# **Cyrillic Parish Records**

# A Guide to Birth and Death Documents

by Sigrid Pohl Perry, PhD perry1121@aol.com

# The Russian Alphabet

With English, Polish and German Equivalents

Prir Rus		Handwritten Russian	English	Polish	German
A	a	A a	а	a	a
Б	б	55	* ь	Ъ	Ъ
В	В	93 b	* ,	w	w,v
r	Г	Tz	g(h)	g(h)	g(h)
		h in non-Russis ding =ro.	an words, pr	ronounced a	s v in the
I	Д	22,9	* d	d	d
E	е	€ €	ye,e	ie,je,e	je,e
	noune	ced as ye (Pol/	Ger. as je) i	nitially, aft	er vowels,
Ж	ж	H sk	X zh	ż,rz	zh,sh
• Pol	ish rz	is often written	in old Russi	an as PX.	
3	3	33,3	Z	z	Z,8
N	И	U ru	i	i	i
• Ger	rman (	eu is usually wri	tten in Russ	ian as eA.	
I	i	Fi	i	i	i
	is lette	r was eliminated	i in the 1918	apelling re	forms.
Й	й	U ii	У	j	j
K	K	KK	k	k	k
Л	Л	Au	l l	1	1
M	M	М.и	m	m	m
H	Н	HK	∜ n	n	n
0	0	00	0	o	0
Π	П	76 n	* P	P	р
P	p	Pp	r	r	r
C.	C	Cc	s	8	8
T	T	Mont	* t	t	t

A PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE	nted sian		vritten sian	English	Polish	German
У	y	y	y	u	u,ó	u
Φ	Φ	ø	cfs	f	f	f
X	X	Xn	c,f	kh	ch	ch
Ц	Ц	U	18	* ts	С	z,tz
Ч	ч	2	72	ch	cz	tsch
Ш	Ш	W	ли	sh	82	sch
Щ	Щ	24	rug"	k shch	szcz	schtsch
Ъ	Ъ	6	16	**	no equivalent	. 11
• Has no sound, indicates that the previous consonant is "hard"; represented in English as ". Prior to the 1918 spelling						

reforms 'b was used at the end of all words ending in a consonant unless the consonant was "soft"

Ы	H	20	Le	У	У	у
Ь	Ь	8	6		no equivalent	1.

. Has no sound, indicates that the previous consonant is "soft"; represented in English as '.

	Ŧ	Ť	E,	16 16	ye	ieje	je
ST. INC.	• Th	is lette	r was el	iminated	l in the 1918	spelling ref	orms.
	Э	Э	9	B	e	e	e
THE REAL PROPERTY.	Ю	Ю	H	10	yu	jujó	ju

U	~	0 10		_	
Ю	Ю	90 10	yu	jujó	ju
Я	Я	A A	ya	ja	ja
θ	θ	0 0	f,th	f,th	f,th

· Used in words of Greek origin, equivalent to the Greek theta (th) but pronounced and represented in English as f.

. This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.

V .	v	9	r	у	у	у
	٠	-	/	174		

- · Used in words of Greek origin, equivalent to the Greek upsilon(u,y) replaced by M after 1918 spelling reforms; represented in English as y.
- . This letter was eliminated in the 1918 spelling reforms.

## The Russian Alphabet: Difficult Letters & Sounds

- B vs V
- **G(H)** or **J**
- E or Je
- d which looks like g
- i or y or u
- N, n & p & R/r & f
- m, t & sh/sz/sch/trzc
- E, yu/ju, ya/ja
- x/ch/kh/h

### **Months**



# **Months**

Июля Насиго Поля July / Juli	A Bry CTA  August
Сен (ъ)тя бря Семерийра September	Окт ября Осtober / Oktober
Hogopa Hogopa November	Дека бря December / Dezember

