
Using Gazetteers & Maps for Polish Genealogy

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<https://fromshepherdsandshoemakers.com/>

All URLs were current as of January 2025.

What is a gazetteer?

- A gazetteer is a geographical index or directory used in conjunction with a map or atlas. It typically contains information concerning the geographical makeup, social statistics and physical features of a country, region, or continent.
(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gazetteer> : March 2024)

Why do I need a gazetteer for Polish genealogy?

- Gazetteers can provide useful and interesting historical information about the places where our ancestors lived.
- Gazetteers will identify the parish and registry office assignments for your ancestral villages.
- Gazetteers can help you reconcile apparent conflicts in evidence for ancestral place of origin.
- Different types of documents were created at different administrative levels, so it's important to know the complete administrative assignments for your ancestral village over time.

Factors to consider when selecting a gazetteer for Polish genealogy:

- Style: Period gazetteer, or phonetic?
- Geographic area of coverage

- Time period
- Language
- Format

Gazetteers

Name	Coverage Area	Format	Language	Publication Date	Link & Notes
<i>JewishGen Gazetteer</i>	Includes 1,000,000 localities in 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, & Central Asia	Phonetic	English	present day	https://www.jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp Useful when a place name is misspelled on historical records from North America. For more hits, try using the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex, rather than Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching.
Baza Miejscowości Kresowych	Database of 54,962 places in the <i>kresy wschodnie</i> (Poland's eastern borderlands region); includes places presently located in Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, & Ukraine	Phonetic	English, Polish	Data circa 1930s, prior to administrative reform of 1938.	https://www.kami.net.pl/kresy/
<i>Słownik geograficzny Królestwa Polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich</i>	All localities in the former Polish provinces of Russia, most localities in the former Austrian province of Galicia (now divided between Poland and	paragraph	Polish	1880–1902, 15 volumes	http://dir.icm.edu.pl/Słownik_geograficzny/ Assistance with unfamiliar terminology is available here: https://pgsa.org/research-słownik-terminology/ Assistance with deciphering abbreviations used in a typical <i>Słownik</i> entry is here: https://pgsa.org/research-słownik-interpretation/

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	the Ukraine), Belorussian provinces of the Russian Empire (now in the Republic of Belarus), and also contains significant localities in Russia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. While the information is a bit less comprehensive, localities from the provinces of Poznan, West Prussia, East Prussia, Silesia, and Pomerania are also covered.				Some translated <i>Słownik</i> entries are available from Polish Roots: https://www.polishroots.com/GeographyMaps/SownikGeograficzny?PageId=61 To access translated entries, hover cursor over "Geography & Maps" option in menu bar at the top of the page, then select a letter of the alphabet to view translated entries for places in the <i>Słownik</i> beginning with that letter. Additional translated entries (a different set) are available here as a members-only benefit of the Polish Genealogical Society of America: https://pgsa.org/research-sownik-translations/ Wildcard searching: the special character "%" replaces any string of characters, and "_" can be used to replace a single character.
<i>Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego, T. 1 & 2</i>	Królestwo Polskie (Kingdom of Poland, i.e. Congress Poland or Russian Poland)	tabular	Polish with Polish & Russian column headings	1877	Tom (Volume) 1, A–N: https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11404/edition/10794 Tom (Volume) 2, O–Z: https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11653/edition/10795
<i>Tabella miast, wsi, osad Królestwa</i>	Kingdom of Poland	tabular	Polish	1827	Tom (Volume) 1, A–Ł: https://polona.pl/item/tabella-miast-wsi-osad-krolestwa-polskiego-z-wyrazeniem-ich-polozenia-i-ludnosci-t,MjIzMjU1Ng/2/#info:metadata

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<i>Polskiego, T. 1 & 2</i>					Tom (Volume) 2, M–Z: https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication/98051/edition/110117/content
Списки населенных мест Российской Империи (List of Populated Places in Imperial Russia)	Russian Empire. Some volumes are relevant to Polish research, e.g. Volhynia (Wołyń) and Grodno, as well as the Kingdom of Poland; however, KP volumes are not available online.	tabular	Russian	1861–1885, 62 volumes	Some volumes available online, click here for links: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Russia_Gazetteers#Spiski_naselennykh_Mest_Rossiiskoi_Iimperii_.28.D0.A1.D0.BF.D0.B8.D1.81.D0.BA.D0.B8_.D0.BD.D0.B0.D1.81.D0.B5.D0.BB.D0.B5.D0.BD.D0.BD.D1.8B.D1.85_.D0.BC.D0.B5.D1.81.D1.82_.D0.A0.D0.BE.D1.81.D1.81.D0.B8.D0.B9.D1.81.D0.BA.D0.BE.D0.B9_.D0.98.D0.BC.D0.BF.D0.B5.D1.80.D1.96.D0.B8.29
Brian Lenius' <i>Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia</i>	Galicia (Austrian Empire, presently southeastern Poland/western Ukraine)	tabular, print book, not online	English	1994, but covers period from 1896–1914	Can be ordered from the author via his website: http://lenius.ca/Gazetteer/Gazetteer.htm
<i>Gemeindelexikon der im Reichsräte vertretenen Königreiche und Länder, Bd. 12 Galizien</i>	Galicia	tabular	German	1907	https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/232531-gemeindelexikon-der-im-reichsräte-vertretenen-konigreiche-und-lander-bd-12-galizien-galicia?offset= Tips for using: https://galiziengermansdescendants.org/cms/en/component/docman/general-public/using-the-gemeindelexikon (David Gorz) http://www.halgall.com/gemeindelexikon.html (Matthew Bielawa)
Galician Town Locator	Galicia	tabular	Place names in German or Polish	Data from c. 1900	https://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-town-locator/

