

France: Jewish Family History Research Guide

Sources at the Center for Jewish History

Though none of the Center partner organizations is specifically devoted to research on French Jewry, both YIVO and the Leo Baeck Institute have archival collections that can be helpful in French-Jewish genealogical research. In addition, the following reference sources are available at the Genealogy Institute.

- Ginger, Basile. *Guide Pratique de Genealogie Juive, En France et a L'Etranger*. (Cercle de Genealogie Juive, 2002)
Genealogy Institute CS 596 .J4 G56
- Klarsfeld, Serge. *Memorial to the Jews Deported from France, 1942-1944*. (Klarsfeld Foundation, 1983). Lists the Jews deported from France in order of transport.
Genealogy Institute DS 135 .F83 K4313
- Vuillet, Bernard, et al. *Sur Les Traces de Vos Ancetres A Paris: la Recherche des Origines*. (Archives de Paris, 1997). In French, this book explains how to research Parisian ancestors and provides the addresses and policies, of the relevant repositories (May 30, outdated).
Genealogy Institute CS 597 .P4 A57x
- *Revue de Genealogie Juive*, 1985-2007 the journal of the French Jewish Genealogical Society.
Genealogy Institute DS 135 .F8 A38
- *Etsi (Mon Arbre)*, *Revue de genealogie et d'histoire Sefardes: Sephardic genealogical and historical review; a journal of Sephardic genealogy produced in France and including information about French Sephardim*.
Genealogy Institute CS 956. J4 E87

YIVO

Index to the 1784 Census of the Jews of Alsace. Documents some 20,000 Jews who were enumerated in this census. In four sequences: by surname; by given name; by town; for married women, by maiden name. YIVO Library microfiche.

Several YIVO Archives collections include material on the Jews of France. See the *Guide to the YIVO Archives* by Marek Web and Fruma Mohrer for a complete listing and for fuller descriptions of the record groups listed here. Among the most useful collections may be:

France 1. Materials of Jewish cultural and social welfare organizations and landsmanshaftn (hometown organizations) of Yiddish-speaking immigrants to France

from Poland. Groups include the Societe des Israelites Polonais; Kultur Lige; and Workmen's Circle, Paris.

Record Group 116 - France 1

Union Generale des Israelites de France (UGIF), 1940-1944. This administrative body represented all Jews in the occupied and free zones of France. Occupied France was considered the Northern Zone and free France the Southern Zone. Included among Group II of the records of the Northern Zone are 65,000 cards of Jews who registered with the UGIF. Also included is a census of the Jews in France in 1943 (not including Paris).

Record Group 210

HICEM Main Office in Europe, 1935-1953. HICEM was formed in 1927 by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and several other organizations to run European immigration operations. In 1943 it was incorporated into the main office of the Union Generale des Israelites de France. Records include the case files of individual refugees whose cases were processed by the main office during WWII. These are currently housed off-site and take some time to access. Ask the YIVO archivists for further information. There is an inventory in English.

Record Group 245.5

Records of organizations that aided French-Jewish children during WWII and its aftermath, such as Kehillat HaHaredim, known in French as the Association des Israelites Pratiques (**Record Group 340**), and Rue Amelot (**Record Group 343**). Includes letters from children and lists of children with notes on their condition.

Leo Baeck Institute

Devoted to German-speaking Jewry, the Leo Baeck Institute possesses a large collection on the Jewish communities of Alsace and Lorraine. To search for further sources, type a town name or surname in the keyword query of the LBI catalog.

Alsace and Lorraine Jewish Community Collection, 1809-2000. This collection is described in a 16-page inventory in English. It includes census records from various towns; the personal papers of individuals (genealogies, marriage contracts, correspondence); documents related to the religious life of the communities (synagogue construction and management, rabbinic correspondence); and an inventory of the archives of the Consistoire Israelite de Bas-Rhin, 1808-1945.

