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Cyrillic & Polish Parish Records: A Guide to Documents
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Recommended resources:
Books from Language and Lineage Press (http://www.langline.com/Publications.htm)
In their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents. Volume I: Polish; Volume II: Russian by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman. Books on Latin and German documents are also available.

Shea, Jonathan. *Russian Language Documents from Russian Poland - A Translation Manual for Genealogists*, 1989. (out of print though available in some libraries)

Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe translation resources:
http://www.sggee.org/research/translation_aids
Russian translation aids: http://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/general_intro.html
There are links to some sample translations for Polish and German as well.

Examples of handwritten birth, death and marriage records with some basic translation:
https://www.sggee.org/SGGEE2009/research/rus_translate/nap_documents.html

Russian alphabet with English, Polish & German phonetic equivalents (pdf available on this website): https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russian_Alphabet

Site with common variations in Cyrillic letter forms found in documents:
http://allbell.tripod.com/cursive/field.html

Interactive site by Steve Morse that shows print & cursive Cyrillic or Polish:
https://stevemorse.org/russian/cyrprintcurs.html?style=names&casing=lower&font=print&type=normal&leftposition=1&rightposition=1&maxLines=3&imagesPerLine=15&russian=%u0421

Presentation on Cyrillic parish records by Sigrid Pohl Perry available as a pdf download: https://sperryresearch.wordpress.com/presentations/
This page includes some other resource handouts. See the link for "Cyrillic Parish Records_2017."

Resources for genealogical research in Poland in ANY language used in records:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland_Genealogy
Includes tutorials on records, maps, translation tools and various guides. This page includes links to Polish, Russian, German and Latin Word Lists which can be downloaded.
Scroll down to select lessons: https://www.familysearch.org/ask/learningViewer/90

Resources for reading records in Poland in various languages:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland_Languages
Included are lessons in Polish, Russian, German and Latin handwritten records with word lists.

Common words found in parish records:

List of months in English, German and Russian:
https://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/Images/months.pdf
Some examples in handwritten Cyrillic:
https://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/Images/months_script.jpg

Cardinal and ordinal numbers in Cyrillic text:
https://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/Images/numbers.pdf
Some examples in handwritten Cyrillic:
https://www.sggee.org/research/rus_translate/Images/numbers_script.jpg

List of numbers, months, dates, time, days of the week, etc, in Polish:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Polish_Genealogical_Word_List

Google has a translator function: https://www.google.com/search?q=translator&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8
This can be used for various language combinations and it includes both written pronunciation of the words and the icon to switch on spoken sound. Often synonyms are indicated so that it is possible to find a particular word.

Map resources for determining villages in the radius around a parish:
Use the SGGEE resources on this page: https://www.sggee.org/research/village_maps.html
Modern map of Poland in which the search function begins to display town names:
https://mapa.szukacz.pl/mapnik.html
Mapster site with historical maps of Poland and surrounding areas:
http://igrek.amzp.pl/mapindex.php

General Comments on Records in Polish or Russian
In the margin the place of residence is specified along with its administrative affiliations.
- Endings are added within the text so spellings vary
- Check both margin & text for villages; errors are not uncommon
- Locate villages on a map; the gmina or administrative village is usually larger and easier to find

The date at the beginning of the record is usually given in Gregorian format until **1868** when Cyrillic & the Julian calendar were required; this means a separation of 12 days until 1900 when it becomes 13 days. Often both dates are given. However, individuals may use either date as a birth date in other records, so be aware of this difference.

Birth / Baptism Records begin with the city & date of the baptism or civil registration
1. Father, age, occupation, residence
   ➢ In Russian records the name may be written with Latin letters in parenthesis.
   ➢ In some instances the father may not be present, e.g. death (stated on the record), military service or other absence, or if his name is unknown and birth is illegitimate.
2. First Witness, age, occupation, residence
3. Second Witness, age, occupation, residence
   ➢ Occupation and residence of witnesses may be combined if the same.
4. Sex of child, town of birth, date and time of birth
   ➢ Some parish records always use the Julian/Gregorian date after 1868.
   ➢ Frequently, if the child was born the previous day, "yesterday" is used.
   ➢ Occasionally, a word meaning "the day before yesterday" will be written.
5. Mother (with maiden name), age
   ➢ In Russian records the name is often written with Latin letters in parenthesis.
6. Child's given name
   ➢ In Russian records the name is often written with Latin letters in parenthesis.
7. Indication of godparents (usually one or both witnesses) and godmother's name and residence; often her marital status will be noted. Some parishes distinguish witnesses from godparents, & early records will often have more than two.
8. Closing statement of reading and signing the document

