



Practical advice for people planning genealogical investigations

(mostly, but not only)

in The Central Archives of Historical Records (CAHR) in Warsaw

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Preparing to search the Archives

All available information and documentation should be gathered together in preparation for any search, whether of the State or a Church archives.

Every certificate, copy of register entry or photocopy is important – even these which are damaged, hard to read or even incomprehensible to the amateur genealogist. With help from an experienced person, it may be possible to attempt to read information from these documents and extract what is of interest. Searching registers and parish documents is a good way to start, and is one of the paths to obtain data on ancestors.

Translator's note

gmina, the first level of administration, is given here as **commune**;

powiat (the second level of administration) is given as **county**;

województwo – voivodeship – is the third level of administration;

zasób has been rendered as **holding**;

zespół has been rendered as **fonds**, throughout;

zabużański has been rendered as **beyond the River Bug**;

Ukrainian localities names are as transliterated by the Ukrainian government <https://mfa.gov.ua/>;

Ukrainian *oblast* is given as **region**.

Note: both **Civil Registers** and **Vital Records** are used for registers of births, marriages and deaths.

General information

It is important to establish whether the genealogical materials of interest can be found in the CAHR before starting a search of its holdings.

The CAHR stores Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and parish/community records from the territories of the former Polish, pre-World War II voivodeships (provinces) of Lwów [Lviv], Tarnopol [Ternopil], Stanisławów [Ivano-Frankivsk] and Wołyń [Volhynia, Volyn]¹.

Detailed information on the stored vital records has been compiled in the PRADZIAD computer database, which comprises:

- ▶ Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Vital Records in all State Archives,
- ▶ the Section of Records from beyond the River Bug of the Civil Registration Office (*USC*), department in Warsaw,
- ▶ archdiocesan archives in Łódź, Poznań, Szczecin and Wrocław,
- ▶ diocesan archives in Płock, Włocławek and Warsaw-Praga – and registers from the former diocese of Pińsk only, in Drohiczyn,
- ▶ records in the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin.

An updated version of the database is accessible via Internet service on <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl>².

¹ There are few exceptions which involve the borderlands of the voivodeships of Lublin, Podkarpacie and Wilno.

² Internet links included in this text were active in September 2020.

How to establish the name of the parish or community

Before starting the search, we need to know the religion or denomination of the person or family of interest. If we are not certain of this, we will have to search registers of various religions and denominations for a given location.

The search cannot start without basic information – which is the name of the place (town or village) where the family lived, and where Civil Registers (of births, marriages and deaths) were recorded.

The first thing to be established is whether the place in question was the seat of the relevant parish or community (depending on religion) or whether it was an affiliate of a parish or community in a different place.

Useful tools for this are:

Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich – “Geographical Dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and Other Slavic Countries”, published in Polish in 1880-1902. The “Geographical Dictionary” is available in electronic form on line through several digital libraries (e.g. https://www.dir.icm.edu.pl/Slownik_geograficzny, <https://www.mbc.malopolska.pl/publication/113>).

The “Geographical Dictionary” contains descriptions of places within the Republic [of Poland] and its pre-partition borders, in Silesia and parts of West Pomerania. Specific entries contain information on the history of the village or town, its religious and denominational structure and its administrative affiliations, and also information about the owners of towns and villages which were in private ownership just before the publication of the “Geographical Dictionary”. The book is also available in the reference library of the Research Room at the CAHR.

Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej – “Gazetteer of towns and villages of the Polish Republic”, edited by T. Bystrzycki and published in 1933-1934.

The “Gazetteer” is available in electronic format from several e-libraries, (e.g. <https://www.dbc.wroc.pl/dlibra/publication/14361/edition/12667>).

The “Gazetteer” contains information about the locations of the Courts’ seats and distances to the nearest railway stations, as well as information on administrative affiliation (commune, county, voivodeship).

The “Gazetteer” specifies the Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran parish affiliation for each place.

There is no information in it about affiliation of Jewish congregations.

The “Gazetteer” is also available in the reference library of the Research Room at the CAHR.

Districts relevant to Jewish affiliation can be established using *Żydowskie okręgi metrykalne* – “Jewish Vital Record Districts”, by Jerzy Michalewicz, Kraków 1995. The author chose to arrange this book alphabetically by county (*powiat*), and by commune (*gmina*) within each county. Changes of affiliation of particular places to particular faith districts are given, where it has been possible to confirm them. An Internet search function covering all the places contained in Michalewicz’s work is available on the CAHR website <https://www.agad.gov.pl/genealogia/michalewicz.html>.

Schematyzmy – diocesan yearbooks, are useful in establishing administrative divisions within the Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic Churches.

These yearbooks are guides published by the Church authorities of individual dioceses, usually annually. They contain information on diocesan and monastic clergy and description of networks of parishes of the diocese, by deanery. The description of each parish shows: when it was established, information on the parish church (when it was built, who funded it, its dedication, its current patron saint), places affiliated to the parish, the current Parish Priest and the number of worshippers.

These yearbooks are particularly useful in establishing the parish affiliation of places which have changed status (changing from an affiliated place to an independent parish, or conversely).

The *Schematyzm* of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Lwów serves as an example. It shows that having belonged previously to the parish of Zbaraż, the following became independent parishes: Maksymówka (in 1908), Sieniawa (1909), Stryjówka (1903) and Zarudeczko (1914). Thus genealogical searches for those parishes in earlier years [before those separate parishes were formed] must be made in registers from Zbaraż parish.

Schematyzmy for various years are available in the CAHR library or on the Internet (e.g. through <https://www.pbc.rzeszow.pl>).

Parish affiliation in the diocese of Łuck can be established by using a search tool on the CAHR website, <https://www.agad.gov.pl/genealogia/luceoria.html>, which makes it possible to determine parish affiliation at about mid-19th century.

Affiliation to diocese of Łuck parishes before the outbreak of World War II can be established using Rev. Stanisław Tylus’ *Spis miejscowości diecezji łuckiej według kościelnego podziału administracyjnego z 1938 r.* – “List of towns and villages in diocese of Łuck by Church administrative division in 1938”, published in the journal *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* (1999, vol. 72).

Rev. Waldemar W. Żurek also published the parish network of the diocese of Łuck, arranged by deanery, in *Wykazy osób z akt parafialnych diecezji łuckiej do 1945 roku* – “Lists of persons from the Parish Records of the diocese of Łuck up to 1945” (vol. I and again in vol. VII, IX and X).

Civil Registers and Parish/Community records for various religions and denominations stored in the CAHR

The CAHR keeps Civil Registers of various religions, denominations and rites, including:

1. Fonds 298 (Zespół nr 298) – Civil Registers from Greek Catholic Parishes from the Archdioceses of Lwów, Przemyśl and Stanisławów; 456 a.u.³
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/ksGrec298.xml>
2. Fonds 299 (Zespół nr 299) – Civil Registers from Lutheran and Calvinist communities; 341 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KEAH299xx.xml>
3. Fonds 300 (Zespół nr 300) – Civil Registers from Jewish communities beyond the River Bug; 4066 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Mojz300x.xml>
4. Fonds 301 (Zespół nr 301) – Civil Registers from Roman Catholic Parishes from the Archdiocese of Lwów; 2049 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KLwo301new.xml>
5. Fonds 302 (Zespół nr 302) – Civil Registers and Parish records from Orthodox Parishes from Wołyń and Polesie; 24 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Kprx302.xml>
6. Fonds 436 (Zespół nr 436) – Civil Registers from Roman Catholic Parishes from the diocese of Łuck; 1077 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KMLuck436x.xml>
7. Fonds 437 (Zespół nr 437) – Civil Registers from Roman Catholic Parishes from the diocese of Przemyśl; 76 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Kprze437x.xml>

³ The number of books available in September 2020. The description “archival unit [a.u.]” denotes the number of items in the inventory. The description “Civil Registers” refers predominantly to collections of entries of births, marriages and deaths for a given place and year. An archival unit (usually in the physical form of a bound book) may contain Civil Registers from one, several, more than ten, or sometimes tens of years.

8. Fonds 439 (Zespół nr 439) – Civil Registers from Lutheran communities from the western governorates of the Russian Empire / eastern voivodeships of the 2nd [Polish] Republic; 289 a.u.

<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KsEA439x.xml>

9. Fonds 456 (Zespół nr 456) – Civil Registers of various denominations and rites (Armenian Apostolic Church, Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church, Baptist, Mennonite, Evangelical Christians) from territories beyond the River Bug; 18 a.u.

<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KsOMB456x.xml>

Scans are appended to the units described in the inventories of Civil Registers, inasmuch as their publication is permitted within compulsory guidelines (arising from the statute, *Prawo o aktach stanu cywilnego* (Law on Vital Records) of 28th November 2014.

A second group of materials useful for genealogical research, are the Parish/Community records for different denominations.

At the CAHR, these are divided into separate fonds from Civil Registers and remaining documents created by Parish or Community Offices (except fonds 302 and 456).

The fonds of records include registers of families living in a parish or commune, premarital agreements, registers of marriage banns, copies from Civil Registers, lists of communicants and other documents in which people or families of interest may appear.

Unfortunately, chiefly due to the poor preservation of these records, and sometimes, as a result of limitations arising from Data Protection regulations, currently they can only be searched by the archivist⁴.

The CAHR contains the following fonds:

1. Fonds 303 (Zespół nr 303) – Roman Catholic parish records from the Archdiocese of Lwów; 319 a.u.

<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/ALeo303.xml>

2. Fonds 424 (Zespół nr 424) – Jewish community records from eastern Małopolska (Eastern Galicia); 191 a.u.

<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/am424.xml>

3. Fonds 427 (Zespół nr 427) – Lutheran and Calvinist community records; 109 a.u.

<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/AKEAH427.xml>

⁴ This situation will change once the documents are scanned in full.

4. Fonds 433 (Zespół nr 433) – Roman Catholic parish records from the diocese of Łuck; 60 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/APLuc433.xml>
5. Fonds 434 (Zespół nr 434) – Roman Catholic parish records from the diocese of Przemyśl; 18 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/APrzemys434.xml>
6. Fonds 438 (Zespół nr 438) – Lutheran community records from the western governorates of the Russian Empire/eastern voivodeships of the 2nd [Polish] Republic; 44 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/EWAKT438.xml>
7. Fonds 461 (Zespół nr 461) – Greek Catholic rite parish records from the Archdiocese of Lwów and the dioceses of Przemyśl and Stanisławów; 46 a.u.
<https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Agr461.xml>

Roman Catholic Civil Registers from the territories of present-day Ukraine are being indexed by members of the Polish Genealogical Society (*Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne*). Indexes of 270 parishes have been published on the website <https://www.genealodzy.pl> in the 'Geneteka' section (direct web address <https://www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl>). As at September 2020, this represented over 1,065,000 entries.

Indexes of Civil Registers from the diocese of Łuck (about 100,000 entries at the beginning of 2016) can be found on <https://www.wolyn-metryki.pl>.

The Genealogical Society of Lublin (*Lubelskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne*) has published indexes of over ten parishes from the Archdiocese of Lwów and the dioceses of Łuck and Przemyśl on the website <https://www.regestry.lubgens.eu/news.php>.

The Jewish Records Indexing – Poland programme has taken on the indexation of Jewish Civil Registers kept in the CAHR and other state archives and Civil Registration Offices. Before embarking on searching the registers, it is helpful to check whether the vital records of the community in question have been indexed, which will make the task significantly easier. Further information on the Jewish Records Indexing Project and on the books that have already been indexed can be found on the website <https://www.jri-poland.org>.

The indexes include every entry in the given civil registry. The description includes the call number of the registry, the year and the entry number as well as basic personal data. Similar work is carried out by the Gesher Galicia organisation, which posts information on the website <https://www.geshergalicia.org>.

Note: There are no Jewish Civil Registers from the former Wołyń province (present Volyn and Rivne region) in the CAHR.

Indexes of the family records from more than 300 localities offer an important support during research carried out on Registers of Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions. Indexes are accessible on the web page https://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org/Data/Daum_Surnames/index.htm.

How to access Civil Registers in the CAHR

Civil registers from the CAHR are accessible via Internet service <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl> and on the CAHR web page, in the "Redite ad Fontes" website <https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/testy.html> and also at the link https://www.agad.gov.pl/?page_id=1599 (according to the fonds numbers). Civil Registers from the CAHR holding can also be accessed through the computers in the CAHR Research Room.

Non-computer users can look through microfilms of the registers using microfilm readers at the CAHR. Polish residents who live outside Warsaw can still borrow microfilms of the CAHR registers through the State Archives (*Archiwum Państwowe*) nearest their home. The borrower is responsible for postage costs of delivery and return.

Registers in consignments (which reach the CAHR) from Civil Registration Office (*Urząd Stanu Cywilnego – USC*) are not accessible until they have been scanned. Transcripts of these documents are available for official purposes in the meantime.

The CAHR reminds users that Civil Registers and parish/community records (which contain personal information) are not accessible for review before the elapse of the statutory period of time (births – after 100 years, marriages and deaths – after 80 years).

Where to look for records which are not in the CAHR

If it turns out that the CAHR holding does not include the documents required, check whether they are in one of the other archives which collect documents from the area of pre-war south-east Poland.

I. Archives in Poland

1. State Archives

Civil Registers of various religions from regions beyond the River Bug are stored at the Civil Registration Office: *III Wydział Rejestracji Stanu Cywilnego i Ksiąg Zaburzańskich USC*, ul. Ks. I. Kłopotowskiego 1/3, 03-718 Warszawa, Poland, telephones (48) 22 443 12 81 and (48) 22 443 12 80, e-mail uscskz@um.warszawa.pl.

This archive, now named Section of Records from Vital Records Offices beyond the River Bug (*Sekcja Ksiąg Zaburzańskich USC*), previously "Archive of Records from beyond the River Bug" (*Archiwum Zaburzańskie*), was at the address: ul. Smyczkova 14, until April 2009 (and previously at the address: ul. Jezuicka 1/3). This archive stores Civil Registers from the area, which was placed within the borders of the USSR, under the 1945 agreement on the Polish-Soviet border. These are civil registers, which were completed less than 100 years ago (birth records) or 80 years ago (marriage and death records). It operates in accordance with the powers granted by the Law on Vital Records, of 1986 (*Ustawa o aktach stanu cywilnego, 1986*) and repeated in the Law on Vital Records of 28th November 2014 (*Prawo o aktach stanu cywilnego*).

Older registers are progressively transferred from *Sekcja Ksiąg Zaburzańskich* to the CAHR in accordance with the 1998 order of Ministry of the Interior and Administration (*Ministerstwo Spraw Wewnętrznych i Administracji*) and repeated in essence in the directive of the Head of State Archives (*Naczelny Dyrektor Archiwów Państwowych*) of 26th March 2015.

