

DECODING ARGENTINE PARISH RECORDS:
A Free Reference Guide for Argentine Genealogy Researchers
Compliments of Your Local Archive Expert Ferreyra Genealogy



When tracing your roots through Argentine Catholic parish books (libros parroquiales) and early civil registries, you will notice that scribes rarely wrote out common words completely. Scribes routinely wrote only the first few letters of a word and placed the final letters small above a period or line.

Use this high-density abbreviation key to quickly decode historical handwritten documents from the 1700s through the early 1900s.

1. NAMES & FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Priests and civil registrars heavily abbreviated standard names and relationship statuses to save valuable page space.

- * Al.^o / Alv.^o --> Alonso / Álvaro
- * Ant.^o / Ant.^a --> Antonio / Antonia
- * Bme. --> Bartolomé (Highly common in early colonial/immigrant books)
- * D.n / D.^a --> Don / Doña (Honorific titles used for respected citizens)
- * Fran.co / Fco --> Francisco (The cursive letters often blur into a flat wave)
- * Fran.ca --> Francisca
- * h. l. --> Hijo/a legítimo/a (Child born to legally married parents)
- * h. n. --> Hijo/a natural (Child born to unmarried parents; trace maternal lines)
- * Jph. / Jh. --> Joseph / José (The archaic "ph" spelling persists deep into the 1800s)
- * M.^a --> María (Often stacked, e.g., M.^a Ant.^a for María Antonia)
- * Man.l / Man.^a --> Manuel / Manuela
- * S.b.n --> Sebastián
- * V.^o / V.^a --> Viudo / Viuda (Widower/Widow; crucial for tracking earlier marriages)

2. SACRAMENTS & CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

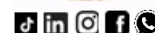
These abbreviations appear frequently in page headers, outer margins, and the opening formulas of baptismal, marriage, and burial entries.

- * Bap.^o / Baut.^o --> Bautismo / Bautizado (Baptism / Baptized)
- * Casp.^o --> Casamiento (Marriage / Wedding ceremony)
- * Confirm.^o --> Confirmado / Confirmación (Confirmed / Confirmation)
- * Defnt.^o / Dif.to-> Defunción / Difunto (Death / Deceased)
- * Fe de Baut. --> Fe de Bautismo (An official baptismal certificate copy)
- * Igla. --> Iglesia (Church building)
- * Lib. / L.^o --> Libro (The volume number, e.g., Lib. 4 de Bautismos)
- * Mad.^a / Padr.^{os}--> Madrina / Padrinos (Godmother / Godparents)
- * Matrim.^o --> Matrimonio (Marriage)
- * P.roco / Vic.^o --> Párroco / Vicario (Parish Priest / Vicar)
- * P.roq.^a / Parroq.^a--> Parroquia (Parish territory)
- * Test.^{os} --> Testigos (Witnesses; usually close relatives or neighbors)

3. ORIGIN & GEOGRAPHY

Locating where an ancestor came from tells you exactly which immigrant ships, passenger lists, or distinct provincial archives to target next.

- * Corr.te --> Corriente (Of the current location or province)
- * Felig.^a --> Feligresía (Parish boundaries or congregation)
- * Jurisd.n --> Jurisdicción (Legal or church district boundaries)
- * Nat.l de --> Natural de (Native of / Born in; identifies exact birthplace)
- * Prov.^a --> Provincia (Province, e.g., Prov.^a de Mendoza)
- * Pble. --> Pueblo (Town, village, or small settlement)
- * Vec.^o de --> Vecino de (Resident of; means they live there now, even if born elsewhere)



4. DATES, NUMBERS & LEGAL FORMULAS

Time expressions and record linkages were highly compressed to maintain speed while writing administrative narratives.

* Corr.te / d.c. --> Del corriente (Of the current month. Example: "el 4 d.c." means the 4th of this month)

* Dich.º / Dho. --> Dicho / Dichozo (The aforementioned / Said person; links to a name written earlier)

* Fol. / F.º --> Folio (Page number)

* Folio v. / v.ta--> Vuelta (The reverse/back side of the current page)

* P.º p.do / P.do--> Próximo pasado (Of the previous month)

* S.n / St.º / Sta.--> San / Santo / Santa (Used for saint days or locations, e.g., Sta. Fe)

💡 PRO ARGENTINA GENEALOGY TIP:

If you see the abbreviation "h.l." (hijo legítimo), look closely at the sentences immediately following the parents' names. In Argentine records, priests frequently recorded the names of all four grandparents (abuelos paternos and maternos), instantly handing you two complete generations in a single document!

👉 STUCK AT A GENEALOGY BRICK WALL?

Deciphering old handwriting can be incredibly frustrating. If you have an Argentine record, baptismal certificate, or civil document you cannot read, let's solve it together.

Take a screenshot or a photo of the document and click the link below to send it to me directly. I will help you translate the text and find your ancestors!

👉 [[CLICK HERE](#) TO SEND ME A MESSAGE AND GET HELP]