June / Juni

July / Juli

## Cardinal Numbers

one / einz одного

five / fünf пять иоимо

21 двад цати одного

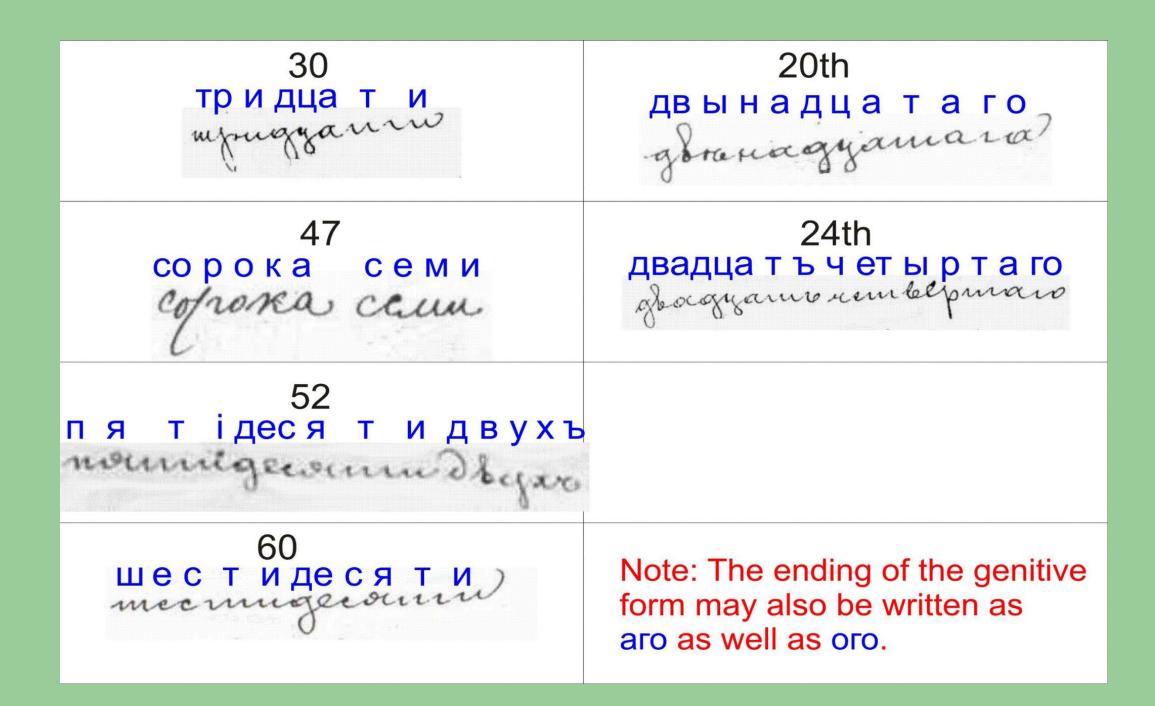
Hadyonnu odnoro

## Ordinal Numbers

first / erste перваго перваго

second / zweite вмораго

14th четырнадца таго четырнавцатаю







# Surnames

#### Learn names first

Western script may be included in records for names

Crucial for using indexes & finding records

Names in Context

Apounto 9	to open	ency/K	superfort.	Friedrich Luck enter	1/mg
	car et mon El				
Mudou	Mr Kon	nne Je	hichat	Krile	of n
	fin our me				
and the same of the same	гнош	,			
AT	in what Tolke	40 - 10		//	<b>**</b>

hapideretibe you berenow Heuraren Cellaryanna Zeleuniasis

# Names in Context

esa eus teun Kaponenen yps Dennea Mysepones (Karoli 2 Schubertow) impulyarin meego urma ems pray Minaden	my
2 Tehnbertow) suprisuarin meefu ursni suis pray Monden	ry
Enveriero Mysebus (Emilia Schulles)	

da de resupe rava no nougemen. Abunes Nasport Mymanes. Haril Schumann, jenendobnego lumensconspensión de la

backer / Commenced yourse some one por Dont Abujenne w dee

Repurtherero Bertstepps /Krystyan Weinert/n

## **General Comments about Records**

- In the margin the place of residence is specified with its administrative affiliations.
  - \* Endings differ within the text
  - \* Phonetic Russian or Polish spellings—"use ears"
  - \* Check both places; errors are not uncommon
- The date at the beginning of the record is usually given in Julian/Gregorian format, a separation of 12 days until 1900 when it becomes 13 days. Other dates given may only be Julian calendar format.
- Individuals may use either date as a birth date in other records, so be aware of this difference

# Birth/Baptism Records

- 1. Father, age, occupation, residence
  - \* Father's name may also be in Latin letters.
  - \* If the father is unknown or absent, e.g. death, military service or other absence, a phrase will be added.
- 2. First Witness, age, occupation, residence
  - \* Name also in Latin letters if father is not present, i.e. absence explained or note that father is unknown.
- 3. Second Witness, age, occupation, residence
  - \* Occupation and residence of the two witnesses may be combined if they are the same.

