HUGUENOT GENEALOGY CHEAT SHEET

Tracing Huguenot ancestors, the Edict of Nantes, French Protestant records, refugee routes, refuge-country archives, and diaspora settlements

Many Huguenot ancestors did not sail directly from France. Some did. Many others moved through the Dutch Republic, England, Ireland, the German states, Switzerland, the Channel Islands, Scandinavia, the Cape of Good Hope, or another refuge before the next migration. The records follow the route, not the family legend.

Composite example: Étienne Rouvière of Poitou is baptized in a French Reformed congregation, appears later in a Walloon congregation in Leiden, receives English denization as Stephen Rivers, and is eventually buried in Westchester County. That example is hypothetical, not a documented lineage. Its point is the method: four jurisdictions, four record systems, several possible name forms, and one identity that still has to be proved at every border.

HOW TO USE THIS CHEAT SHEET

Anchor the latest proven person	Begin with the latest ancestor you can prove in the destination country or colony. A deed, will, church register, tax list, court file, estate, or civil record is an anchor. Everything earlier is a working hypothesis.
Follow the evidence across borders	Do not impose one route on every family. Use congregations, associates, occupations, naturalization or denization, relief records, probate, and residence records to identify the next jurisdiction.
Research France when the evidence points there	A French town, province, congregation, occupation, kin group, or consistent route can justify a French search. France is not automatically first, second, or last; it is researched when the proof problem requires it.
Verify every bridge	Published genealogies, society files, online trees, database indexes, and AI output can locate evidence. They do not replace the underlying record or a written identity argument.

FREE	HYBRID	PAID	CONTACT
Usually viewable from home. A free account may be required.	Some content online; other material, images, or features restricted.	Subscription, membership, order fee, timed pass, or paid library access.	Confirm appointments, reader cards, retrieval, copying, and current access.

CALLOUT CONVENTION

TIP	A technique or shortcut that improves the research plan.
AI PROMPT	A reusable request that still requires independent verification.
CAUTION	A tempting shortcut or overstatement that can attach the wrong person.

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1. THE HUGUENOT RESEARCH CHALLENGE

TIP: Check English status records early when England is actually in the route

Denization was a Crown grant by letters patent that conferred an intermediate legal status. Naturalization could be obtained through private Acts and through public or statutory systems; foreign Protestants in the American colonies also appear in naturalization lists under 13 Geo. II.

These records may name a birthplace, former residence, occupation, relatives, or children. Some entries give little more than a name and date. Search the exact Huguenot Society Quarto volume and then identify the underlying government record.

CORE HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Mid-1500s	The term Huguenot came into common use for French Protestants of the Reformed or Calvinist tradition. Its etymology remains disputed.
24 August 1572	The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre began in Paris and violence spread elsewhere in France. It was a major episode in the French Wars of Religion, not the beginning or end of Huguenot migration.
April 1598	Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes, granting defined rights and protections to French Protestants. Exact day citations vary with date conventions; April 1598 is the safest short form.
1681 onward	The dragonnades and other coercive measures intensified pressure to convert. Local timing and enforcement varied.
October 1685	The Edict of Fontainebleau revoked the Edict of Nantes, prohibited Protestant worship and emigration, ordered temples demolished, expelled ministers, required Catholic baptism and education of children, and enabled confiscation of absentees' property.
From 1695	Deaths of Protestants could, in some circumstances, be declared before a royal judge or seigneur. This matters when no Catholic burial entry appears.
29 November 1787	The Edict of Toleration restored civil-status mechanisms for non-Catholics. The Parlement of Paris registered it on 29 January 1788. Some lineage societies use 28 November as a constitutional cutoff; do not confuse a society rule with the historical dating.
September 1792	Civil registration was transferred to municipal authorities during the Revolution, creating the modern état civil system.

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WHY THE PAPER TRAIL BEHAVES DIFFERENTLY

- **Destroyed, seized, hidden, and dispersed records.** Many Reformed registers and church papers were destroyed, confiscated, concealed, carried abroad, or later deposited in archives. Substantial bodies survive, but coverage differs sharply by locality and congregation.
- **Two record environments after 1685.** Families remaining in France may appear in Catholic parish registers as nouveaux convertis, in abjuration material, in notarial and judicial files, in confiscation records, and sometimes in clandestine Protestant registers or ministerial notes from the Désert. A Catholic baptism does not, by itself, settle the family's religious identity.
- **Names changed unpredictably.** Clerks translated, respelled, Latinized, Dutchified, Germanized, or Anglicized names. Le Roux may become Leroux, Lerew, Larue, or Rowe in a particular family, but no linguistic resemblance proves identity. Treat LeBlanc/White, Dubois/Wood, Le Maistre/Masters, and similar pairs as search hypotheses only.
- **Multi-stage migration was common, not universal.** A family might leave France for Leiden, London, Dublin, Frankfurt, Geneva, Fredericia, the Channel Islands, or the Cape and move again in the same or a later generation. Other refugees departed more directly. Build the route from records rather than from a standard map.
- **The label itself must be proved.** A French-sounding colonial surname can belong to a French Catholic, Acadian, Walloon, Swiss Romand, Waldensian, Lutheran, Channel Islander, or Dutch Reformed family. Language, surname, and geography are clues; confession is a conclusion.
- **The family story is evidence of a claim, not of the lineage.** Record who told it, when, and how the story entered the family. A county history, society application, online tree, or cousin's chart is not independent corroboration merely because many relatives repeat it.

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CAUTION: Compiled Huguenot genealogies are derivative sources

Baird, Brock, society Transactions, county histories, and family genealogies can preserve transcriptions, cite lost records, and point toward a real archive. They can also repeat tradition, merge same-name people, and bridge oceans on surname alone.

Cite and evaluate the compiled source. Then locate the underlying record, test the identity, and explain any conflicts. A finding aid is useful evidence about where to look; it is not automatic proof of the conclusion printed in it.

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2. RESEARCH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The method is evidence-led reverse genealogy across borders. Start with a proven person, identify the jurisdictions and communities supported by the record, and move backward one documented identity at a time. There is no magic national order, only a disciplined proof problem.

