

# Death Records in Paragraph Format

## Russia “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

January 2016

### GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract the genealogical information from a Russian paragraph form death record by using key words and phrases.

### INTRODUCTION

The majority of the paragraph form Russian death records follow a particular format, though they may vary by religion (i.e., Jewish records) or location (for example, Russian Poland or Lithuania).

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [The Russian Alphabet](#)

### HOW TO

There are two common types of death records. When the deceased is a child or younger unmarried person, the death record usually lists their parents. If the deceased person was married, the record usually lists the spouse (whether alive or deceased), and sometimes the surviving children.

Before you begin extracting genealogical information from documents written in Russian, it is important to understand some grammatical concepts.

### Conjugation

Russian words are conjugated based on their location in a sentence. The main form of conjugation in a death record is the genitive, or possessive form (son *of* Ivan). Note that with non-Russian names, such as Polish, names could contain variations based on local naming customs.

The following endings of names are typical:

#### Genitive case

Given Names	Example	Surnames	Example
masculine: add an ‘a’	Антон = Антона	masculine: add an ‘a’	Петров = Петрова
feminine: change the last letter to an ‘ы’	Татьяна = Татьяны	feminine: change the last letter to an ‘ы’	Сидерова = Сидеровы

## Patronymics and Surnames

For ethnic Russians, patronymics play an important cultural role. A person's second name is traditionally a form of his or her father's name. Surnames traditionally have had a masculine and feminine form, and you may encounter these in death documents.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sample Paragraph Death Record

1 Составлено въ селѣ Кривонозовѣ двадцатью тремя Де-  
кабря года востановилъ девицкою вѣнчаномъ 2 года ревер: М  
тара Дубаря женою востановилъ девицкою вѣнчаномъ  
года въ девять часовъ утра. 3 Мужикъ: Касимъ Васп-  
тнхъ солова итмъ и Николай Куца итмъ девицкою  
итмъ отъ роду, живуща въ Мельковѣ жмѣнѣ сѣв-  
нойе 4 побывавши наше лицо 21 2 двадцать первого Декабря  
второго Дубаря, мелуцаго 5 года въ два раза улица 6 улица  
въ Мельковѣ Марьянна Курыбна привыкну  
7 итмъ отъ роду (Марьянна Курцова) негражданка,  
крестница, 8 угодившая и угодившая въ Мельковѣ  
при погубе лицѣ. 9 Дочь Августа и Катарины 10 изъ  
Филоповъ супруговъ Курыбъ живуща въ Мельковѣ. Стона-  
рною чествованіи о погубе Марьянна Курыбна  
11 а итмъ ей свидѣтельству неправомысли упорномъ  
наши подписавъ. - Крестъ Василь Видеичкинъ  
Акимъ. Мрмв. Суп. Св. А. С. С.

Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-RH4R-PN> accessed 20 January 2016.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph Death Record Outline in English

It happened in<sup>1</sup> village or town (place name), (full date written out) year<sup>2</sup>, at (time). Appeared before us<sup>3</sup> (Name of witness, age, and status/occupation) and (name of other witness, age, and status/occupation) residents of (place name) and announced to us that<sup>4</sup> (full date written out) year<sup>5</sup>, at (time) died in<sup>6</sup> (place name) (Name of deceased) (age) years from birth<sup>7</sup> (this particular document then states her name written in Polish) (status/occupation) born and lived in<sup>8</sup> (place name) with her parents. Daughter of<sup>9</sup> (father and mother's first name) from<sup>10</sup> (mother's maiden name) the couple (their married surname) (parents' status/occupation). After the witnesses confirmed the death of (name of the deceased), this act<sup>11</sup> was read and signed by the witnesses (or by the authors)....

## 2<sup>st</sup> Sample Paragraph Death Record

Состоялось во селѣ Кривцовѣ двадцать первого  
Декабря, тысяча восемьсот девятисот второго года / ре- П  
мбермае двубагъ тысяча восемьсот девятисот первого  
года во оидецадцатъ часовъ утра. Явилось: Грмерорфъ Селектъ П  
двадцати восьми летъ и Грмерорфъ Веннеръ нидецадцати  
лету сехъ летъ отъ роду, земледельцы въ Пюмрковѣ  
милебамбурге и оидецадцати летъ отъ роду / 24 / двадцати пер-  
вого Декабря / второго Януаря, медуцаго года во децати часовъ  
утра яшеръ во Пюмрковѣ Янъ Зеннеръ (Jan Zenger)  
нидецадцати летъ отъ роду, земледельцы,  
родившійся и профукавшій въ деревнѣ Пюмр-  
ковѣ, <sup>12</sup> сынъ <sup>13</sup> покойныхъ родителей Яоханна и  
Маріанны изъ Гумковъ супругъ Зеннеръ  
крестьянъ. <sup>14</sup> Оставилъ по себѣ обязавшему  
меня Яоханну <sup>15</sup> професору Пюмрковѣ, земледель-  
цу сего въ Пюмрковѣ. По наорнымъ удостоверенію  
о похитѣ Яна Зеннера, актъ сей свизомеденъ  
незаконнымъ образомъ нѣмъ похитенъ.  
Клеверъ Воинскъ Пюмрковскій Яоханн.  
Крмо. Стрва. Сег. Авг. 24. 18