# Birth/Baptism Records

- 4. Sex of child, town of birth, date and time of birth
  - \* Often the phrase "yesterday's date" is given. If the child was born before "yesterday" then the full Julian / Gregorian date is written.
  - \* A rare term for "the day before the day before yesterday" or "the 3<sup>rd</sup> day" may be used.
- 5. Mother (with maiden name), age
  - \* Normally the mother's name is also written with Latin letters.
  - \* Look for "wife" or "legal wife" to indicate marriage.
- 6. Child's given name
  - \* Normally the child's name is also written with Latin letters.

# Birth/Baptism Records

- 7. Indication of godparents
  - \* Usually refers to one or both witnesses & includes the godmother's name with descriptor and residence.
  - \* The godmother may be a relative of one of the parents.
- 8. Closing statement of reading and signing the document
  - \* Often includes a statement that the witnesses were illiterate but that the document was read to them (may not read Cyrillic).
  - \* Signatures may include the pastor, the father, & the witnesses.

## **Key Vocabulary in Birth Records**

**English** 

city

village

province

male sex

female sex

mother

father

born/maiden name

birth

was born

baptism

day before yesterday

2 days before yesterday

year

month

Cyrillic

город

деревня

губерния

мужской пол

женский пол

мама

отец

урождённый

рождение

родился

крещение

позавчера

третьего дня

год

месяц

**Pronunciation** 

gorod

derevnya

gubernia

muzhskoy pol

zhenskiy pol

mama

otets

urozhdonnyy

rozhdeniye

rodilsya

kreshcheniye

pozavchera

tret'yego dnya [the 3rd day]

god

mesyats

# **Key Vocabulary in Birth Records**

English Cyrillic Pronunciation

day день den'

years from birth Лет от роды let ot rody [with number = age]

parents родители roditeli

witness свидетель svidetel'

godparents восприемники vospriyemniki

godparents Крестные родители krestnyye roditeli

legal wife Законная жена zakonnaya zhena

husband муж muzh

son сын syn

daughter дочь doch'

