April 21, 2021

**Information for all Parish Records**

1. Please read the “**INTRODUCTION**” before viewing the Index to the Parish records. It contains valuable information to simplify your search of the Latin birth, marriage and death records.
2. If you require assistance to understand the actual Parish Latin birth, marriage or death images, please go to “**ASSISTANCE WITH READING LATIN BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH RECORDS**.”

1. Additional information about the formation of any parish is included in “**MORE USEFUL INFORMATION**.”

**INTRODUCTION**

Format of the “Parish Index’s”  
  
a) The "Index" is comprised of three separate worksheets.  
  
b) Each worksheet represents an event:  Birth, Marriage, or Death.  
  
c) Each event, i.e., birth, marriage, or death is then recorded by the year that the event

took place.  
  
d) Following each year, the “Individual Surnames" are alphabetized with the “Given

Names” noted in the column to the right of the surname.

e) To view the image containing the information on the individual being researched –

click on the Image Number (e.g., 1838B\_09 - in the column to the left of each entry).

This is the link that will take you to the particular page of interest.

f) You will be directed to the page in the registry where the individual’s surname, given

name, date of event and other pertinent information are recorded.

Extracting versus Translating

The attempt is to present information in the “Index” exactly as it is on the recorded event.  Information is “extracted” rather than “translated.” This may provide challenges for the researcher.

Extracting Spellings

In some cases if a surname was “misspelled” by the priest/scribe logging it down, the correct spelling is added in brackets, e.g., The surname on the record was “Gedde” but the accurate spelling was “Gette,” it was noted as Gedde [Gette].

Extracting Unreadable/Unable to Understand Texts

If information was unreadable or not understandable, it was noted with a "?" after the entry, e.g., gledden? or 05? (for a date)

Extracting Special Characters and Abbreviations

“Special German characters” are either extracted “as is” or altered.

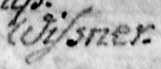
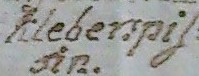
ä (umlaut -a) e.g., Mäßler, Schäfer, Rollhäuserin

ö (umlaut-o) e.g., Köhler, Römisch, Rötarmel, Göbel

ü (umlaut-u) e.g, Güttlein, Münnich, Müllerin

The above special German sounds are extracted exactly as shown.

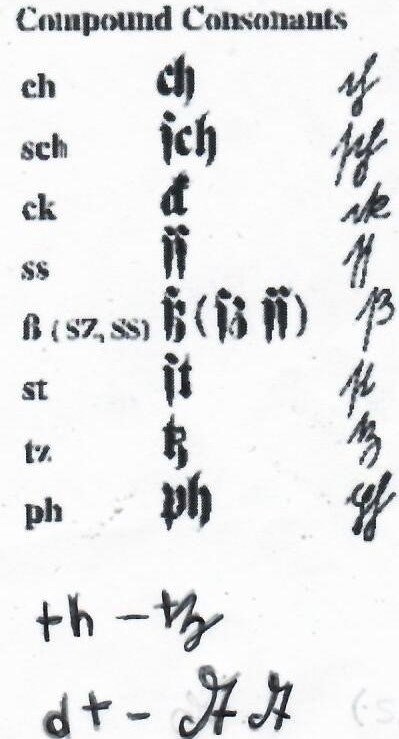
The alternate form of lower-case “s” is an “f-like symbol.” It is extracted as “s.”

e.g., Wissner Wißner e.g., Kleberspissin Kleberspißen

Eszet   - **ß** - In German, the ß character is called eszet. It's used in “Straße,” the word for street. It's often translated as “ss.” It is extracted as “ss.”

There are other letter combinations: ch, sch, ck, and tz, ph, th and dt, as illustrated below that are extracted as shown in the first column on the left, whenever possible.

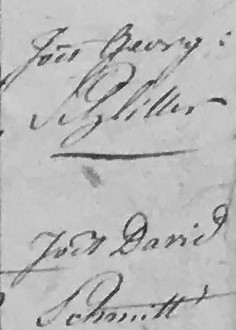
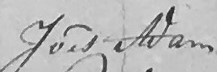


Overline   -   In German an “overline” (a line over the letter) is occasionally used to indicate a pair of letters which cannot both be fitted into the available space.

The “overline” character below is extracted as a double letter. In this example, mm.”

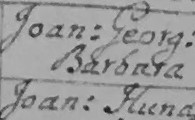
 

**Tilde** ( ~)   was originally written over an omitted letter or several letters as an abbreviation by scribes. It was a contraction mark (e.g., don’t, I’ll). The “tilde” mark could denote the omission of one letter or several letters.

In this case, the“tilde” character is disregarded. The extraction for the above is “Joes.”

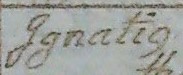
A colon was also written to save labour, ink, space and vellum after a name, date, etc.

e.g. Joan: = Joannes

The colon above is extracted as Joann**:** (a bold colon)

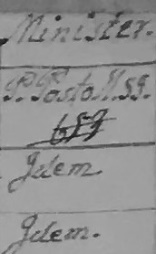
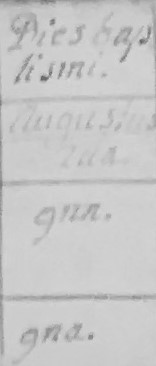


*g* was used as a shortened form of “ous” “us”  “ius.”

e.g.,  

The g-like character is extracted as “*g*” (a small “italicized” g that represents the numerous endings shown above.

“Gna” or “Idem” was used to denote “ditto” for names and numbers.

The actual name or number was extracted – not the “ditto.”

At the end of some women’s surnames an “in” denotes that the person was a female.  

The “in” ending above is extracted as it is shown.

Surname Spellings - Explanations  
  
Many given and surnames were misspelled by the priests/scribes. These were legal records of birth, marriage and death so they are presented as they were recorded, e.g.,

Vilhelmi Gitlein remains misspelled in the Kamenka Parish Index (rather than correcting it to Wilhelm Guettlein).

As well, over the years, many surnames changed, for numerous reasons, which will be noted below, e.g., the surname is Mahler. On his "Passport" into the USA, it is spelled Mehler and in the "Russian part" of the passport it is Meler. On some of the census (in Russian), it is spelled Meler, or Mehler (census taken by a Russian in Russian and translated to English years later). On the "Original Settlers List, " i.e, the 1767 Census, it is spelled Miller (taken by a Russian in Russia and translated to English). In the German Archives in Germany, the family surname is “Miller.” So, Mahler Mehler, Meler or Miller are all versions of the original German name of Miller.