In practice it is not usually possible to divide records precisely (for example, a single registry may cover entries from 1891 to 1921), so that some registers in the CAHR are more recent, and some at the Civil Registration Office (*Urzędy Stanu Cywilnego – USC*) are older than the Law provides.

Remember that it is not possible physically to divide a registry (archival unit) which may contain births, marriages and deaths, which are currently subject to different regulations (periods of time) on storage by the Civil Registration Office (USC).

Note: This archive does not contain Civil Registers of the Greek Catholic rite – these were all transferred to the CAHR in the early 1980s.

General information on the collections at *Sekcja Ksiąg Zabuzzańskich USC* can be found on the website below (only names of parishes and communities, divided by religion and denomination and by pre-war voivodeship): https://www.usc.um.warszawa.pl/sites/usc.um.warszawa.pl/files/zbior_ksiegi_zabuzanskie.pdf.

Reminder – the service <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl> has more comprehensive information on the collection at the Civil Registration Office (USC).

The State Archive in Przemyśl stores a certain number of Lutheran and Calvinist Civil Registers and those of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic rites from [previously Polish] areas, which post-war [World War II] border changes rendered outside Poland:

Archiwum Państwowe w Przemyślu, ul. J. Lelewela 4, 37-700 Przemyśl, Poland. Telephones (48) 16 670 35 38 and (48) 16 670 76 34, ext. 145 (information), <https://www.przemysl.ap.gov.pl>, e-mail archiwum@przemysl.ap.gov.pl.

Some records from territories beyond the River Bug remain in Przemyśl, although most of them were transferred to the CAHR.

The Przemyśl archive transferred to the CAHR registers from Roman Catholic parishes including registers from the former eastern Małopolska (Eastern Galicia) (in Przemyśl archive fonds no 144).

In Przemyśl remained fonds: no 2436 – Copies of Civil Registers of the parishes of the Lwów Archdiocese and the Roman Catholic diocese of Przemyśl (from the 19th century, 137 a.u.) and fonds no 2441 – Parish files and Civil Registers of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Lwów and diocese of Przemyśl (from the end of the 16th century to the year 1940, 304 a.u.). The latter fonds includes Civil Registers of announcements, pre-wedding protocols and numerous family registers (*animarum status*).

To the CAHR were transferred also Civil Registers from the Greek Catholic parishes from the former eastern Małopolska (Eastern Galicia) (in Przemyśl fonds no 145). Copies of registers from Greek Catholic parishes from the 19th century, Archdiocese of Lwów (fonds no 879), files of several deanery offices (fonds no 857)

and archives of the Greek Catholic episcopate of Przemyśl (fonds no 142) remained in Przemyśl.

The files of the Western Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions contain duplicate records from the municipalities of Hohenbach and Nowy Sącz (fonds no 801) and the residual archives of the municipalities of Dornfeld, Ugartsthal, Unterwalden and Raniżów (fonds no 575 and 152).

State Archive in Przemyśl keeps also registers from Jewish communities – Dobromil and Wielkie Oczy (fonds no 1656, 1729).

Information on the indicated fonds and collections along with scans of documents can be found at <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl>.

Specific information on the Civil Registers in this archive can be found in the publication by Anna Krochmal and Michał Proksa, *Akta metrykalne w zasobie Archiwum Państwowego w Przemyślu*, Przemyśl 1998 – “Civil Registers in the holding of the State Archive in Przemyśl”.

In the Manuscript Department of the National Library in Warsaw (*Biblioteka Narodowa*) there are registers of over twenty parishes from the former Greek Catholic diocese of Przemyśl, mainly from the 18th century.

Some registers from the few communities of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions⁵ are kept in the National Archive in Kraków: *Archiwum Narodowe w Krakowie*, ul. Rakowicka 22E, 31-510 Kraków, Poland, telephone (48) 12 421 37 33 (information), <https://www.ank.gov.pl>, e-mail informacja@ank.gov.pl.

2. Church Archives

For Civil Registers from the former Roman Catholic diocese of Przemyśl at the Archdiocesan Archive in Przemyśl: *Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Przemyślu*, pl. Katedralny 4 A, 37-700 Przemyśl, Poland, telephone (48) 16 678 66 94 ext. 38, e-mail archiwum@przemyska.pl.

The pre-war diocesan archives were taken by the Russians to Lviv in 1940, and later taken over by the Germans. At the end of 1942 the Directorate of Archives of General Government in Kraków agreed to return archives to Przemyśl, but stopped in Lviv 810 volumes of vital records. In 1944, the Germans took these registers towards Lower Silesia and so far they have not been found. According to the

⁵ Fonds no 525 includes registers from communities: Königsberg, Nowy Gawłów, Nowy Sącz, Ranischau, Reichsheim, Hohenbach i Stadlo; Books come mostly from the period 1848-1918.

information on the website <https://www.rkc.lviv.ua>, the “Bug River” documents currently stored in the Archdiocese Archive come from the deaneries of Sambor, Mościska, Stryj and Gródek (Jagielloński).

For Roman Catholic Civil Registers from the former Lwów and Tarnopol voivodeships, enquire at the Archives of Archbishop Eugeniusz Baziak in Kraków: *Archiwum im. Arcybiskupa Eugeniusza Baziaka w Krakowie*, ul. M. Bobrzyńskiego 10, 30-348 Kraków, Poland, telephone (48) 12 252 35 60, e-mail archiwum.baziaka@upjp2.edu.pl.

This is the archive of the former Archdiocese of Lwów, stored after the World War II in separate parts, in Kraków, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and Tarnów, then united in 1956 in Lublin, and from 1978 located at the Bishop’s Curia in Lubaczów. Since 1995 the Archive has been located in Kraków. Until 2012, it was at the address ul. Kanoniczna 13, and now is deposited at the Pontifical University of John Paul II (*Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II*) in Kraków.

This Archive contains fragments of parish archives from over 270 parishes, including Civil Registers from the 16th to 20th century.

Information about the holding and history of the *Archiwum im. Arcybiskupa Baziaka* along with the inventory of the Civil Registers as for the 2019, is available on the web page <https://upjp2.edu.pl/uczelnia/jednostki-organizacyjne/archiwum-abpa-eugeniusza-baziaka-w-krakowie>.

In the Diocesan Archives in Zamość: *Archiwum Diecezjalne w Zamościu*, Jana Zamoyskiego 1, 22-400 Zamość, telephone 607 136 056, e-mail archiwum@zamojskolubaczowska.pl, there are, not transferred to Kraków, parish registers from: Hrebenne (births 1891-1943, marriages 1885-1943), Rawa Ruska (births 1785-1891), Uhnów (births 1786-1965, marriages 1785-1965, deaths 1788-1951), Bełz (births, marriages, deaths 1785-1945), Hołubie (births 1848-1862, marriages 1826-1855).

Registers of parishes kept by religious orders in the Archdiocese of Lwów are often in the archives of these congregations. For example, the archives of the Polish Dominican Province in Kraków keeps registers and files of the parish in Czortków, Jezupol, Podkamień and the Corpus Christi parish in Lwów.

For Civil Registers from the former Roman Catholic diocese of Łuck, enquire at the Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums KUL: *Instytut Archiwów, Bibliotek i Muzeów Kościelnych Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego – KUL*, Chopina 29 /7, 20-023 Lublin, Poland, telephone (48) 81 445 30 85, e-mail redabmk@kul.lublin.pl.

There are genealogical materials currently stored in Lublin – Civil Registers and various transcripts and indexes prepared from the original Civil Registers. This represents a fragment of the archive of the diocese of Łuck, transported to Poland after the War and stored in the Castle of Bierzgłowo near Toruń.