AR 2863, 2800 and several microfilm reels MF 509 reels 1-3

Fraenckel, Andre Aron. *Memoire Juive en Alsace: contrats de mariage au 18th siecle.* Cedrat, 1997. Published by Cercle de Genealogie Juive. This book of abstracts of ketubot of Jews in Alsace in the 18th century is arranged by town. There is a surname index by Rosanne and Daniel Leeson.

REF DS 135 .G32 F73

General Books and articles

Albert, Phyllis Cohen. *The Modernization of French Jewry: Consistory* [Wendy Query: Is Consistory correct?] *and Community in the Nineteenth Century*. University Press of New England, 1971

LBI DS 135 F83 A43

Amipaz-Silber, Gitta. *Sephardi Jews in Occupied France; Under the Tyrant's Heel, 1940-1944*. Rubin Mass, 1995

ASF DS 135.F83 A459 or YIVO 00087250

Benbassa, Esther. *The Jews of France: A History from Antiquity to the Present*. Princeton University Press, c1999.

ASF DS 135.F8 B3613 1999

Berg, Roger. *Guide Juif de France*. Editions Migdal, 1971

YIVO Ref DS 135 .F8 G8 1971

Beth Hatefutsoth. *Guide des Patronymes Juifs*. Solin, Actes Sud, 1996.

YIVO Ref CS 3010 G8 1996

Drumont, Eduard. *La France Juive: Essai d'histoire contemporaine, edition illustree de scene, vues, portraits, cartes et plans*.

YIVO 00055748

Latour, Anny. *The Jewish Resistance in France, 1940-1944*. Schochem Books, 1981

YIVO 00080438 (9/80438)

Pietri, Francois., *1882-1966. Napoleon et les Israelites*. Berger-Levrault, 1965

YIVO 00072861

Vidal-Naquet, Pierre. *1930 Les Juifs, la memoire et le present*. F. Naspero, 1980

YIVO 000117543

For Further Information

French Special Interest Group (SIG)

www.jewishgen.org/French

Cercle de Genealogie Juive, the French Jewish Genealogical Society

45 rue La Bruyere

75009 Paris, France

Phone, Fax: (+33) 1-40-23-0490

Online Contact Us form: **http://www.genealoj.org/New/contact_formulaire_gb.php**

Memorial de la Shoah, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporain,
library/archive of documents about the Jews during WWII.

Memorial de la Shoah

17, rue Geoffroy l'Asnier

75004 Paris, France

Phone: (+33)1 42 77 44 72 (main entrance and voice mail)

Fax: (+33) 1 53 01 17 44

E-mail: contact@memorialdelashoah.org

Website: www.memorialdelashoah.org

Services of the Memorial:

Documentation Center contacts:

General documentation: documentation@memorialdelashoa.org

Archives: archives@memorialdelashoah.org

Phototheque: phototheque@memorialdelashoah.org

Library: bibliotheque@memorialdelashoah.org

Searchable database contains the list of names on the "Wall of Names", the register of Jews killed in France other than in deportation (to be completed), the list of persons executed or who died in the French internment camps, the list of Jewish resistance fighters who belonged to the network of the Jewish Combat Organization, and the names of the Righteous of France as registered by Yad Vashem:

http://mms.pegasis.fr/jsp/core/MmsGlobalSearch.jsp?PEGA_HREF_28481842_0_0_setEnglishLocale=setEnglishLocale

Other useful web sites

General information on French Resources for Jewish Genealogy are at Jewishgen website: www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/#France

French Civil Registers have been microfilmed and are available for loan at www.familysearch.org/

Microfilms of French civil registers on loan at the Center of Jewish History. To view microfilms available for loan: www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm

Useful website and links for starting your genealogy research in France can be found at: http://genealogy.about.com/od/france/a/french_ancestry.htm

Website for genealogy research in France with useful links:
www.genealogylinks.net/europe/france/Ile-de-France.htm