

Introductory Note: The following records were originally posted by a Jack Bowman on another website. That site died but we were able to recover the documents from an archiving site. We have been unable to establish any contact with Mr. Bowman since that site went down. Because of the popularity of this material, we are reproducing it below. Mr. Bowman deserves full credit for the material contained herein and we are more than willing to discuss permission to use this material if he contacts us. Technically this is a breach of copyright but it is for non-commercial use and we hope he or his relatives will understand our desire to continue to make this important material available. Some additional formatting has been added to the original to improve the readability.

Napoleonic Birth Record - Polish

A. Place and date of registration of birth. (Place is given with grammatical ending and the date and time of day are written out in Polish.) USE WORD LIST TO READ DATE.

Dzial~o Sie~ w wsi Oporowie dnia trzeciego
It came to pass in village (of) Oporow (on) day third (of)

lutego tysia~c os~mset pie~c~dziesia~tego drugiego roku
February thousand eight-hundred fiftieth- second year (1852),

o godzinie dziewia~tego z rana....
at hour ninth in the morning....

(Prior to the mid 1820's records will start with Roku. This earlier format gives year first, date, time of day and then the title and often name of the registrar.)

Roku tysia~c osemsetnego czternastego dnia trzeciego
(of) Year thousand eight-hundred fourteen (1814) (on) day third (of)

luteo o godzinie dziewia~tego z rana przed Nami Augustynem
February at hour ninth in the morning before us Augustyn

Wale~ckiem proboszcz parafii Oporowskiej sprawuaja~cym obowia~zki
Walecki priest (of) parish (of) Oporow discharging duties (of)

urze~dnika stanu cywilnego gminy Opdrowskiej powiatu
civil registrar (of) township (of) Oporow district (of)

Orlowskiej w Departmencie Warszawskim.
Orlow in Department (of) Warsaw.

B. The father of the child presents himself (or the midwife if the child is illegitimate) to report the birth.

Stawil sie~ Marcin Gorecki okupnik rolnik, lat czterdzies~ci
Presented himself Marcin Gorecki tenant farmer, years forty

maja~cy / licza~cy w Czyzeminie zamieszkal~y.
having / counting in Czyzemin residing.

C. Two witnesses are named with genitive grammatical inflection. Their occupations, ages and residences are given. (This is sometimes omitted in earlier records.)

w obecnoŝci Macieja Nowaka lat trzydzies~ci pie~c~ maja~cy i
in presence (of) Maciej Nowak years thirty- five having and (of)

Jana Grabowskiego lat pie~c~dziesia~t licza~cy, obydw~ch rolniko~w w
Jan Grabowski years fifty counting, both farmers in

Czyzeminie zamieszkal~ych.
Czyzemin residing.

D. The child is presented and the sex is indicated.

i okazji Nam dziecie~, pl~ci me~skiej / z~en~skiej....
and showed us child, (of) sex male / female....

E. Place of birth is given with date and time of day. USE WORD LIST TO READ DATE.

urodzone w Czyzeminie w domu pod numerem trzynastym,...
born in Cryzemin in house (under) number thirteen,....

na dniu dzisiejszym / wczorajszym / onegdajszm /
on day today / yesterday / day before yesterday /

trzydziestym grudnia / miesia~ca biez~a~cego....
thirtieth (of) December / month current....

roku biez~a~cego / przeszl~ego o godzinie szo~stej wieczorem.
(of) year current / preceding at hour sixth in the morning.

F. The mother of the child is given in genitive grammatical inflection with her age. The record will state if she is the wife of the one presenting himself. If not the record will state whether she is unmarried. When the mother is married but the father is merely not present, then his name is usually given between the birth date and the name of the mother.

(Urodzone) z jego mal~z~onki Maryanny z Grabowskich / Nowako~w
(Born) of his wife Maryanna Grabowska / Nowak

lat trzydzies~ci trzy maja~cej.
years thirty- three having.

(Earlier records, prior to the mid-1820's will usually read differently.)

os~wiadcza~c, iz~ jest spl~odzone z niego i Maryanny
testifying that (it) is begotten of him and (of) Maryanna

z / z domu Mazurk6w lat trzydzies~ci trzy maja~cej jego mal~z~onki.
(maiden name) Mazurek years thirty- three having, his wife.

G. Some records will indicate that on this day the christening was performed.

Dziecieciu temu na Chrzcie S~wie~tym w dniu dzisiejszym odbytym
(for) child this Christening Holy on day today performed.