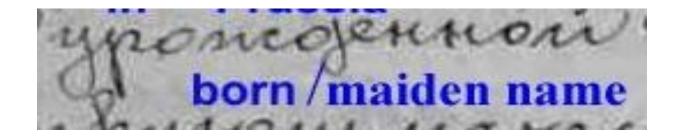
spouses супруги suprugi

unmarried Незамужняя nezamuzhnyaya

illegitimate Незаконный nezakonnyy

## Clue Words in Birth Records

\*wasborn \*\*

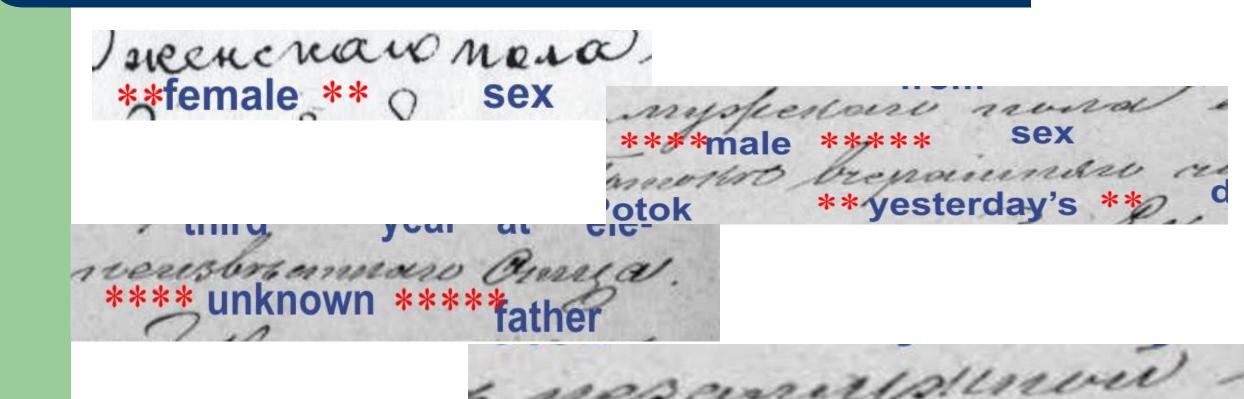


years \*\* from \* birth

Jareouron erosuchers\*

\*\*\*\*legal his \*\*wife,\*\*

# Gender & Special Birth Records



emoderal bo copagred rood where cembriagy ama It happened in town of Lublin аконного Якварой тыста хоссивсть сенедесть периос thousand eight hundred January waa do secound racoler gupa. He anco Hosin Geeps (Julius to o'clock morning. Appeared G(H)ansk Discr gengyann remerseve warre one pagy) nodoku Wlodawski 1416 Langello ba bo upucy member Igyanga Jabepure glangiga presence of Note: Russian Merry Menrow His Cyclesto gleagyann weenin worms onto por substitutes the years and Julius Busley of twenty letter geh for образо кононистово их вой ислова и прежению манов мы an H in this case. from Wejciechowa and showed settlers дания жененай пола обкольного пино отородиней во дере declaring that she was born \*\* in town 1 \*\*female \*\* o sex Sun Dan yex do to brepaul Horro rucua Dorumber racid ympal -of Wojciechow 2 \*\*\* yesterday's date at four o'clock Omorning Mother & Wife onvagaronnon crossense Laubrent Mulle Mille Mill Cacrepo Willelmina vodrona Buster age years \* from \*\*birth. This child lat holy little Baptism performed on this date given name Emma Mathilde Child's name lylda a lo o en plema una u ene o best a bemena sainte de egrement [ were besides ] above mentioned \_\_ witnesses godparents Godmother Whamefund Jegebuige neena wedownen a uzo Donnedoleas Zedewitz \*\*wife of settler from Wojciechowa. and Ekaterina dance cen estearbust sougeny w esugrement sure moramence he This document announced o and owitnesses ANW no respondent worm was nognucare. not signed. they because 'illiterate Kapuro Joninger harfugiro

0.0000000000000000000000000000000000000	
42110	0 01 0.
1040.	Considerces des repodre les enision dansur me rembanca 11,0
11.	It happened in town of Lublin twenty:
Maguerouka	munity money water and the course of the
Malinowka	fifth seventy
Berezin~	vear at eight o'clock
elount.	Chuyun Krueger mining Appeared August Krueger
Cho(e)lm~	Knirty Vears., colonist
Cho(e)iiii	represent amphila Meren through
Motor August	-nowka in presence of Meger twenty- five vears, and Frdman Sch??ing twenty-
Note: August	
is spelled like	colo-
Awgust.	-nists from Malinowka and showed us *child *  *female * sex, declaring that she *was born * in Malinowka
	* female * sex, declaring that she * was born * in Malinardan
N. (1 / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /	Walliowid I was the first the first the second of the seco
Mother/Wife	** yesterday's * // date, at four o'clock marging from / *level **
	his *wife * Milianus aponeienna Rooms (Julianus Pras 1)
	Wronn Kronn
	thronty sight a vores control of morning when children with
01.114	repensetion cohepinsons and recommended and and and
Child	
	sugmence character godparents [were besides] fabove mentioned
Godmother	witnesses and Wilhelmine
	emuchan etem son obulhardrousery we chickenger from Ma
	-linowka. Document this announced and witnesses read-
	because illiteracy of them by us only
	them by us only
	signed. Rayuro Vacuuejro haulugiro
	mulphy of
	경기에 가지 않는 그는 지원 경기를 사용했다. 내용 이 등에 가지 하면 하면 되었다. 그 사람들은 사람들은 사람들은 사람들은 사람들은 사람들이 되었다.
Harman American	

