

Chapter Three

PARISH CHRISTENING RECORDS

Parish christening entries were written entirely by hand. They were also organized differently from civil birth records; however, they contain similar extractable information.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM PARISH CHRISTENING ENTRIES

- Date
- Name of child
- Gender
- Names of parents
- Name of officiating priest
- Names of godparents

SAMPLE PARISH CHRISTENING RECORD

Below is a copy of a Parish Christening Record from the town of Carpenedolo, Italy. Watch for the same key words in handwritten records that you looked for in the preprinted records.

1884

Il Di 1. Gennaio

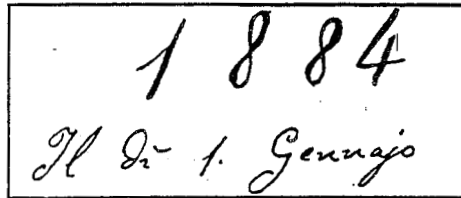
1. *Madalena Maria Caffa figlia dei leg. Conj. Giuseppe fu Tommaso e Rosa Vifani, nacquè il giorno 30 dello scorso Dicembre alle ore 11. pom. in Via Borgo di sotto A. presentata oggi alla Chiesa fu battezzata da me Caffa Curato. la madrina fu Bontadi Domenica di Francesco maritata Rodella di questo Parrocchia*

Matrimonium
contraxit in Parrocchia
Carpinetuli
Anno 23-11-12

ORGANIZATION OF PARISH CHRISTENING RECORDS

Parish christening records are somewhat standardized in format so that extractable information will typically be in about the same part of each record. Different recorders varied the wording enough, however, that you will have to pay close attention to determine which name belongs to which person.

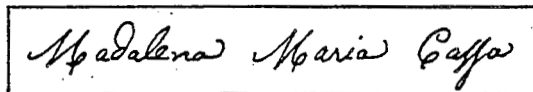
DATES



1884
Il Di 1. Gennaio

Most parish entries begin with dates. Although this example gives the year, day, and month, some records include only the day or the day and month. When part of the date is missing, you must look at the top of the page or turn back to the page where the last complete date is found.

CHILD'S NAME



Madalena Maria Coffa

The child's name is usually found near the beginning of the entry. When the name is introduced later, it might also follow a form of the word *battezzare* (to baptize).

Key Words

<i>battezzato a</i>	baptized
<i>battezzato da me</i>	baptized by me (then introduces the officiating agent)
<i>il nome di battesimo</i>	the name of baptism (the name given at the time of baptism)
<i>l'aqua battesimale a</i>	baptism of water to

GENDER

figlia

Generally a word such as *figlia* (daughter) serves as a connector between the name of the child and the names of the parents.

Key Words

<i>figlia</i>	daughter
<i>figlio</i>	son
<i>nata</i>	born (feminine reference)
<i>nato</i>	born (masculine reference)

PARENTS' NAMES

e Rosa Bifani figlia dei leg. Conj. Giuseppe fu Tommaso

The names of the parents usually follow the name of the child and are often introduced by a phrase like the one in this example: *figlia dei Legitimi Coniugi* (daughter of the legitimately married couple).

Key Words

<i>è</i>	and (frequently used between names of parents)
<i>con</i>	with (occasionally used between names of parents)
<i>legitimi coniugi</i>	legitimately married couple. This phrase will often be abbreviated. Sample abbreviations:

l.c.
leg. coni.
legitt° coniugi
legitt. coniugi

[See page 23 for additional terms referring to parents and 21 regarding legitimacy statements.]

THE OFFICIATING PRIEST

fu battezzata da me Cassa Curato.

In some parish entries the name or other designation of the officiating priest is given. It is important that you identify the priest so that you don't confuse him with the child's father. The phrase in this example is *bu battezzata da me Cassa Curato* (was baptized by me the house priest). Frequently the priest will state his name rather than *Casa Curato* at that point. Other phrases used to introduce parish priests are listed below.

Key Words

<i>arceprete</i>	
<i>da me</i>	by me (followed by the title and name of the official)
<i>retore</i>	rector
<i>sacerdote</i>	priest

GODPARENTS' NAMES

*la madrina fu Bontadi Do-
menica di Francesco maritata Rodella di questa Parrocchia*

Because of the prominent role of parents in a child's christening, their names were usually mentioned in the record. In this example, only a godmother is named: *La madrina fu Bontadi Dominica di Francesco maritata Rodella di questa Parrocchia* (The Godmother was Bontadi Domenica of Francesco married Rodella of this parish.)

The names of godparents are not extracted. You learn to recognize them in order to avoid recording their names as parents of the child.

Key Words

<i>madrina</i>	godmother
<i>padrino</i>	godfather
<i>padrini</i>	godparents

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE PARISH CHRISTENING RECORD (on page 40)

1884

Il di 1. Gennajo

Madalena Maria Cassa figlia dei Leg. Coni. Giuseppe fu Tommaso e Rose Visani, naque il giorno 30 dello scroso Dicembre alle ore 11. pom. in Via Borgo di sotto N. . presentata oggi alla chiesa fu battezzata da me Cassa Curato. La madrina fu Bontadi Domenica di Francesco maritata Rodella di questa Parrochia

[The stamp printed at the top of the record says: "*Matrimonium contraxit in Parœcia Carpinetuli. Anno 23-11-12.*"]

TRANSLATION OF THE PARISH CHRISTENING RECORD (on page xx)

1884

The day 1 January.