A significant part of this resource was used in ten volumes published by Waldemar W. Żurek titled *Wykaz osób z akt parafialnych diecezji łuckiej do 1945 roku* – “List of people from the parish records of the diocese of Łuck up to 1945” (Lublin 2004-2019). These contain transcripts of Civil Registers and parish documents of over 60 parishes from the Łuck diocese. The transcripts contain several to several thousand entries, depending on the parish.

This publication is available in the CAHR reference library.

In the Archdiocesan Archives in Poznań: *Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Poznaniu*, Posadzego 2, 61-108 Poznań, telephone 61 810 15 19 ext. 33 or 34, <https://www.aap.poznan.pl>, e-mail sekretariat@aap.poznan.pl, there are kept records of the Roman Catholic and Armenian rites from the area of Bukovina⁶.

Those interested in registers of Armenian Catholic parishes in Galicia and Bukovina can find a list of registers and copies collected by the Foundation for the Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians at the website: <https://www.archiwum.ormianie.pl/dodinf.php>⁷.

II. Archives in Ukraine

Civil Registers of various denominations are stored in the Central State Historical Archive in Lviv: Центральний державний історичний архів України, м. Львів, pl. Soborny 3 a, 79008 Lviv, UKRAINE, <https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua>, e-mail tsdial@arch.gov.ua.

In 2020, the following inventories were added to the Archive's website <https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index5.html>.

Fonds no 201, opys (inventory) 4 A – Civil Registers of the Greek Catholic rite from 1686-1968.

⁶ Records of the parishes Adancata-Hiboca, Czerniowce, Kocmań, Suczawa i Zastawna.

⁷ In the collection of the Foundation one can find copies of the Civil Registers kept in the archives of Lviv, in the fonds no 475.

Fonds no 618, opys 2 – Civil Registers of the Roman Catholic rite from 1600-1948.

Catalogues of Roman Catholic Civil Registers in Galicia, of Greek Catholic and Orthodox Civil Registers from 1711-1944 published in Lviv in 2020, are available to download from the website <https://tsdial.archives.gov.ua/index5.html>.

All these research resources are in Ukrainian language.

An inventory of records from the Lviv archives (as at 1998) was published by Rev. Józef Wołczański, in the publication entitled *Dokumenty kościoła rzymskokatolickiego Archidiecezji Lwowskiej w zasobach Centralnego Państwowego Archiwum Historycznego Ukrainy we Lwowie: inwentarze* – “Documents of the Roman Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Lviv stored in the Central State Historic Archive in Lviv: inventories”, Kraków 2007 (2nd edition 2012).

The section ‘Border towns and villages’ (*Miejscowości kresowe*) on the website <https://www.kami.net.pl> allows to look for a locality name of interest, to check whether records for that place are in the Lviv archive (unfortunately only up to register 2657, as at 1998). Furthermore, apart from the archival catalogue information, the database shows the numbers of microfilms made by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)⁸.

Scans of registers from the Lviv Archives are currently available on the website maintained by the Mormons <https://www.familysearch.org>.

The Lviv archive also has a relatively small collection of Jewish community registers.

In Fonds no 701, opys 1 there are Jewish registers from 57 communities. These registers cover the period from the end of the 18th century till 1940s (the majority, are from the second half of the 19th century).

The collection of registers of communities of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions⁹ includes records from 3 communities, kept in fonds no 427 (not described in a separate inventory).

In the State Archive of the Ivano-Frankivsk Region: Державний архів Івано-Франківської області (ДАІФО), Sahajdacznego 42 a, 76007 Ivano-Frankivsk,

⁸ As at the end of 2017, it was possible to order microfilms to be sent to two Family History Centres [in Poland], in Warsaw and Wrocław. Microfilms are no longer distributed, but a significant proportion of them have been digitized and is accessible on site in the Centres. Detailed information is available on <https://www.familysearch.org>, after registration and log-in.

⁹ Records come from communities Weinbergen, Unterbergen and Lviv; the fonds no 201 includes registers from Dornfeld and Lindenfeld.

<https://if.archives.gov.ua>, e-mail archive_if@arch.gov.ua, registers are kept in the fonds no 631¹⁰ "Collection of registers of churches and synagogues of the Stanisławów voivodeship", registers of Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic and Jewish parishes (in 14 descriptions, registers from 1752-1938) were listed.

Whereas in the fonds number P-2521 there are registers of marital status from 1940-1942 (3 descriptions). The inventories are available on the archive page in the 'Довідковий апарат' section: <http://if.archives.gov.ua/index.php/add-inform-mbooks/>.

In the State Archives of the Volyn Region in Lutsk: Державний архів Волинської області, Weteranów 21, 430024 Łuck, <https://volyn.archives.gov.ua>, e-mail archive_volyn@arch.gov.ua, Roman Catholic registers are kept in four fonds numbered: 22, 193, 195 and 297, Greek Catholic registers in fond numbered: 382, registers of Jewish communities in three fonds numbered: 96, 286, 351. The largest number of registers is in fond numbered 35, which is a collection of records of the Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Evangelical communities (in total in 11 descriptions, more than 4,500 registers from 1803-1939). Inventories of the registers (except fond numbered 382) are available on the website https://volyn.archives.gov.ua/elekt_archives/opis/opis_fondiv_1939.php.

In the second archives in Volhynia – the State Archives of the Rivne Region: Державний архів Рівненської області, Bandery 26 a, 33014 Rivne, Ukraine, <https://rv.archives.gov.ua>, e-mail archive_rv@arch.gov.ua, Roman Catholic registers are kept in eight fonds numbered: 171, 172, 245, 487, 639, 650, 654, P-740, Orthodox registers in ten fonds numbered: 82, 277, 278, 373, 484, 485, 637, 639, 642, P-740, Jewish registers in eight fonds numbered: 259, 260, 261, 262, 271, 272, 639, P-740 and Evangelical registers in fond number P-740. Fond no P-740 contains a collection of registers of various denominations provided by the RACS archive (a total of over 2300 registers from 1840-1976). The inventories of the mentioned fonds are available on the website <https://rv.archives.gov.ua/ocifrovani-opisi-sprav>.

In the State Archives of the Ternopil Region: Державний архів Тернопільської області, Sahajdacznego 14, 46001 Ternopil: <https://te.archives.gov.ua>, e-mail archive_te@arch.gov.ua, address for sending requests zveren_archive_te@arch.gov.ua, Roman Catholic registers are kept in fonds numbered 426 (opys 1, registers from 1766-1964) and 485 (opys 1, registers from 1784-1944), and Jewish registers are in the fonds number 484 (opys 1, registers from 1870-1938), Orthodox registers in the fond number 486 (opys 1, registers from 1838-1942)

¹⁰ Registers originally from fonds 504 and 594 were also included in this collection.

and Greek Catholic registers in the fond number 487 (opys 1, registers from 1784-1912, 1920-1944). Inventories of these registers are available at <https://te.archives.gov.ua/index.php/e-archiv> in the section 'Фонди до вересня 1939 року' (fonds until September 1939).

An unknown number of registers of various denominations and rites can be found in the RACS Registers Archive in Lviv: ПАЦС – Реєстрації Актів Цивільного Стану, Getmana Doroszenko 23, 79000 Lviv, e-mail vcs@lv.drsu.gov.ua and other regional archives (in Ivano-Frankivsk, Garkuszi 15, 76018 Ivano-Frankivsk, e-mail vcs@if.drsu.gov.ua; Ternopil, Hruszewskiego 8, 46021 Ternopil, e-mail vcs@te.drsu.gov.ua; Lutsk, Sobornosti 18, 43026 Lutsk, e-mail vcs@vl.drsu.gov.ua and in Rivne, Caucasian 8, e-mail vcs@rv.drsu.gov.ua) and in district archives.

