

GETTING STARTED

The first step in researching your family history is to record birth, marriage, and death dates and places for your parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Contact extended family who may have additional information.

Collect records such as birth, marriage, and death certificates. Look for probate records, deeds, obituaries, family Bibles, and old letters.

If your ancestors were born in France, look for vital records in the registres d'état-civil (records of civil registration). If the records are over 100 years old, they may be found in the French Archives departmental archives; many are online.

If your ancestors were born in Quebec, many baptismal, marriage, burial, and census records are online at FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com.

If your ancestors were born in one of the Caribbean countries, probate, church, and vital records may be online at government sites, such as an archives, or FamilySearch.org.

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR. She must provide documentation for each statement of birth, marriage, and death, as well as of the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor.

There are nearly 3,000 DAR chapters in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign countries.

For more information, contact

Lineage Research Committee

French Task Force

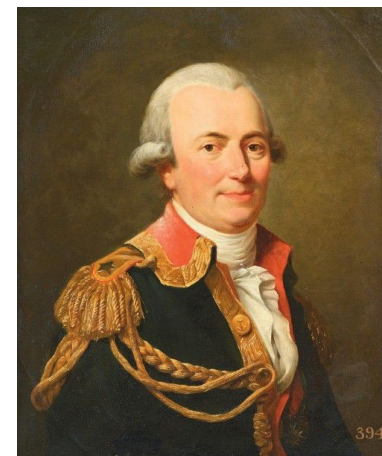
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Researching Your French Patriot



*Pierre Joseph DE KERGARIOU,
Marquis DE KERGARIOU 1736-1795
Commandant de la 7ème Compagnie
d'infanterie des officiers de la Marine*

Do you have French ancestors from
France, Canada, or the Caribbean?

If so, you may be eligible for membership
in the Daughters of the American
Revolution.

PATRIOTS FROM FRANCE

French support of the Americans began in early 1778 with the signing of the Treaty of Alliance. Between 1778 and 1782, the French provided arms, ammunition, supplies, and most importantly, troops, naval support, and monetary loans.



Ships *Ville de Paris* and *Auguste*,
in 'Second Battle of the Virginia Capes'
September 1781
Detail from oil painting by Zveg, held by US
Naval Historic Center, Washington, DC.

French forces took part in the siege of Savannah, Georgia; established a naval base at Newport, Rhode Island; and participated in the campaigns at Yorktown and Williamsburg, Virginia.

...FROM CANADA

Continental Congress sent a delegation to Montreal in 1776 with an invitation to join in the American Cause. Although the Canadian community declined, many either supported the effort or remained neutral.

In 1776, the Canadian governor commissioned a list of those who aided the Americans, resulting in a journal naming hundreds of Quebec residents.

French Canadians served in the 1st and 2nd Canadian Regiments.

In 1778, almost 200 men residing near Post Vincennes (now Indiana) took the oath of allegiance to the state of Virginia.

...FROM THE CARIBBEAN

Private merchants from the French, Dutch, Spanish, and Danish islands, and even the British West Indies, covertly provided military supplies to the American revolutionaries.



SUGGESTED READING

The following resources may provide information on French Revolutionary War Patriots:

- ☆ *An Empire Divided, The American Revolution and the British Caribbean*, Andrew J. O'Shaughnessy
- ☆ *Canadian Participants in the American Revolution – An Index*, Virginia E. DeMarce
- ☆ *Les Combattants Français de la Guerre Américaine, 1778–1783*, Ministère des affaires étrangères France
- ☆ *Dictionnaire des officiers de l'armée royale qui ont combattu aux États-Unis pendant la guerre d'Indépendance, 1776–1783*, Gilbert Bodinier
- ☆ *The French in America during the War of Independence of the United States, 1777–1783*, Thomas Balch
- ☆ *The George Rogers Clark Papers 1771-1781*, v. 3, pp. 56-59
- ☆ *Les marins Français sous Louis XVI, guerre d'indépendance Américaine*, Christian De la Jonquière
- ☆ *Quebec during the American Invasion, 1775-1776*, *The Journal of Francois Baby*, Gabriel Taschereau, & Jenkin Williams, ed. Michael P. Gabriel