux	roy	jacq.-darcy m.lse	3 fév. 1824
"	"	gath.	Julie	st-félix valois
gaboury	pr.-garceau	tellier	pr.-beucher	genev. 7 oct. 1851

The groom's last name is always capitalized when one surname ends and a new surname begins (as shown by GABRIEL below).

"	"	"	pouliet	béatrice	imm.-concept. mtl
"	l.-jabin	rose de lima	paul-lapointe	delphine	14 août 1911
GABRIEL	antoine	poutrel	madel.	montréal	
"	pr.-daudrade	madel.	vve morand	ant.	21 avril 1709
"	dovilelli	mennier	demitille	ste-brigide mtl	
"	vf bruyet	m.	vve bertrand louis	5 oct.	1874

If there are more than one groom with the same last name and given name, then the brides are listed alphabetically by their last names. For example: the marriage of Vallières, Joachim and Audet, Marceline would be listed before Vallières, Joachim and Couette, Marie.

vallières-	joachim	audet-	ma roeline	st-annelme dorch.
valier	joachim-couet	lapointe	jean-daller lse	7 août 1843
"	valliére	"	m.	st-michel belle ch. sse
"	je bte-gonthier	véronique	ls.-fortin	m. 25 août 1812

Once a given name is listed under a specific last name, each succeeding entry with the same given name is typically indicated with quotation marks. As shown in the example above, if there are two or more grooms named Joachim Vallières, the first would be listed as Joachim and the second would be double quotes (") as shown in the example above.

The first line of each marriage record lists the groom and bride, in the order shown below.

Surname and given name of groom	Surname and given name of bride	Where the marriage took place
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girard	pierre	allard	agathe	charlesbourg
	jos.-portugais ang.		thomas-bergevin m. 17 janv.	1785

In the example above the groom is 'Pierre Girard', the bride is 'Agathe Allard' and the place is 'Charlesbourg'.

The second line of each marriage lists the parents of the groom & bride, and the date of marriage, in the following order:

Given name of groom's father followed by a dash	Maiden name & given name of groom's mother	Given name of bride's father followed by a dash	Maiden name & given name of bride's mother	Date of marriage
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In the above example, Pierre Girard's parents are 'Joseph Girard' and 'Angelique Portugais', the bride's parents are 'Thomas Allard' and 'Marie Bergevin', and the marriage took place on '17 Jan 1785'.

In some cases, multiple dashes may look confusing in a name, so just use common sense. Below, the groom's given name is 'Georges-Theodule-Adhemar'. The groom's father is 'George-Theophile' and the groom's mother is 'Philomene Asselin', since 'Theophile' is obviously not a surname, but 'Asselin' is.

tremblay	georges-theodule-adhemar	letellier	zephirine	st-jean-bte
	gec.-theophile-asselin phil.	charles-leclerc	marq.	20 mars 1888

If a groom or bride married more than once, the marriage record may list their previous spouse instead of their parents, as shown:

fortin	celestin	emond	joséphine	st-joachim
	vf filion malvina		vve bolduc celestin	8 janv. 1896

The example above shows that both the groom and bride were previously married:

1. 'Celestin Fortin' was previously married to 'Malvina Filion'.
2. 'Josephine Emond' was previously married to 'Celestin Bolduc'.

To determine the parents of either the groom or the bride, you need to locate their first marriage.

Once you have recorded the information for a marriage and have sited the data source, you can continue to the next marriage for the groom's parents or the bride's parents.

Sometimes you will see name variations or dit names listed in the column that contains the surnames. There are a few examples of this in the five entries shown below.

PAILLE voir aussi PAGE et PAYETTE				
PAILLE	alberic	st-pierre	m.-anne	st-bernard sh.
	geo.-baribeau flora		jos.-allard emilie	25 juin 1924
payé	alexandre	fleury	delphine	burlington
	la-tessier marcelline		maximi-salvio lee	12 déc. 1881
payer	alfred	carpentier	elgodia	berthierville
90	victor-gagnon flavie		octavien-plante florida	28 mars 1921
paille	alfred	dubé	clara	st-etne des gros
	severe-descoteau anny		sépherin-bastarache vic-	7 janv. 1901
			toria	

1. The "Paille voir aussi Page et Payette" indicates surname variations that should also be checked.
2. "PAILLE" begins a new surname in capital letters, beginning with "Alberic Paille".
3. "Paye, Alexandre" used the surname variation "Paye" instead of "Paille".
4. "Payer, Alfred" used the surname variation "Payer" instead of "Paille".
5. The "90" beneath the surname for Alfred Payer is the Canadian Microfilm Number at AFGS.
6. "Paille, Alfred" used the original surname of "Paille".