Most of the Volga Germans were illiterate and their names were spelled out by passport agents, and Russian census takers. As well, initially, German priests (i.e., Jesuits) recorded the births, marriages and deaths in Latin but later Polish priests (who did not speak German) were brought into the Volga area and recorded the German names in Latin. Scribes also made copies of the parish records. The above are only some of the reasons for the many spellings of not only the colonists’ surnames, but also their given names and even spelling errors when naming the villages.

It is of the utmost importance that a researcher has an “open mind” when looking through the Index for family surnames. A slight to major misspelling is not uncommon and is expected. In fact, many given and surnames are spelled phonetically.

In summary, the entries in the Parish Index are not “translated.” The entries are "extracted." The consideration, analysis, and final assessment of the validity of surnames offered is left to the researcher.

Given Name Spellings

Below are a sample of Latin names found in the Kamenka Parish records (example) that do not closely resemble their English equivalents.

Latin English

Aloysius Aloys

Andreas Andrew or Andre

Anna Ann, Anne or Hannah

Carolus Charles, Carl

Conrad Conradus, Kurt

Constantia Constance

Christophorus Christopher

Cunegundis Cunegunda

Gasparus Jasper, Casper

Godefridus Gottfried

Gulielmus,Guglielmus William, Wilhelm

Johanna, Joanna Joan, Jane, Janet

Joannes, Johannes John, Jack, Hans

Hieronymus Jerome

Jacoba Jacqueline, Jackie

Jacobus Jacob, James, Jack

Margarita Margaret

Philippus Philip, Phillip

Rubina Ruby

Theodoricus Derek, Dietrich

Valentinus Valentine

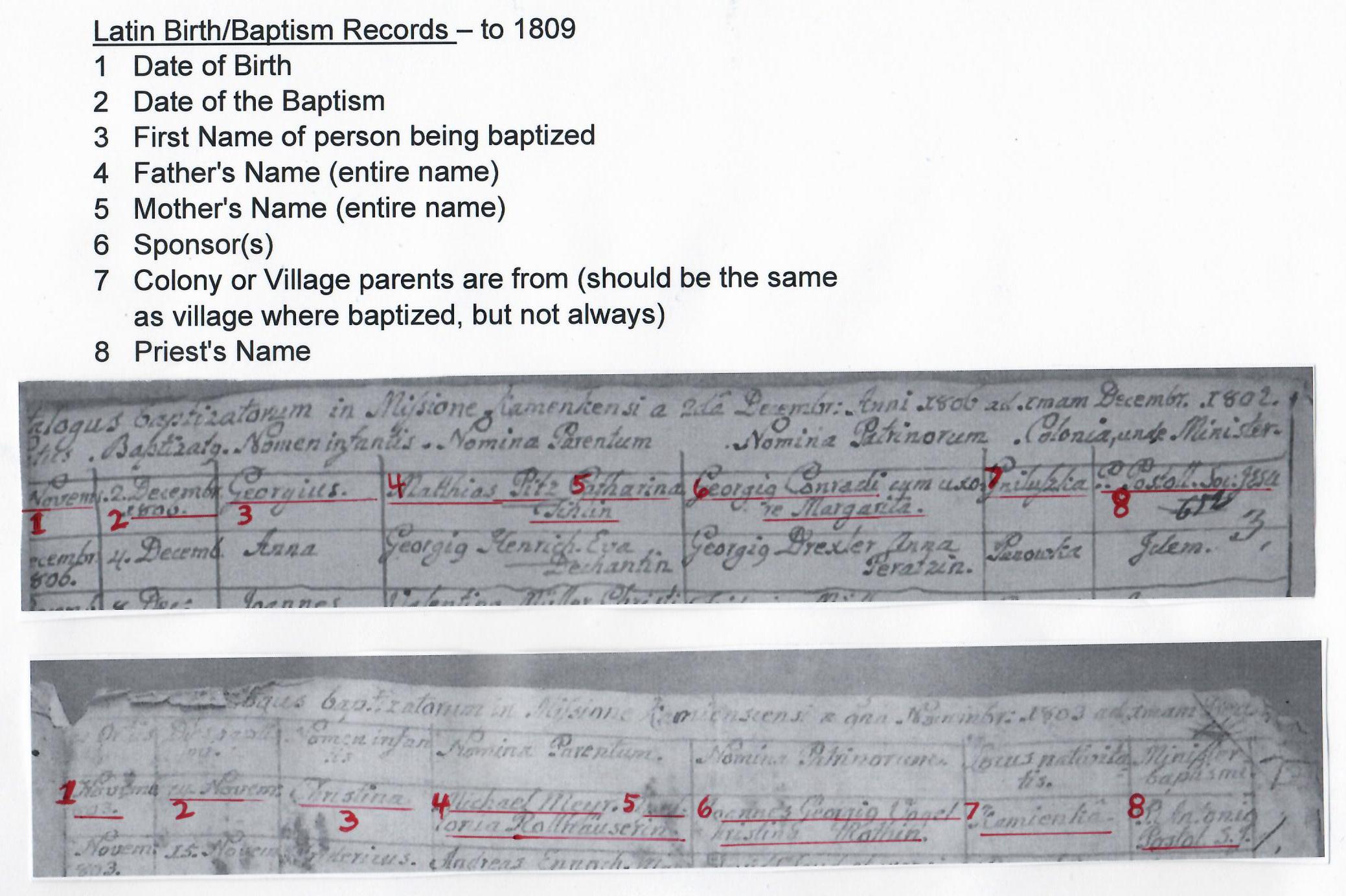
Willelmus, Uilemus William, Wilhelm

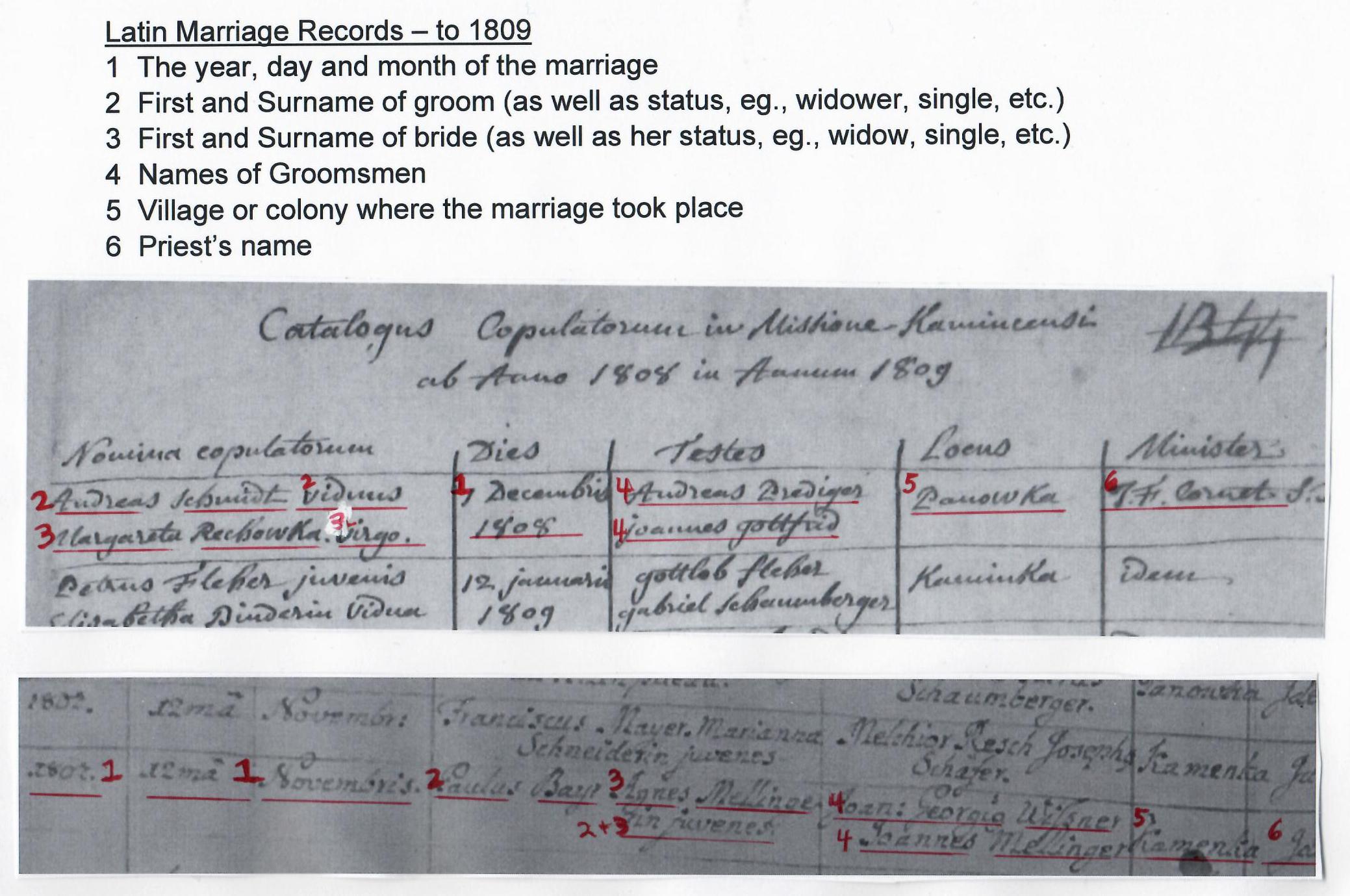
**ASSISTANCE WITH READING LATIN BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH RECORDS**

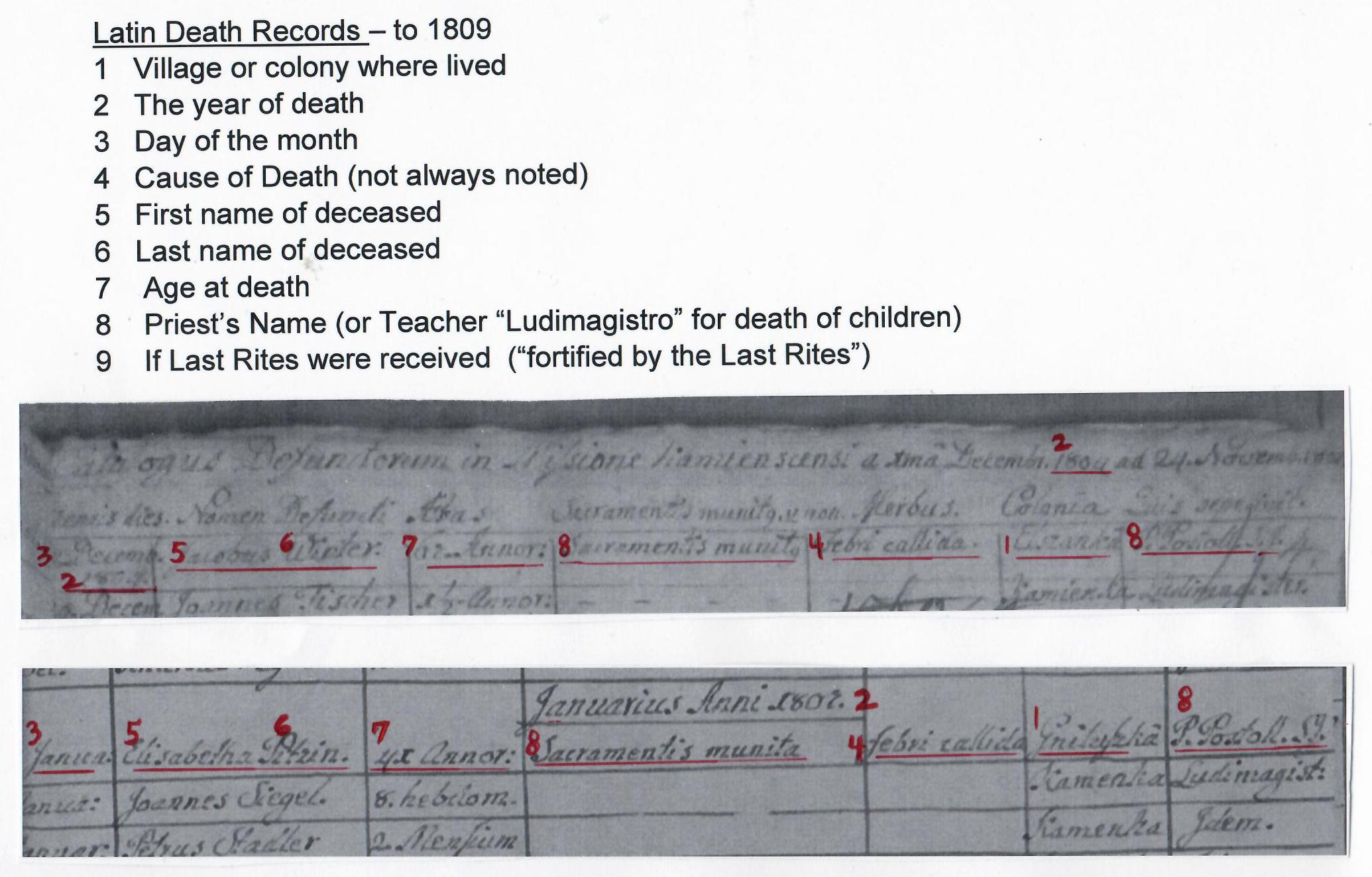
The format of “most parish Register changed in the years 1810 and 1835.