There is general information on registers stored in the RACS archives on the website of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, on the subpage of the Department of Notaries and State Registration, <https://www.minjust.gov.ua/ddr/services/dergavna-reestratsia-aktiv-civilnogo-stanu>. It is best to contact the RACS archives through the consulates (in Lviv and Lutsk).

In 2009 started publication of a multi-volume comprehensive catalogue of Civil Registers – stored in fonds and collections within State Archives of the regions of Ukraine. This publication came from the initiative of the Ukrainian State Archives and is – unfortunately, only in Ukrainian – in hard copy, on CDs, and through the website.

All catalogues are accessible on the web page <https://undiasd.archives.gov.ua/index.php?m=21#NPos> in the section 'Joint catalogue of registers'.

Volume I comprises a list of registers stored in the archive of the Volyn region (a separate catalogue of registers of 1600-1938 was published in Lutsk) and from the Dnipropetrovs'k and Zakarpattia regions.

Volume 2 comprises a list of registers from the region of Rivne (published separately in Rivne as a duplicated typescript catalogue of the registers from there), Kyiv, Mykolayiv and Sumy regions.

Volume 3 comprises a list of registers stored in the city archives in Kyiv and Sevastopol, Ternopil, Cherkasy and Chernivsti regions.

Volume 4 comprises a list of registers stored in the regional archives of the Odesa region (a separate catalogue of record was published in Odesa), as well as Donetsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Luhansk and Poltava regions.

Volume 5 comprises registers stored in the State Archive of the Kharkiv region.

Volume 6 comprises registers stored in the archives of Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions and the archives of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

Volume 7 comprises a list of registers stored in the archives of Vinnytsya and Kirovograd regions.

Volume 8 comprises a list of registers stored in the archives of the Khmelnytsky region.

In the archives of the Khmelnytsky region there are registers saved from the fire of the archive in Kamieniec Podolski.

The description of the collections of each archive starts with its address data, a brief account of the origin and date of the acquisition by the archives of the fonds/collections containing the Civil Registers, and more detail on their subject: the number of the fonds/collection, the full name, date range and quantity of Civil Registers (hardly any of the Ukrainian archive fonds/collection are composed exclusively of Civil Registers).

The State Archives of Zhytomyr and Ternopil regions has registers from about 90 Roman Catholic parishes of the diocese of Lutsk.

Current addresses of all Ukrainian archives can be found (in English and Ukrainian) on the <https://www.archives.gov.ua>.

The website <https://www.pra.in.ua/en> has recently created database of people living in Ukraine, born between 1650 and 1920. There are already nearly four million entries. In addition, there are scans of registers and other documents containing genealogical information. In the Library section, there are also publications of sources from Ukrainian and Polish archives (e.g. the archives of the Czartoryski Library).

Where to find registers from regions now within Lithuania and Belarus

1. Archives in Poland

First, it is important to note that an agreement was signed in 1946 between Poland and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, mutual transfer of the relevant registers from regions which had become part of that nation after the World War II, to the other nation, to which those regions had previously belonged. No such agreement was made with the republics of Lithuania and Belarus, hence the negligible number of registers from those areas can be found in Polish archives.

It may be assumed that a few civil records and parish registers from present-day Lithuania and Belarus ended up in CAHR by chance, along with registers from present-day Ukraine.

The remains of the Roman Catholic registers from the diocese of Wilno stored at the CAHR are 19th century registers from the parishes of Braszewicze, Czarnawczyce (Czarnawczyce) and Roś.

Fonds 548 (Zespół 548) – Civil Registers of the Roman Catholic parishes from the diocese /Archdiocese of Wilno and the diocese of Pińsk; 6 a.u.: <https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/KMWilno548.xml>.

The fonds of records from the Archdiocese of Wilno/diocese of Pińsk includes documents from the parishes of Czarnawczyce and Drohiczyn.

Fonds 435 (Zespół 435) – Roman Catholic parish records from the diocese/archdiocese of Wilno and the diocese of Pińsk; 4 a.u.: <https://www.agad.gov.pl/inwentarze/Awil435.xml>.

Confirmation registers from Wilno and Civil Registers of the Kalwaria branch and the Wiłkowyszki branch belonging to the Mariampol commune were attached to the set of Lutheran registers from Wołyń kept in the CAHR¹¹.

State Archives in Suwałki: *Archiwum Państwowe w Suwałkach*, ul. Kościuszki 69, 16-400 Suwałki, telephone 87 566 21 96, <https://www.suwalki.ap.gov.pl>, e-mail archiwum@suwalki.ap.gov.pl, keeps registers of a dozen parishes and religious communities from the area of present-day Lithuania.

The Archdiocesan Archive in Białystok preserves the remains of parish records from the former Archdiocese of Wilno (territories of present-day Lithuania and

¹¹ The CAHR also preserves Lutheran books from Windawa (Windau) in Courland, present-day Latvia.

Belarus) from 1865. The archive preserves transcripts of the Civil Registers of the former dioceses of Grodno (1865-1937) and Łunna (1922-1937). The Archdiocesan Archive in Białystok: *Archiwum Archidiecezjalne w Białymstoku*, ul. Warszawska 46, 15-077 Białystok, Poland, telephone (48) 85 732 40 51 (records department), <https://www.archibial.pl>, e-mail aab@archibial.pl.

The Civil Registers from several dozen of parishes of the former diocese of Pińsk are stored at the Diocesan Archive in Drohiczyń, *Archiwum Diecezjalne w Drohiczyń*, ul. Kościelna 10, 17-312 Drohiczyń n. Bugiem, Poland, telephone (48) 85 665 78 08, ext. 710, <https://drohiczyńska.pl/>, e-mail archiwum@drohiczyńska.pl.

Detailed information prepared by Rev. Eugeniusz Borowski can be found on the diocesan web page in the '*Instytucje (Archiwum)*' section.

Rev. Waldemar W. Żurek started publication of "Lists of persons from parish records of the diocese of Pińsk until 1947" (*Wykazy osób z akt parafialnych diecezji pińskiej do 1947 roku*). (Five volumes were published in the years 2013-2016, containing transcripts from 37 parishes in alphabetical order: Volume I, B-I; Volume II, K; Volume III, K-M; Volume IV, M-O; Volume V, P-S).

This publication is in the CAHR reference library.

The Section of Records from beyond the River Bug (*Sekcja Ksiąg Zabuzzańskich USC*) in Warsaw keeps registers of several parishes of the former diocese of Pińsk.

Note that civil registers recreated on the basis of witness accounts of court proceedings in the years 1946-1952 are kept in the Civil Registration Office (*Archiwum USC*) Łódź Centrum.

2. Archives in Lithuania and Belarus

Lithuania

Anyone seeking their roots in the former territories of Lithuania must look in the archives of both present-day Lithuania and present-day Belarus.

Enquiries for Lithuania should be directed to the Office of the Chief Archivist of Lithuania – Lithuanian State Historical Archives, *Lietuvos valstybės istorijos archyvas*, LT-03107 Vilnius, Mindaugo 8, Lithuania, e-mail istor.archyvas@lvia.lt.

