

## 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+)



Source: Jewishgen.org

## 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 Klepsk

Source: Wikimedia Commons

## Civil registration in the Prussian partition (1874-1918)

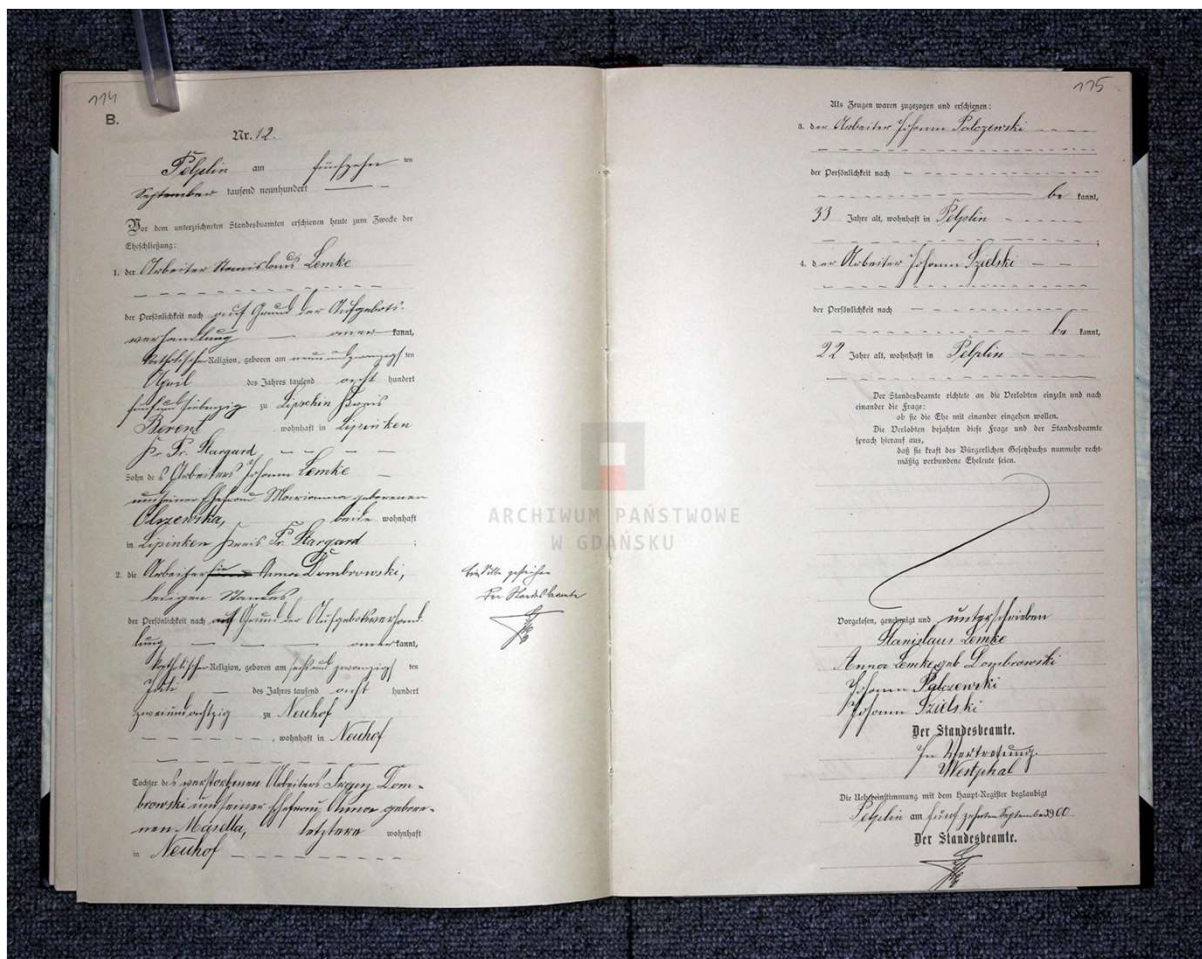
- ❖ The obligation to keep vital records for state purposes was passed on to the Civil Registry Offices
- ❖ Districts of civil registration did not necessarily overlap with state or church divisions of the country
- ❖ Vital records were no longer kept separately for different faiths
- ❖ Parishes still 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)



**Otto von Bismarck, Minister President of Prussia, Chancellor of the German Empire**

Source: Wikimedia Commons

## Example of a civil marriage record - issued by the Civil Registry Office in Pelplin in 1900









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