The following are samples – Up to 1809, 1810 to 1834, and 1835 and on, to simplify reading these records.

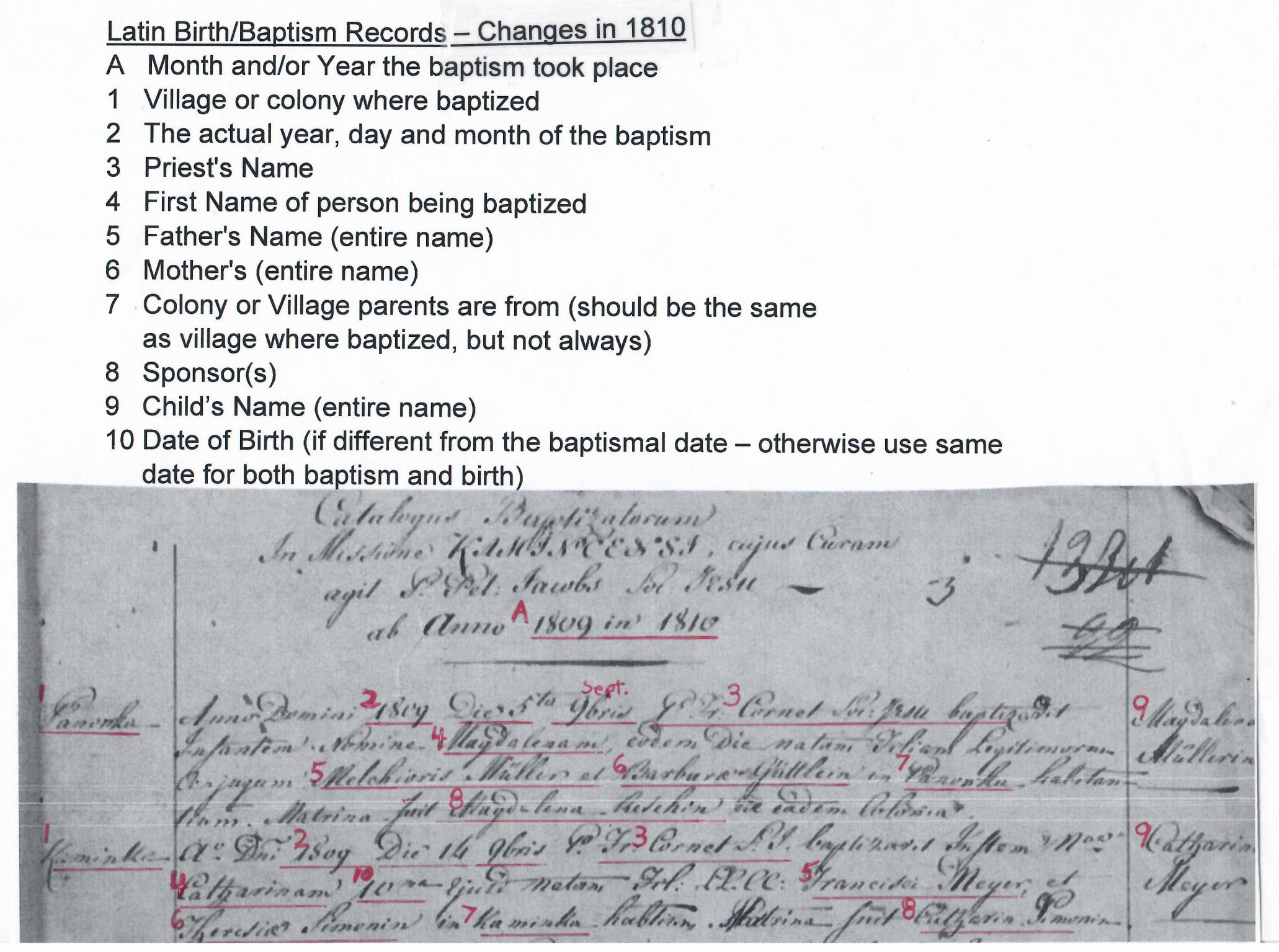
**Up to 1809 – Birth/Baptism, Marriage and Death Records**

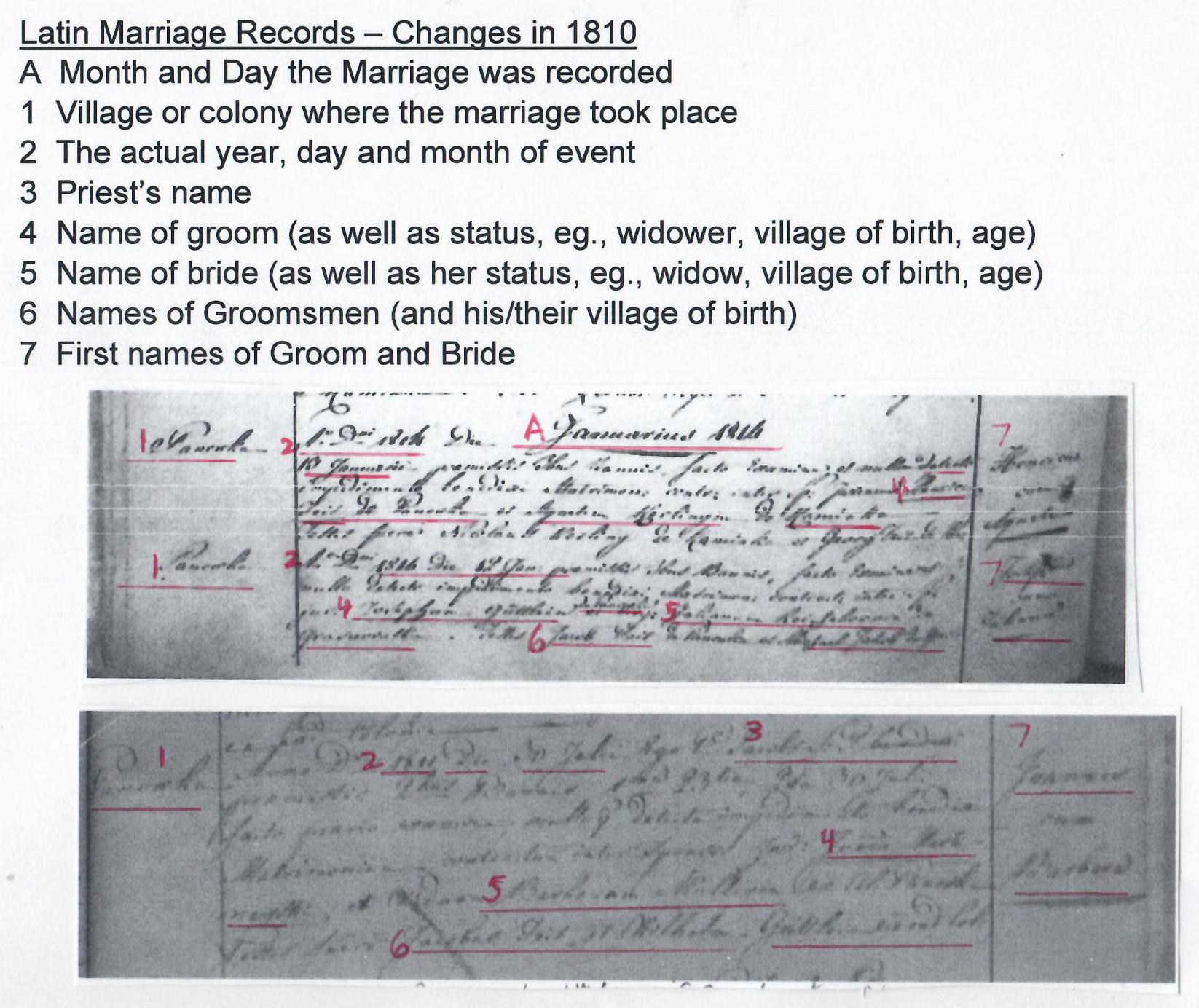


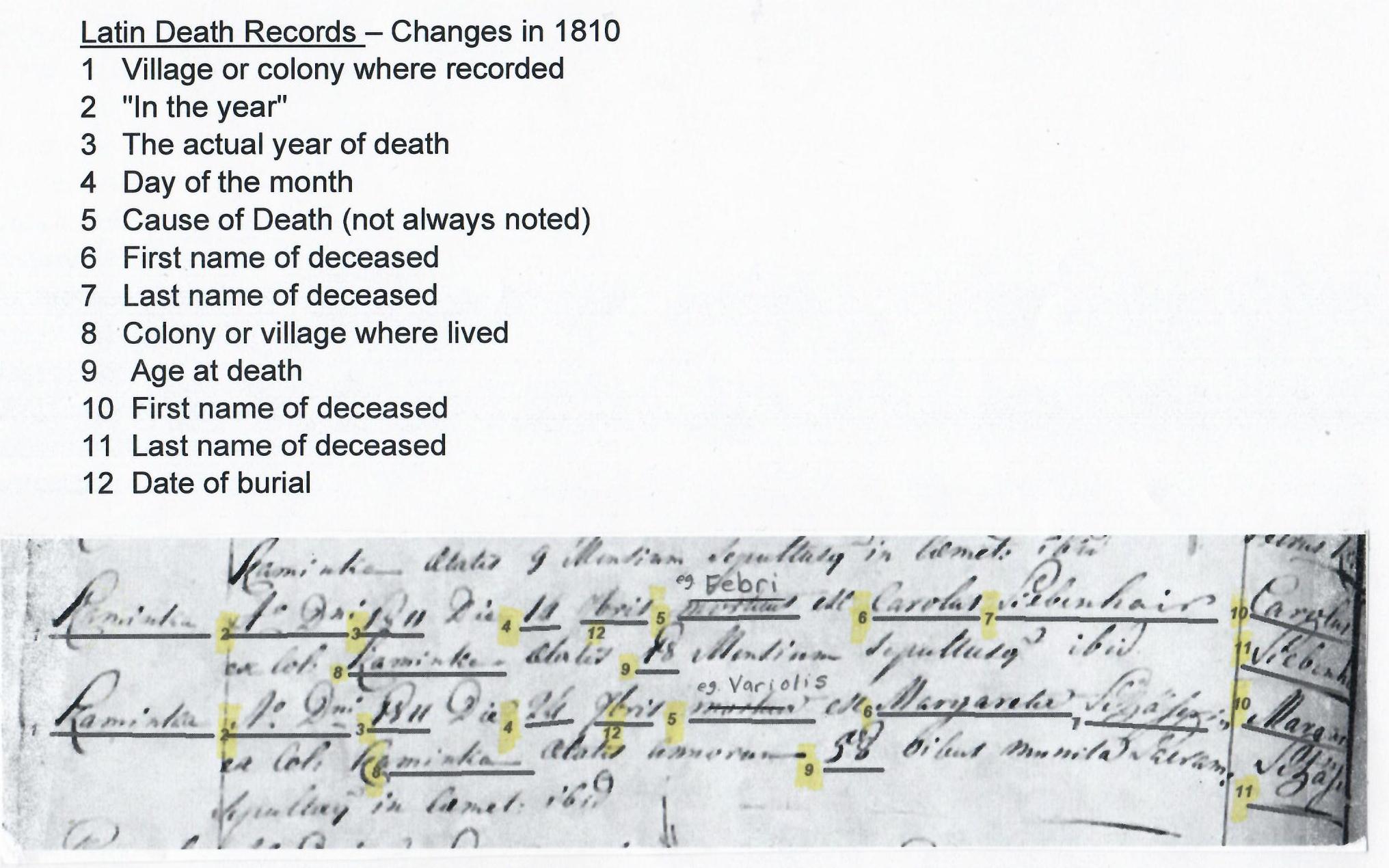




