

Why this Project?

In 2005, while visiting my daughter in Salt Lake City, Utah, I researched all the Huguenot Poissants of Marennnes, France using the LDS microfilms and I found 63 Baptism, Marriage and Burials Acts and was able to put together the Poissant family information. It is currently on my website at <http://www.johnfishersr.net>.

In the last 5 months I have researched the online archives of the St Pierre de Sales Catholic Church at Marennnes, France and have found 200 records concerning the Poissant Families. I searched their records from 1584 to 1759. The first Poissant record found was in 1585.

I did this project because I always wondered if there were Catholic and Huguenot Poissants that changed their religion, like King Henry IV and many others did at that tumultuous time of the religious wars in France. I did not find any evidence of that, but I have enjoyed this overall effort anyway. Some families did change to the Catholic faith after the revocation of the Edit of Nantes in 1685. I marked them as **Previously Calvinists**.

I found many more Jacques Poissant's!!! Remember that Jacques Poissant, the father of the Jacques that came to Quebec, was married twice, once in 1638 which produced 2 Jacques Poissants. I assume that the first Jacques had died and the second was named after the father again. In the Marriage Contract in 1653 for the second marriage in 1654 to Elizabeth Magos, it mentioned that only Raymond and Jacques were still alive. Jacques and Elizabeth had only one child together that they named Jacques, the soldier that came to Quebec in 1684. What became of the other Jacques? I never found a burial record for him, however the records were out of order many times with gaps in time.

I found a total of 5 Jacques Poissant's in the Temple records.

The main Catholic Jacques Poissant was wed to Jeanne Simonneau before 1658 because they had children from 1658 until 1679. Jacques signed 9 of these acts but his signature does not match any of the Huguenot signatures. His son Jacques married Jeanne Simonneau and had several children. There were also 3 more baptisms of Jacques Poissants from 1704 to 1742. This gives us an absolute minimum of 5 Jacques Poissant's and there may have been 1 or 2 more because of the difficulty of proving the relationships. Not many Catholics signed the Baptism, Marriage and Burial acts as required, whereas the Huguenots usually signed all the time and with a flourish. In these 200 acts that I have found, Jacques Poissant was mentioned in 31 of them!

I found a total of 5 to 7 Jacques Poissant's in the Catholic records.

After 1705 only a couple Calvinist Poissants were found, there were all gone from Marennnes within 20 years of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Where did all these Catholic and Huguenot Poissants go? From 1687 to 1725 I did discover some Poissants in London and Canterbury England, but that was just a few. Where did all the other Poissants go to? I'll keep searching.

FAMILIES: Only a few of the 200 records had information that indicated they were brothers or siblings. We know for certain that Jacques, Michel and Francoise, and maybe Jeanne Mettreau were siblings. I hope that this information may be of some help in the future.

A Sad Note: It was a bit disheartening to see a baptism followed quickly by a burial, again and again and again. Sometimes a married couple would give birth to 4 or 5 children and lose them all by age 7.

Research Report for St Pierre de Sales Catholic Church at Marenes, France

Extracted from the Charente Maritime Archives at: <http://extranet.cg17.fr/archinoe/registre.php>
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Register or Year Grouping	Images
1584 - 1603	239
1603 - 1612	147
1612 - 1626	135
1622 - 1640	201
1631 - 1647	316
1641 - 1654	277
1650 - 1660	233
1660 - 1668	163
1669 - 1674	182
1674 - 1682	270
1683 - 1692	359
1693 - 1699	333
1693 -	049
1700 - 1710	520
1711 - 1720	469
1720 - 1730	384
1730 - 1739	250
1739 - 1748	349
1748 - 1759	397
TOTAL	5,273

Since most images were of 2 pages in a register, I have scanned approximately 10, 546 pages from 1584 to 1759.

The first Poissant record was seen in 1585.

A total of 200 Poissant Acts were found; an average of 1 found for every 53 pages.

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