In part-2 of each book you may see numbers listed as shown above (#90 below the surname of Payer). These numbers correspond to the number of the Canadian microfilm where you can find the original record.

The French-Canadian Marriages use various symbols and syntax within the records as shown below:

Example	Indication
Abbreviations (like 'jos.')	Names are often abbreviated as described in the Appendix on the last page.
Ampersand (&)	An unspecified 'dit name' or name variation was used by the bride and/or her father.
Underlined text	Questionable spelling.
'8' within text	Native American text or a sound that is not easily translated to French.
Hand written text	To be an official change to a printed record, it must include a name followed by numbers that refer to the person who made the entry, and the date on which the information was entered.

If the information is in this collection of marriages, you can view and copy the original information on the AFGS microfilm. In that way you can see for yourself what is contained in the original record.

If you are unable to visit the AFGS library in person, you can request AFGS to provide the original record to you, by selecting "Microfilm Request" from the "Services" menu option on the Online Library.

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### APPENDIX

#### Common Given Name Abbreviations utilized in the Canadian Marriage Collection

Abbreviation	Full Name	Gender
a.	Anne	F
ab.	Abraham	M
ad.	Adelaide	F
ag.	Agathe	F
alex.	Alexandre	M
alf.	Alfred	M
alph.	Alphonsine	F
alph.	Alphonse	M
am.	Amanda	F
ang.	Angelique	F
ant.	Antoinette	F
ant.	Antoine	M
arch.	Archange	F
arth.	Arthemise	F
aug.	Augustin	M
barth.	Barthelemy	M
ben. or benj.	Benjamin	M
bern.	Bernadette	F
car.	Caroline	F
cath.	Catherine	F
cel.	Celanire	F
charl. or chart.	Charlotte	F
chs. or ch.	Charles	M
christ.	Christophe	M
cun.	Cunegonde	F
dom.	Domithilde	F
dom.	Dominique	M
ed. or edo.	Edouard	M
elis. or elisa.	Elisabeth	F
eliz. or eliza.	Elizabeth	F
et.	Ethiennette	F
et.	Etiennette	F
et. or etne.	Etienne	M
eug.	Eugenie	F
eug.	Eugene	M
euph.	Euphrosine	F
eust.	Eustache	M
evan. or evag.	Evangeliste	M

Abbreviation	Full Name	Gender
fel.	Felicite	F
ferd.	Ferdinand	M
fred.	Frederic	M
frs. or fr.	Francois	M
frse.	Francoise	F
fr-xav. or fr-x.	Francois Xavier	M
gab.	Gabrielle	F
gab.	Gabriel	M
gen.	Genevieve	F
geo.	Georgiana	F
geo.	Georges	M
germ.	Germaine	F
gert.	Gertrude	F
greg.	Gregoire	M
gull.	Guillaume	M
hel.	Helene	F
henr.	Henriette	F
hermen.	Hermengilde	M
hyac.	Hyacinthe	M
ir.	Irenee	M
isa.	Isabelle	F
j. or jos.	Josephte	F
jacq.	Jacques	M
jacq. or jq.	Jacqueline	F
jacq. or jq.	Jacquette	F
jn.	Jean	M
jn-bte. or jn-bts.	Jean-Baptiste	M
jne.	Jeanne	F
jn-pierre or jn-pre	Jean Pierre	M
jos. or j.	Josephte	F
jos. or j.	Joseph	M
laur.	Laurent	M
leoc.	Leocadie	F
ls.	Louis	M
lse.	Louise	F
m.	Marie	F
mad.	Madeleine	F
mag. or magd.	Magdeleine	F

Abbreviation	Full Name	Gender
magl.	Magloire	M
marc.	Marceline	F
marg.	Marguerite	F
math.	Mathurine	F
math.	Mathilde	F
nap.	Napoleon	M
narc. or nar.	Narcisse	M
naz.	Nazaire	M
nic.	Nicole	F
nic.	Nicolas	M
oct.	Octavie	F
oct.	Octave	M
oliv.	Olivine	F
oliv.	Olivier	M
ones.	Onesime	M
ph.	Phillppe	M
phil.	Philomene	F
pr.	Pierre	M
pre.	Pierre	M
r.	Rose	F
r.a.	Rose Anna	F
r.d.l.	Rose-de-lima	F
rad.	Radegonde	F
sch. or schol.	Scholastique	F
scholast.	Scholastique	F
ser.	Seraphin	M
sus.	Susanne	F
suz.	Suzanne	F
ther.	Therese	F
ths.	Thomas	M
tous.	Toussaint	M
urs.	Ursule	F
ver. or veron.	Veronique	F
wm. or will.	William	M
x. or xav.	Xavier	M
zeph.	Zephirin	M

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