## Birth Certificate for Emilie Koenig

Konce (Konce Niwki), Wloclawek, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland

**Parish: Chodecz** 

Julian date: 8 August 1872

**Gregorian: 20 August 1872** 

Parents: August & Wilhelmine born Schiewe couple Koenig

Marazawa Wladawak
губернія Опринавергад, Warszawa, Włocławek
уъздъ Пиоциавений по книгамъ народонаселения.)
приходъ , в деже свис Chodecz
- Comment of the comm
Метрическое Свидътельство о Рожденіи.
Register Certificate of Birth
Register <u>Cermicale</u> of Birti
Days die Pr TONG WO D'MILLIED MEHILLE
This is issued to certify that Emilia Kenig [Koenig]
was born in village Konze [Konce] city Parish
Mogerechneur All of Chryena Thomas POCEMERONE
(20) 8/20 August 1000 800
70 12 1812 roza, or orna Cheyenna to father August
АВТЬ И матери вильевивиней урожденной Шиве
& mother Withelmine / horn Cobiowa
дътъ отъ роду, супруговъ couple Kenig [Koenig]
P. Chodecz March 10 day 1875 year
P. Chodecz March 10 day 1875 year
чиновникъ гражданскаго состояния  Certified Civil Registry
10 yr Tokannupt
Mr Whent
NO DE LA COMPANIA DEL COMPANIA DE LA COMPANIA DEL COMPANIA DE LA C
войть гмины elevery Chodeez
Burgomeister Goroda
Собственноручную подпись Чиновника Гражданского Состоянія, свидътельствуеть.
Moved Anders Machina 15 Aug 187,5 roga.
March 15 1875
Meinder Mufrma 15 and 1875 года.  March 15 1875  Milli cher T Stir
THE STATE OF THE S

Emilia Koenig's birth certificate

#### **Birth to an Unmarried Mother**

to all offilial	
No 91.	Раниченов вовородо выблинов Миний помого вовой стой седвина
14	It happened in town of Lublin fifteenth / twenty seventh-
Monnethe.	Manual Muchael leight hundred eighty- third year at ele-
a otok	a service decence a boundary humberre recessor emerge Charles
Mohreed of sofierege.	morning. Appeared instead of **** unknown **** ather
Modlibørzyce	OB Marillook Regarde along Inversed More necessad and
Secop	Wilhelm Schmidt 1. 1914 1911 1911
Janow~	lyan = Johann Schwarzer IIIIV=
	Coloka III presence of checkond Coportion necessal assessed
Note: Placement	
of the text for the	I mare weedle sort Mornortal, al repolicionent recens minerella
unknown father	colonists from Potoka, and showed us child-
may vary depending	colonists from Potoka, and showed and production of that he **was born, ****  declaring that he **was born, ****
on the transcriber.	*** *male *** **
A STATE OF S	
	потерина продости
	from ** unmarried *****  Ekaterina maiden name Habich
Note: Russian does	(halar rynd) Habich I balkern years. Child-
not use the letter H.	There is a second of the second
In this case the letter	Derry Omorry open charmons Myrongene colognossements
khah is used to	this die al
substitute for this	
sound.	this date given name Friedrich Cause Gausse genous de wit-
	a doen priemmental [were besides] above mentioned wit-
	and godparents Come ognow Milberry ens riste of esmotion, Schweitzer from Potoka.
	-nesses and Barbara Schweitzer from Poloka.  -nesses and Barbara Schweitzer from poloka.  -nesses and witnesses read
	Document this announced and witnesses read
	Document this
	and ) horalice / lilliciaty _ UI
	My mud micains hamb Dungo
	- signed.
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	

## **Certified Birth Certificate** in Table Format

Certified birth: marriage, immigration, naturalization, military service, etc.

