

Death Records in Paragraph Format

Poland “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

February 2016

GOAL

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

INTRODUCTION

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

HOW TO

There are two common types of death records. If the deceased is a child or younger unmarried person, the death record usually lists their parents. If the deceased person was married, the record usually lists the spouse (whether alive or deceased), and may list surviving children.

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 main form of conjugation in a death record is the genitive, or possessive form (son *of* Jan). The following endings of names are typical:

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.

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [Inserting Special Characters](#)

Sample Paragraph Death Record

¹ Działo się w Miescie Kamionce ² dnia dwunastego Lutego Ty-
 tu. siac osmeset szesdziesiątego drugiego ³ roku o godzinie dzie-
 siątej rano. ³ Stawili się: Szymon Szarygiel mąż, żonaty
 lat czterdziestu sześciu i Antoni Szarygiel lat trzydziestu
 trzy mający, oba rolnicy z Nowodworu, i ⁴ oświadczyli nam
 iż ⁵ dnia dwiesiątego Lutego bieżącego ⁵ roku o godzinie siódmej
 wieczorem, ⁶ umarła w Nowodworze Agata Szarygielowa
 rolniczka z Nowodworu ⁷ lat trzydziestu osiem ⁷ mająca, ⁸ cór-
 ka umarłych Józefa i Maryanny ⁹ matronki rolników z
 Nowodworu, porostawiwszy po sobie wdowiatego męża
 Szymona. Przekonawszy się, naszczynie o rejście Aga-
 ty Szarygielowej. ¹⁰ Akt ten stawajacym świadkom pisac
 niemiejacym przeczycamy sami podpisalismy. —
 Hs. Pst Machnikowski Probosz Kamionkowski

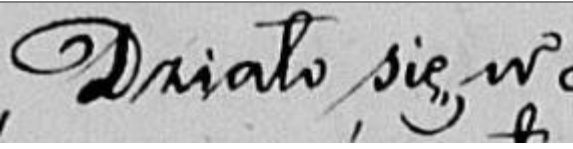
Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-R8Q5-YS> : accessed 25 February 2016.

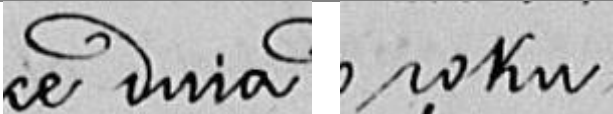
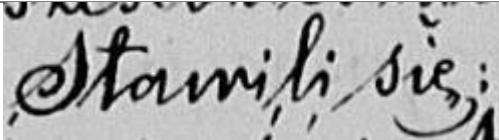
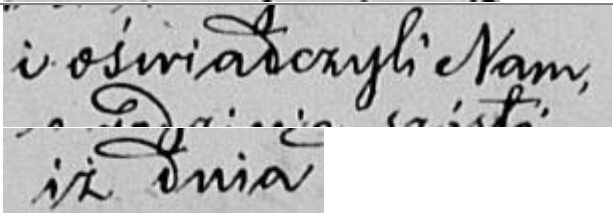
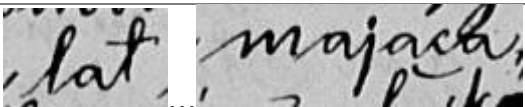
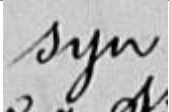
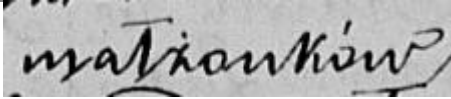
Paragraph Death Record Outline in English

It happened in¹ (location), day² (full date written out) year², at time (time). Appeared before us³ (Name of witness, age, and status/occupation) and (name of other witness, age, and status/occupation) residents of (place name) and announced to us, that on the day⁴ (full date written out) year⁵, at (time) died in⁶ (location) (Name of deceased, occupation, residence) years⁷ (age) having⁷, daughter of⁸ the deceased (father and mother's names), the couple⁹ (parents' status/occupation, location), after the witnesses confirmed the death of (name of the deceased). This act¹⁰ was read and signed by the witnesses (or by the authors)....