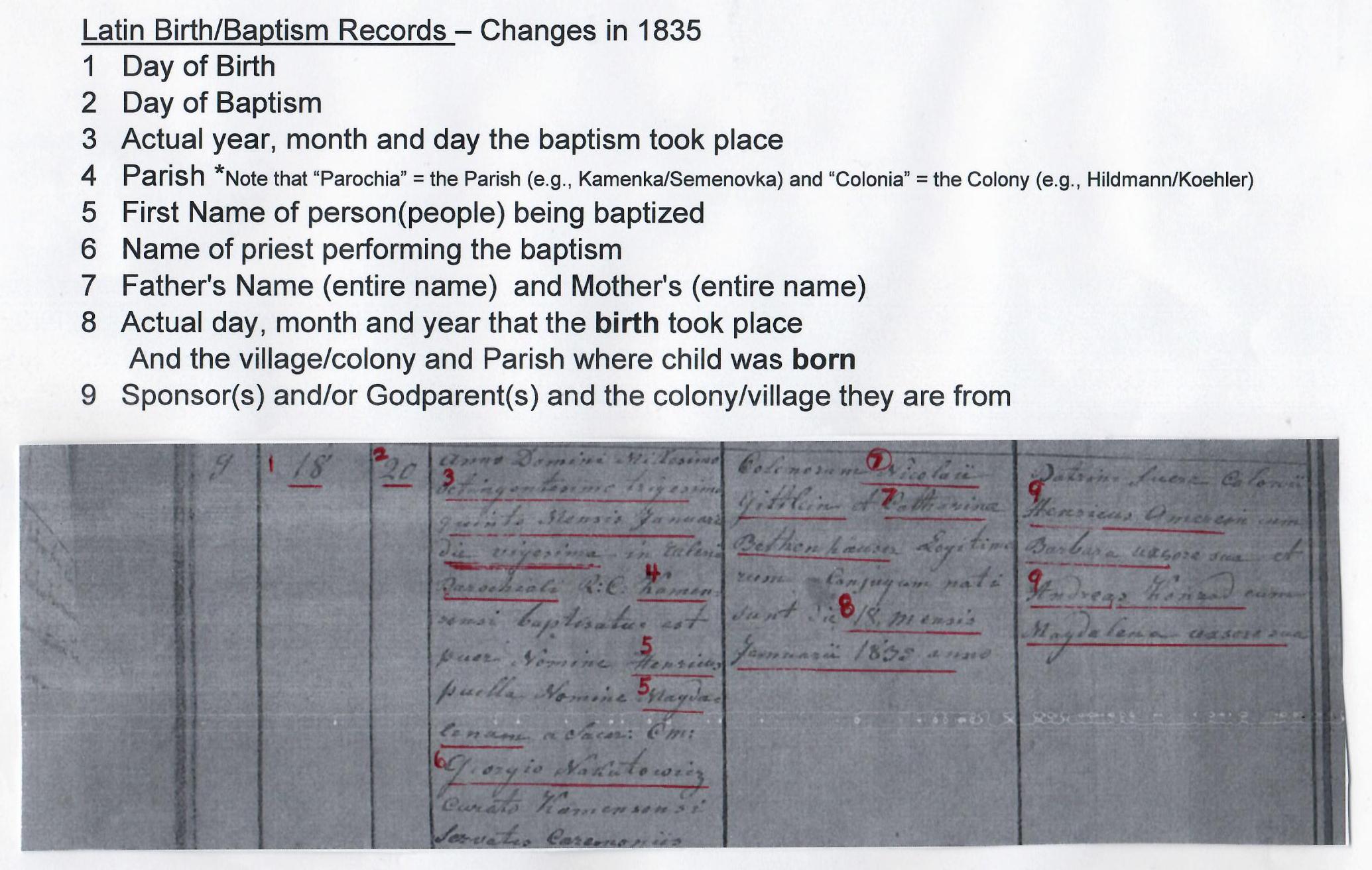
**1810 to 1835 – Birth/Baptism, Marriage and Death Records**