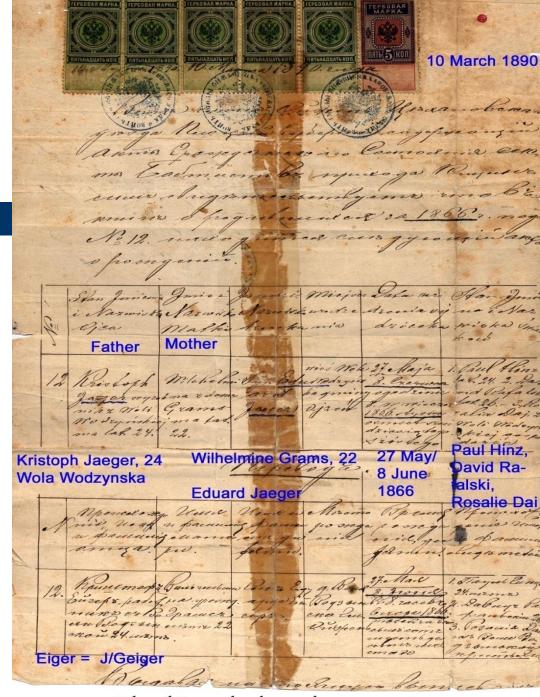
10 March 1890

Jaeger, Eduard = Eiger (J/G in Cyrillic)

**Born: 27 May/8 June 1866** 

Wola Wodzynska (Przasnysz Parish, Ojrzen) = Wola Wodzynska, Ciechanow, Mazowieckie, Poland

Parents: Jaeger, Christoph & Grams, Wilhelmine



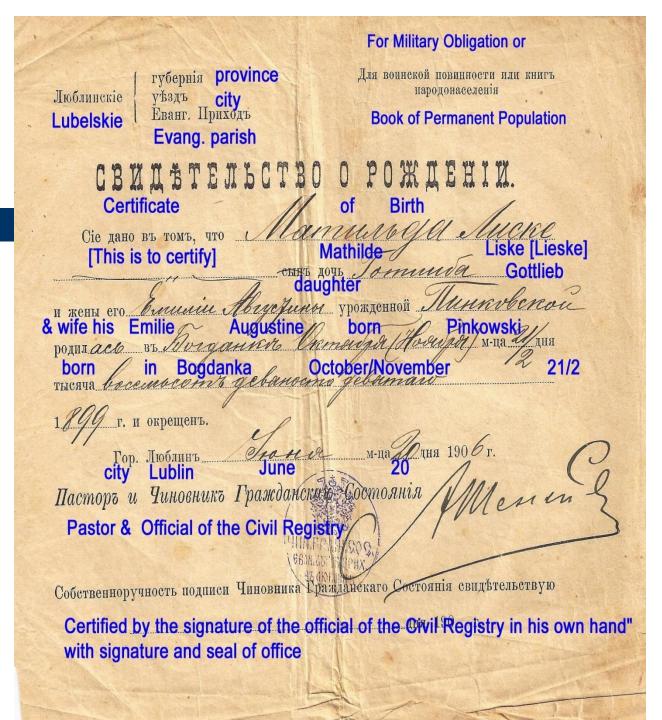
Eduard Jaeger birth certificate- page 1

## **Birth Certificate**

Mathilde Lieske 21 Oct/2 Nov 1899

Bogdanka, Leczna, Lubelskie, Poland

Parents: Gottlieb Lieske
Emilie Augustine Pinkowski
Lieske



## Birth & Baptism Certificate

Baptism: 5/17 Nov 1899, 7pm

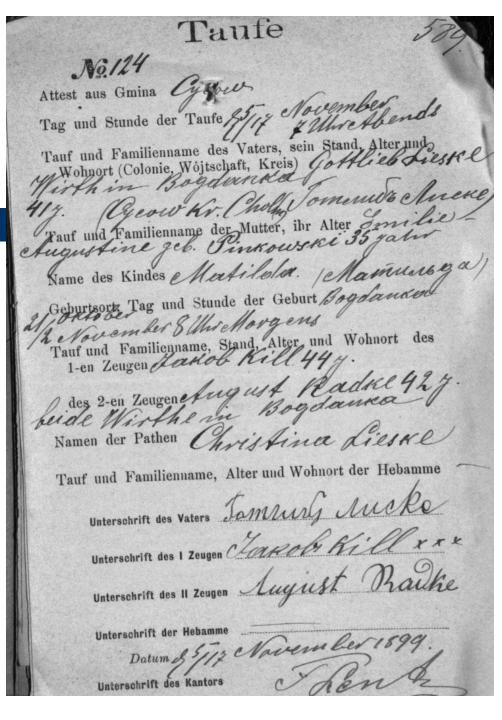
Parents & child: names in German & Russian

