



## The Huguenot Society

The Huguenot Library

University College London, Gower Street

London WC1E 6BT

Tel: 0207 6795199 e-mail: [library@huguenotsociety.org.uk](mailto:library@huguenotsociety.org.uk)

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### Guidance notes for family historians

The Huguenot Society has published transcriptions of most extant Huguenot refugee church registers; these contain few burials. After 1753 all marriages had to take place by law in English parish churches. By the early nineteenth century Huguenot records had become thinner as the descendants of the original refugees became assimilated into local populations and the French churches began to close. Apart from the French Hospital records, which continue until 1957, there is little information for the nineteenth century. Unless therefore you are related to someone who is a past or present resident of the French Hospital, La Providence, it is essential, before using the archives of the Huguenot Library, to work back through this period by searching the following:

- Registration of births, marriages and deaths back to 1837, when civil registration began. (The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU )
- Census returns back to 1841, when the first comprehensive census return was done, and the IGI (International Genealogical Index), both available at The National Archives.
- Parochial records of baptisms, marriages and burials as far back as possible; these can be consulted at the relevant local Record Office.

**Huguenot Society publications.** Once you have found an early reference to the name(s) you are researching the next step is to search the *Quarto Series* and the *Proceedings*. Where these are transcriptions of original records, they should be checked against the originals: for instance the Huguenot Church Registers, microfilms of which are held at The National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond TW9 4DU.

#### *Quarto Series.*

At the Huguenot Library you will find the QS volumes on the open access shelves in the reading room and as microfiches; many volumes have been digitised onto CD Rom, available for purchase from the Administrative Officer [admin@huguenotsociety.org.uk](mailto:admin@huguenotsociety.org.uk) There is a microfiche surname index for volumes 1-59. You may need to book the microfiche reader if using it for any length of time.

The Huguenots retained French as their language for written records up to about 1840. Notes on French terminology are available in the reading room. Among the most useful volumes are the church registers mentioned above, the French Hospital records, volumes 52 and 53, and *The case book of 'La Maison de Charité de Spittlefields' 1739-41*, volume 55.

#### *Proceedings*

These start in 1885 when the Huguenot Society was founded and are published annually. They include reports of Society meetings and events, articles on subjects of Huguenot interest and book reviews. There is a master index of all names mentioned. In terms of occupations, silk weavers formed by far the largest group of Huguenot immigrants. Most of them were poor journeymen; therefore only a few prominent ones, together with master weavers and merchants would receive a mention in *Proceedings*. Huguenots in less common occupations are more likely to receive a mention. Names of pupils attending the Westminster French Protestant School (WFPS), 1747-1924, are listed; also names from the registers of a few Huguenot temples in France.

## Primary Sources

Most of these are available on microfiche. It is not normal policy to produce original manuscripts for readers. The most useful groups are:

1. The French Protestant Hospital archive, catalogued in QS volume 56. This archive contains much more material than the already substantial records published in QS volumes 52 and 53. Interesting items include: details of property left by named deceased inmates; lists of those known as the 'Bread House Pensioners'; Medical Officers' reports listing inmates' illnesses and treatments; names of Coqueau and Basse Charity annuitants; names of apprentices whose indenture fees were paid from various bequests.
2. Further details of French Hospital papers and of some family papers and collections of family notes, lists of pedigrees, coats of arms and donors to the WFPS can be found in Quarto Series volume 61, published in 2008: *Huguenot Archives: A Further Catalogue of Material held in the Huguenot Library*.
3. The Normandy Society and the Society of Saintonge and Angoumois archives. QS volume 56 details the surviving archives of these two Huguenot friendly societies. They contain lists of members, names of sick money recipients, names of apprentices sponsored and also names of the society officials.
4. The Royal Bounty archive, catalogued in QS volume 51. This royal charity, originating in 1686, continued to make payments until 1876. Many of the manuscripts give names of recipients, including the poor, along with how much each received and sometimes occupations and addresses.
5. The Burn Donation and the Savoy Church archives, also catalogued in QS volume 51. The former comprises surviving documents from various Huguenot churches in west London and those of Sandwich and Thorpe-le-Soken. Some contain lists of contributors to poor funds and the recipients. Others contain consistory minutes.
6. The French Protestant Church of London\*, Soho Square, London W1, houses the archive of the Threadneedle Street Church, of which it is the linear descendant. Some documents go back to the sixteenth century. QS volume 50 is a handlist for this large archive. The original church registers, transcribed in the Quarto Series, were required to be deposited at the National Archives, but the archive contains the following categories of additional church records, giving individual names and sometimes addresses: poor relief; charity school pupil registers; contribution collection books; Coqueau and Basse charity applicants and recipients. Some similar records survive from the following churches, which were eventually absorbed into the Threadneedle Street church:
  - St John's Spitalfields; La Patente Spitalfields; The Church of the Artillery.Microform copies of some of the above records, but not all, are held at the Huguenot Library.

\*To consult records at the FPCL it is necessary to make an appointment with the archivist, Mrs Gould. Email: [cgouldk@yahoo.fr](mailto:cgouldk@yahoo.fr)

## Other records

The Library has a wide range of printed material on open access in the reading room giving information on particular trades and professions, often mentioning prominent Huguenots involved in each field. Additional material from the stacks is available on request. (see the eUCLid online catalogue at [www.ucl.ac.uk/Library](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library)) Information on prominent Huguenot families is also contained in the Wagner Pedigrees and in Agnew's *Protestant Exiles from France in the Reign of Louis XIV*. Henry Wagner's informative Huguenot will abstracts, available at the Library, were published as Quarto Series 60 in November 2007. A complete index of names is due to appear in January 2009 as Quarto Series 60 part 2. There is also information on Huguenot ancestors in the Family Research files and in Haag's *La France Protestante*.

Please note that the Huguenot Society Librarian does not carry out research for readers but can give guidance with catalogues and will make archive material/microform copies, and printed books not on open access, available on request. For details of the Research Officer and other professional researchers please see our 'How to proceed' leaflet. The Huguenot Society declines responsibility for any opinion given or research undertaken on either a paid or voluntary basis, or for any delay that may occur during the course of such research.