Genealogy research in the Prussian partition of Poland - history & characteristics of vital records
Partitions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Source: Wikimedia Commons
Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth under the partitions - 1821

Source: Wikimedia Commons
Polish borders in the Second Polish Republic (1918-1939) and after World War II (1945+)
Religious registration in the Prussian partition (1794-1874)

- Religious vital records used for civil purposes since 1794
- Catholic and Lutheran parishes kept their own books. Jewish books of vital records were managed by town halls (1794-1812), police or county authorities (1812-1847), regional courts (1847-1874)
- Written in German, Latin or Polish
- Kept in tabular form

*Old Lutheran church in Klępsk*

Source: Wikimedia Commons
Civil registration in the Prussian partition (1874-1918)

- The obligation to keep vital records for state purposes was passed on to the Civil Registry Offices
- Districts of civil registration did not necessarily overlap with state or church divisions of the country
- Vital records were no longer kept separately for different faiths
- Parishes still kept their own books, although these records were no longer recognized by state authorities as official documents
- Documentation divided into three types of books - births (form A), marriages (form B), and deaths (form C)
Example of a civil marriage record - issued by the Civil Registry Office in Pelplin in 1900
The same marriage record - issued by the Roman-Catholic parish in Garczyn in 1900
Thank you for watching!

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