Birth: 21 Oct/2 Nov 1899, 8am

Witnesses: names, ages, residence

**Godmother** 

Signatures of Father & witnesses Cantor's signature & date



no becent come centegecoure lanoparo roga by francy yants vario vo horo bunora, Theres shows ofpugepour Consume Cone (you Inderigh Hermann Bohns) rupruguamize cinil wours one pogy negenuns myo Done burebalos upucymentin Igyapaa lungo abaq. yaun noum were u longariaga Belendof, popo mpagyattu were popy osoudo no Dennemolog use Donobbrelon u repegrantens name mangerna scencios monar oblighes our progration de gupe en 10 Dours Dure se nougraguais. graculant cequaro Dumorpor mocerra beceme como cembage amais rega do mpa raca ympa omb zakonnon en nente lengtembe grongennon Emedano (Henryella wodrona & Stefan mpugyamu næme suverpogy. Neagenry smemy mpu domment premerin cobepsenson se cero micha a onozganno my no cobepsentino o breancema poent menen ouara remopile ner ban or comprision menen ouara difficulto morning day, waiting Albertina Marmopalez Dosroberelor gente unena lus berntena du arior Albertina Amalia lungo ocena neplacockuJoon piemu ne annero de burne benerous anno esta de la piema lungo ocena neplacockuJoon piemu ne annero de burne benerous anno esta de la piema lungo ocena neplacockuHenrietta Hinz Darmenor. Aumre cen orkerba or rougenry w abugremenor une aparamano w repourte somo pour abugrement mun nagnacanto. hagure Laurege harfage E. Hintz. I Bohne

## Baptism Delayed until Pastor's Visit

## **Infant Deaths**

- May appear with birth records or death records if the infant is born dead
- Short record with no indication of baptism if with births



- Birth & death records are separate if child lives to be baptized
- Not named if child dies before baptism

#### Stillborn

#### Infant

Kelm Samokleski Majdan Krasieninski \*\* yesterday's \*\*\* date Lubartow Krasieninski evening **Amalie** Note: Ivan is -name \* the Russian equivalent of evidence absentia / sex. Johann in German infant document announced -born and / illiteracy of because

## **Death Records**

- 1. First Witness, age, occupation, residence
- 2. Second Witness, age, occupation, residence
- 3. Date, time, place of death (often "yesterday" is used)
- 4. Deceased person (name also in Latin letters), age
- 5. Relationship(s) of the deceased (may include the witnesses)
  - \* May include parents' names, spouse(s), and number of sons and daughters living if an adult.
- 6. Closing statement of reading and signing the document.

# **Additional Vocabulary in Death Records**

E	n	q	lish	
			_	

death

died

having died

deceased

today

evening

yesterday

widow

widower

survivors

#### Cyrillic

смерть

умер

умерший

покойник

сегодня

вечер

вчера

Вдова

Вдовец

оставшийся в живых

#### **Pronunciation**

smert'

