

Chapter Four

CIVIL MARRIAGE RECORDS

Marriage records are organized according to the order in which marriages were performed. Unlike christening and birth records, there can be many variables in marriage entries. Much of this information can be extracted.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM CIVIL MARRIAGE ENTRIES

- Date of marriage
- Place of marriage
- Information about groom
 - Name
 - Birth place
 - Birthdate
 - Age
 - Previous marriages
 - Name of groom's father
 - Name of groom's mother
- Information about bride
 - Name
 - Birth place
 - Birthdate
 - Age
 - Previous marriages
 - Name of bride's father
 - Name of bride's mother
- Other relatives

A sample civil marriage record appears on the following two pages. As you can see, civil marriage records contain considerably more information than do birth and christening records. Much of this information can be extracted, but you will find it necessary to sift through even more nonessential information in order to find what you need to extract. For example, you may find information about the engagement, the ceremony, postponements or cancellations, names of witnesses and unrelated participants, or even a description of the bride's dowery.

Most of the time, all the information that should be extracted will appear on the first page of the marriage record.

SAMPLE CIVIL MARRIAGE RECORD

Num. d' ordine 5

Pag. 5

L' anno milleottocento dodici a *Di quattro* del me-
 se di *Maggio* — ad ore *Dodici* nella casa
 comunale avanti di noi *Adamo Pianguillo Sindaco*
 ed ufficiale dello stato civile del comune di *Palomano*
 provincia di Abruzzo citeriore
 è comparso *Natale di Carmine di Vocco*
 d' anni *venti* di professione *Contadino*
 domiciliato *in questa Comune* figlio

*Maggiore del fu Carmine di Vocco, e di Maria Giamberar-
 dino di anni sessanta, contadina, abitante in questa co-
 mune, presente all'atto e dando il suo consenso (2)
 e comparso egualmente Giuditta Casciato di anni die-
 cinoue, contadina nativa di Pizzoferrato, abitante in
 questa Comune, figlia del fu Giacomo Andrea Casciato,
 e di Donata Maria Casciato di detta comune di Pizzoferrato,
 dando il suo consenso come risulta dalla procura
 fatta nel comune di Pizzoferrato a ventisei del caduto
 mese di Aprile, ed anno corrente, avanti del sindaco
 Sig. Nicola Pasquarelli, e del Paroco Sig. Michelangelo
 Melocchi di detta Comune di Pizzoferrato e d' in man-
 canza di Notajo, si e formato dal sindaco, e Paroco
 di detta Comune, oltre della procura da il consenso
 Agato Casciato sua già, presente all'atto, e da il suo
 consenso.*

Quali ci hanno richiesto di procedere alla celebrazione dei matrimoni trattati fra essi, di cui le pubblicazioni seguite avanti la porta della nostra casa comunale, cioè è la prima a di dodici giorno di Domenica del mese di Aprile, ad ore dodici corrente anno, e la seconda a diciannove giorno di Domenica ad ore dodici dello stesso mese del suddetto anno =

Non essendoci stato opposizione alcuna al detto matrimonio

secondando le loro domande, dopo d'aver letto tutti i documenti, ed il capitolo sesto del codice civile sotto il titolo del matrimonio, abbiamo domandato a' futuri sposi, se vogliono prendersi per marito e mogli; ciascuno di essi avendo risposto separatamente, ed affermativamente, noi dichiariamo e nome della legge, che Natale di Pocco, e

Giuditta Casciato — sono uniti in matrimonio,

Di tuttocìò ne abbiamo formato il presente atto in presenza

di Fiorindo Pizzi — d'anni trentotto
di professione Sartore domiciliato in questo comune

di Gabriele di Felice d'anni trentatre
di professione Fabricatore domiciliato in detto Comune

di Armidoro di Felice — d'anni ventuno
di professione Sartore domiciliato in detta Comune

e di Antonio di Bella — d'anni sessantacinque
di professione Calzolaio domiciliato in questa suddetta Comune

Il suddetto atto è stato letto tanto a' testimoni, che a' contraenti; s'è indi firmato da noi