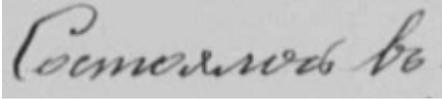
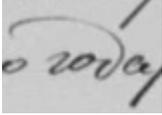
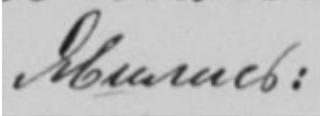
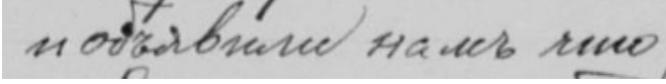
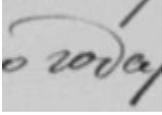
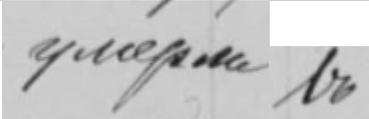
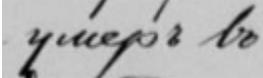
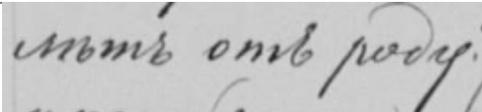
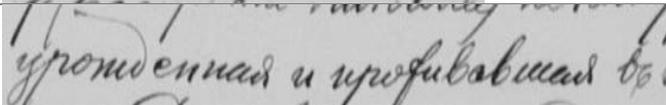
Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-RH4R-PN> accessed 20 January 2016.

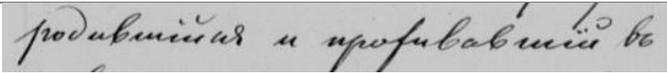
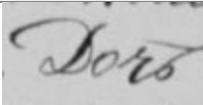
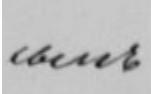
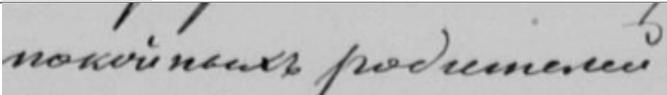
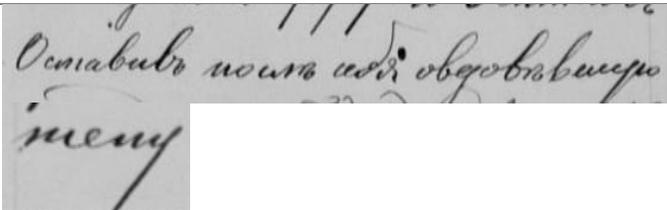
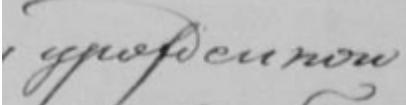
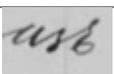
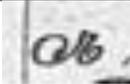
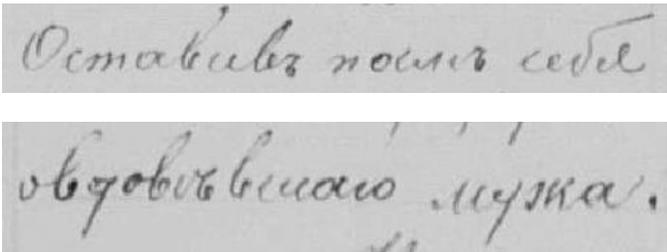
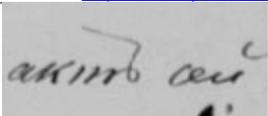
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph Death Record – Key Phrases That Differ

.... Son<sup>12</sup> of the deceased parents<sup>13</sup> (first name of father and mother) from (mother's maiden name). Leaving behind a widowed wife<sup>14</sup> (wife's name) born as<sup>15</sup> (wife's maiden name) resident in (place name) ....

## Key Words and Phrases

The following key words will indicate the most essential genealogical information. Depending on the context, the information may come before or after the key word. Note that the Polish words and phrases are written in standardized Polish. In some cases, the examples provided may differ in spelling, diacritics, or conjugation of the word. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines.