umer

umershiy

pokoynik

cegodnya

vecher

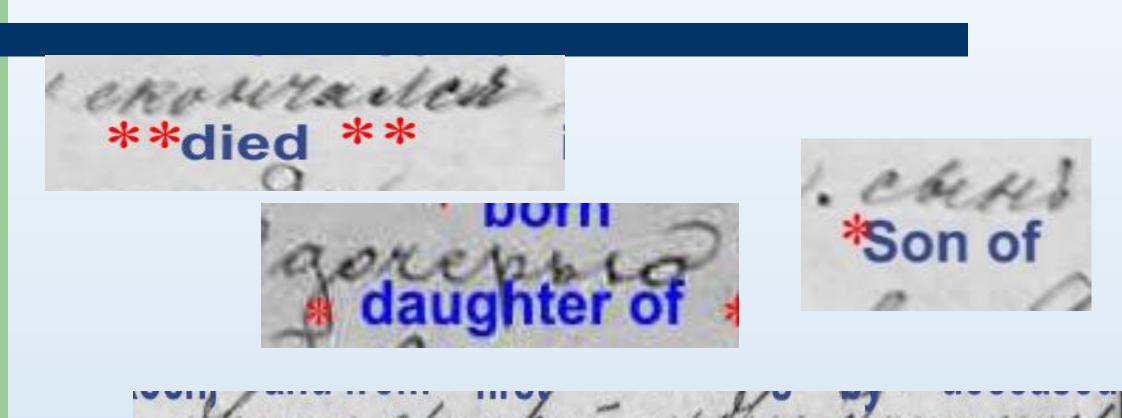
vchera

vdova

vdovets

ostavshiysya v zhivykh

## **Clue Words in Death Records**



# Death of a Child

mpudaatuu macke Janowica Nadr[ybska] Cycow Jenke eyuhunotro Chelm Repke married couple evidence demise Note that nportufant no nome no me yearlomneocyu ne noonucottes Ivan is the read [to those present] but they [because] not literate Russian equivalent of Johann

Lublin It happened / morning. Michael vears Belzyce Mooning / Fangrad/ Christof four colon-Lublin Note: Russian declared and does not use the eight o'clock evening letter H. In this date evening case the letter khah is substituted Riske for this sound. Gottlieb Marianna reduct nonverented companion of prene, O concebut mounts remaining after was read because /illiteracy of and by us onlysigned

# Death of an Adult

Deaths in the year 1894 in Wladimir-Wolhynsk Boelter, Ludwig, son of Stefan & his wife Emilie Stein from Rykowicze, born in Rykowicze, Porycka; 3/12 yrs. old, died of smallpox

Albrecht, Susanne geb. Schmidtke, wife of Samuel Albrecht, from Wladyslawow(ka); born in Franzdorf, Pilica, Warszawski, 41; childbirth

Stillborn son of Samuel Albrecht and his wife Susanne Schmidtke, Wladyslawow(ka); stillborn

	1894.		Tauf= u. Familienname, Stand, Rang ober Gewerbe des Ber=	Geburtsort des	Alter des	Gefüsents	&efdicedits	Levig, verheirathet,	Krankheit und
	Tag und Stunde  bes Tobes.  Date/Hour of death	Tag und Tageszeit des Begräbnisses Instr. § 66 Date of burial	storbenen; bei Kindern: Tauf u. Familienname, Stand, Rang ober Gewerbe der Eltern. Given & family name, position, etc. of deceased	Ecritorbenen. Birthplace of decease	Berstor= benen.	Männfigen (	Beiblichen g	geschieden.  marital status	Todesart.
30.	December 9.1.1.	aspr	Boelter, Ludwig son  Best mept Anotherni/Bölter Ludwig 1: cana	Rykowicze Penobunyz	3	181.		child During	smallpox  SUNSS
	2 binipais	5 nonnaco	Wirechassa u gessos es Issuria ypop Minerina	у Пориням.	12		1	-	
31.	71. berepa. Den 3 ppez orie 11. berepa.	aspr snormaco	Albrecht Susanna  Lis open me Zyganna / Albrecht Lusanna /:  nee g Mischmidte y sof V. Minister Wildyslawww (ka)  Albrecht Wladyslawww (ka)  Nee As open me by K. Brancesabobre.	Franzdorf  Affatus of gos  parish Pilisa  Iljuna. Illinuga  daub. Warszawski  Vys. Bapuselcava	41.		150.	Zawyfnas married	childbirth nocumpos

# Final Suggestions for Success

- Learn from parish records with the best handwriting!
- Learn to recognize your surnames & common given names.
- Months: there are only 12!
- Numbers: the 10 basic "roots" are in other numbers.
- Recognize your parish city & primary villages.
- Learn some key vocabulary terms.

## **Practice! Practice! Practice!**

**Practice makes perfect!** 

Übung macht der Meister! Practice makes the master!

Повторение—мать учения! (povtorenie—mat' uchenie) Repetition is the mother of learning!