

Marriage Laws in Bessarabia

- For marriage of a single couple, they must produce a Baptism Certificate if they were born outside of the present Church Parish. Also, if not confirmed in this Parish, they must have a Confirmation Certificate.
- By the re-marriage of a widower or widow, they must produce a marriage and death certificate of the previous spouse, if the marriage and death had not taken place in the present church parish. With the estate of the dead spouse a statement has to be produced of the original or exact copy of it. The copy must state plainly however where the original is being kept. If there are no children living, then proof has to be provided from the previous village mayor and two trustworthy witnesses with a certificate.
- Persons that have not lived a full year in the present church parish will also have to provide a document from the Pastor of the parish where the person previously was resident.
- A bridegroom may not get married before the age of 18 years and the bride must be at least 16 years old. A widower may not remarry until 6 weeks after his wife's death. A widow may not marry before 3 months after her husband's death, if no other problems exist.
- The banns are to be read in 3 successive Sundays in the congregation of the groom or bride. If no other legal problems arise to any of the banns being read.

These banns are legal only 2 months after they are read. To read the second and third banns on the same Sunday is only allowed under extreme circumstances. It is granted by a pastor if a legal document is provided.

Source: Golden Prairie History book

Copy found in the Dale Wahl Collection