English	Russian	Information given	Example
1. It happened in...	состоялась в	<u>followed by</u> the word "village" or "town" and then the place name	
2...year	...года	<u>before</u> this word will be the date written out	
3. appeared before us...	явились...	<u>followed by</u> the father's name	
4. and announced to us....	и объявили намъ что....	<u>followed by</u> the day, month and year of the death	
5...year	...года	<u>before</u> this will be the day month and year of the death	
6. died in...	(f.) умерла въ ... (m.) умеръ въ ....	<u>followed by</u> the place name where they died and directly after that will be the name of the deceased	 
7...years from birth	...лѣтъ от роду	<u>before</u> this will be the age of the deceased	
8. born and lived in...	урожденная и проживавшая въ...	<u>followed by</u> the name of the place	

born and lived in...	родившийся и проживавший вЪ	followed by the name of the place	
9. daughter of...	дочь...	followed by the names of the parents	
12. son of...	сынъ...	followed by the names of the parents	
13. deceased parents....	покойныхъ родителей...	followed by the names of the parents	
leaving behind a widowed wife...	оставив после себя овдовевшую жену...	followed by the first name of the wife	
15. born as...	урожденной ...	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
10. born as...	изъ	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
born as...	съ	followed by the maiden name of the wife	
14. Leaving behind a widowed husband...	оставив после себе овдовевшаю мужа...	followed by the name of the widower	
11. This act...	Акт сей...	followed by the formulaic end of the document; it indicates the end of all genealogical information.	

Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939K-RH4R-YX>

## Other Helpful Vocabulary Words

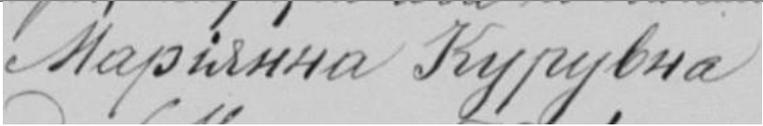
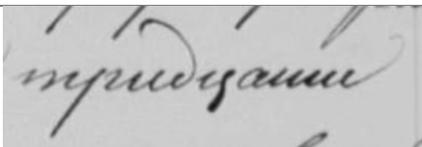
Before the name of a specific place is mentioned, you will see a word describing the type of location (i.e. “village” or “city”). When recording a person died, the record may say “today,” “yesterday,” “of the same month,” or “of the same year,” instead of rewriting the date. At times, a person’s status may be recorded before or after his or her name, “peasant,” “farmer,” or “petty bourgeois” being the most common.

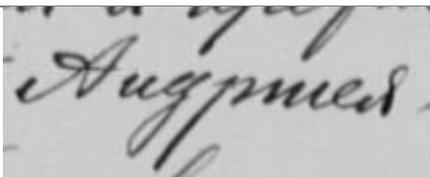
village	деревня
village with a church	село (sometimes appearing as селѣ)
city	город
settlement	посадѣ
yesterday	вчерашняго дня
today	сегодняшняго дня
peasant	крестьянин
petty bourgeois	Мещанинѣ
farmer	земледелец
of the same year	сего года
of the same year	текущаго года
of the same month	сего месяца

## PRACTICE

The last page of this guide will be a large image of the death record you should use to complete the activity. You can also view the image on FamilySearch using by clicking [here](#). Use the FamilySearch word list to complete this activity:

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russian\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russian_Genealogical_Word_List)

What is the name of the deceased?	From the charts listed above, you can see that this information will be found after the phrase: умерла въ. Directly after that phrase will be the village or town she died in, directly after that will be her name.	 <p>Марианна Курувна Marianna Kuruvna</p>
How old was she?	This information is found directly after her name and directly before the phrase: ...леть от роду. Use the word list on	 <p>тридцати Thirty</p>

	<p>FamilySearch. The ending of the word is different because of the grammar rules in Russian.</p>	
<p>What was her father's name?</p>	<p>You will find this information directly after the word: дочь</p>	 <p>Андріея</p> <p>Andrej</p> <p>The name of the father has been altered grammatically with the ending of "ya".</p>

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.

Составлено в селѣ Куроновѣ двадцать третьего Де-  
кабря года восьмидесяти девятиста второго года ревер: Ма-  
таро Губаря года восьмидесяти девятиста третьего  
года в девять часов утра. Явилось: Каетанъ Саф-  
тнихъ со женою матъ и Николай Куря ниндеарни  
мать отъ роду, земледельцы в Мельковѣ жителы быв-  
шые и о здѣшнихъ намъ рше <sup>21</sup> двадцать первого Декабря /  
второго Губаря, текущего года в два часа дня умерла  
в Мельковѣ Марьянна Курявна тридцати  
мать отъ роду (Марьянна Курявна) неразумная,  
крестница, урожденная и проживавшая в Мельковѣ  
при родителемъ. Дочь Августъ и тамаринъ въ  
Фиворовѣ сироты Куровѣ земледельцы. Стона-  
рными удостовѣреніи о поименно Марьянны Курявны  
ахъ ей свидетелствую неправоты и прочимъ  
нами подписанъ. - Кемъ Войцехъ Вишневскій  
Пам. Куров. При. Год. 18. 73. 2.