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<i>Najnowszy skorowidz wszystkich miejscowości z przysiółkami w Królestwie Galicyi... by Jan Bigo</i>	Galicia	tabular	Polish	1886–1918	Gazetteer from 1914: https://www.pbc.rzeszow.pl/dlibra/show-content/publication/edition/4909?id=4909 Similar content from different publication years (1886–1918) can be found here: http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/search#fq={!tag=dcterms_accessRights}dcterms_accessRights%3A%22Dost%C4%99p%20otwarty%22&q=bigo%20skorowidz
<i>Skorowidz wszystkich miejscowości położonych w Królestwie Galicyi i Lodomeryi wraz z Wielkiem Księstwem Krakowskiem</i>	Galicia	tabular	Polish	1868	https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/publication/2142
<i>Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej</i>	Second Polish Republic (1918–1939)	tabular	Polish	c. 1933	https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication/7126/edition/12786/content
<i>Nazwy miejscowe Polski : historia, pochodzenie, zmiany.</i>	Present-day Poland	paragraph	Polish	1997–2019	Tom (Volume) 1, A–B https://rcin.org.pl/dlibra/publication/15428/edition/2836 . Scroll down the page to “Similar Objects,” and then click “More” to see other volumes available online. Series is unfinished.
<i>Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziem polskich w średniowieczu</i>	Medieval Poland	paragraph	Polish	Middle Ages up to 1530	http://www.slownik.ihpan.edu.pl/index.php

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<i>Genealogische Orts-Verzeichnis (GOV), The Historic Gazetteer</i>	Worldwide	database	German website, can be used in English	Present day	http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index
Kartenmeister	All locations are east of the Oder and Neisse rivers; database includes Eastprussia, including Memel, Westprussia, Brandenburg, Posen, Pomerania, and Silesia.	database	English; place names can be searched in German or Polish	Based on province borders as of Spring 1918	http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseUwe.asp
<i>Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen : auf Grund der Materialien der Volkszählung vom 1. Dezember 1905 und anderer amtlicher Quellen</i>	Kingdom of Prussia, Germany (includes Polish territories in East Prussia, West Prussia, Pomerania, Brandenburg, Posen, and Silesia).	tabular	German	1907–1909	15 volumes, can be accessed here: https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/14875?availability=Family%20History%20Library Also available on Ancestry: https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/34415/
<i>Meyers Orts- und Verkehrslexikon des deutschen Reichs</i>	German Empire	paragraph, database	German (print), English (database)	1871–1918	https://www.meyersgaz.org/

Maps

Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
Mapster: Mapy archiwalne Polski i Europy Środkowej	15 th century–20 th century	Poland & Central Europe	Locality search engine: http://igrek.amzp.pl/search.php?range=short Map index page: http://igrek.amzp.pl/mapindex.php	Includes maps from Archiwalne Mapy Pomorza Gdańskiego, Archiwum Map Wojskowego Instytutu Geograficznego 1919 - 1947 and Archiwum Map Zachodniej Polski, in addition to maps from private collections, archives, and public libraries. Use locality search engine to find all maps on which a locality appears, or use drop-down menu on map index page to select map collections organized by type, date, and scale.
Austro-Hungarian Military Maps	c. 1910	Central Europe	http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm	265 downloadable map sheets at 1:200,000 scale. Place names are in German. Only extends 30' north of the 53 rd parallel (a little

Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
				north of Łomża, Mława, Bydgoszcz, etc.) so northern parts of Poland are excluded.
David Rumsey Map Collection	1550–present	Worldwide	https://www.davidrumsey.com/	Premier site for 150,000+ georeferenced, interactive, historical maps. Numerous tools allow user to create, compare, overlay, save, and share maps.
Polona Maps	16 th century–20 th century	Worldwide	https://polona.pl/items/?filters=category:maps,public:1,hasTextContent:0	Website of the National Library of Poland. Maps & atlases are no longer cataloged separately; try search terms “mapa” or “atlas.”
Mapa.Szukacz.pl	Current	Present-day Poland	https://mapa.szukacz.pl/mapnik.html	Diacritics not needed. Interactive search features will autofill locations as you type letters, which is helpful when place names are misspelled in source document. Identifies gmina seat for each location.
Arcanum Maps	18 th –20 th century	Europe	https://maps.arcanum.com/en/	Maps are georeferenced, and user can toggle transparency between the historical and modern map. Includes maps of Prussia (1877), Russia (1872), and the First, Second, and Third Military Surveys of the Hapsburg Empire (including Galicia). Places in the Russian Empire can be searched by Polish names (with or without diacritics), even though Russian is used on the map. Available cadastral maps do not extend as far north as Poland.
Szukajwarchiwach	? – present	Poland, as defined historically and presently	https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna	This search portal for the holdings of the Polish state archive and numerous additional archives has an entire category of maps. Type in a town, county, or province

Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
				name and select “Mapy/Maps” to filter search results.
Topographic Maps of Eastern Europe	Late 18th-early 20 th -century	Central & Eastern Europe	https://easteurotopo.org/	Offers a variety of small-to-large scale maps, some curated from other collections (https://easteurotopo.org/links/), along with background material focused on Jewish communities.
FBC: Federacja Bibliotek Cyfrowych	?	Worldwide	https://fbc.pionier.net.pl/	Search portal for digitized holdings of Polish libraries, museums, and universities. Search “mapa polski” and browse results.
Old Maps of Lithuania and the Baltics	18 th century–20 th century	Lithuania and the Baltics	https://www.maps4u.lt/lt/news.php	Lithuanian website offering maps at scale 1:2,000–1:100,000, including city plans. Site requires use of FlashPlayer plugin.
Gesher Galicia Map Room	18 th -20 th century	Galicia	https://maps.geshergalicia.org/	A smorgasbord of regional maps, street maps, cadastral maps, interactive data maps, and thematic maps at varying map scales.
Archiwum Map Wojskowego Instytutu Geograficznego 1919 - 1947	Mostly 20 th century, but a few 19 th century	Poland & Central Europe	Polish version: http://polski.mapywig.org/news.php English version: http://english.mapywig.org/news.php	Topographic maps created by the Wojskowy Instytut Geograficzny, or Polish Military Geographical Institute (1919-1939), in map scales ranging from 1:10,000 to 1:500,000. All maps also available from Mapster.
Archiwum Map Zachodniej Polski	Late 19 th –mid 20 th century	Western Poland (formerly Germany), northern Poland	http://mapy.amzp.pl/ (home page), http://mapy.amzp.pl/tk25.cgi?11,61,50,103 (map index page)	1:25,000 scale maps; although the emphasis is on maps of western Poland, the map index page includes maps of places in the Mazowieckie, Podlaskie, & Warmińsko-Mazurskie provinces. Maps are included in Mapster.
Archiwalne Mapy Pomorza Gdańskiego	20 th century	Pomorania (Gdańsk region,	http://mapy.eksploracja.pl/news.php	Maps ranging in scale from 1:25,000 to 1:300,000. Maps are included in Mapster:

Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
		northwestern Poland)		Mapy archiwalne Polski i Europy Środkowej.
Wikimedia Atlas of Poland	Prehistoric era–present day	Current and historical borders of Poland	https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Poland	Potpourri of historical, administrative, satellite, and themed maps of Poland and Polish lands.
National Geoportal	Present day	Poland	https://mapy.geoportal.gov.pl/	Site can be used in English, and permits viewing of current cadastral data, road maps, etc., overlaid onto satellite map, by ticking desired options in “Map Contents” box.
Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) Map Collection	Mostly 19 th - and early 20 th -century; some older	Eurasia, with an emphasis on maps of Central & Eastern Europe	https://feefhs.org/map/library/	Assortment of historical, administrative, and themed maps at varying map scales. To view and save maps in high resolution, hover cursor over upper right corner of map until viewing options appear, and then open map in new window.
Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) Map Collection	19 th - and 20 th century	Central & Eastern Europe	Scanned maps index: https://www.sggee.org/research/SGGEEMaps.html Additional map links: https://www.sggee.org/research/village_maps.html#PolandMaps	Themed maps relating to German settlements in Poland.
Old Maps Online	Pre-19 th -century–present day	Worldwide	Home page: https://www.oldmapsonline.org/	Offers maps in a variety of scales and themes. Site allows you to zoom into an area of interest, and available maps that include that area will be shown on the right.
Library of Congress	12 th century–present	Worldwide	https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=poland	Collection includes a modest number of maps of Polish lands.

For a discussion of Galician cadastral maps, where to find them and how to use them, please see:
<https://fromshepherdsandshoemakers.com/2018/09/26/using-cadastral-maps-of-galicia/>