H. The child is given a name.

nadane jest Imie~ Jan Marcin / zyczeniem jego jest nadac~ mu Imie~ Ewa
given is name Jan Marcin / desire his is give it name Ewa

I. The Godparents are named.

jego Rodzicami Chrzestnymi byli Alojzy Kowalski i Elzbieta Adamska.
his Godparents were Alojzy Kowalski and Elzbieta Adamska.

J. The entry was read and signed by the witnesses or by the priest/rabbi if the witnesses could not write.

Akt ten stawaja~cemu i s~wiadkom przeczytany zostal~,
Entry this (to the one) present and witnesses read was,

Ojciec i s~wiadkowie pisac~ nie umieja~.
Father and witnesses (to) write not know how.

Napoleonic Marriage Record - Polish

A. Place and date of registration of marriage. (Place is given with grammatical ending and the date and time of day are written out in Polish.) USE WORD LIST TO READ DATE.

Dzial~o sie~ w mies~cie Olbierzowicach dnia dwo~dzie~stego
It came to pass in place Olbierzovice (on) day twentieth-
sio~dmego listopada roku tysia~c osiemset szes~cdziesia~tego
seventh (of) November year thousand eight-hundred sixtieth-
czwartego, o godzinie dziewia~tej rano....
fourth (1861) at hour ninth (in) morning....

(Prior to the mid-1820's records will start with Roku. This earlier format gives year first, day, time of day and then the title and often name of the registrar. See birth format for example.)

B. In most records after the mid-1820's two witnesses are named, usually with genitive grammatical inflection. Their occupations, ages and residences are given. (Caution: In some cases the groom and bride present themselves at this point in the entry. In such cases the witnesses will be noted in the Summation.)

Wiadomo czyniemy z~e w przytomnos~ci s~wiadko~w Tomasza
Knowingly (we) affirm that in presence (of) witnesses Tomasz
Kolczaka mularz lat trzydzies~ci i Piotra Studzin~skiego
Kolczak bricklayer years thirty and Piotr Studzin~ski
szewcaca lat trzydzies~ci szes~c~ maja~cych, obydw~och w Olbierzowicach
shoemaker years thirty-six having, both in Olbierzowice
zami~skalnych
residing....

Sometimes:

Stawil~i sie~..(Names of witnesses as above, without grammatical endings.)
They appeared...

C. In most records prior to the mid-1820's and sometimes later, the groom and bride will present themselves. Information will be given as in D below, usually without the instrumental grammatical inflection. If the couple appear together with a witness or official, then the instrument inflection may be required because of the preposition z.

Stawili sie~ Ludwik Jan Kowalski, lat....etc., a
(They) presented themselves Ludwik Jan Kowalski, age....etc., and

Panna Tekla Tokarska, lat.....etc.
Maiden Tekla Tokarska, age.....etc.

Sometimes:

Stawil~ sie~ Rabin Hersz Sztajn wraz z Starozakonami
(He) presented himself Rabbi Hersz Sztajn together with Jews

Szmulem Litmanem, lat...., a Panna Ruchla~ Dawidiczowna~, lat....,

Szmul Litman, age...., and Maiden Ruchla Dawidiczowna, age....,

D. Statement of marriage. If marriage took place on a day different than the day of registration, it will be stated here.

Na dniu dzisiejszym / wczorajszym zawarte zostal~o Religijne
On day today / yesterday accomplished was Religious

Mal~z~enstwo mie~dzy....
Marriage between....

E. Names of bridegroom and bride are given. Because the preposition mie~dzy requires instrumental grammatical inflection, their names and all words describing them will have grammatical endings. For the groom everything will end with -m. For the bride, everything will end with -a~. Information given will vary. Age, previous marital status and residence are almos always given. Very often the entry will also give place of birth. (In early records prior to the mid-1820's this is often accompanied by a statement that the age and birthplace are confirmed by an extract from the parish register of the birthplace.) Most records give me names and residence of parents of the bride and groom. Other information which may be given would be exact birth date, names of previous marriage partners, etc. The order in which information is given can vary but the groom is always first with information pertaining to him, followed by the bride and information pertaining to her.

mie~dzy Ludwikiem Janem Orlikiem / Kowalskim ml~odzianem / kawalerem /
between Ludwik Jan Orlik / Kowalski bachelor / bachelor /

wdocem kowalem / profeszyi kowalskiej w Kaczkowiznie zamieszkal~ym....
widower smith / profession smith in Kaczkowizna residing

urodzonym w Gostynie z / synem niegdys~ / zmarl~ego Tomasza i
born in Gostyn of / son (of) the late / deceased Tomasz and (of)

Jostyna z Pinkowskich mal~z~onko~w Orliko~w podl~ug
Justyna Pinkowska a married couple (named) the Orliks according to

zloz~onej przed Nami metryko wyje~ty z Ksiag kos~ciol~a
submitted before us certificate extracted from book (of) church at

Gostyn~skiego lat....etc. a Panni Terkla Tokarska / wdowa~ po Jo~zefie
Gostyn age....etc. and Maiden Tekla Tokarska / widow of Jozef

Gadzin~skim zmarl~ym dnia.../przy matce zostaja~ca~, Co~rka~...
Gadzinski deceased (on) day .../with mother living Daughter (of)...