Key Words and Phrases

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 will be the date written out	
3. appeared before us...	Stawił się... (plural: Stawili się)	<u>followed</u> by the name of the informant(s)	
4. and announced to us, that on the day...	i oświadczyli Nam, iż dnia...	<u>followed</u> by the death date written out	
5. ...year	...roku	<u>preceded</u> by the death date written out	
6. died in...	umarł w... (umarła if female)	<u>followed</u> by the location of death, then by the name of the deceased	
7. years... having	lat...mający (mająca if female)	<u>between</u> these words is the age of the deceased	
8. daughter	córka...	<u>followed</u> by the name of the parents; it may indicate if they are deceased	
son	syn...	<u>followed</u> by the name of the parents; it may indicate if they are deceased	
9. married couple...	małżonków ...	<u>preceded</u> by the names of the parents	
10. This act...	Akt ten...	<u>followed</u> by the formulaic end of the document; it indicates the end of all genealogical information.	

Other Helpful Vocabulary Words

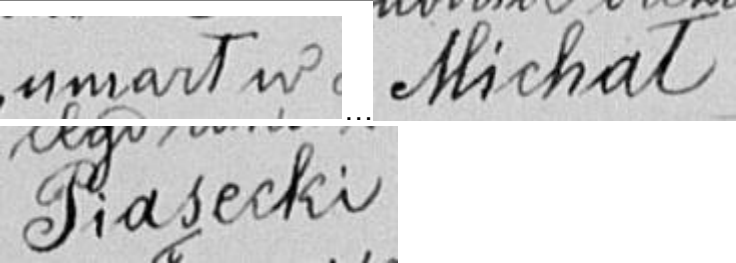
Before the name of a specific place is mentioned, you will see a word describing the type of location (i.e. “village” or “city”). When recording a person died, the record may say “today,” “yesterday,” “of the same month,” or “of the same year,” instead of rewriting the date. At times, a person’s status may be recorded before or after his or her name, “peasant,” “farmer,” or “petty bourgeois” being the most common.

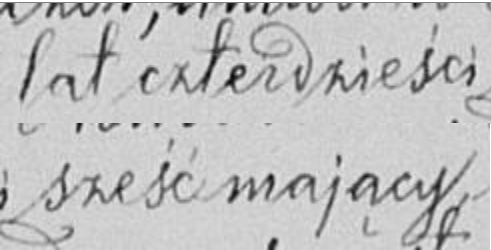
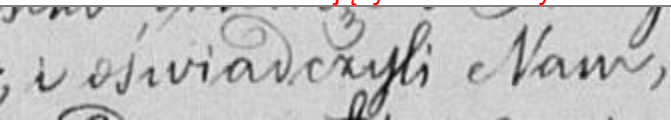
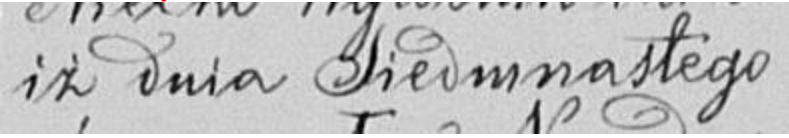
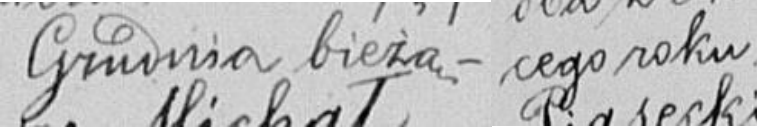
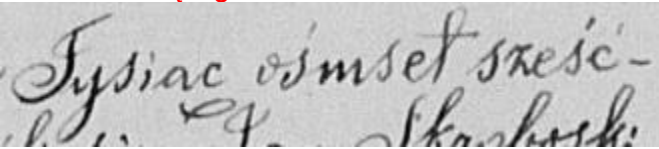
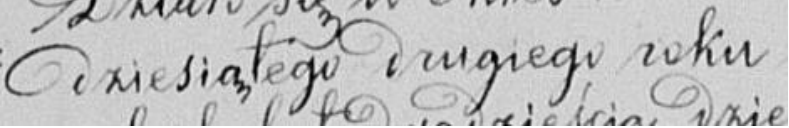
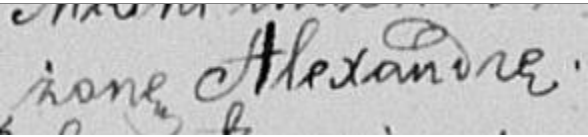
rural village	wieś (conjugated wsi)
city	mieście <u>or</u> miasto
resident	zamieszkały
today	dzisiaj <u>or</u> dnia dzisiejszym
yesterday	wczoraj <u>or</u> w dniu wczorajszym
day before yesterday	onegdaj <u>or</u> zawczoraj
lived days	żył dni
weeks	niedziel
months	miesiący
of the current month	miesiący bieżącego
of the current year	roku bieżącego
deceased	niegdyś <u>or</u> nieżyjący, <u>or</u> zmarł
living	żyjący
widowed	owdowiała
widow / widower	wdowa / wdowiec
left behind / survived by	pozostały / pozostawi
wife	żona / małżonka / zamężna
husband	mąż / małżonek / męża