This archive contains Civil Registers from over 600 Roman Catholic parishes from the territories of present-day Lithuania and over 200 parishes from the

territories of present-day Belarus. There are also several dozen registers of Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Church, Uniate and Jewish communes, and over 200 Orthodox parishes. The historical archive also contains holding from the civil registers previously stored in archive on Kalinauskago Street in Vilnius. The addresses of other Lithuanian archives can be found on <https://www.archyvai.lt/en/archives/historicalarchives.html>.

Work is currently in progress to digitize the Lithuanian Archive's Civil Registers as a part of digitization project of archival materials, books, maps and images of works of art from the State Reserves. For information on this subject see <https://www.epaveldas.lt/kolekcijos>.

General information in English states that digitization concerns Roman Catholic Civil Registers from the 15th to the middle of the 20th century. There are currently more than 4500 items in the department of Roman Catholic registers.

The search engine accepts only names written in Lithuanian.

Recently launched website <https://www.metrikai.lt>, similar to the Polish *Geneteka*, includes indexes to registers (but not only). Here, as well, the search language is Lithuanian. Noteworthy is also the website <https://www.genmetrika.eu>, which includes scans of registers, indexes to books, information about books stored in museums of literature, lists of localities belonging to the parishes and references to various pages (including service '*szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl*').

Belarus

Inquiries for Belarus should be directed to the Department of Archives and Records of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Belarus, Kollektornaja 10, 220004 Minsk.

On the website of the Belarusian archives <https://archives.gov.by> in the 'Archival Institutions' section (English version of the website) one can find addresses for all archives in Belarus. Contact forms for the main archives are available at <https://www.archives.gov.by/home/request> (preferred contact in Russian). Information on registers kept in the National Historical Archives in Minsk and Grodno is available at the website <https://www.archives.gov.by/en/welcome-to-the-archives-of-belarus-website/genealogy-family-history> and <https://www.archives.gov.by/home/genealogiya/metricheskie-knigi>.

Data on Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Greek Catholic registers are published separately. The database construction is based on the current administrative divisions of Belarus (province/governorate > district > town).

Finally, it is worth mentioning scans of Civil Registers and parish records (mostly parishes from the present-day territories of Lithuania and Belarus), are accessible on the website of Polish Genealogical Society (*Polskie Towarzystwo Genealogiczne*) <https://www.genealodzy.pl> in the section 'Library of the Borders' (*Biblioteka Kresowa*), and directly through <https://www.kresy.genealodzy.pl>.

Scans that are available on this website include those of parish Civil Registers made accessible on the portal <https://www.epaveldas.lt/en/home>.

The 'Geneteka' section of the <https://www.genealodzy.pl> website (may be reached directly through <https://www.geneteka.genealodzy.pl>) publishes indexes of registers, including some from present-day Lithuania and Belarus:

Lithuania – 67 parishes, over 420,000 entries,

Belarus – 159 parishes, over 371,000 entries.

Brief overview of Civil Registers of various religions and denominations

Civil Registers were kept at least in two copies for all religions and denominations. One copy (the original) was left in the parish or commune, the other (the copy) was sent to a church archive or (for Jewish records) to a state office.

The CAHR holding includes originals as well as copies of Civil Registers. This information is important for researchers who have transcripts made between World Wars I and II. Page and volume numbers cited there may refer to different copies, and may turn out not to be useful signposts in the search for a particular document.

Civil Registers of various denominations from the Austrian partition [of Poland], which form the majority of those at the CAHR, contain the largest amount of useful information for genealogy; there is somewhat less information in the registers from the Russian partition.

It is important to note that Civil Registers were not always and everywhere kept assiduously. This is not limited to the important matter of handwriting, but includes the rules for writing entries in the registers. Many entries were not made directly into the registers, but on loose sheets, on the basis of which the book was supplemented from time to time (or only at the end of the year). These sheets of paper sometimes got lost, or forgotten, so many registers have entries at the end concerning people who had previously been overlooked (this is found most often in Lutheran and Jewish records).

Many Lutheran registers were not kept in chronological order, but had an index of persons made, when they were compiled. Where these indices have not been preserved, research must encompass a full year of entries, even when the actual date of the event is known.

There may also no entry in the register be found, despite accurate information on the date of birth or death.

Other errors also occur – for example, the birth records of children from one marriage are shown with different maiden names for the mother. In these cases, the best way to establish the truth is through finding the relevant marriage certificate. There are also many cases of imprecision in the spelling of surnames as spelling rules of surnames were not established, and much depended on the person keeping the register.

Differences often arose in writing of surnames in different languages (for example, in Greek Catholic registers: Latin, Ukrainian and Polish), and their

subsequent translation. Hence different versions of the same surname may appear in parallel: Nahorny, Nahirny, Nagórny.

Nowadays these mistakes and differences in spelling cause legal difficulties, requiring sometimes court decisions¹².

Civil Registers in the Roman Catholic Church

Obligatory registration (keeping registers) of vital records was introduced in Polish territories at the beginning of the 17th century. Church authorities required recording of registers of those baptised, confirmed or married, and those who received Communion at Easter. Little later came the requirement to register the dead. In the 18th century, it was recommended that separate registers should be kept for baptisms, marriages and funerals. These were registered for all towns and villages in the parish, combined in a single registers for that parish, without division into columns.

As a consequence of the partitions of Poland, the Archdiocese of Lwów and the diocese of Przemyśl became part of the Austrian Empire, and the diocese of Łuck (diocese of Łuck and Żytomierz, taking in the Kijów and Wołyń governorates) became part of the Russian Empire.

In the Austrian Empire, registers of births, marriages and deaths became recognized as the legal records of civil status and gained the status of official documents. They were kept in Latin. Large parishes kept a separate register for each constituent village or district. Small parishes kept only one register, in which entries from different villages or districts were to be clearly distinguished.

Older registers were kept in a descriptive style, without columns or particular format (for example, a clergyman wrote: "On the fifth of May of eighteen hundred and sixty, Jan Makowski turned up at my house and presented a child of the male gender...").

¹² It should be added here, that official transcripts issued by the CAHR contain the surname in the format in which it appears in the given document, but the forename in Polish form (e.g. for Catholic rites – Petrus as Piotr [Peter], Paulus as Paweł [Paul], Ahafia as Agafia) or in their original form (e.g. for Lutherans and non-Christian religions – Heinrich, Agnes, Ruchel, Mosze).

Later, registers were written in columns, and sometimes on printed forms. The nature of registers also changed. Earlier registers of baptisms and funerals were superseded by registers of births and deaths. The dates of the events were given before the dates of the respective religious services (baptisms and funerals). From 1825 onwards, records in birth registers had to include the name of the midwife who delivered the baby. From 1858, details of the grandparents were required, alongside the mother's and father's details in the 'parents' section. From 1886, stillbirths were also to be recorded.

Polish language appears in the registers in the 19th and 20th centuries, alongside with Latin.

Registers in Polish are usually written within a standard Polish format, so it is not hard to understand the entries.

To follow registers written in Latin, the reader needs to understand the titles of the registers (books) and the standard headings and formats used.

***Liber natorum*: Register of births**

These registers contain the following column headings and formats. The top left-hand corner shows the year to which the book refers.

Numerus: number of the entry in the book (entries were not always numbered)

Mensis/Natus/Baptisatus: Month/Born/Baptised (this column contains the dates of birth and baptism)

Numerus domus: house number (in towns, the street name and the house number)

Nomen: forename (if there is a middle name, there may be a note saying *binomini* – having two names)

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: Religion/Catholic/Or Other (usually indicated by a slanted line in the relevant column)

Sexus/Puer/Puella: gender/boy/girl (indicated by a slanted line in the relevant column)

Thori/Legitimi/Illegitimi: status of birth/legitimate/illegitimate (indicated by a line in the relevant column or written in words)

Parentes/Nomen/Conditio: parents/name/status (forenames and surnames of parents and their employment)

Patrini/Nomen/Conditio: Godparents/name/status (forenames and surnames of godparents and their employment).

Beneath the entry (not in separate columns):

Baptizavit: baptised by (forename and surname of priest, his clerical position)

Obstetrix: midwife (name and surname of the woman who delivered the baby).

***Liber Copulatorum*: Register of Marriages**

This type of register contains the following column headings and formats. The top left-hand corner shows the year from which the register is taken.

Numerus: ordinal number of the entry in the register (entries were not always numbered)

Mensis: month (date of marriage)

Sponsus: Groom

Numerus domus: house number (of the groom, sometimes also of the bride)

Nomen: name (forename and surname of the groom, his employment, his parents)

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: Religion/Catholic/Or Other

Aetas: age (given in years, or as date of birth)

Caelebs: unmarried man/bachelor (indicated by a line in the relevant column)

Viduus: widower (indicated by a line in the relevant column)

Sponsa: Bride

Nomen: forename and surname of the bride

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: [as above]

Aetas: [as above]

Caelebs: unmarried woman/spinster

Vidua: widow

Testes/Nomen/Conditio: witnesses/name/status (forenames and surnames of the witnesses and their employment).

Beneath the entry, a note of who officiated at the marriage ceremony (dates of the banns might also be written there, and for minors, confirmation of their parents' consent to their marriage).

***Liber Mortuorum*: Register of Deaths**

Numerus: ordinal number of the entry in the register (entries were not always numbered)

Dies Mortis/mensis: day of death/month (this column contains the date of death)

Numerus domus: [as above]

Nomen Mortui: name of the deceased (forename and surname of the deceased, employment, civil status)

Religio/Catholica/Aut Alia: [as above]

Sexus/Masculus/Feminina: gender/male/female

Dies Vitae: days of life (age of the deceased)

Morbus et Qualitas Morbus: disease/cause of death.

Usually there are details of the date of the funeral below the entry (*Sepulvit die 27 Juni...* – buried on the 27th of June) with the surname of the priest who conducted the funeral.

The Latin-Polish dictionary for lawyers and historians, *Słownik łacińsko-polski dla prawników i historyków* by J. Sondel (Kraków 1997, 2nd edition 2006) is useful for translation into Polish. This dictionary is in the reference library at the CAHR.

It is worth knowing and remembering that some words in the register entries were sometimes abbreviated, for example. *Obst.* – abbreviation for *obstetrix*: midwife.

This also applies to the Latin names of months: *Januarius* (January), *Februarius* (February), *Martius* (March), *Aprilis* (April), *Maius* (May), *Junius* (June), *Julius* (July), *Augustus* (August). These names were usually shortened to the first 3 or 4 letters of each.

From September onwards, this type of notation may be found:

7bris: September

8bris: October

9bris: November

10bris: December

It is important to note this to avoid the misconception that the number indicates the month as conventionally, for example, that *7bris* means July.

Common vocabulary from the registers:

baptizatio – baptism; *baptizatus* – person baptised; *conjugalis* – marital; *conjugatis* – married; *conjuges* – the married couple; *copulatio* – marriage *defunctus/denatus* – the deceased; *filius* – son; *filia* – daughter; *frater* – brother; *gemini* – twins; *illegitimus* – extra-marital [illegitimate]; *infans* – child; *juvenis* – bachelor; *liberi* – children; *marita* – wife; *maritus* – husband; *mater* – mother; *materna* – godmother [sic]; *matrimonialis* – marital; *matrimonium* – marriage; *mortuus* – dead, the deceased; *natus* – born; *olim* – the late/sometime; *orphanus* – fatherless orphan; *parentes* – parents; *pater* – father; *patrini* – godparents; *pupillus* – motherless orphan; *quondam* – deceased/the late; *relicta* – widow; *relictus* – widower; *secundo voto* – remarried; *sepultura* – funeral; *sepultus* – buried; *soror* – sister; *sponsa* – bride;

sponsus – groom; *sponsor fidei* – godfather; *uxor* – wife; *uxoratus* – married man; *vidua* – widow; *viduus* – widower; *virgo* – virgin/spinster.

In the diocese of Łuck, separate registers were kept for each year of births/baptisms, marriages and deaths/funerals, for whole parishes. The oldest registers are written in Latin, then from the 1830s in Polish and after 1848 in Russian. Registers in Russian language from the mid-19th century onwards, were in comprehensive printed form, but priests were not always diligent in completing it. The first column contains the surname in Russian, and sometimes in Polish, which makes searches somewhat easier. These registers are hard to read (even for those fluent in Russian) and the amateur genealogist may have difficulties in searching them.

In the birth registers (*Myetricheskaya kneega o rodivshichsya*) the name of a newborn was written first (in Russian or Polish), then the record number of the entry, the house number, gender (in some parishes it was the custom to write an ordinal number in this column, showing how many boys or girls had been born in the parish in that year – thus the total was ready at the end of the year); who baptised the child and when and where, and what sort of baptism it was; who the parents were, where they were born and where they were baptised, who was present at the baptism (godparents); remarks.

Printed forms were also used in marriage registers (*Myetricheskaya kneega o brakosochetavshichsya*). The man's surname was written first, then the house number, information on when the banns were posted, data on parents of the newlyweds and on the witnesses to the marriage.

In the death registers (*Myetricheskaya kneega oomiershych*) were written: the surname of the deceased; the house number; when death occurred, place and cause of death and whether the Sacrament had been received; employment, length of life, whether the deceased left any children; where and when the burial took place and who witnessed it.

Civil Registers of the Greek Catholic rite

Civil Registers of the Greek Catholic rite were kept according to the principles accepted for the Roman Catholic Church. They were to be written in Latin, against which the Uniate clergy rebelled, demanding the introduction of Ukrainian language in the registers. Ukrainian predominates in registers of the 1920s, with Polish appearing alongside.

The oldest registers of baptisms, marriages and burials from the 18th century were written in Russian.

The forms used in the Greek Catholic Church were usually in two languages, Latin and Ukrainian, so an understanding of the Latin terms is sufficient. The arrangement of sections was the same as in the Roman Catholic registers.

Note the names of the months, when written in words, are different from those in Polish: I – January – *siczeń*, II – February – *luty*, III – March – *berezeń*, IV – April – *kwitień*, V – May – *trawień*, VI – June – *czerweń*, VII – July – *lipeń*, VIII – August – *serpeń*, IX – September – *weresień*, X – October – *żołteń*, XI – November – *lystopad*¹³, XII – December – *hrudeń*.

Lutheran and Calvinist Civil Registers

This relatively small church – 33,000 worshippers at its height – was formed by German colonists who flowed into Austria in the second half of the 18th century. At first, they were not recognized by the State, but became in time tolerated, and from 1861 gained equal rights in law with the Catholic Church. Its essence was the union of Lutherans and Calvinists within one Church organisation.

Civil Registers were organised similarly to the Roman Catholic ones. Smaller communities recorded births, marriages and deaths together, for all towns and villages. Larger districts established separate registers for affiliated places, and, with the passage of time, appeared registers which covered entire communities, but these registered only births, or marriages, or deaths.