(information is given for the bride similar to that given for the groom)

F. As marriages must be preceeded by three bans (announcements in the church) the dates of the bans are given, written out in Polish. Some records also state who gave permission for the marriage.

Malz~enestwo to poprzedzily trzy zopowiedzie w dniach
Marriage this preceeded (by) three announcements on days

dziesia~tym, siedmnastym, i dwo~dziestym czwartym listopada roku
tenth, seventeenth, and twenty- fourth (of) November year

biez~a~cego w parafia. Zezwolenie mal~z~enstwa Ojcr
current in parrish. Permission (tor) marriage (by) father (of)

nowozas~lubionego i rodzico~w nowozas~lubionej .
groom (newlywed) and parents (of) bride (newlywed).

G.Summation: This includes a statement that there were no objections to the marriage. Sometimes it included a renaming of the witnesses with an occasional mention of relationship to the bride or groom. Finally, it concludes with a statement, as in birth and death records, that the entry was read to witnesses and that they signed or did not sign depending on their ability to write.

Napoleonic Death Record - Polish

A. Place and date of registration of death. (Place is given with grammatical ending and the date and time of day are written out in Polish.) USE WORD LIST TO READ DATE.

Dzial~o sie~ w parafii Z~ychlin~skiej w roku tysia~c osemset
It came to pass in parish Zychlin in year thousand eight-hundred

czterdziestiego dnia trzeciego marca godzinie....etc.
forty (1840) (on) day third (of) March at hour...etc,

(Prior to the mid 1820's records will start with Roku. This earlier format gives year first, date, time of day and then the title and often name of the registrar. See birth format for example.)

B. Two witnesses present themselves to report the death. Their occupations, ages and residences are given.

Stawil sie~ Marcin Cies~lak, parobek lat.... i
(They) presented themselves Marcin Ciestak, farmhand age.... and

Mateusz Czerwin~ski, fernal lat....
Mateusz Czerwinski, farm-wagon driver age....

C. The witnesses testify concerning the death, including the place (given with grammatical ending) and the date and time of day when the death occurred. USE WORD LIST TO READ DATE.

i os~wiadczył~i iz dnia pierwszego marca / wczorajszego
and (they) testified that (on) day third (of) March / yesterday

roku bież~a~cego, o godzinie o~smej w wieczor, w ws~i Debicach
(of) year current, at hour eight in evening, in village Debice....

D. Name of deceased is given with varying amounts of information. Age and occupation are almost always given. Other information often given would be parents, birthplace, survivors, etc.

Umarl~ / Umarl~a Jo~zef Cies~lak lat..... licza~c(y/a), syn /
(He) died (she) died Jozef Cieslak years...counting, son /

co~rka niegdys~ / wspomianego Marcina i Wiktoryi z
daughter (of) deceased / forementioned Marcin and Wiktorya

Czerwin~skich mał~z~onko~w Cies~lako~w; urodzony w
Czerwinska married couple (named) the Cieslaks; born in

Prusach / w tej ws~i roku... gdzie i z kogo urodzony
Prussia / In this village (in) year when and of whom born

niewiadomo. Zostawil~ / zostawiwszy po sobie owdowial~a z~one~
unknown. (He) has left / leaving after himself widowed wife

Agate~ / owdowialego mez~a Mikol~ajo / etc.
Agata / widowed husband Mikolaj / etc.

E. A statement is usually included as to whether the death was confirmed by eyewitness.

Po przekoaniu sie~ naocznie o zejs~ciu
(There was) ascertainment (by) eyewitness concerning death

Jo~zefa
(of) Jozef.

F. Summation: This includes a statement that the entry was read to the witnesses and that they signed or did not sign depending on their ability to write.

Throughout the death entry, watch for remarks which indicate relationships.

Umarl~ mu ojciec. (*This indicates that the one who died was the
died (to) him father. father of the one testifying to the death.*)

Akt ten stawaja~cym przeczytany, z ktorych pierwszy
entry this (to the ones) present read (was), of whom first

jest brat zmarl~ego.
is brother (of) deceased.