

Marriage Record or Certificato di matrimonio

In the Town Hall

The Marriage certificate has a very similar format to the birth certificate. Again the *estratto dell'atto di matrimonio* contains more precious genealogical information than the certificate itself; for instance the name of the parents of both the bride and the groom are listed.

Here is the information that you will find:

- The name of the Comune and of the Province
- Date of marriage
- Groom's information (marriage status, date of birth/age, place of birth, profession, current place of residence)
- Bride's information (marriage status, date of birth/age, place of birth, profession, current place of residence)
- (Names of the parents of the groom and the bride)

The brackets identify the information that can be additionally found in the extract of a marriage act.

As for birth and death records, also marriage records are made in double copy: one copy remains at the Comune, or *Ufficio di Stato Civile*, and one is sent to the "*Procura della Repubblica*" (Country Court at province level). There is deposited in the chancellery of the competent court of the province, which is NOT open for public consultation. From that point on, the records are separately maintained.

In the State Archive (Napoleonic Records)

The State Archive holds two separate volumes for marriage records:

1. The marriage act (*Atto di matrimonio*)
2. The notifications or banns (*pubblicazioni*), which include all the documents that the bride and the groom had to present. The two could only get married if they presented their birth acts and before 1870 they also had to obtain the consent of both fathers.

The first marriage document examined is the promise of marriage (*atto di solenne promessa di celebrare il matrimonio*), which provides rich information on both the couple and their parents. The couple had also to present at least two witnesses each. Two copies of the promise of marriage were sent out to the priest who in turn would return one copy with a side notation stating that the actual marriage had taken place in the parish church.

Usually the banns or pubblicazioni were out for at least two weeks before the celebration of the wedding. They also provide interesting genealogical information, full name of the couple, age, domicile, profession, and parent's names.

Finally, the marriage act, which repeats more or less the same information of the preceding acts, does contain some additional personal data, such as the civil status of the couple.

Also Napoleonic records were made in two copies, one that today is kept in the State Archive and another for the pretura della Repubblica, which is not available for consultation.

Most of these records have been microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church), and these reproductions are available to at the church's family history centers (FHC) throughout the United States and Canada.

In the Parish Church

Based on the genealogical information recorded in parish records, we can separate the marriage data into three different historical periods:

First period: From the second half of the 1500s (when the Council of Trent made the transcription of these records compulsory to every parish) to the first half of the 1800s. Unfortunately the older the act, the less information is included. The data related to the historical period until the late 1700s are usually transcribed in Latin carrying also some paleographic abbreviations. Obviously there are exceptions; in some parishes already in the late 1500s, one parish priest could already use the Italian language in writing the records and maybe his follower would go back to Latin.

The content was organized in the following way:

- In the left upper margin, the number of the marriages in the year in progressive order
- Full names of the bride and the groom
- Date of marriage
- Indication of the banns' dates (pubblicazioni)
- Full name of the groom
- First name of the bride (few times her last name is mentioned)
- It is rare to find the full name of the bride's father

Second period: from the end of the 1700s to the first half of the 1900s. You will find records written in Italian and the content is organized as follows:

- In the left upper margin, the number of the marriages in the year in progressive order
- Full names of the bride and the groom
- Date and time of the wedding
- Indication that the banns or publications have taken place
- Full name, age and parish of residence of the groom
- Name of the groom's father and his domicile
- Name of the groom's mother
- Full name, age and parish of residence of the bride
- Full Name of the bride's father
- Full Name of the bride's mother

- Full Names of the witnesses, full name of their fathers, and their parish of residence
- Name of the parish priest

Third period: From the first half of the 1900s to the present time. Birth acts are written in Italian and present the following information:

- In the left upper margin, the number of the marriages in the year in progressive order with the indication of the date when the act has been transcribed in the Civil Vital Records of the Comune of residence and its progressive order
- Full names of the bride and the groom
- Date and time of the wedding
- Name of the parish priest celebrating the wedding
- Full name, age, birth place, profession, and domicile of the groom
- Name of the groom's father and name of the groom's grandfather and the groom's father domicile
- Name of the groom's mother and name of the groom's maternal grandfather and domicile of the groom's mother
- Indication if the groom's father is a widower
- Full name, age, place of birth, profession, and domicile of the bride
- Full Name of the bride's father and full name of the bride's paternal grandfather and her father's domicile
- Full Name of the bride's mother and full name of the bride's maternal grandfather and her mother's domicile
- Indication if the bride's mother is a widow
- Full Names of the witnesses, full name of their fathers, their age and their domicile
- Indication that the banns or publications have taken place