

CHAPTER FOUR

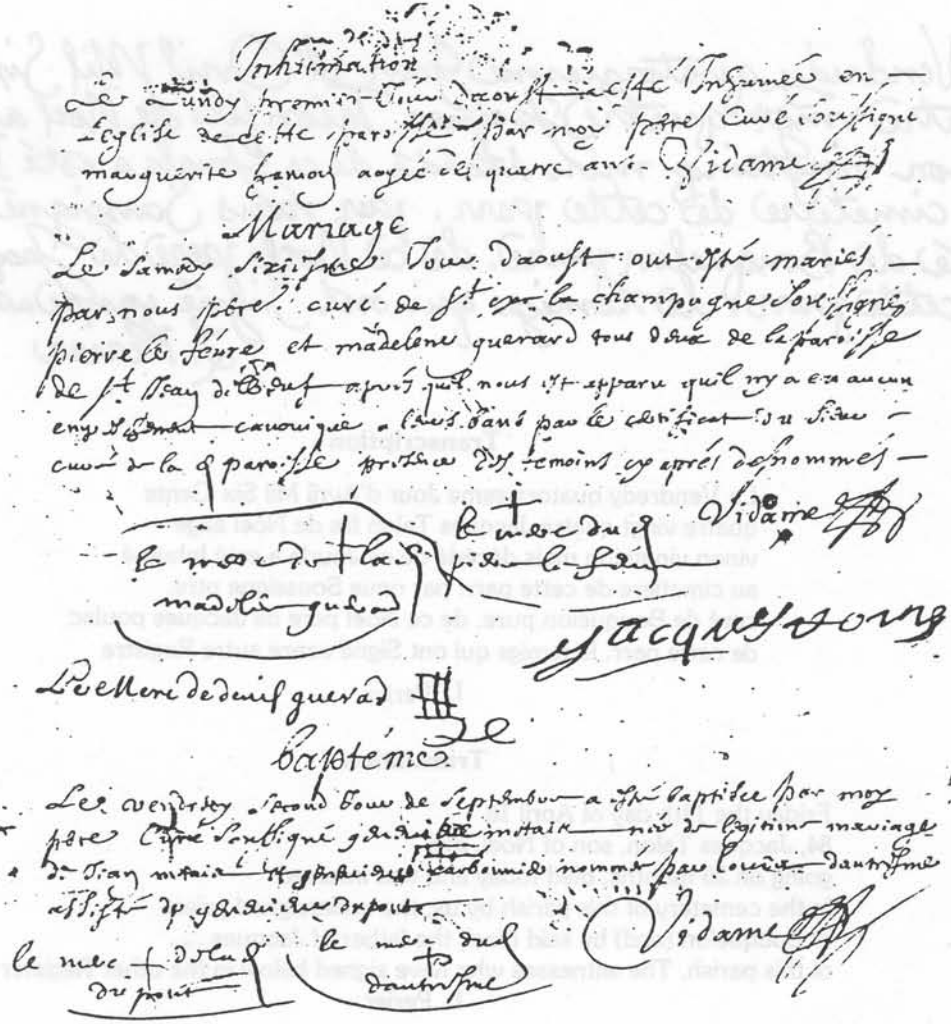
OTHER ENTRIES

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

expiré: deceased
inanimé: dead

enseveli: buried
enterré: buried
inhumé: buried

le corps de: the body of
marche funèbre: death march
cimetière: cemetery
tombe: tomb

honneurs funèbres: funeral honors
office des morts: funeral service

enterrement: burial
sépulture: burial
privé de sépulture: left unburied

Note the keywords in the parish entry example :

*Le Vendredy quatorziesme Jour d'Avril Mil Six Cente
quatre vingt quatre Jacques Talon fils de Noel aage
vinon vingtcing mois decédé de ce Jourla a esté Inhumé
au cimetiere de cette parr. par nous Soussigne ptre.
curé de Bouquelon pure. de ce Noel pere de Jacques poulac
de cette parr. le temigs qui ont Signé envre autre Registre
L. Perier*

Transcription

Le Vendredy quatorziesme Jour d'Avril Mil Six Cente
quatre vingt quatre Jacques Talon fils de Noel aage
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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

déferer 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 legitimized 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:

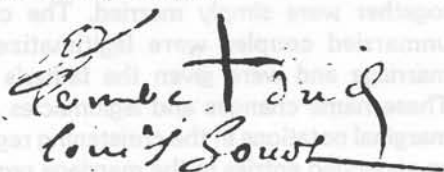
a été confirmé: was or has been confirmed

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 officiator 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.