+ Segno di Croce di Natale di Pocco Sprogot

+ Segno di Croce di Giuditta Casciato Sproga

Fiorindo Pizzi Testimonio presente

do Gabriele di Felice Testimonio presente

do Armidoro de Felice Testimonio Presente

do Antonio di Bella Senofestimi^o

Adamo Cianquilio Sindaco = Giovanni Spinelli Cancelliere

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE FIRST PAGE

Num. d' ordine 5

Pag. 5

L'anno milleottrecento dodici a *di quattro* del mese di *Maggio* ad ore *docici* nella case comunale avanti di noi *Adamo Giangiulio Sindaco* ed ufficiale dello stato civile del comune di Polomano provincia di Abruzzo citeriore è compariso *Natale di Carmine di Rocco* d'anni *venti* di professione *Contadino* domiciliato figlio

Maggiore del fu Carmine di Vocco, e di Maria Giamberadino di anni Sessanta, contadina abitante in questa Comune, presente all'atto, e dando il suo consenso
(2) *e comparaso egualmente Giuditta Casciato di anni diecinova, contadina nativa di Pizzoferrato, abitante in questa Comune, figlia del fù Giacomo Andrea Casciato, e di Donata Maria Casciato di detta Comune di Pizzoferrato, dando il suo consenso come risulta dalla procura fatta nel Comune di Pizzoferrato a ventisei del caduto mese di Aprile, ed anno corrente, avanti del Sindaco Sige. Nicola Pasquarelli, e del Parroco Sige. Miccelangelo Melocchia di detta Come di Pizzoferrato, ed in mancanza di Notato, si è formato dal Sindaco, e Parroco di detta Come, oltre della provisa da il consenso Agato Casciato Sua zia, presenta all'atto, e da il Suo Consenso*

TRANSLATION OF FIRST PAGE

Number Order 5

Page 5

The year one thousand eight hundred twelve on *day four* of the month of *May* at the hour *twelve* in the town hall before us *Adamo Giangiulio Mayor* and official of the civil state of the town of *Palomano* province of *Abruzzo* on the other side appeared *Natale di Carmine di Rocco* of years *twenty* of profession *farmer* residing *in this above said town* son

Elder of the deceased Carmine di Rocco and of Maria Giambernadino of years sixty, farmer residing in this town present at the act, and giving her consent
 (2) *and appeared likewise Giuditta Casciato of years nineteen, farmer native of Pizzoferrato, resident of this town, daughter of the deceased Giacomo Andrea Casciato, and of Donata Maria Casciato of said town of Pizzoferrato, giving her consent as a result of the proxy made in the town of Pizzoferrato on the twentysixth of the past month of April, and current year, before the Mayor Mr. Nichola Pasquarelli, and by the parish priest Mr. Miccelangelo Melocchi of said town of Pizzo ferrato, and in absence of a notary, it was made by the Mayor, and the parish priest of said town, another of the proviso to give consent Agato Casciato her aunt, present at the act, and giving her consent*

ACTIVITY 20. EXTRACTING MARRIAGE INFORMATION ONTO A CARD

Extract the information from the translation above onto the following marriage record extraction "card."

Records Extraction		Marriage		1 Entry Number	
22 Marriage date	23 Marriage place				
24 Groom's name					25
26 Groom's birthplace	27 Groom's birth date		28 Age	29 Prev.md	
30 Groom's father's name					
31 Groom's mother's name					
32 Bride's name					33
34 Bride's birthplace	35 Bride's birth date		36 Age	37 Prev.md	
38 Bride's father's name					
39 Bride's mother's name					
17 Miscellaneous	18 Out of sequence		19 D	20 Add. rel.	21 Eval

[When you have completed this task, compare your card with the Key on page 239.]

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE SECOND PAGE

Quali ci hanno richiesto di procedere alla celebrazione del matrimonio trattato fra essi, di cui le pubblicazioni seguit avanti la porta della nostra casa comunale, *cio è la prima a di dodeci, giorno di domenica del mese di aprile, ad ore dodeci corrente anno, e la seconda a diecinove giorno di domenica ad ore dodeci dello stesso mese del sudetto anno=*

Non essendoci stato opposizione alcune al detto matrimonio secondando le loro domande, dopo d'aver

letto tutti i documenti, ed il capitolo sesto del codice civile sotto il titolo del matrimonio, abbiamo domandato a' futuri sposi, se vogliono prendersi per marito e moglie; ciascuno di essi avvena nome della legge, che *Natale di Rocco, e*

Giuditta Casciato -----sono uniti in matrimonio.