Most of the registers have indexes of persons made separately for each year, which simplifies research.

Considerable weight was given to the maintenance of registers of confirmations (formal acceptance into the Church, usually at age 13-14). In these registers – kept separately or placed between births and marriages, very precise data was given about the confirmed person.

The German language predominates in these registers. Some of them are hard to read.

Registers in the Lutheran and Calvinist Church used Latin forms from the Roman Catholic Church.

If the original (very extensive) forms were used, they contained the following columns:

¹³ Sometimes appearing as *padolyst*.

Registers of births (baptisms) – *Taufbuch*

(also variants on the words *Geburt, geboren*) containing columns: *Fortlaufende Zahl* – number; *Ort und Hausnummer* – town or village, house number; *Jahr, Monat, Tag der Geburt und der Taufe* – dates of birth and baptism; *Name des Taufenden* – person conducting the baptism; *Taufname* – forename and surname of child; *Geschlecht* – gender (the denomination was written in this column, if there was no other, as A.C. for Lutheran or H.C. for Calvinist); *Eltern des Täuflings – des Vaters/der Mutter* – information about parents – names and surnames, employment, place of residence; *Pathen, Tauf und Familiennamen, Stad, Wohnort* – information about godparents; *Hebamme* – forename and surname of midwife; *Anmerkung* – remarks.

Registers of marriages – *Traungsbuch, Traubuch*

(also variants of the words *getraufen, kopulirte*). The ordinal number appeared first, and then *Name des Trauenden* – name of the person conducting the marriage ceremony; *Jahr, Monat und Tag der Aufgebote/Trauung* – dates of banns and marriage; *Bräutigam* (data on the groom) *Name, Character und Eltern* – forename and surname, employment, parents; *Wohnung und Haus N.* – place of residence and house number (age was often written here, if there was no other column for it); *Religion – Evangelisch/Katholisch* – religion (denomination was written here); *Braut* (data on the bride) *Geburtsort* – data on the bride and her parents; *Geburts – Jahr, Monat und Tag* (date of birth); *Stand* – civil status (denomination was also written here); *Beistände, Name, Character, Wohnort* – data on the witnesses to the marriage; *Anmerkung* – remarks.

Registers of deaths – *Todtenbuch, Todtbuch* (also variants on the word *vestorben*)

started with the ordinal number, then *Name des Einsegnenden* – forename and surname of the deceased; *Todes Jahr, Monat, Tag und Stunde* – date and time of death; *Tauf und Familiennamen des Gestorbenen, dessen Stad, oder Stad des Ehegatten, der Eltern und Geburtsort* – data on the deceased – spouse, parents, surviving children, employment, place of residence; *Religion Evangel A.C./Evangel H.C.* – Lutheran/Calvinist; *Geschlecht* – gender; *Geburts Jahr, Monat und Tag* – date of birth; *Krankheit und Todesart* – illness and cause of death; *Ort des Todes Hausnummer* – place of death; *Ort wo und Tag, an welchem die Beerdigung geschehen* – where and when buried; *Anmerkung* – remarks.

Lutheran Civil Registers in Volhynia

These were kept in a similar way to the Lutheran and Calvinist registers in the Austrian partition. Older registers are written in German. At the end of the 19th century, it was ousted by Russian, and records in Polish appeared between the World Wars. Often were used Lutheran and Calvinist (German) forms from Galicia or Roman Catholic (Russian) forms from diocese of Łuck. If records were kept in Russian, the forenames and surnames in German were written in brackets. In these registers, too, it is common to find difficulty in reading the entries.

For a large part of the Evangelical registers, as previously mentioned, alphabetical indexes have survived, either in separate volumes, covering several dozen years, or sewn into the books after each year they refer to.

Jewish Civil Registers

Judaism was legally recognised in the Austrian Empire in 1789. Rabbis were required to keep Jewish registers. State officials took over this function from 1875. Between the World Wars, the obligation of keeping registers returned to the Rabbi.

The oldest surviving registers have a highly simplified system of records, recording only basic data (for births, only the date and forenames of child and parents).

In due course, the format developed to resemble that in Catholic registers. There were additional columns for the date of circumcision (boys) or naming (girls).

A characteristic of entries into Jewish Civil Registers is the large number of births registered as being extra-marital. The majority of Jewish weddings were conducted by the Rabbi and were not confirmed by a State official. Therefore children of these unions were registered as illegitimate. The Remarks column usually mentioned the person claiming fatherhood. This is important, because a person using a father's surname in adulthood may have been entered in the register under the mother's surname.

Jewish Civil Registers were written in German, and later in Polish.

Forms for Jewish Civil Registers were usually printed in German with Polish translation. Various columns appear in the registers of births, for the entry of the date of circumcision (boys) or naming (girls). Surnames of a person carrying out circumcision, witnesses and *sandek/sandak* (a role similar to that of godfather in the Roman Catholic church, often carried out by the boy's maternal grandfather) and *szames* (also called *szkolnik*), a community official present at rites involving the registration of births, marriages and deaths.

The death registers had a separate column for the number of a card of the examination of remains and name of the person who carried it out. The register entry included the precise time of death (these entries were concerned with requirements of Judaism, necessitating burial as soon as possible after death, in conflict with a law requiring a 48 hour delay).

How to conduct a search, and what to note

The way of searching depends on the goal of the search.

A search for information on particular people about whom some information is already available (birth year, for example), starts with the register containing records for that year. A search to find as many past relatives as possible must be far wider in scope.

If information is already available, the first step would be to check its accuracy.

Let us assume that we have a modern death certificate, which includes the place and year of birth of the person of interest. When found, the birth entry in question contains the names of parents, and often grandparents, of the newborn. Going back from this date, we can search for the parents' marriage entry, from which, in addition to the already known information, we will find out the dates of birth of the parents or how old they were when they got married. Use these as a basis to find their birth entries. If several years passed between the marriage and the birth, it is likely that this was not the couple's first child. Different registers must now be searched to find the other children of the same couple. It is worthwhile to keep note of the house number recorded in the register. In small towns, changes of address were rare, therefore searching registers of births, marriages and deaths by house number can allow swift discovery of further family members.

If there is little information about particular individuals, but it is known that the family lived in the place concerned, all available registers must be searched. Note and record everyone who shares the surname in question, or surnames that sound similar. The spelling of surnames, as it was mentioned above, was standardized only in the 20th century, earlier entries on the same person or family are subject to variation.

House numbers can be used to link found family members, and then to identify a familiar person in one of the found families. Tracing the male ancestral

line is the first step. It was usual to state the place of origin for persons mentioned in a register entry, who did not come from the parish (or community) concerned. This is important information – it may extend our search and increase the number of found ancestors. It is worth remembering that marriages traditionally took place in the parish of the bride. If only the groom's residence is known, a marriage entry may not be found.

Another issue arises from interfaith, inter-denomination or inter-rite marriages. Interfaith marriages are relatively rare, but marriages between persons of Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic rite were common. While searching for children of these unions, it is important to note that it was accepted that sons were brought up in their father's denomination, and girls in their mother's. Thus children of such union could be inscribed in the registers of different rites and parishes.

If the aim of the search was to find as many family members as possible, then at the end of the search, it is worth checking, where possible, whether people of interest identified in the death registers had been found previously in the registers of births.

Ending

Information collected in this booklet may be the basis for starting own genealogical searches. While conducting them, an amateur of genealogy will find dozens of websites concerning specific families, towns, parishes, religious communities and their archives. We hope these tips, given at the beginning of the road, will encourage further genealogical research.



The Original Title

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