Madelena Maria Cassa, daughter of the legally married Giuseppe of Tommaso and Rosa Visani, born the 30th day of the past December at the hour 11 in the afternoon in Via Borgo below Number . presented today in the church was baptized by me Cassa Curato. The godmother was Bontadi Domenica of Francesco, married Rodella of this parish.

[The stamp printed at the top of the record explains, in Latin, that on the 23rd of November 1912, this same Madelena Maria Cassa entered into a "marriage contract in the town Carpinetuli." The name of the Parish was **Giovanni Battista** (John the Baptist) and the name of the town is **Carpenedolo**. The person using the stamp substituted a personal spelling of the town in the space where the parish name would ordinarily be written. This doesn't affect the information being extracted, but it does serve to remind extractors to be alert for inconsistencies in these records.]

[Notice that there is no number in the space following the letter *N* (which is an abbreviation of *numero*); for some reason the house number (address) was never recorded.]

ACTIVITY 17. RECOGNIZING ESSENTIAL INFORMATION IN A RECORD

Underline the information you should extract from this handwritten parish christening record from Carpenedolo, Italia.

1879

Il Di 5 Maggio

Pappua Pergiovanni figlio dei legittimi Coniugi Sebastian
fu Rortola Pergiovanni e Elizabetha di Battista nasce
il giorno 4 Maggio alle ore 10. pom. in Via Terre
N. 18. presentata oggi alle Chiesa fu Battezzata da
me Gaffa Curato. Il padrino fu Colombo Battista
maritata Elizabetha di questa Parrocchia.

[When you have completed this activity, compare the words you underlined with the Key on page 234.]

**ACTIVITY 18. EXTRACTING FROM HANDWRITTEN
PARISH CHRISTENING RECORDS**

Take the **Sample Records** section out of the notebook. On pages 163 and 164 you will find handwritten copies of an Italian Parish Christening Record. Extract as much of the following information as you can find from those records. (You will soon discover that many of the records will not have all of the information mentioned in this chapter.)

a. DATES

Write dates in the order day month year (example: 12 Oct 1892).

RECORD	DATE	RECORD	DATE	RECORD	DATE
2		4		6	
3		5			

b. SEX OF CHILD

In tasks b through g, extract the information called for as you did in **task a**. In most of the spaces you are asked to write out names, places, or dates, but in **task b** you can abbreviate, using "M" or "F" for "male" or "female."

RECORD	CHILD'S SEX	RECORD	CHILD'S SEX	RECORD	CHILD'S SEX
2		4		6	
3		5			

c. NAME OF CHILD

RECORD	CHILD'S NAME	RECORD	CHILD'S NAME
2		5	
3		6	
4			

d. NAMES OF CHILD'S PARENTS

RECORD	CHILD'S PARENTS	RECORD	CHILD'S PARENTS
2	Father: Mother:	5	Father: Mother:
3	Father: Mother:	6	Father: Mother:
4	Father: Mother:		

e. DATE OF CHILD'S BIRTH

RECORD	DATE	RECORD	DATE	RECORD	DATE
2		4		6	
3		5			

f. NAME OF CHILD'S GRANDPARENTS

RECORD	CHILD'S PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS	CHILD'S MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS
2	GF: GM:	
3	GF: GM:	
4	GF: GM:	
5	GF: GM:	
6	GF: GM:	

[When you have finished Activity 18, compare your answers with the Key on page 235.]

ACTIVITY 19. EXTRACTING CHRISTENING RECORDS ONTO CARDS

Part 1. Take the **Sample Records** section from the notebook. From page 163 extract appropriate information from entries 2 and 3 of the handwritten parish christening records onto the "cards" below.

Records Extraction	Birth/Christening			1 Entry Number		
2 Principal's name				3 Sex		
4 Birth date	5 Event date	6 Event age	7 Death date	8 Death age		
9 Birthplace				10		
11 Father's name						
12 Paternal grandfather's name						
13 Paternal grandmother's name						
14 Mother's name						
15 Maternal grandfather's name						
16 Maternal grandmother's name						
17 Miscellaneous	18 Out of sequence		19 D	20 Add. rel.	21 Eval	

Example on page xx

Records Extraction	Birth/Christening			1 Entry Number		
2 Principal's name				3 Sex		
4 Birth date	5 Event date	6 Event age	7 Death date	8 Death age		
9 Birthplace				10		
11 Father's name						
12 Paternal grandfather's name						
13 Paternal grandmother's name						
14 Mother's name						
15 Maternal grandfather's name						
16 Maternal grandmother's name						
17 Miscellaneous	18 Out of sequence		19 D	20 Add. rel.	21 Eval	

[When you have completed part 1, compare your answers with the Key on page 237.]

Part 2. From the records on pages 163 and 164 in the **Sample Records** section, extract entries number 4 through 6 onto extraction cards used in your stake.

*[When you have completed part 2 of this activity, compare your cards with the **Key** on page 238.]*

Part 3. This activity gives you ten new records to extract. They are very much like the ones you have already extracted, but the handwriting and organization of the different priests may vary slightly.

From the records on pages 164 and 165 in the **Sample Records** section, extract as many of the entries (numbers 7 through 16) as you find helpful onto extraction cards used in your stake.

*[When you have completed part 3 of this activity, compare your cards with the **Key** on page 238.]*