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# Using Gazetteers & Maps for Polish Genealogy

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<https://fromshepherdsandshoemakers.com/>

## 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> : 2 May 2022)

## 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 affiliations for your ancestral villages.
- Gazetteers can help you reconcile “conflicting evidence” for ancestral place of origin.

## Factors to consider when selecting a gazetteer for Polish genealogy:

- Style: Period gazetteer, or phonetic?
- Geographic area of coverage
- Time period
- Language
- Format

## Phonetic Gazetteers

- Useful when a place name is misspelled on source document.
- **Jewish Gen Gazetteer** ([www.jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp](http://www.jewishgen.org/communities/loctown.asp))
  - contains the names of one million localities in 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia.
  - For more hits, try using the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex, rather than Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching.
- **Baza Miejscowości Kresowych/Eastern Borderlands Places** (<http://www.kami.net.pl/kresy/>):

- This is a fantastic site for determining parish for villages in the eastern border regions (Kresy) that formerly belonged to Poland (Second Polish Republic) but are now located in western Ukraine, western Belarus, and southeastern Lithuania.
- Soundex-style allows you to search without knowing the exact spelling of the place name, if you select “similar” (Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex) or “rough” as your search method.

## Period Gazetteers

Name	Coverage Area	Format	Language	Publication Date	Link
<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 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.	paragraph	Polish	1880–1902, 15 volumes	<p><a href="http://dir.icm.edu.pl/Slownik_geograficzny/">http://dir.icm.edu.pl/Slownik_geograficzny/</a></p> <p>Assistance with unfamiliar terminology is available here: <a href="https://pgsa.org/research-slownik-terminology/">https://pgsa.org/research-slownik-terminology/</a> Assistance with deciphering abbreviations used in a typical <i>Słownik</i> entry is here: <a href="https://pgsa.org/research-slownik-interpretation/">https://pgsa.org/research-slownik-interpretation/</a></p> <p>Some translated <i>Słownik</i> entries are available from Polish Roots: <a href="https://www.polishroots.com/GeographyMaps/SlownikGeograficzny?PageId=61">https://www.polishroots.com/GeographyMaps/SlownikGeograficzny?PageId=61</a></p> <p>To access translated entries, hover cursor over "Geography &amp; 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.</p> <p>Additional translated entries (a different set) are available here as a members-only benefit of the Polish Genealogical Society of America: <a href="https://pgsa.org/research-slownik-translations/">https://pgsa.org/research-slownik-translations/</a></p> <p>Wildcard searching: the special character "%" replaces any string of characters, and "_" can be used to replace a single character.</p>

Name	Coverage Area	Format	Language	Publication Date	Link
<i>Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego, T. 1 &amp; 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: <a href="https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11404/edition/10794">https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11404/edition/10794</a> Tom (Volume) 2, O–Z: <a href="https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11653/edition/10795">https://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra/publication/11653/edition/10795</a>
<i>Tabella miast, wsi, osad Królestwa Polskiego, T. 1 &amp; 2</i>	Kingdom of Poland	tabular	Polish	1827	Tom (Volume) 1, A–L: <a href="https://polona.pl/item/tabella-miast-wsi-osad-krolestwa-polskiego-z-wyrazeniem-ich-polozenia-i-ludnosci-t,MjIzMjU1Ng/2/#info:metadata">https://polona.pl/item/tabella-miast-wsi-osad-krolestwa-polskiego-z-wyrazeniem-ich-polozenia-i-ludnosci-t,MjIzMjU1Ng/2/#info:metadata</a> Tom (Volume) 2, M–Z: <a href="https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication/98051/edition/110117/content">https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication/98051/edition/110117/content</a>
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: <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Russia_Gazetteers#Spirski_naselennykh_Mest_Rossiiskoi_Imperii_.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">https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Russia_Gazetteers#Spirski_naselennykh_Mest_Rossiiskoi_Imperii_.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</a>
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: <a href="http://www.lenius.ca/gazetteer/gazetteer.htm">http://www.lenius.ca/gazetteer/gazetteer.htm</a>

Name	Coverage Area	Format	Language	Publication Date	Link
<i>Gemeindelexikon der im Reichsrate vertretenen Königreiche und Länder, Bd. 12 Galizien</i>	Galicia	tabular	German	1907	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/232531-gemeindelexikon-der-im-reichsrate-vertretenen-konigreiche-und-lander-bd-12-galizien-galicia?offset=">https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/232531-gemeindelexikon-der-im-reichsrate-vertretenen-konigreiche-und-lander-bd-12-galizien-galicia?offset=</a> Tips for using: <a href="http://www.galiziengermandescendants.org/Data/Using_the_Gemeindelexikon.pdf">http://www.galiziengermandescendants.org/Data/Using_the_Gemeindelexikon.pdf</a> (David Gorz) <a href="http://www.hagal.com/gemeindelexikon.html">http://www.hagal.com/gemeindelexikon.html</a> (Matthew Bielawa)
Galician Town Locator	Galicia	database	English	Data from c. 1900	<a href="https://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-town-locator/">https://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-town-locator/</a>
<i>Najnowszy skorowidz wszystkich miejscowości z przysiółkami w Królestwie Galicyi...</i> by Jan Bigo	Galicia	tabular	Polish	1886–1918	Gazetteer from 1914: <a href="https://www.pbc.rzeszow.pl/dlibra/show-content/publication/edition/4909?id=4909">https://www.pbc.rzeszow.pl/dlibra/show-content/publication/edition/4909?id=4909</a> Similar content from different publication years (1886–1918) can be found here: <a href="http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/search#fq={!tag=dcterms_accessRights}dcterms_accessRights%3A%22Dost%C4%99p%20otwarty%22&amp;q=bigo%20skorowidz">http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/search#fq={!tag=dcterms_accessRights}dcterms_accessRights%3A%22Dost%C4%99p%20otwarty%22&amp;q=bigo%20skorowidz</a>
<i>Skorowidz miejscowości Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej</i>	Second Polish Republic (1918–1939)	tabular	Polish	c. 1933	<a href="https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication/7126/edition/12786/content">https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/publication/7126/edition/12786/content</a>
<i>Nazwy miejscowe Polski : historia, pochodzenie, zmiany.</i>	Present-day Poland	paragraph	Polish	1997–2019	Vol. 1, A–B <a href="https://rcin.org.pl/dlibra/publication/15428/edition/2836">https://rcin.org.pl/dlibra/publication/15428/edition/2836</a> . 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	<a href="http://www.slownik.ihpan.edu.pl/index.php">http://www.slownik.ihpan.edu.pl/index.php</a>