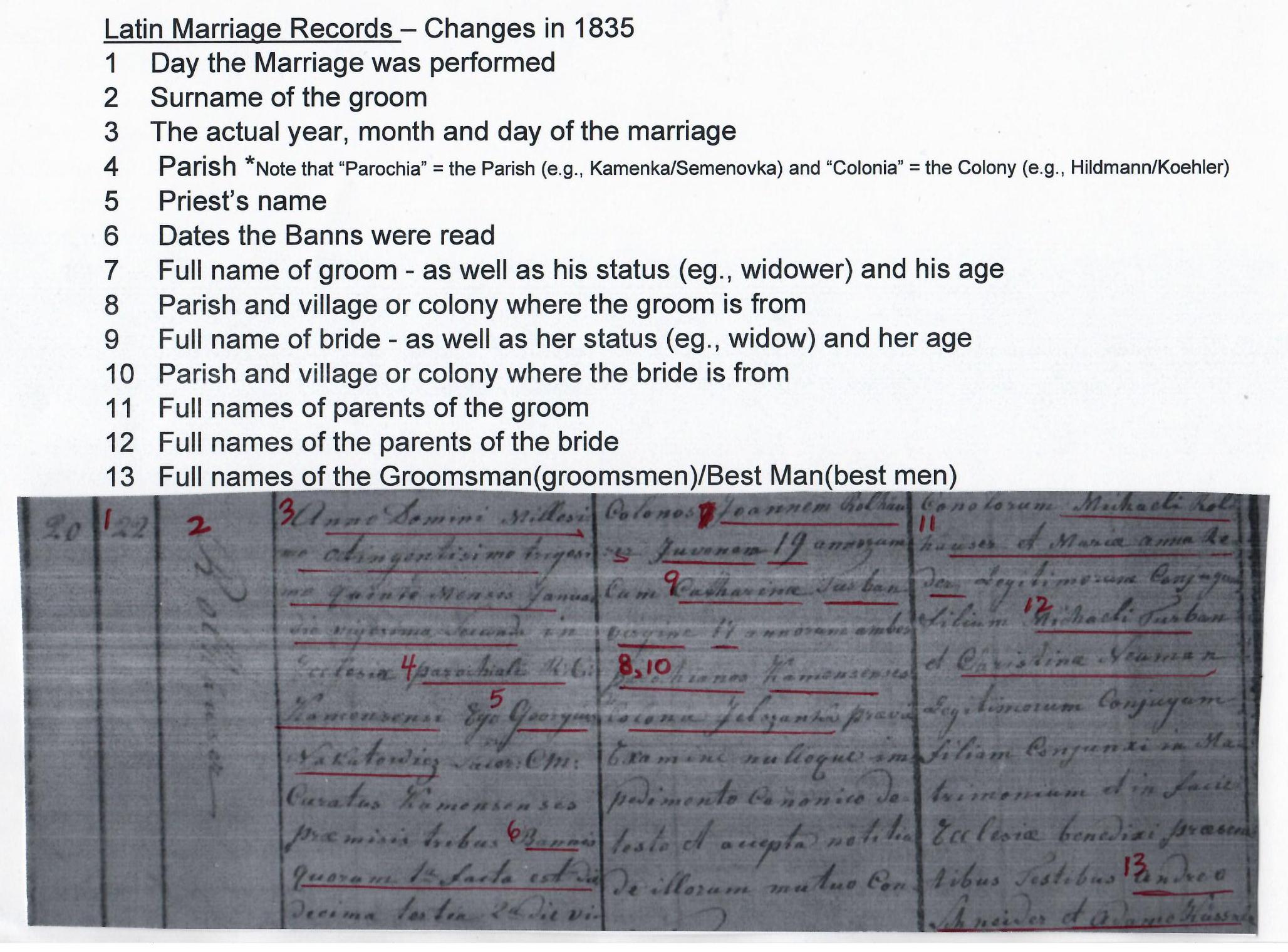


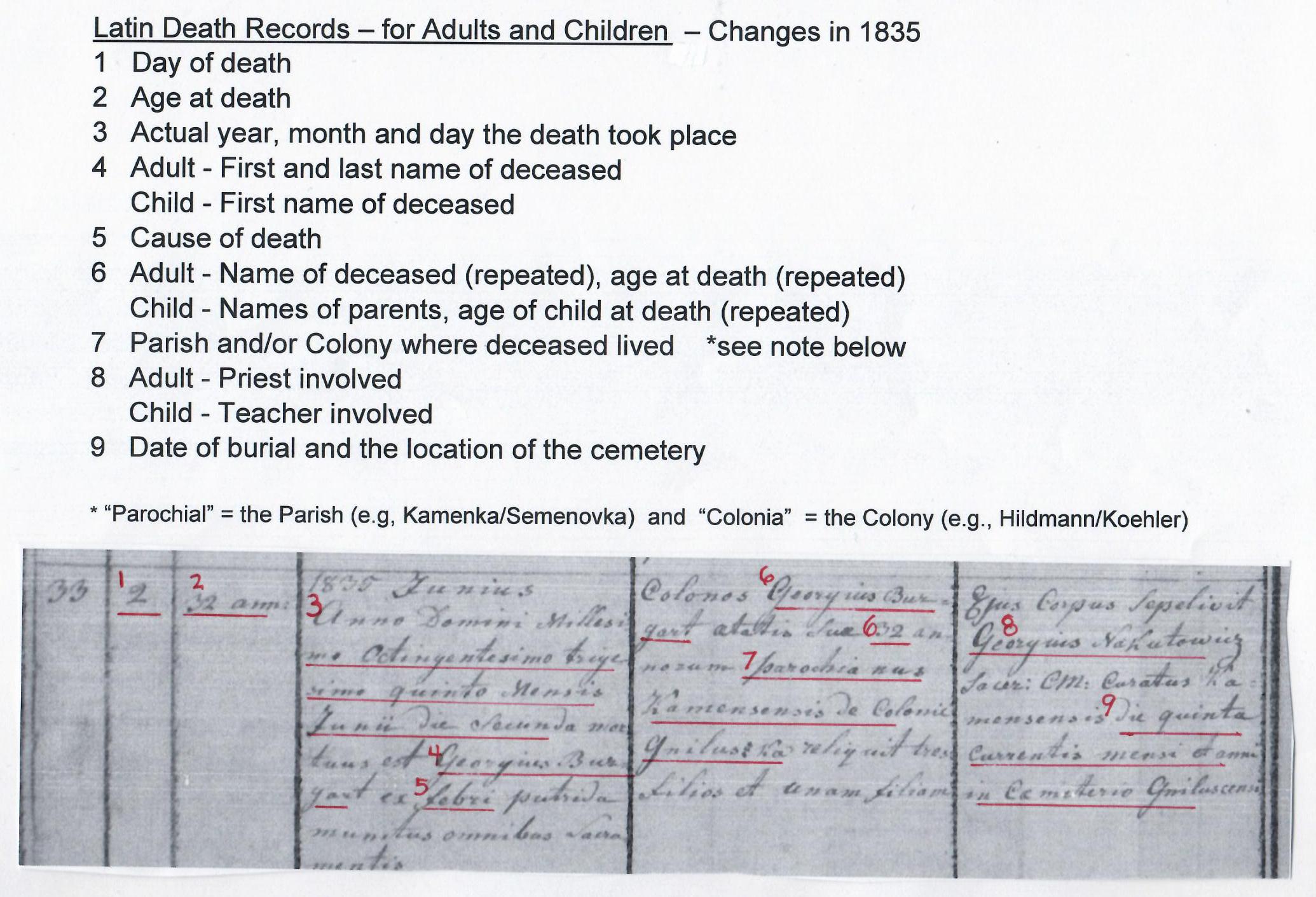




**1835 and on – Birth/Baptism, Marriage and Death Records**







Examples:

Kamenka Parish Records – Villages Mentioned

Panowka/Panovka = Hildmann

Gniluszka/Gniluschka = Pfeifer

Elshanka/Jelshanka/Eszanka = Husaren

Kaminka/Kamenka = Kamenka

Kopenga/Kopenka = Volmer

Karaulny Buyerak = Köhler

Gryanzavatka = Schuck

Ilavlya = Leichtling

Latin Records – Months, Days (and abbreviations)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| Latin Abbreviated | Latin Month | English Month |
| n/a | Januarius | January |
| n/a | Februarius | Febuary |
| n/a | Martius | March |
| n/a | Aprilis | April |
| n/a | Maius | May |
| n/a | Iunius | June |
| n/a | Iulius or Quintilis | July |
| n/a | Augustus/Sextilis | August |
| 7bris  or ber | September | September |
| 8bris  or 8ber | October | October |
| 9bris  or 9ber | November | November |
| 10bris  or 10 ber | December | December |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Latin Day of the Week | English Day of the week |  |
| dies Lunae | Monday |  |
| dies Martis | Tuesday |  |
| dies Mercurii | Wednesday |  |
| dies Jovis | Thursday |  |
| dies Veneris | Friday |  |
| dies Saturni | Saturday |  |
| dies Solis | Sunday |  |

Latin Records - Ordinal Numbers

In some genealogical records, numbers (especially dates) are written out.

Written dates may appear with “-a” (feminine ending) or “-um” (neuter ending). In written dates the ordinal numbers can also end with “-o.” eg. Quartus = the fourth Quarto = on the fourth

Decima 10 (also decimus)

Vigesima 20 (also vicesimus) )

Trigesima 30 (also tricesimus)

Prima 1st (also primus)

Seconda 2nd (also secundus)

Tertia 3rd (also tertius)

Quarta 4th (also quartus)

Quinta 5th (also quintas)

Sexta 6th (also sextus)

Septima 7th (also septimus)

Octava 8th (also octavus)

Nona 9th (also nonus)

Examples:

Undecima = 11

Decima Tertia = 12 or Duodecimus

Decima octava = 18

Vigesima quinta = 25

Vigesima quarsta = 24

Latin Birth Records - Terminology

Anni – from

Addendi – Addendum

Cum priore – previous and prior

Dicta – named

Gemini/ Geminus – twin

Gemelae - twins – female; Gemell - male, male and female twin; Gemella – twins

MiJsionis/MiJsioine – Mission

O. P. - Order of Friars (also known as Dominican Friars

Patrini Fuere= Sponsors are

Primus – first (ditto)

S.J. – Society of Jesus

Videua – widow

Latin Marriage Records - Terminology

Ambo - both Ambo ex - both from

Cum uxore - and wife

Duo - both

Duplex - twofold, double, strong

Ex - from Ex Col: - from colony

Geminus - twofold, twin, double, paired, resembling

Idem - the same

Juvenes - young man or young woman        Juvenes ambo - both are young

Nomina testium - the name of witnesses

Puella - young woman

Soluti - single, unattached

Tum - then

Uterque - each of two

Utervis - either of two

Viduus - Widow    Vidua - Widower

Virgo - damsel  
Viduus ambo - both widowed

Virgo – damsel

Latin Death Records - Terminology

A Ludimagistro – teacher

Ab codem – the same

Ad gnam – to fight

Aquo sepultus – from which buried

At as illorum – but as their

Comingata/commendata – recommended by

Defunctorum – dead

Dierum Vita of Seputas – Days and Life of the Buried

In periculum mortis – in danger of death

Ludimagistro - a teacher

Mortuoram – the dead

Munita – protection

Nomen – name

Oibus (omnibus) sacramentis munitus – fortified with all the sacraments

Orbus – bereavement

Ort*g –* ortus*-* origin, began, source

Sacramentis munita – fortified by all the last rites

Sine Patrinis – without sponsors

Vita – life       Vivus – living

Latin Death Records - Causes of Deaths

 Apoplexia – Apoplexy

Artritide/Artritise – Arthritis

Callida febri – [raging] Fever

Debilitate – frail, weak    debilias   debalitasis  debilitate  - weakness, infirmity, disable

Fel Fellis  Felsi – gall bladder

Hydrope/Hydropisi – Dropsy

Ja Puerperio / e Pueperio – Died in Childbirth

Morbo Stomachi – Disease of the Stomach

Morte subitanea – Sudden death

Pthisis / Pthisi / Thisi– Tuberculosis

Senectute – Old age

Senio – old – old age/senior

Senio confectus – worn out by old age

Paralyti/eus – palsy (paralysis)

Phrenesis/phrenitis – Encephalitis

Submersus – drown?

Tumour prectoris – breast / chest tumour

Tussi/Tussis/Tussio – cough

Ulcere – Ulcers          Ulceris      Ulcus     Ulcero --   wound, ulcer

Una Morte Repentina – death – sudden

Variolis – small pox

Latin Death Records - Age at Death - Days, Weeks, Months

Age at Death

Days Dierum/Diem/Dies = days; Unius die =dies in 1 day

Duo = 2

Tria = 3; Trium dierum = 3 days

5 Vita dierum = 5 days of life

Weeks Hebdom = weeks; Trium hebdom = 3 weeks

Months Mensium = months

Years Anni/Annos = years; Annorum = years of life

1 year Anni unius = 1 year

2 years Annorum duorum = 2 years; Annorum via duorum = 2 years of life

Duos anni terminusis = two year term

3 years Anni Trium = 3 years ; Trium anni = 3 years; Annum tertium = the third year

Latin Fractions and variations

1/2 = dīmidia pars or dīmdium

1/3 = tertia pars

1/4 = quarta par

1/6 = sexta pars

1/8 = octava pars

1/2 year = dīmidia anni or dīmdium anni (6 months)

Dimidii (i) anni = half a year - l/2 annis = ½ year ; In anno ½ = ½ of a year; Unis annicum dimi = one half of one year

1/3 year = anno tertio una (4 months)

Trium anni = one third of a year; Duos saltern extribus per annum = two thirds of a year

1/4 year = Quarto autem anno (3 months)

In anno autum l/4 = ¼ of a year; Unum quartrium anni = one quarter of a year; In anno autem 2/4 = 2/4 of a year; In anno autem ¾ = ¾ of a year; Trium anni – three quarters of a year

1/6 year = qui sex annis (2 months)

1/8 year = unius octo annis (1.5 months)



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