Death Records begin with the city and date where the death is recorded.
1. First Witness, age, occupation, residence
2. Second Witness, age, occupation, residence
3. Date, time, place of death (often "yesterday" is used)
4. Deceased person, age, place death occurred & residence if known
   ➢ In Russian records the name is often written with Latin letters in parenthesis.
5. Relationship(s) of the deceased (often includes at least one of the witnesses)
   ➢ May include parents' names, spouse(s), and number of surviving children.
   ➢ May include place of birth if known
6. Closing statement of reading and signing the document

Marriage Records begin with the city and date of the marriage ceremony OR civil registration.
1. First Witness, age, occupation, residence
2. Second Witness, age, occupation, residence
3. Groom, marital status prior to this wedding, faith, place of birth
   ➢ In Russian records the name is often written with Latin letters in parenthesis.
   ➢ Name of previous spouse and often date of death is given.
4. Groom's parents with mother's maiden name and the death of either is noted
5. Groom's age, residence (usually this information is also given in the margin)
6. Bride, marital status prior to this wedding, faith, place of birth
   ➢ In Russian records her name is often written with Latin letters in parenthesis.

> Name of any previous spouse and often date of death are given.
7. Bride's parents including mother's maiden name and the death of either is noted
8. Bride's age, residence
9. Text stating that this planned wedding was announced for three weeks, often with dates given (banns).
10. Statements on parent's approval and whether a prenuptial agreement was made
11. Statement indicating the pastor who performed the wedding
12. Closing statement of reading and signing the document

Basic vocabulary of key words found in parish records:

English	Cyrillic (Pronunciation)	Polish (add endings)
January	январь (yanvar')	stycznia
February	февраль (fevral')	lutego
March	март (mart)	marca
April	апрель (aprel')	kwietnia
May	май (mai)	maja
June	июнь (iyun')	czerwca
July	июль (iyul')	lipca
August	август (avgust)	sierpnia
September	сентябрь (sentyabr')	września
October	октябрь (oktyabr')	pażdziernika
November	ноябрь (noyabr')	listopada
December	декабрь (dekabr)	grudnia
city	город (gorod)	miasto, gród
village	деревня (derevnya)	wioska, gmina (township)
province	губерния (gubernia)	województwo
index	индекс (indeks)	indeks, skorowidz,
given name	имя (imya)	imię, imion
surname	фамилия (familiya)	nazwisko
parish	приход (prikhod)	parafia
Roman Catholic	римско-католический (Rimskiy katolik)	rzymsko-katolicki
Protestant, Evangelical	евангельский (yevangel'skiy)	ewangelicki, luterański
Jewish; synagogue	иудейский (iudeyskiy); синагога (sinagoga)	żydowski; bóżnica
male sex or boy	мужской пол (muzhskoy pol)	chłopiec, malec, płeć męska
female sex or girl	женский пол (zhenskiy pol)	żeński/a, płeć żeńska, panna
mother	мама (mama)	matka
father	отец (otets)	ojciec
born/maiden name	урождённый (urozhdonnyy)	urodzony
birth	рождение (rozhdeniye)	urodzin, urodzony, urodzi,ł sie rodzony

English	Russian	Polish
was born	родился (rodilsya)	urodził się
baptism, christening	крещение (kreshcheniye)	chrzest, chrzciny, ochrzczone
death	смерть (smert')	zgon(ów), zejść, umarł, zmarł, śmierci
died, having died	умер (umer), умерший (umershiy)	zmarły, po śmierci
the deceased	покойник (pokoynik)	zmarłego
burial	захоронение (zakhoroneniye), похороны (pochoroni)	pogrzebów
today	сегодня (cegodnya)	dzisiaj
evening	вечер (vecher)	wieczór
yesterday	вчера (vchera)	wczoraj
day before yesterday	позавчера (pozavchera)	przedwczoraj
2 days before yesterday	третьего дня tret'yego dnya [the 3rd day]	[no Polish]
year	год (godz)	rok
month	месяц (mesyats)	miesiąc
day	день (den')	dzień
"years old"	Лет от роды (let ot rody)	lat
parents	родители (roditeli)	rodzice
witness	свидетель (svidetel')	świadek
godparents	восприемники (vospriyemniki)	rodzice chrzestni
godparents	Крестные родители (Krestnyye roditeli)	
legal wife	Законная жена (Zakonnaya zhena)	żona, małżonka, zamena,
husband	муж (muzh)	mąż, małżonek
son	сын (syn)	syn
daughter	дочь (doch')	córka
spouse(s)	супруги (suprugi)	małżonka, małżonkowie
unmarried	Незамужняя (nezamuzhnyaya)	niezamężna
illegitimate	Незаконный (nezakonnyy)	nieślubny
widow	Вдова (vdova)	wdowa
widower	Вдовец (vdovets)	wdowiec
survivors	оставшийся в живых (ostavshiysya v zhivykh)	zostawiwszy
marriage banns	оглашение (oglasheniye)	zapowiedzi
marriage	брак (brak), бракосочетания (brakosochetaniya)	małżenstw(o), ślub(ów), zaślubionych