PRACTICE

The last page of this guide will be a large image of the death record you should use to complete the activity. You can also view the image on FamilySearch using by clicking [here](#). Use the FamilySearch word list to complete this activity.

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Poland_Genealogical_Word_List

<p>What is the name of the deceased?</p>	<p>Look for the key words umarł w... (died in). The death place is listed, followed by the name of the deceased.</p>	 <p>“umarł w... Michal Piasecki”. Died in... Michal Piasecki.</p>
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<p>How old was he?</p>	<p>Look for the key words lat and mający right after the deceased's name. His age will be written between them.</p>	 <p>“lat czterdzieści sześć mający”. He is forty-six.</p>
<p>What day did he die?</p>	<p>Look for the key words i oświadczyli Nam, iż dnia... the death date will follow. If you see the key word bieżącego roku, you must look at the initial date for the information about the year.</p>	 <p>“i oświadczyli Nam</p>  <p>iż dnia siedmnastego</p>  <p>Grudnia bieżącego roku”</p>  <p>... “Tysiąc ośmset sześć-</p>  <p>-dziesiątego drugiego roku”.</p> <p>He died on the 17th of December, 1862.</p>
<p>Bonus question: What was his wife's name?</p>	<p>Look for the key word żonę (conjugated from żona). Her name will follow.</p>	 <p>“żonę Alexandrę” His wife's name is Aleksandra.</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.

1
Ks. Bł. Machnikowski
Działo się w ekleście kamionce dnia Ośmnastego Czerwnia Tysiąc osmset sześć-
dziesiątego drugiego roku o godzinie piątej w wieczór. Stawili się: Jan Skroboski
rolnik lat dwadzieścia dziewięć i Józef Kieiko Myrobnik lat czterdzieści mający
oba w Nowoworow, i oświadczyli Nam, iż dnia Trzynastego Czerwnia bieżą-
cego roku o godzinie dziesiątej w wieczór, umarł w Nowoworow Michał
Piasecki Młynarz w Nowoworow lat czterdzieści sześć mający syn, imię
go Franciszka, Matki imię i nazwisko ojca niewiadome, przedstawivszy po-
sobie oświadczenia, iż on Alexandre. Brzechonawsky się naszcnie o zejściu Michała
Piaseckiego. Akt ten stawającym świadkom pisac nieumiejącym pisze następuj-
sami podpisaliśmy.

Ks. Bł. Machnikowski Probosz Kamionkowski