#	ACTION	HOW TO DO IT
1	**Record the claim**	Write the family tradition exactly as received. Record the informant, date, alleged surname, place, port, ship, occupation, religion, and source of the story. Separate what the informant knew from what a later genealogy supplied.
2	**Anchor a proven person**	Identify the latest person in the line whose identity, relationships, and residence are supported by records. For an American line this may be a colonial immigrant; for a South African, British, Dutch, or Australian line it may be a later descendant.
3	**Define the identity problem**	List the facts that must match across jurisdictions: age, spouse, children, occupation, congregation, associates, signature, property, military service, and chronology. A shared surname is not enough.
4	**Exhaust destination records**	Search probate, land, tax, court, church, civil, notarial, military, occupational, and municipal records in the place where the person is already proven. Origin statements are often found at the destination.
5	**Reconstruct the congregation and network**	Identify the church, witnesses, sponsors, petition signers, employers, neighbors, and relatives. Research the best-documented associates. They may reveal a route or place of origin, but do not assume every witness was kin or a fellow traveler.
6	**Consult society files critically**	Check qualified-ancestor and registered-lineage lists. Ask whether an application and supporting documentation survive, what access rules apply, and whether the file has been re-evaluated. A list entry does not guarantee a complete or accessible file.
7	**Map plausible routes**	Use record evidence to rank possible refuge jurisdictions. England and the Dutch Republic were major centers, but the German states, Switzerland, Ireland, the Channel Islands, Scandinavia, South Africa, the Caribbean, and other destinations may be equally relevant to a particular family.
8	**Search status, relief, and residence records**	Where applicable, examine denization, naturalization, alien returns, citizenship, bourgeoisie, residence permissions, poor relief, Royal Bounty, French Hospital, guild, and apprenticeship material. These may name an origin or connect relatives.
9	**Build the congregational chain**	Search church registers, membership rolls, consistory minutes, attestations, testimonials, and receiving-church admissions. Livres des Témoignages are documented for specific congregations, not a universal register type.
10	**Enter France when justified**	Search a French locality when evidence supports a town, province, congregation, kin group, occupation, or route. Start with the departmental catalog and surviving Reformed registers, then add Catholic, notarial, judicial, property, abjuration, clandestine, and post-1787 sources.
11	**Correlate across languages and calendars**	Compare dates after accounting for Old Style/New Style and legal-year differences. Track every name form, but require a coherent chronology and social identity before merging people.
12	**Write the proof and the stopping point**	Apply the Genealogical Proof Standard, resolve conflicts, and write a conclusion for every generational link. Record negative searches and state what new evidence would be needed to move the line farther.

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THE FRENCH RECORD LADDER

Reformed registers	Baptisms, marriages, burials, consistory material, and related temple records where they survive. Usually held locally or departmentally; date coverage can be short and unindexed.
Catholic parish registers	Post-1685 baptisms, marriages, and burials of nouveaux convertis and other families compelled or pressured into Catholic observance. Interpret the entry in its legal and local context.
Abjurations and reconciliations	Statements of conversion or return to Catholicism. They may identify relatives, place of origin, prior confession, witnesses, or coercive circumstances.
Désert and clandestine records	Secret assemblies, ministerial notebooks, reconstructed registers, and later copies. Their existence and survival vary; a Protestant record from 1685-1787 is not automatically impossible.
Notarial and probate records	Marriage contracts, wills, inventories, guardianships, powers of attorney, business agreements, and settlements. These often identify kin and property when church registers do not.
Judicial and seigneurial records	Court cases, guardianship, property disputes, criminal or religious prosecutions, and local administrative files.
Série TT and confiscation records	Archives nationales material concerning Protestant affairs and property, including some fugitive, confiscation, and seized church records. It is a major source, not a complete national index.
Post-1787 declarations and état civil	Civil-status declarations after the Edict of Toleration may record earlier marriages or children. Municipal état civil begins in the Revolutionary period and must be searched by locality.

USING GEOGRAPHY WITHOUT LETTING IT USE YOU

Major Reformed regions	Poitou, Saintonge, Aunis and La Rochelle, Languedoc, the Cévennes, Béarn, Guyenne, Dauphiné, Vivarais, parts of Normandy, and pockets around Paris were important Reformed areas. This is a prioritization map, not a pedigree.
Test the signal	Search two or three candidate departments, refuge-country indexes, church registers, and qualified-ancestor lists. Compare occupations, associates, and routes, not just surname frequency.
What a surname cluster proves	Only that the surname existed there. It does not connect a colonial or refuge-country family to that place.
The eastern confessional edge	Alsace, Moselle, and Montbéliard included strong Lutheran traditions and also Reformed communities. Determine confession from the congregation and local jurisdiction, not from the province alone.

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APPLYING THE GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD

Reasonably exhaustive research	Search every jurisdiction and record group reasonably suggested by the evidence. Do not treat one database or one country as the whole search.
Complete, accurate citations	Record repository, fonds or collection, series, cote or call number, volume, folio or page, image number, record creator, jurisdiction, database and collection title, stable URL, and access date.
Analysis and correlation	Correlate age, spouse, children, occupation, congregation, associates, signature, property, and the sequence of moves. Occupation can be powerful, but it never identifies a person alone.
Conflict resolution	Explain why one date, origin statement, or relationship is preferred over another. Do not silently choose the version that fits the pedigree.
Written conclusion	Write the identity argument, especially at the transatlantic or intercolonial bridge. If the bridge cannot be written without assumptions, it is not yet proved.

TIP: When the French trail ends, reconstruct the community

Research the congregation, kin group, occupation, neighborhood, and migration network. Another member may carry a documented origin that suggests where to test your ancestor.
Do not turn association into identity. Record exactly where the trail stopped, the repositories and databases searched, the date ranges covered, and the evidence that would be needed to continue.

CAUTION: Two dates may describe one event

France adopted the Gregorian calendar in December 1582. England and its colonies retained the Julian calendar until September 1752, and the English legal year began on 25 March. The calendar-day difference was ten days before 1700 and eleven days from 1700 until the British change.

A date written as February 1687 in an English Old Style record is February 1688 in modern year numbering. Record it as 1687/8 and note whether you converted the calendar day as well as the legal year.

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3. ONLINE ACCESS, IMAGE-ONLY ACCESS, AND RESEARCH TRAVEL

A catalog entry is not a dead end. It is evidence that a record exists, where it sits, and what reference you must cite when ordering a copy or planning a visit. The mistake is treating "not digitized" as "not available."

What you can do from home	Search official catalogs and finding aids; browse digitized French departmental registers; use FamilySearch by place and catalog title; consult Baird and selected Quarto scans on Internet Archive; use member portals where available; search society ancestor lists; and compare current database catalogs. HSGBI Quarto PDFs through volume 62 are on members' pages. HSSC Transactions are available through the Society's paid Researcher access, not as a universally free complete run.
What is index-only or image-only	Many departmental and commercial collections provide browsable images without a name index, or an index without images. Record the exact collection title and repository. An index entry is a lead to the image or original, not a substitute for it.
What usually requires contact or a visit	The Huguenot Library at UCL Special Collections, consulted at The National Archives by arrangement; French Protestant Church administrative archives; Irish Huguenot Archive; Deutsches Hugenotten-Zentrum; SHPF library and manuscripts; local departmental and municipal series; Historic Huguenot Street archives; Cape and other provincial archives.

TIP: Build the pull list before buying the ticket

Confirm current opening days, holidays, reader-card rules, identification, appointment lead time, off-site retrieval, photography policy, laptop rules, copying fees, and whether the exact cote can be produced.

Send a short inquiry naming the collection, reference, person, place, and date range. Archivists can answer a specific retrieval question. They cannot perform an undefined family history project in an email.

TIP: Use FamilySearch as a catalog, not merely a surname box

Search by country, province, town, congregation, and repository. Open the catalog record and capture the exact title, creator, dates, film or digital image group number, and access restriction.

Some images are viewable at home, some only at a FamilySearch Center or affiliate library, and some are restricted by contract. Recheck access on the day you plan to use the record.

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RESEARCH LOG AND CITATION FIELDS WORTH CAPTURING EVERY TIME

Repository and jurisdiction	Name the archive, library, society, church, or court and the jurisdiction that created the record.
Fonds, collection, series	Record the hierarchy exactly as the catalog gives it. Do not flatten several levels into a vague title.
Cote or call number	Capture the complete archival reference, including subseries, box, bundle, volume, and item where present.
Page, folio, image	Record recto/verso, page, entry number, and image number. Database image numbers can differ from manuscript pagination.
Database and collection title	Use the current exact collection title, inclusive date range, original repository, and whether the record is an index, transcription, or image.
Stable URL and access date	Save the record-level URL or persistent identifier when possible, plus the date accessed.
Search parameters and negative searches	Record names, variants, places, date ranges, filters, browsed volumes, and no-result searches. A negative search is meaningful only when its coverage is documented.

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4. RESOURCE CATEGORIES

Access labels and descriptions were checked on August 24, 2026. Websites, prices, collection titles, digitization projects, and appointment rules change. Verify the current page before travel, purchase, or publication.

4A. FRANCE: NATIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL, AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Archives nationales - Salle des inventaires virtuelle	Search national finding aids and digitized images. Série TT contains important Protestant administrative, property, fugitive, and seized-church material, but it is not a complete national index and should not be described by an unverified article count.	**HYBRID**	www.siv.archives-nationales.culture.gouv.fr/
FranceArchives	National portal for locating archival institutions and aggregated finding aids. Use it to identify the correct departmental, municipal, or national repository; a portal hit does not mean the record is digitized.	**FREE**	francearchives.gouv.fr/
Archives départementales	The main home for surviving Reformed registers, Catholic parish registers, notarial, judicial, seigneurial, abjuration, clandestine, and civil-status material. Coverage and classification vary by department.	**HYBRID**	Start at FranceArchives and open the department's official site.
Gallica - Bibliothèque nationale de France	Digitized books, periodicals, maps, local histories, memoirs, legal texts, and older record editions. Search variant spellings and place names in French.	**FREE**	gallica.bnf.fr/
SHPF catalogues and library	The Société de l'Histoire du Protestantisme Français maintains major printed, manuscript, and iconographic collections on French Protestantism and the Refuge. Use the current catalog page, not the obsolete /bibliotheque/ path.	**HYBRID**	www.shpf.fr/catalogues/
Musée protestant	Free historical context in French and English. The English site currently advertises 200 history notices; use it to understand edicts, regions, institutions, and terminology, not as a name index.	**FREE**	museeprotestant.org/en/
Musée du Désert	Major museum and research center for the clandestine church, Camisards, and the Désert period. Confirm current library and manuscript access directly.	**CONTACT**	www.museedudesert.com/

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4B. BRITAIN AND IRELAND

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
The National Archives: immigration guide	Starting point for immigrant, alien, foreign-church, relief, and related records. Use Discovery to identify exact record series and references.	**FREE**	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/immigration/
The National Archives: naturalisation guide	Explains denization, naturalization, certificates, petitions, Acts, and later systems. Do not reduce all pre-1844 naturalization to private Acts.	**FREE**	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/naturalisation-british-citizenship/
TNA Discovery and RG 4 / RG 8	Catalog and digitized access to non-parochial and nonconformist registers, including many foreign Protestant congregations. Record the exact piece and image reference.	**HYBRID**	discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/
BMDRegisters	Official online access point for many nonconformist and non-parochial registers from TNA record groups RG 4 and RG 8. Coverage and images require collection-level checking.	**PAID**	bmdregisters.co.uk/
TheGenealogist	Commercial access to nonconformist and other British collections. Verify the exact collection title, dates, image availability, and original repository before citing.	**PAID**	www.thegenealogist.co.uk/
The Huguenot Library	Major printed and archival collection for Britain, Ireland, France, and the wider diaspora. Catalogs are in UCL Explore. The collection is consulted at The National Archives by prior arrangement; check the current visiting page and lead time.	**CONTACT**	www.huguenotsociety.org.uk/library-and-archive.html
French Protestant Church of London	The surviving French Protestant church at 8-9 Soho Square. Administrative archives and library materials require direct contact. Many historical registers were deposited with the state and are principally in RG 4.	**CONTACT**	www.egliseprotestantelondres.org.uk/
The London Archives	Current name of the former London Metropolitan Archives. Search for city, parish, guild, apprenticeship, poor-law, and local material affecting refugee families.	**HYBRID**	www.thelondonarchives.org/
Society of Genealogists	Library, manuscripts, compiled genealogies, indexes, and specialist collections. Evaluate derivative material against original records.	**HYBRID**	sog.org.uk/
Irish Huguenot Archive	At the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin; established in 1993. Holds society publications, family deposits, and Irish Huguenot research material. Confirm appointments and copying.	**CONTACT**	www.huguenotsinireland.com/archive/

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4C. THE NETHERLANDS, GERMAN STATES, SWITZERLAND, AND SCANDINAVIA

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Nationaal Archief	Dutch national governmental, company, colonial, and administrative records, including material relevant to the VOC and West India Company. Walloon church records are often in municipal or regional archives instead.	**HYBRID**	www.nationaalarchief.nl/en
WieWasWie	National Dutch person-index portal for civil and many church-derived collections. Search results must be traced to the original archive and image.	**HYBRID**	www.wiewaswie.nl/
Open Archives	Aggregates Dutch archival indexes and links to contributing repositories. Useful for cross-archive searching, but cite the originating archive and collection.	**HYBRID**	www.openarchieven.nl/
CBG Centre for Family History	Dutch family-history center with catalog, collections, research guidance, and specialized resources. Access varies by product and membership.	**HYBRID**	cbg.nl/
Amsterdam City Archives	Notarial, marriage, citizenship, church, poor-relief, and municipal records for Amsterdam refugee communities. Use the archive's current collection descriptions.	**HYBRID**	archief.amsterdam/
Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken	Key repository for Leiden municipal and church material, including the Walloon and refugee environment. Search registers, notarial records, and local finding aids.	**HYBRID**	www.erfgoedleiden.nl/
Rotterdam City Archives	Municipal, notarial, church, citizenship, and migration records for Rotterdam and surrounding communities.	**HYBRID**	stadsarchief.rotterdam.nl/
Archion	German Protestant church-book portal. The site reports more than 200,000 digitized church books from more than 25 archives. Identify the parish and territorial church before buying a timed pass.	**PAID**	www.archion.de/en/
Deutsches Hugenotten-Zentrum	Genealogical center of the Deutsche Hugenotten-Gesellschaft at Bad Karlshafen, with colony, church, library, and image resources. Services, fees, and member access vary.	**CONTACT**	www.hugenotten.de/genealogie/
German state and municipal archives	Search Brandenburg-Prussia, Hesse-Kassel, the Palatinate, Württemberg, and other host jurisdictions for colony privileges, citizenship, tax, military, notarial, and settlement records. Territorial boundaries matter.	**CONTACT**	Search the current state or city archive by place and historical jurisdiction.
Archives d'État de Genève	Geneva was a major Reformed center. Search the current catalog for immigration, residence, citizenship, church, and municipal series; do not rely on a generic list of record types without a series citation.	**HYBRID**	archives-etat.ge.ch/

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RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Swiss cantonal and municipal archives	Vaud, Neuchâtel, Basel, Bern, and other jurisdictions may hold church, resident, bourgeoisie, poor-relief, and migration records. Swiss archival organization is cantonal and local.	**CONTACT**	Search the official archive for the canton or municipality.
Rigsarkivet	Danish National Archives. Use the current Search the Collections environment for church books, censuses, and archival material. The Danish Demographic Database was being moved into that environment in 2026.	**FREE**	en.rigsarkivet.dk/

4D. CHANNEL ISLANDS AND COLONIAL NORTH AMERICA

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Priaulx Library, Guernsey	Principal Guernsey local and family-history collection, with holdings reaching back well before 1570. Parish and record start dates differ, so check the specific series. Commercial databases are available in the library.	**HYBRID**	www.priaulxlibrary.co.uk/
Guernsey Archives	Official archive for States and island records. Use current catalog and contact information for parish, court, property, administrative, and family material.	**CONTACT**	www.gov.gg/archives
Jersey Heritage	Archives, catalog, parish, court, property, and family-history resources for Jersey. Search the online catalog and verify copying or visit requirements.	**HYBRID**	www.jerseyheritage.org/
New York State Archives - Dutch records guide	Guide to seventeenth-century New Netherland records, translations, indexes, and original holdings relevant to French-speaking and Walloon families.	**FREE**	www.archives.nysed.gov/research/research-guide-dutch
New Netherland Institute	Translations, transcriptions, ships and voyages, research tools, and the New Netherland Research Center. Use translations with the original record when possible.	**FREE**	newnetherlandinstitute.org/
Historic Huguenot Street / Schoonmaker Library	New Paltz records, family and local histories, church and cemetery sources, manuscripts, and selected digitized material. Archives are consulted by appointment.	**HYBRID**	www.huguenotstreet.org/research-library
South Carolina Department of Archives and History	State catalog and digital portal. Current online coverage includes will transcripts, 1782-1855, and plats, 1784-1868, among other colonial and state records.	**HYBRID**	scdah.sc.gov/research-and-genealogy/online-research

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RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Library of Virginia	State and local records, church material, land, probate, manuscripts, maps, and guides relevant to Manakin and Virginia families. Identify the exact collection before requesting copies.	**HYBRID**	www.lva.virginia.gov/
Library of Congress Virginia guide	Curated guide to Virginia digital collections. Useful as a discovery layer, not as a substitute for the holding repository.	**FREE**	guides.loc.gov/virginia-local-history-genealogy/digital-collections

4E. SOUTH AFRICA AND AUSTRALIA

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Huguenot Society of South Africa	Founded in 1953. Maintains research information, publications, and links to the Huguenot Memorial Museum and Monument. Its site describes the late seventeenth-century Cape settlement of approximately 300 Huguenots.	**HYBRID**	huguenotsociety.org.za/
Huguenot Memorial Museum	Franschhoek museum and research context for the Cape Huguenot settlement. Confirm current research services and access directly.	**CONTACT**	huguenotsociety.org.za/huguenot-memorial-museum-eng/
eGGSA	South African transcript and image projects, church and burial registers, passenger lists, archive documents, journal indexes, and links. The site reported repairs in August 2026, so confirm individual tools before relying on them.	**HYBRID**	eggsa.org/en/
eGGSA VOC Archive Dashboard	Free research dashboard for Cape Council of Policy resolutions, 1651-1795, plus indexes and tools for VOC records. Cite the underlying VOC archive and inventory reference.	**FREE**	eggsa.org/WebApps/VOCArchive/
Cape Archives Repository / Western Cape Archives	Major repository for Cape colonial, land, court, estate, orphan-chamber, church-related, and administrative records. Search current provincial guidance and contact the repository before travel.	**CONTACT**	Search the Western Cape Government site for Cape Archives and Records Service.
National Archives and Records Service / NAAIRS	National and provincial archival discovery system. Availability can be intermittent; preserve full references and contact the holding repository when the portal fails.	**HYBRID**	www.nationalarchives.gov.za/
Huguenot Society of Australia	Active society with research guidance, publications, events, and member resources for Huguenot descendants in Australia.	**HYBRID**	huguenotsaustralia.org.au/

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RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
National Archives of Australia	Federal immigration, naturalisation, citizenship, defence, and government records. For state-based civil, church, land, and probate records, use the relevant state archive as well.	**HYBRID**	www.naa.gov.au/
Trove	National Library of Australia discovery platform for newspapers, books, gazettes, maps, images, archives, and library holdings. Follow every result to its source institution.	**FREE**	trove.nla.gov.au/

THE SOUTH AFRICAN RECORD PATH

Arrival and VOC administration	Passenger, muster, Council of Policy, employment, land, and company records may begin the Cape paper trail. Search both South African repositories and VOC holdings in the Netherlands.
Dutch Reformed church books	Drakenstein/Paarl and neighboring congregations are central. The Huguenot Society of South Africa notes a French-language Drakenstein baptism register for 1694-1713, followed by Dutch-language recording.
Opgaafrollen	Tax and census-style returns can reconstruct households, land, livestock, and economic status. Interpret household categories and enumerated people carefully.
Estates and orphan-chamber records	Wills, inventories, liquidation and distribution accounts, guardianships, marriage permissions, and orphan-chamber files can identify kin across generations.
Land and notarial records	Grants, transfers, mortgages, contracts, and court files document settlement and family networks.
Naming systems	Repeated given names and the De Villiers/Pama numbering tradition can help organize descendants, but neither system proves a relationship without records.
Households beyond the settler line	Cape records also document enslaved people, free Black people, Indigenous communities, servants, mixed families, and coerced labor within Huguenot-descended households. Research them as people and families, not as background property entries.
Language shift	A French refugee may enter a predominantly Dutch administrative and church environment. Search French, Dutch, and later Afrikaans forms of names and places.

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4F. SOCIETIES AND LINEAGE ORGANIZATIONS

CAUTION: A society file is a lead, not a verdict
Application standards, surviving documentation, and access policies vary by society and by year. An older application may rely on a county history, an undocumented Bible transcription, or a same-surname assumption. Membership proves that the society accepted a lineage under its rules. Re-evaluate every generational link against the records and the proof standard you are applying today.

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Huguenot Society of America	Founded in New York in 1883. Separate from the National Huguenot Society. Its online qualified-ancestor list is explicitly partial; membership is by documented descent. Ask whether a supporting application file is available.	**HYBRID**	www.huguenotsocietyofamerica.org/history/ancestors/
National Huguenot Society	Began in 1931 as the Federation of Huguenot Societies. Maintains qualified-ancestor resources, lineage membership, and Cross of Languedoc magazine.	**HYBRID**	nationalhuguenotsociety.org/
Huguenot Society of South Carolina	Founded in Charleston in 1885. Current offerings include Transactions, Huguenot Happenings, and Les Réfugiés. The digital Transactions library is paid Researcher access. Membership rules use the Society's own pre-Edict cutoff wording.	**HYBRID**	huguenotsociety.org/
Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland	Founded in 1885 as the Huguenot Society of London. Membership is open beyond proven descendants. Publishes the Quarto Series and annual Huguenot Society Journal.	**HYBRID**	www.huguenotsociety.org.uk/
Huguenots in Ireland	Irish Section of the British society, with research guidance, activities, publications, and links to the Irish Huguenot Archive.	**HYBRID**	www.huguenotsinireland.com/
Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin	The Society traces its organization to 1922 and maintains a research library and registered lineages for Virginia Huguenot descendants. Confirm current eligibility and application wording directly.	**HYBRID**	www.huguenotmanakin.org/
Historic Huguenot Street	Organization founded in 1894 to preserve the New Paltz settlement and its records. Operates the landmark district, museums, cemetery, and Schoonmaker Research Library.	**HYBRID**	www.huguenotstreet.org/
Holland Society of New York	Lineage society for qualifying descendants of Dutch colonial settlers. Huguenot and Walloon families may qualify under current rules, but eligibility is not simply "any resident before 1675." Read the current requirements.	**HYBRID**	hollandsociety.org/genealogy-research/
Huguenot Society of South Africa	Research, heritage, museum, publications, and descendant community for the Cape diaspora.	**HYBRID**	huguenotsociety.org.za/
Huguenot Society of Australia	Research guidance, publications, programs, and member resources for the Australian diaspora.	**HYBRID**	huguenotsaustralia.org.au/

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4G. MAJOR DATABASES AND SEARCH PLATFORMS

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
FamilySearch	Search by place, creator, congregation, and catalog title. Capture the film or digital image group number and current access restriction. Do not cite a vague "Walloon index" without an exact catalog entry.	**FREE**	www.familysearch.org/
Ancestry	Useful for destination-country records, books, trees, and selected European collections. Search the current Card Catalog and cite the exact collection title, dates, record creator, repository, and image.	**PAID**	www.ancestry.com/
Findmypast	Strong British, Irish, and Channel Islands coverage. Do not rely on an unverified collection name; use the current A-Z list and document the exact dataset and source repository.	**PAID**	www.findmypast.com/
MyHeritage	Substantial French and international collections and tools. MyHeritage and Filae have overlap following the 2021 acquisition, but their search fields, images, licensing, and coverage are not identical.	**PAID**	www.myheritage.com/
Filae	Active French records platform with indexed civil, census, and other collections. Compare the exact collection and image coverage with MyHeritage rather than assuming they are interchangeable.	**PAID**	www.filae.com/
Geneanet	Separate active service acquired by Ancestry in 2021. Member trees and its digital library can identify researchers, publications, and possible localities, but user-contributed trees remain derivative evidence.	**HYBRID**	www.geneanet.org/
Archion	Place-based access to German Protestant church books. Identify the historical parish and territorial church first.	**PAID**	www.archion.de/en/
American Ancestors	Useful for New England records, manuscripts, databases, and published genealogies. Search current database titles and access levels instead of citing the brand alone.	**PAID**	www.americanancestors.org/
BMDRegisters / TheGenealogist	Two commercial access routes for British nonconformist and non-parochial material. Confirm whether the exact register image is included.	**PAID**	bmdregisters.co.uk/
Public and affiliate libraries	Library editions, institutional subscriptions, FamilySearch affiliate access, and interlibrary loan may cover a short research project more efficiently than another annual subscription.	**HYBRID**	Check your local public, university, state, or national library.

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TIP: Database names are not citations

For every online record, write down the exact collection title, creator, inclusive dates, original repository, item reference, image number, URL, and access date. "Found on Ancestry" or "found on FamilySearch" is not enough to reproduce the search.

4H. FREE REFERENCE SITES AND DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Internet Archive	Free scans of Baird, selected Quarto volumes, older society publications, church-register editions, and local histories. Search exact titles and verify that the scan is complete.	**FREE**	archive.org/
NYG&B Walloon Index guide	Description of the Walloon register card index, 1500-1828. Verify current access, microfilm details, and whether the index points to an image or only an abstract.	**HYBRID**	www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/knowledgebase/walloon-index
Musée protestant	Current free historical context. Use its notices to understand laws and institutions, then cite the underlying archival record for a genealogical claim.	**FREE**	museeprotestant.org/en/
Huguenots of Spitalfields - archived site	The charity closed after 2019. Its website remains useful as an archival, place-based resource for east London Huguenot history, but it is not an active organization offering a current program.	**FREE**	www.huguenotsofspitalfields.org/
Costello, Researching Huguenot Settlers in Ireland	Free 2007 BYU Family Historian research guide for the Irish refuge. Useful framework and bibliography; verify every current URL and access instruction because of its age.	**FREE**	scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byufamilyhistorian/vol6/iss1/9/
Cyndi's List	Discovery directory for French, Huguenot, DNA, and surname resources. Verify every external link and organization before relying on it.	**FREE**	www.cyndislist.com/
Priaulx Library / Guernsey Archives / Jersey Heritage	Current replacements for the dead GENUKI Guernsey page cited in the earlier edition. Check parish-specific dates and local access.	**HYBRID**	www.priaulxlibrary.co.uk/

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4I. PUBLISHED RECORD SETS AND FINDING AIDS WORTH KNOWING BY NAME

Huguenot Society Quarto Series	Published from 1887 onward. Includes church registers, stranger returns, naturalization and denization, poor relief, French Hospital, consistory, family, and archival editions. PDFs through volume 62 are available on members' pages; some individual volumes are freely scanned elsewhere.
Quarto VIII	Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization for Aliens in England, 1509-1603. Do not attribute all three chronological denization/naturalization volumes to W. A. Shaw.
Quarto XVIII and XXVII	Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization in England and Ireland, 1603-1700 and 1701-1800. These are the W. A. Shaw volumes identified by the Society.
Quarto XXXV	Supplement to W. A. Shaw's volumes XVIII and XXVII.
Quarto XXIV	Lists of Naturalization of Foreign Protestants in the American Colonies under Stat. 13 Geo. II. A direct reminder that naturalization was not solely a private-Act process.
Quarto XXI	Le Livre des Tesmoignages de l'Eglise de Threadneedle Street, 1669-1789. Congregational admissions may identify a previous church or place, but content varies by entry.
Quarto LX	Huguenot Wills and Administrations in England and Ireland, 1617-1849, with a complete index of names.
Quarto LXIII	A Directory of Huguenot Refugees on the Channel Islands, 1548-1825. Use the exact title and verify the title page before adding author or publication details.
Charles W. Baird	History of the Huguenot Emigration to America, 2 vols. (1885). A major historical compilation available free online. Mine it for citations and clues; do not inherit unsupported lineage conclusions.
R. A. Brock, ed.	Documents, Chiefly Unpublished, Relating to the Huguenot Emigration to Virginia and to the Settlement at Manakin-Town, with an Appendix of Genealogies... (Richmond, 1886). Identify the specific register, list, page, and provenance used.
Manakin baptism register, 1721-1754	Sponsors or godparents may be kin or significant associates. They are research targets, not automatic relatives. Cite the exact transcription or original register used.
Transactions of the Huguenot Society of South Carolina	Published from 1889. Issue and volume counts change. The Society's current digital library requires paid Researcher access; cite the exact volume, issue, article, and page.
Huguenot Society Journal	Formerly Proceedings of the Huguenot Society, published annually since 1885. Members can access PDFs. No current official basis was found for the earlier claim that it is issued through Liverpool University Press.

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4J. DNA PROJECTS AND RESEARCH COMMUNITIES

RESOURCE	WHY IT MATTERS	ACCESS	URL / LOCATION
Huguenot Diaspora Geographic DNA Project	FamilyTreeDNA geographic project begun in 2005. Reported 629 members on August 24, 2026. Focuses on registered Huguenot surnames, documented lineages, and Y-DNA, with Y-111 preferred for applicable male lines.	**HYBRID**	www.familytreedna.com/groups/huguenotdiasporageographic/about
Huguenot Descendants DNA Project	FamilyTreeDNA project for descendants with a registered Huguenot surname in the lineage. Reported 196 members on August 24, 2026. Requires trees, surname lists, and stated access settings. Counts and requirements can change.	**HYBRID**	www.familytreedna.com/groups/huguenot-descendants/about
Surname and locality projects	Search the current FamilyTreeDNA project directory for a relevant surname or geographic group. Do not cite a project example unless its current page, administrator, qualifying line, and historical claim have been verified.	**HYBRID**	www.familytreedna.com/

CAUTION: What DNA can and cannot settle

Y-DNA is especially useful for testing direct paternal-line hypotheses and comparing men from documented surname lines. A match does not identify the historical ancestor without a paper trail; a mismatch may expose a lineage break or a false published connection.

At eight to eleven generations, autosomal DNA has sharply declining sensitivity. A genuine descendant may share no detectable segment, so a non-match does not disprove descent. A carefully designed multi-descendant study can contribute evidence, but it rarely proves a specific Huguenot ancestor by itself. Ethnicity percentages do not prove Huguenot identity.

ONLINE COMMUNITIES

Ask a bounded question	Name the person, date, place, record already found, repositories searched, and exact problem. "Anything on Bouvier" gets noise. "Which London congregation should I test for this 1704 New York witness cluster?" invites useful answers.
Use locality and language groups	French, Dutch, German, Latin, South African, New Netherland, Lowcountry, Virginia, and Channel Islands groups can provide local expertise and transcription help. Verify every answer against the record.
Follow society pages for changes	Digitization projects, access rules, meeting programs, publications, and closure notices often appear first on current society or repository pages.
Journal membership can beat another database	For a serious line, the society journal or research library may contain transcriptions and scholarship unavailable in commercial indexes.

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5. AI PROMPTS FOR HUGUENOT RESEARCH

CAUTION: AI may assist with paleography; it can also invent the record

Use AI to generate search terms, organize evidence, suggest record categories, and attempt transcription or translation. It may confidently invent letters, names, expansions, collection titles, call numbers, page citations, and transatlantic parent-child links.

Always compare the output to the image and catalog. Request a diplomatic transcription first, an expanded transcription separately, uncertainty brackets, alternative readings, line-by-line translation, and an evidence table tying every conclusion to a specific line.

AI PROMPT: 1: Create a controlled surname-variant plan

My documented surname is [SURNAME] in [PLACE, DATE, LANGUAGE]. Generate plausible spelling, phonetic, translated, and grammatical variants for French, Dutch, German, English, Latin, or Afrikaans records as applicable. Put each variant in a table with: proposed form, linguistic mechanism, jurisdiction, date range, and whether the form is documented in a source I provide or merely a search hypothesis. Do not state that two surnames are equivalent.

Search every plausible form, but prove the person with chronology, family, associates, occupation, and records - not etymology.

AI PROMPT: 2: Produce a diplomatic transcription before translating

I am uploading an image of a historical record. First identify the probable language and script. Then transcribe it line by line exactly as written, preserving spelling, abbreviations, punctuation, and line breaks. Put unreadable text in [illegible] and uncertain text in [brackets?]. List alternative readings with confidence levels. Do not expand abbreviations or translate until the diplomatic transcription is complete.

Compare every line with the image at high zoom. AI paleography is an assistant, not a witness.

AI PROMPT: 3: Expand, translate, and extract evidence separately

Using the diplomatic transcription supplied below, create three separate outputs: (1) expanded transcription with every expansion in square brackets; (2) literal line-by-line English translation; (3) evidence table with name, role, date, place, relationship, occupation, residence, religion, witness or sponsor, and the exact line supporting each item. Flag grammar or formulae that make a role uncertain. Do not add facts absent from the text.

Separating these stages makes invented relationships easier to catch.

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AI PROMPT: 4: Build an evidence-led route plan

I have proved [PERSON] in [PLACE, DATE] with these records: [LIST]. Family tradition says [CLAIM]. Propose up to four migration-route hypotheses, ranked by the evidence already present. For each hypothesis, list the next record type, holding institution, exact catalog search terms, expected date range, and what result would support or weaken the hypothesis. Mark every repository or collection title that still needs independent verification.

A route is a testable hypothesis. Do not ask the tool to name the ancestor it wishes were true.

AI PROMPT: 5: Interrogate a catalog or finding aid

I am looking at a finding aid from [ARCHIVE]. Explain the hierarchy and reference system visible in the text. Translate the following entries, preserving series names and cotes exactly. For each entry, state what genealogical information might reasonably appear and what the description does not guarantee. Generate French or local-language search terms for baptism, marriage, burial, abjuration, fugitive, confiscation, notarial, guardianship, residence, citizenship, poor relief, and consistory records as relevant.

Departmental and national classification systems differ. Never transfer one archive's series assumptions to another.

AI PROMPT: 6: Stress-test an identity across borders

Compare these two record clusters for [NAME A] in [PLACE A] and [NAME B] in [PLACE B]. Build a correlation table for age, spouse, children, occupation, congregation, associates, witnesses, signature, property, dates, and travel time. Label each point agree, conflict, unknown, or not independent. Then state the strongest alternative explanation. Do not conclude they are the same person unless the evidence is sufficient.

This is more useful than asking AI whether the names "look like" variants.

AI PROMPT: 7: Audit a claimed lineage under the GPS

Here is a claimed Huguenot lineage and its citations: [PASTE]. For each generational link, identify the evidence actually supplied, the original source it appears to derive from, unresolved conflicts, negative searches still needed, and the specific record that would most strengthen or disprove the link. Flag every conclusion based only on a shared surname, family tradition, society acceptance, online tree, or compiled genealogy. Do not repair the lineage with invented people.

Run this on your own work before running it on anyone else's.

AI PROMPT: 8: Create a reproducible research log and citation draft

From the following catalog entry, image metadata, and notes, draft a citation containing repository, collection or fonds, series, cote or call number, volume, folio or page, image number, record creator and jurisdiction, database and exact collection title, stable URL, and access date. Then create a separate negative-search log listing names, variants, places, dates, filters, volumes browsed, and coverage limits. Do not invent a missing field; mark it [not supplied].
A polished citation with fabricated metadata is worse than an honest bracket.

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CAUTION: The three fabrications this topic produces most reliably

Invented Quarto volume numbers, Transactions issue numbers, archive cotes, and database collection titles that look perfectly plausible.

Invented claims that no Protestant record could exist from 1685 to 1787. Public Protestant worship was suppressed, but clandestine registers, ministerial notes, Catholic records, secular death declarations, and later declarations may survive.

Invented parent-child links across an ocean, built from a French name and a colonial name with no bridge record. Treat every such link as fiction until the evidence says otherwise.

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6. QUICK REFERENCE TIPS AND CAUTIONS

Start with the latest proven person	Work backward from evidence. Do not start from a famous French surname and shop for descendants.
"Huguenot" is different from "French"	Prove the Reformed confession and the identity. French Catholic, Acadian, Walloon, Swiss Romand, Waldensian, Lutheran, Channel Islander, and Dutch Reformed families require different contexts.
Use society definitions carefully	Eligibility and cutoff dates vary. A society's November 28 convention is an internal rule, not proof that the Edict of Toleration was historically dated November 28.
Track the surname, not just one spelling	Search plausible variants and translations, but do not assume that White is LeBlanc or Rowe is Le Roux without a record chain.
Record what an origin statement actually means	It may identify birthplace, last residence, home congregation, province, port, jurisdiction, or the place from which the person arrived immediately.
Check the calendar twice	Separate legal-year conversion from calendar-day conversion. Record Old Style/New Style and dual dates explicitly.
Occupation is a clue, not an identity	Silk weaving, watchmaking, printing, military service, commerce, and other trades can point toward a community. Correlate them with people and records.
Witnesses and sponsors may be kin	They may also be patrons, elders, employers, neighbors, military associates, or migration contacts. Research them; do not label them relatives without proof.
A society ancestor list may be partial	Ask whether an application, supporting evidence, correspondence, or later correction survives and whether it can be copied.
Compiled genealogies are evidence to evaluate	Use them for citations, lost-record clues, and research history. Test every lineage assertion against the best available records.
A Catholic baptism does not disprove Huguenot identity	After 1685, coercion and legal requirements put many Protestant families into Catholic registers. Correlate with abjurations, clandestine records, witnesses, and later declarations.
A Protestant record from 1685-1787 is not automatically fake	Confirm its provenance. Désert registers, ministerial notes, later copies, and other exceptional records can exist.
Search the catalog by place and creator	Name boxes miss unindexed and browsable collections. Capture exact titles and access restrictions.
Do not cite the database brand alone	Record exact collection title, creator, repository, date range, image, URL, and access date.
Document negative searches	A no-result search matters only when another researcher can see the variants, date range, filters, volumes, and coverage you tested.
Y-DNA and autosomal DNA answer different questions	Use Y-DNA for direct paternal-line hypotheses. Use autosomal DNA cautiously at deep generations and never treat ethnicity as lineage proof.

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South African research changes language and record systems	The refugee may be French; the Cape records may quickly become Dutch. Search naming patterns, estates, church registers, opgaafrollen, VOC, and enslaved or dependent household members.
When the person fails, research the community	A well-documented associate can suggest a route or locality. Association narrows the search; it does not prove identity.
When the trail ends, write the stop	State what was searched, what survives, what does not, and what evidence would be required to continue. A documented stopping point is a research result.

7. GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS

Huguenot	A French Protestant of the Reformed or Calvinist tradition; the term was in common use by the mid-sixteenth century. Its etymology is disputed. It is not a synonym for every French Protestant or every French migrant.
French Reformed	The Calvinist Protestant tradition in France. Congregational and synod records may use French or Latin terminology.
Walloon	A French-speaking person or Reformed congregation associated especially with the southern Low Countries and the Dutch Republic. Walloon and Huguenot communities overlapped, but the labels are not identical.
Swiss Romand / Swiss Reformed	French-speaking Swiss or a member of a Swiss Reformed congregation. A French-language Swiss record does not make the person a French Huguenot.
Waldensian	Member of a distinct Protestant tradition with roots in the medieval Waldensian movement. Some communities later aligned with Reformed churches; do not merge the identities automatically.
Lutheran	Protestant tradition especially important in parts of Alsace, Moselle, Montbéliard, and German territories. Determine confession from local church records.
Acadian	French colonial population of Acadia, predominantly Catholic. A French colonial surname or displacement history does not establish Huguenot ancestry.
Channel Islander	Person from Jersey, Guernsey, or related islands under the English Crown. French language and surnames are common and do not by themselves indicate refugee status.
Dutch Reformed	Reformed Protestant tradition in the Dutch Republic and colonies. Huguenot and Walloon refugees often worshipped within or alongside Dutch Reformed institutions.
Edict of Nantes	Issued by Henry IV in April 1598, granting defined rights and protections to French Protestants. Exact day citations require attention to date conventions.
Revocation / Edict of Fontainebleau	October 1685 measure revoking the Edict of Nantes and suppressing public Protestant worship, expelling ministers, prohibiting emigration, and enforcing Catholic institutions.
Edict of Toleration	Issued 29 November 1787 and registered by the Parlement of Paris on 29 January 1788, providing civil-status mechanisms for non-Catholics.
Le Refuge	The refugee diaspora and the host communities created by French Protestant exiles in Europe and farther afield.
Registres des temples	Registers kept by French Reformed congregations. There was no single standardized national series; titles, contents, dates, and custody vary.
Désert	The period and clandestine religious life of French Protestantism after the Revocation, including secret assemblies and underground ministry.

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Nouveaux convertis	"New converts": Protestants officially treated as Catholic after conversion, often under pressure or coercion.
Religionnaires fugitifs	Protestants who fled the kingdom. Administrative and property records concerning absentees and confiscation can identify people and holdings.
Abjuration	Formal renunciation of Protestant belief or reception into Catholicism. The record may name family, origin, residence, or witnesses.
Denization	English Crown grant by letters patent conferring an intermediate legal status on a foreigner. Content varies and may or may not include a place of origin.
Naturalization before 1844	Acquisition of subject status through several mechanisms, including private Acts and public or statutory processes. Colonial naturalization lists also survive. It was not available only by private Act.
Livre des Témoignages	A testimonial or admission register documented for particular French Protestant congregations. It may record the previous church or place, but it is not a universal register type.
Consistory	Governing body of a Reformed congregation. Minutes can cover discipline, membership, charity, marriage, disputes, and transfers.
Bourgeoisie / habitant	Local civic-status terms whose meaning varies by jurisdiction. Admissions and residence records may document origin, occupation, family, and rights.
Opgaafrol	Cape tax or census-style return used to reconstruct households, land, livestock, and economic status. Categories and enumeration practices require contextual reading.
VOC	Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie, the Dutch East India Company. Its administrative records are central to early Cape research and survive in South Africa and the Netherlands.
Manakin Town / King William Parish	Virginia Huguenot settlement established beginning in 1700 on the James River. Describe the specific arrival, parish, or group being compared rather than using an unsupported "largest" claim.
Cote	The archival reference or call number used to identify a record unit in a French repository. Record the full hierarchy, not merely the archive name.
FAN network	Friends, associates, and neighbors researched as a group. Association can reveal routes and origins, but does not automatically prove kinship or shared migration.

FINAL WORD

The strongest Huguenot research holds together the proven destination-country paper trail, the refuge-country records, the congregation and social network, the French evidence when the route justifies it, and an honest log of negative searches. Some records were created by clerks who did not speak your ancestor's language. Some were created by officials confiscating property from people who had already fled. Some did not survive. None of that licenses a guess.

Start with the person you can prove. Follow the route the records support. Read the admission, denization, relief, probate, notarial, church, property, and civil-status evidence in context. When the trail ends, say so plainly. A documented stopping point is a gift; a confident bridge with no record is a debt passed to the next researcher.

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ONE LAST THING

If the Huguenot claim collapses, you have not lost a heritage. You have replaced a rumor with a result that another researcher can test.

If it holds, write the proof while the sources, URLs, and your reasoning are still in front of you. What the family inherits should be a documented line, not a surname wearing a French accent.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I want to be transparent that this content, HUGUENOT GENEALOGY CHEAT SHEET, was created in part with the help of an artificial intelligence (AI) language model, Claude Opus 5 and fact-checked using ChatGPT Pro. The AI assisted in generating an early draft and in verifying that the listed organizations, URLs, and resources were current at the time of writing. Every paragraph was subsequently reviewed, edited, and refined by me. The final content is the result of extensive human curation and creativity. I am proud to present this work and assure readers that while AI was a tool in the process, the story, style, and substance have been carefully shaped by the author. Resources were verified as current as of June 2026; organizations, access rules, and links can change, so confirm details before relying on them..

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