Name	Coverage Area	Format	Language	Publication Date	Link
<i>Genealogische Orts-Verzeichnis (GOV), The Historic Gazetteer</i>	Worldwide	database	German website, can be used in English	Present day	<a href="http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index">http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index</a>
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	<a href="http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseUwe.asp">http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseUwe.asp</a>
<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: <a href="https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/14875?availability=Family%20History%20Library">https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/14875?availability=Family%20History%20Library</a> Also available on Ancestry: <a href="https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/34415/">https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/34415/</a>
<i>Meyers Orts- und Verkehrslexikon des deutschen Reichs</i>	German Empire	paragraph, database	German (print), English (database)	1871–1918	<a href="https://www.meyersgaz.org/">https://www.meyersgaz.org/</a>

## Maps

Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
Mapster: Mapy archiwalne Polski i Europy Środkowej	15 <sup>th</sup> century–20 <sup>th</sup> century	Poland & Central Europe	Locality search engine: <a href="http://igrek.amzp.pl/search.php?range=short">http://igrek.amzp.pl/search.php?range=short</a> Map index page: <a href="http://igrek.amzp.pl/mapindex.php">http://igrek.amzp.pl/mapindex.php</a>	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	<a href="http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm">http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm</a>	265 downloadable map sheets at 1:200,000 scale. Place names are in German. Only extends 30' north of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> parallel (a little north of Łomża, Mława, Bydgoszcz, etc.) so northern parts of Poland are excluded.
David Rumsey Map Collection	1550–present	Worldwide	<a href="https://www.davidrumsey.com/">https://www.davidrumsey.com/</a>	Premier site for 150,000+ georeferenced, interactive, historical maps. Numerous tools allow user to create, compare, overlay, save, and share maps.
Polona Maps	16 <sup>th</sup> century–20 <sup>th</sup> century	Worldwide	<a href="https://polona.pl/items/?filters=category:maps,public:1,hasTextContent:0">https://polona.pl/items/?filters=category:maps,public:1,hasTextContent:0</a>	Website of the National Library of Poland.
Mapa.Szukacz.pl	Current	Present-day Poland	<a href="https://mapa.szukacz.pl/mapnik.html">https://mapa.szukacz.pl/mapnik.html</a>	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.

Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
Arcanum Maps	18 <sup>th</sup> –20 <sup>th</sup> century	Europe	<a href="https://maps.arcanum.com/en/">https://maps.arcanum.com/en/</a>	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	<a href="https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna">https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna</a>	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 name and select “Mapy/Maps” to filter search results.
Topographic Maps of Eastern Europe	Late 18th-early 20 <sup>th</sup> -century	Central & Eastern Europe	<a href="https://easteurotopo.org/">https://easteurotopo.org/</a>	Offers a variety of small-to-large scale maps, some curated from other collections ( <a href="https://easteurotopo.org/links/">https://easteurotopo.org/links/</a> ), along with background material focused on Jewish communities.
FBC: Federacja Bibliotek Cyfrowych	?	Worldwide	<a href="https://fbc.pionier.net.pl/">https://fbc.pionier.net.pl/</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> century–20 <sup>th</sup> century	Lithuania and the Baltics	<a href="https://www.maps4u.lt/lt/news.php">https://www.maps4u.lt/lt/news.php</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century	Galicia	<a href="https://maps.geshergalicia.org/">https://maps.geshergalicia.org/</a>	A smorgasbord of regional maps, street maps, cadastral maps, interactive data maps, and thematic maps at varying map scales.



Source	Map Date	Geographic coverage	Link	Remarks
Archiwum Map Wojskowego Instytutu Geograficznego 1919 - 1947	Mostly 20 <sup>th</sup> century, but a few 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Poland & Central Europe	Polish version: <a href="http://polski.mapywig.org/news.php">http://polski.mapywig.org/news.php</a> English version: <a href="http://english.mapywig.org/news.php">http://english.mapywig.org/news.php</a>	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 <sup>th</sup> –mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century	Western Poland (formerly Germany), northern Poland	<a href="http://mapy.amzp.pl/">http://mapy.amzp.pl/</a> (home page), <a href="http://mapy.amzp.pl/tk25.cgi?11,61,50,103">http://mapy.amzp.pl/tk25.cgi?11,61,50,103</a> (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		Pomorania (Gdańsk region, northwestern Poland)	<a href="http://mapy.eksploracja.pl/news.php">http://mapy.eksploracja.pl/news.php</a>	Maps ranging in scale from 1:25,000 to 1:300,000. Maps are included in Mapster.
Library of Congress	12 <sup>th</sup> century–present	Worldwide	<a href="https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=poland">https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=poland</a>	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/>

Creating a personalized map for genealogy in Google Maps:

<https://support.google.com/mymaps/answer/3024454?hl=en&co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop>