

Marriage Records in Paragraph Format

Poland “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

February 2016

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract genealogical information from a Polish paragraph form marriage record by identifying key words and phrases.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of the paragraph form Polish marriage records follow a particular format, though they may vary by religion (i.e., Jewish records) or location.

HOW TO

Before you begin extracting genealogical information from documents written in Polish, it is important to understand some grammatical concepts.

Conjugation

Polish conjugates words based on their location in a sentence. The two main forms of conjugation in a marriage record will be the instrumental form (*he is getting married*), and the genitive, or possessive form (*son of Jan*). The following endings of names are typical:

Instrumental case

Given Names	Example	Surnames	Example
masculine: add an ‘em’ or ‘emi’	Wojciech = Wojciechem	masculine: add an ‘-em’	Gawrył = Gawryłem
feminine: change vowel or add an ‘ą’	Małgorzata = Małgorzatą	feminine: change vowel or add an ‘ą’	Kądziałówna = Kądziałówną

Genitive case

Given Names	Example	Surnames	Example
masculine: add an ‘a’	Michał = Michała	masculine: add an ‘-ego’	Skroboski = Skroboskiego
feminine: add a ‘y’ or an ‘i’	Tekla = Tekli	feminine: add an ‘-ich’ or ‘-ów’	Tkaczyk = Tkaczyków

Surnames

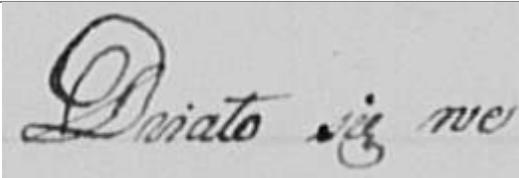
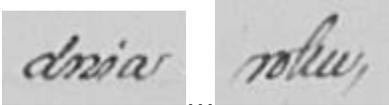
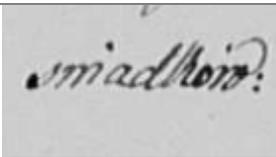
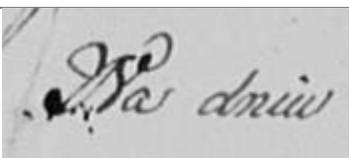
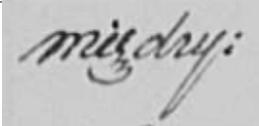
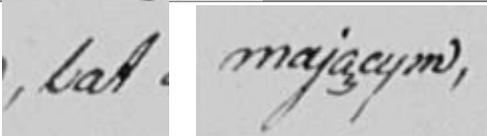
In Polish, most surnames have a masculine and a feminine form, and you may encounter these in marriage documents. For a fuller explanation of surnames and their feminine forms, read the sections “*Nazwisko* (surname)” and “Classification” in the following article from Wikipedia:

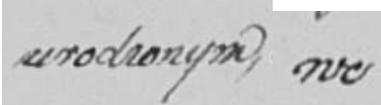
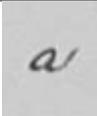
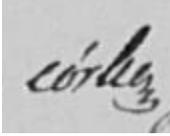
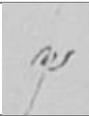
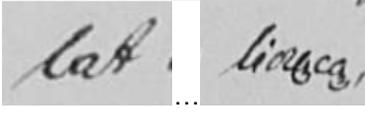
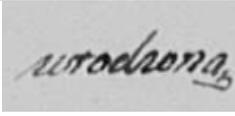
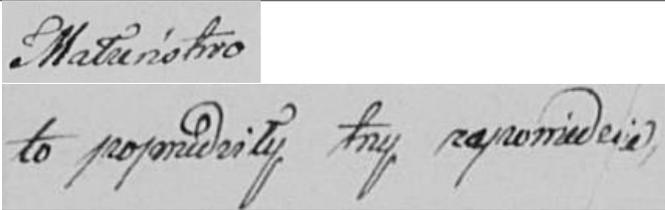
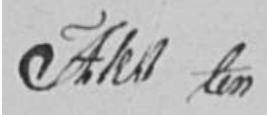
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_name.

three days, time, location). Permission was given by (in this case, the groom's father and the bride's mother), the marriage was done consciously with no opposition. The newlyweds stated that a marital agreement was not made between them. [This act¹⁶](#) was read and signed....

Key Words

The following key words will indicate the most essential genealogical information. Depending on the context, the information may come before or after the key word. Note that the Polish words and phrases are written in standardized Polish. In some cases, the examples provided may differ in spelling, diacritics, or conjugation of the word. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines.

English	Polish	Information given	Example
1. It happened in...	Działo się, w	<u>followed</u> by the word "village" or "town" and then the place name	
2. day... year	dnia...roku	<u>between</u> these words is the date written out	
3. witnesses ...	swiadkow..	<u>followed</u> by the names, ages, and occupations of the witnesses	
4. On the day...	Na dniu... (sometimes w dniu...)	<u>followed</u> by the date (usually the word "today")	
5. between ...	między...	<u>followed</u> by the groom's information	
6. age...	lat...mający [sometimes lat... liczący]	<u>in between</u> these words is the groom's age	
7. son of...	[syn]... in this case, the word 'z' meaning 'of'	<u>followed</u> by the groom's parents' names; may indicate if deceased	

8. and...	z...	<u>followed</u> by the mother's maiden name	
9. born in...	urodzonym w...	<u>followed</u> (usually) by the name of the town. In this instance the town is written earlier.	
10. and...	a...	<u>followed</u> by the bride's marital status and name	
11. daughter of...	córka...	<u>followed</u> by the bride's parents' names; may indicate if deceased	
12. born as...	z...	<u>followed</u> by the mother's maiden name	
13. age...	lat...liczący [sometimes lat...mający]	<u>in between</u> these words is the bride's age	
14. born in...	urodzona	<u>following</u> this will be the place the groom was born	
15. This marriage was preceded by three banns...	Małżeństwo to poprzedziły trzy zapowiedzi	<u>followed</u> by the dates the banns were announced	
16. This act...	Akt ten...	<u>followed</u> by the formulaic end of the document; indicating the end of all genealogical information.	

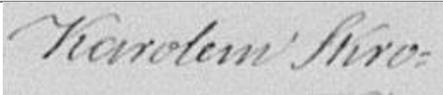
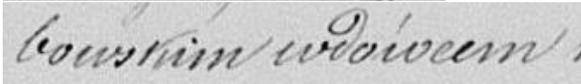
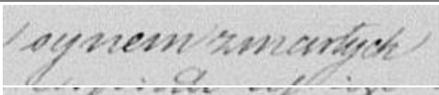
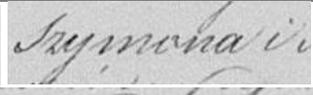
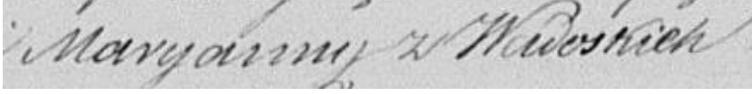
Other Helpful Vocabulary Words

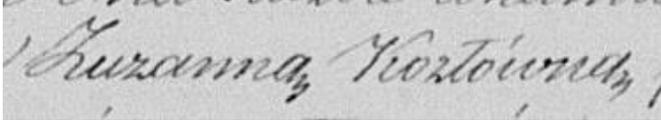
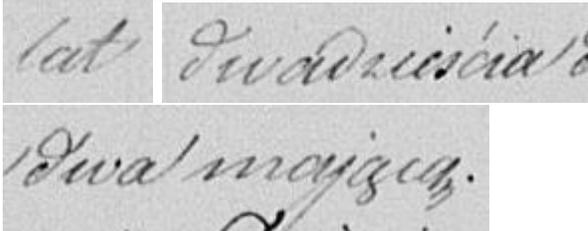
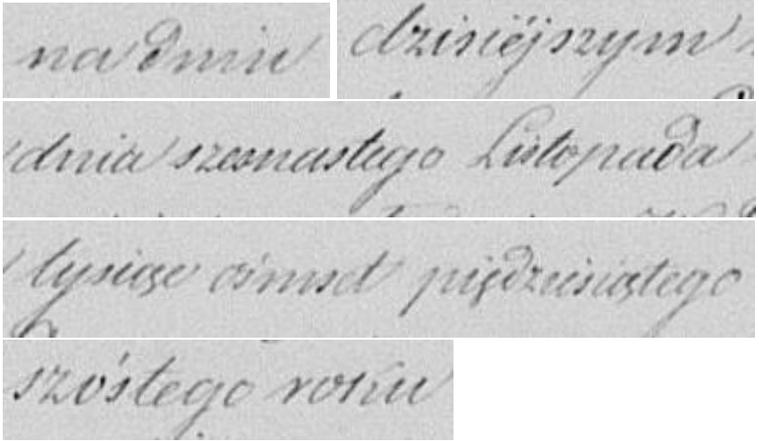
Before the name of a specific place is mentioned, you will see a word describing the type of location (i.e. “village” or “city”). After the groom’s name it will state whether he is a bachelor or a widower. Following the bride’s name they will state whether she was a spinster or a widow. When recording the parents of the bride and groom, the word “deceased” is usually added before the names if they are deceased.