Di tuttocio ne abbiamo formato il presente atto in presenza
di *Fiorinto Pizzi* ----- di anni *trentotto*
di professione *Sartore* domiciliato *in questo Comune*
di *Gariele di Felice* di anni *trentatrè*
di professione *Fabricatore* domiciliato *in detto Comune*
di *Armindoro di Felice* di anni *ventuno*
di professione *Sartore* domiciliato *in detta Comune*
e di *Antonio di Bello* di anni *Sessantacinque*
di professione *Calzolaio* domiciliato *in questa Sudetta Comune*

Il suddetto atto è stato letto tanto a' testimoni, che a' contraenti; s'è indi firmato dai noi

+Segno di Croce di Natale di Rocca Sposat
Segno di Crose di Giuditta Casciato Sposa
Florindo Pizzi Testimonio presente
Io Gabriele di Felici Testimonio presente
Io Armidoro di Felici Testimonio presente
Io Antonio di Bello sono testimonio
Adamo Giangiulio Sindaco = Giovanni Spinelli Cancelliere

[In the example above, the a' is an abbreviation for ai, meaning to the or to them.]

TRANSLATION OF THE SECOND PAGE

Whom they had requested to proceed with the celebration of marriage contracted between them, of whom the following publications before the door of the town hall, *that was the first on day twelve, day of Sunday of the month of April, at hour twelve current year, and the second at nineteen day of Sunday at hour twelve of the same month of the above said year=*

Not being opposition whatever to said marriage

seconding their request, after having read all the documents, and the chapter seven of the civil code about the title of marriage, we have required the future couple if they desire to take each other as husband and wife; each one of them having replied separately, and affirmatively, we declare in the name of the law, that *Natale di Rocco, e Giuditta Casciato* ---- are united in marriage.

From all of the above we have made the present act in the presence of *Florintino Pizzi*---- of years *thirty eight* of profession *Tailor* residing *in this town* of *Gabriele di Felice* of years *thirty three* of profession *Fabricator* residing *in said town* of *Armindoro di Felice* of years *twenty one* of profession *Tailor* residing *in said town* of *Antonio di Bello* of years *sixty five* of profession *Shoemaker* residing *in this above said town*

The above said act was read as much to the witnesses, as it was to the contractuals; and was afterwards signed by us

+Sign of the Cross of Natale di Rocca Husband

+Sign of the Cross of Giuditta Casciato Wife

I Florindo Pizzi Witness present

I Gabriele di Felici Witness present

I Armidoro di Felici Witness present

I Antonio di Bello am witness

Adamo Giangiulio Mayoro = Giovanni Spinelli Chancellor

[Although you will not usually use page two for extracting, it is helpful for comparing the spelling names of the husband and wife—and sometimes witnesses who are family members—with the spelling on the first page. Other information, such as verification of the completed marriage, can also be useful.]

ORGANIZATION OF CIVIL MARRIAGE RECORDS

Because civil marriage records are preprinted, much of the information you will be seeking will be in the same part of each record. Still, a large part of the record is written by hand. Because most of the data you are seeking appears in approximately the same place each time, you will soon be able to extract these records with confidence.

Remove the civil marriage record from pages 56 and 57 and compare it with the parts being discussed on the following pages.

DOCUMENT AND PAGE NUMBERS.

Num. d'ordine 5

Pag. 5

Pages and documents are numbered in civil registers, but these numbers are not extracted. You will find them useful, however, to help you keep track of which pages have been extracted or skipped. Both sides of pages are considered to be one page. For that reason, pages are numbered on only one side and a two-sided document is considered to be a single page. Because the example above is the "front side" of the page, it is the only place where the page number and document number of the marriage record will appear.

Because birth registrations, marriages, and deaths will be included in the same record book for each year, page numbers for particular types of records on the film may not be in sequence. As an extractor, therefore, you can't count on page numbers entirely to help you locate the position of pages in a film.

Key Words

Num. di'ordine (numero di'ordine) number of order

Pag. (pagina) page

DATES

L' anno milleottocento dodici a *Di quattro* del me-
se di *Maggio* —

Most entries begin with the date of the event. If you cannot determine the day, record only the month and year; but do not record the day without the month. (You may be able to determine the month from a previous entry.)

ad ore *dodici*

You will not extract "clock times," but you need to be able to distinguish them from dates so that there is no confusion.

Key Words

L'anno the year
mese month
ore hour

More information concerning the use of Italian numbers and terms for dates and time are presented on pages 14 through 16 in chapter 2 and on pages 14 through 19 in the Numbers and Times section.

OFFICIATING AGENT

comunale avanti di noi *Adamo Giangiulio Sindaco* nella casa
ed ufficiale

For a marriage to be recognized by the civil state or parish, it must be performed by a person authorized to do so. In this example the officiating agent is *Adamo Giangiulio* who is the *Sindaco* (mayor) and, therefore, *ufficiale dello stato civile* (official of the civil state). This officiator's name is not extracted, but you need to be able to identify him so that you don't confuse him with the groom.

PLACE OF THE MARRIAGE

dello stato civile del comune di *Palomano*
provincia di Abruzzo citeriore

The *comune di* (town of) *Palomano* is located in the *provincia di* (province of) *Abruzzo*.

NAME OF THE GROOM

è comparso *Natale di Carmine di Rocco*

The name of the groom follows the introductory statement *è comparso* (appeared). Sometimes the name of the bride or groom will contain the name of the father. *Natale di Carmine di Rocco* literally means "Natale the son of Carmine of Rocco." You would extract it as Natale/di Rocco.

AGE OF THE GROOM

d'anni *venti*

The groom's age usually follows directly after his name and is introduced by *d'anni* (of years or—as we state it in English—"age").

NAME OF GROOM'S FATHER

Maggiore del fu Carmine di Rocco

figlio

Following the printed word *figlio* (son) will be the name of the father. This is often prefaced by such terms as *maggiore del* (eldest of) or *minore del* (youngest of); sometimes the term *fu* (the deceased) is also added. You would extract father's name thus: Carmine/di Rocco. You will not extract his age, even though it may be given.

There may also appear a statement concerning a deceased wife. Watch for phrases such as *vedovo* (widower) or *di morte* (the death) to help you recognize when a reference is to a deceased wife rather than a parent.

NAME OF GROOM'S MOTHER

Dino

e di Maria Giamberar

The name of the groom's mother will usually follow rather closely after the name of the groom's father. It will typically be introduced by *e di* (and of). You will not extract her age, even though it may be given.

NAME OF BRIDE

Giuditta Casciato

Quite often, just before the name of the bride, you will see a (2), meaning "the second part." The name may also be introduced by a phrase like *è comparso egualmente* (and appeared likewise). Sometimes a large *E* or *e* will be used instead of the traditional *è* to begin the phrase. Occasionally you will encounter phrases like *d'altra parte* (the other part or from the other side) or *de seconda parte* (the second part) or simply *con* (with).

AGE OF BRIDE

Cinque di anni Die

After the bride's name, the phrase *di anni* will usually be used to introduce the bride's age. This may be accompanied by a term like *concaio* (potter) to describe her *professione*. Because the exact sequence of each statement was not stipulated, officials sometimes scrambled dates in ways that may not seem logical to you, such as in this example: the name of the bride's father was inserted ahead of the statement about the bride's age.

NAME OF BRIDE'S FATHER

figlia del fu Giacomo Andrea Casciato

Typically the name of the bride's father will follow a statement of the bride's age. There are occasions, however, when the mother's name will be listed first. After a word like *figlia* (daughter) you might have a term like *madre* (mother) or *padre* (father) accompanying the name of the parent.

There may also appear a statement concerning a deceased husband. Watch for phrases such as *vedova* (widow) or *di morte* (the death) to help you recognize when a statement refers to a deceased husband rather than to a parent.

NAME OF BRIDE'S MOTHER

e di Donata Maria Casciato

After the name, profession, and age of the bride's father, watch for the small phrase *e di* (and of) to introduce the name of the mother.

ACTIVITY 21. EXTRACTING FROM CIVIL MARRIAGE RECORDS

Take the **Sample Records** section out of the notebook. On pages 166 through 175 you will find copies of marriage records from an Italian civil register. Extract as much of the following information as you can find from the first five records.

a. DATES

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

PAGE	DATE	PAGE	DATE	PAGE	DATE
166		170		174	
168		172			

b. NAME OF GROOM

PAGE	GROOM'S NAME	PAGE	GROOM'S NAME
166		172	
168		174	
170			

c. AGE OF GROOM

PAGE	AGE	PAGE	AGE	PAGE	AGE
166		170		174	
168		172			

d. NAMES OF GROOM'S PARENTS

PAGE	GROOM'S PARENTS	PAGE	GROOM'S PARENTS
166	FATHER: MOTHER:	172	FATHER: MOTHER:
168	FATHER: MOTHER:	174	FATHER: MOTHER:
170	FATHER: MOTHER:		

e. NAME OF BRIDE

PAGE	BRIDE'S NAME	PAGE	BRIDE'S NAME
166		172	
168		174	
170			

f. AGE OF BRIDE

PAGE	AGE	PAGE	AGE	PAGE	AGE
166		170		174	
168		172			

g. NAMES OF BRIDE'S PARENTS

PAGE	BRIDE'S PARENTS	PAGE	BRIDE'S PARENTS
166	Father: Mother:	172	Father: Mother:
168	Father: Mother:	174	Father: Mother:
170	Father: Mother:		

[When you have completed activity 23, compare your answers with the Key on page 233.]

ACTIVITY 24. EXTRACTING CIVIL MARRIAGE RECORDS ONTO CARDS

Part 1. Take the **Sample Records** section from the notebook. On pages 166 through 169 you will find copies of Italian civil marriage records. Extract the family history data from the first two records onto the "cards" below.

Please extract all that you can without looking at the key. Then compare your answers with the **Key** on page 235 and go on to part 2.

Records Extraction	Marriage	1 Entry Number		
22 Marriage date	23 Marriage place			
24 Groom's name				25
26 Groom's birthplace	27 Groom's birth date		28 Age	29 Prev.md
30 Groom's father's name				
31 Groom's mother's name				
32 Bride's name				33
34 Bride's birthplace	35 Bride's birth date		36 Age	37 Prev.md
38 Bride's father's name				
39 Bride's mother's name				
17 Miscellaneous	18 Out of sequence	19 D	20 Add. rel.	21 Eval

Example on page xx

Records Extraction	Marriage	1 Entry Number		
22 Marriage date	23 Marriage place			
24 Groom's name				25
26 Groom's birthplace	27 Groom's birth date		28 Age	29 Prev.md
30 Groom's father's name				
31 Groom's mother's name				
32 Bride's name				33
34 Bride's birthplace	35 Bride's birth date		36 Age	37 Prev.md
38 Bride's father's name				
39 Bride's mother's name				
17 Miscellaneous	18 Out of sequence	19 D	20 Add. rel.	21 Eval

Part 2. From the records on pages 170 through 175 in the **Sample Records** section, extract the next three entries onto the cards used in your stake.

[When you have completed part 2 of this activity, compare your cards with Key on page 236.]

Part 3. This part of the activity gives you *new* records to extract. From the records on pages 176 through 195 in the **Sample Records** section, extract entries onto extraction cards used in your stake.

Please do this without looking at the key. When you feel that you have had enough practice, check your work against the **Key** and turn to page 70 in the manual.

[The Key for part 3 of this activity is on page 236.]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PARISH MARRIAGE RECORDS

MARGINAL NOTATIONS

Civil registers rarely contain marginal notations, but when they do you should be particularly watchful for words which may indicate that the marriage never took place. A marginal note may annul, cancel, invalidate, or postpone the marriage.

Keywords which invalidate a marriage:

<i>annullare</i>	to annul
<i>annullato</i>	annuled
<i>cancellato</i>	cancelled
<i>non è valido</i>	is not valid
<i>revocato</i>	revoked

MARRIAGE DATES

Establishing the correct date. Although the opening phrase includes the date of marriage in most *civil* records, this is not always the case with *parish* records. Whenever the dates of both the civil ceremony and the ecclesiastical ceremony are listed, extract the civil marriage date.

Postponed or impeded marriages. Recording marriage information became more complicated when a couple came to be married but had the marriage postponed due to sickness, military commitment, change of heart, or even because the bride and groom were first cousins. In such cases the actual marriage date may be found in the handwritten documentation added to the register at the end of the year. Some civil registers at the end of the year included a special section called *Matrimoni Diversi* to explain unusual marriage situations. Such impeded marriage explanations continue over several pages. In such instances you may have to work through the entire entry to arrive at the actual marriage or the phrase that specifically prohibits the marriage.

Marriage announcement. Italian law required a publication of intentions prior to a civil marriage ceremony. The date of this announcement was usually recorded on the second page of the record. In the second line of the example on page 57 you will find the term *pubblicazioni*. This key word informs you that the following dates are for the "publications" and not for the actual marriage. The next few lines stipulate that the publication dates will be the 12th of April, a Sunday at noon of the current year, and the 19th, also a Sunday. These publications informed the populace of the impending marriage and allowed individuals time to notify authorities when there were reasons to nullify or prohibit the marriage.