

## **Polish Genealogy – Four Steps to Success**

Email: [s-szabados@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s-szabados@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [steveszabados.com](http://steveszabados.com)

Where do we find the documents of our ancestors in the “Old Country?”

- Need to know the general area that they left
- Name of village or town
- Location of church or civil records

Step 1 - Finding the names of their birthplaces (Use U.S. documents & sources)

- Use traditional sources such as: personal papers, Census records, Family oral history, Marriage license applications, Church marriage records, Naturalization petitions - 1906 and after, Passenger manifests, and others
- Find the Caregiver - Oldest daughter, Child living with, or in same building, or on the same block, in same neighborhood, or children of above --- Do it now
- Other resources - Church records from early Polish parishes in America and Databases compiled by Polish Genealogy and Historical Societies

Step 2 - Find the location on a map

- History of the Polish Border Changes
- Use Gazetteers
- Use Maps
  - Austrian Military Maps – <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>
  - Wikipedia, GPS and online maps

Step 3 - Find the records

- Familysearch.org - Online databases and digital images from films
- Polish Online Databases - Geneteka, Metryk and others (see list)
- Other Polish sources (records not digitized)
- Hiring Local Researchers (see - <http://www.pgsa.org/Research/polresguides.php>)

Step 4 (Translate Polish Records)

- Record formats
  - Prussia – Various formats (Columnar & narrative) usually in German, Latin or Polish
  - Polish Russia – started in 1804 using Napoleonic code (narrative) in Polish or Russian (using Cyrillic alphabet)
  - Galicia – started the late 1790s using columnar format in German or Latin
- Old German Handwriting
- Polish alphabet
- Translation Aides
  - Dictionaries – use the oldest you can find
  - Books with glossary of terms
    - i. In their words: a genealogist's translation guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian documents by Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman
    - ii. Going Home – A Guide to Polish American Family Research by Jonathan D. Shea
    - iii. A translation guide to 19th-century Polish-language civil registration documents: including birth, marriage and death records by Judith R. Frazin
  - Word Lists (books or online)
  - Translators - see PGSA list at <http://www.pgsa.org/Research/translators.php>

Polish Genealogy Societies - join society near where your immigrant ancestor lived

- Chicago – PGSA.org (Polish Genealogical Society of America)
- Detroit – PGSM.org (Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan)
- Connecticut - pgsctne.org (Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc)
- Minnesota - PGSMN.org (Polish Genealogical Society of Minnesota)
- California - PGSCA.org (Polish Genealogical Society of California)
- Texas - PGST.org (Polish Genealogical Society of Texas)
- List of others – US & Poland (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/societies.html>)

## Reference

### Websites

- PGSA Polish websites Portal - <http://pgsa.org/2014-polish-parish-records/>
- Posen Marriage Project - <http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php>
- Geneteka - <http://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/>
- Metryki - <http://metryki.genealodzy.pl/>
- Posen Marriage Project – <http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/search.php>
- Pomerania – <http://www.ptg.gda.pl/>
- The State Archives of Poland – [szukajwarchiwach.pl](http://szukajwarchiwach.pl)
- 1934 own List – <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=12786>
- Słownik Geograficzny – <http://www.mimuw.edu.pl/polszczyzna/SGKPi/>
- 1910 Austrian Military maps - <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>

See a list of recommended Books on my website at [steveszabados@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steveszabados@sbcglobal.net)

# Old German Type and Handwriting

Roman Type	German Type	German Script	Roman Type	German Type	German Script
Aa	<b>Aa</b>	<i>A a</i>	Vv	<b>Vv</b>	<i>V v</i>
Bb	<b>Bb</b>	<i>B b</i>	Ww	<b>Ww</b>	<i>W w</i>
Cc	<b>Cc</b>	<i>C c</i>	Xx	<b>Xx</b>	<i>X x</i>
Dd	<b>Dd</b>	<i>D d</i>	Yy	<b>Yy</b>	<i>Y y</i>
Ee	<b>Ee</b>	<i>E e</i>	Zz	<b>Zz</b>	<i>Z z</i>
Ff	<b>Ff</b>	<i>F f</i>	<b>Modified Vowels (Umlaute)</b>		
Gg	<b>Gg</b>	<i>G g</i>	Ää	<b>Ä ä</b>	<i>Ä ä</i>
Hh	<b>Hh</b>	<i>H h</i>	Öö	<b>Ö ö</b>	<i>Ö ö</i>
Ii	<b>Ii</b>	<i>I i</i>	Üü	<b>Ü ü</b>	<i>Ü ü</i>
Jj	<b>Jj</b>	<i>J j</i>	<b>Compound Consonants</b>		
Kk	<b>Kk</b>	<i>K k</i>	ch	<b>ch</b>	<i>ch</i>
Ll	<b>Ll</b>	<i>L l</i>	sch	<b>sch</b>	<i>sch</i>
Mm	<b>Mm</b>	<i>M m</i>	ck	<b>ck</b>	<i>ck</i>
Nn	<b>Nn</b>	<i>N n</i>	ss	<b>ss</b>	<i>ss</i>
Oo	<b>Oo</b>	<i>O o</i>	ß (sz, ss)	<b>ß (ß ñ)</b>	<i>ß</i>
Pp	<b>Pp</b>	<i>P p</i>	st	<b>st</b>	<i>st</i>
Qq	<b>Qq</b>	<i>Q q</i>	tz	<b>tz</b>	<i>tz</i>
Rr	<b>Rr</b>	<i>R r</i>	ph	<b>ph</b>	<i>ph</i>
Ss	<b>Ss</b>	<i>S s</i>			
Tt	<b>Tt</b>	<i>T t</i>			
Uu	<b>Uu</b>	<i>U u</i>			