village	wieś (conjugated wsi)
city	mieście <u>or</u> miasto
today	dzisiaj <u>or</u> w dniu dzisiejszym
yesterday	wczoraj <u>or</u> w dniu wczorajszym
day before yesterday	zawczoraj <u>or</u> onegdaj
resident	zamieszkały
bachelor	młodziam
spinster	panna
widow	wdowa
widower	wdowiec
living	żyjący
deceased	niegdy <u>or</u> niegdyś
deceased	zmarł
newlywed	zaślubiony
of the current month	miesiącu bieżącego
of the same year	roku bieżącego

PRACTICE

The last page of this guide contains an image of a marriage record. You can also view the image on FamilySearch by clicking here. For any unfamiliar words, use the FamilySearch word list, found at: https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Poland_Genealogical_Word_List

What is the groom’s name and marital status?	Look for the key word między (between). The groom’s name and marital status follow this word.	  <p>“Karolem Skrobowskim wdówcem”. Karol Skrobowski, widower. As the groom, his name is conjugated in the instrumental case.</p>
What are the groom’s parents’ names?	Look for the key word synem (son). The parents’ names follow, along with an indication if they are living or deceased.	  

		<p>“synem zmartych Szymona i Maryanny z Wadoskich”. The both deceased Szymon and Maryanna born Wadoski. Both names are conjugated in the genitive case.</p>
<p>What is the bride's name?</p>	<p>Look for the key word a, as well as the word panną (spinster). In this case, panną follows the bride's name.</p>	 <p>“Zuzanną Koztówną” (Zuzanna Koztówna). Her name is conjugated in the instrumental case, and her surname has the –ówna feminine ending.</p>
<p>How old is she?</p>	<p>Look for the key words lat and mający (conjugated mającą). Her age will be written between them.</p>	 <p>“lat dwadzieścia dwa mającą”. She is twenty-two.</p>
<p>When did the marriage take place?</p>	<p>Look for the key words na dniu after the witnesses' names. The date is recorded after these words. If the word is dzisiejszym, look for the key words dnia and roku in the opening words of the entry for the full date.</p>	 <p>“na dniu dzisiejszym” and “dnia szesnastego Listopada tysiąc ośmset pięćdziesiątego szóstego roku”. The day of the marriage is ‘today’, which is the date the marriage was recorded, the 16th of November 1856.</p>

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.

Działo się w Miście Kamionce dnia szesnastego Listopada tysiąc osiemset pięćdziesiątego Kamionka
szóstego roku o godzinie otwartej popołudniu. Wiadomo czynimy w tym celu
nowi świątków Ignacego Pacha lat trzydziści pięć i Jasiwa Serżiwa lat 45.
czterdziści sześć mających obu mieszkan' rolników z Kamionki: na dniu
driniejszym zawarte zostało Religijnie matkostwo między Karolem Skro-
bowskim w obwozem którego pierwsza żona Klara z Koblach umarła dnia
dwunastego sierpnia tysiąc osiemset pięćdziesiątego piątego roku synem z matką
Symona i Maryanną z Młostek matkostw' mieszkan' między rolni-
ków z Kamionki, urodzonym i na służbie w Kamionce zamieszkałym lat
dwadziestu czim mającym: a Kuzanna, Kortońska, panna, córka, z mar-
tych Andrzeja i Agaty z Komornic matkostw' mieszkan' między rolni-
ków z Kamionki, urodzona, i na służbie w Kamionce zamieszkała lat
dwadziestu dwa mająca. Matkostwo to poprzedzily trzy kapowidzie w
dniach drugim, trzecim, i szesnastym Listopada roku bieżącego o go-
dzinie jedenastej przed południem w kościele Parafialnym Kamion-
kowskim. Tomowanie Matkostwa nie zostało. Matkostwie nowi o-
siviczają się nie zawarli umowy przedślubnej. Akt ten stawiającym i
świadkom' pisać nie umiemy, przeczytany, sami podpisaliśmy.

Ks. Błażej Machnikowski Probosz Kamionkowski