Poznan Project

Poland/Germany "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

October 2015

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to find marriage information in the Poznan Project: Poznan Region Marriage Indexing Project for 1800-1899.

INTRODUCTION

From the website for the project it reads: "Our goal is to transcribe the 19th century marriage records from the historic Greater Poland (then Prussian Province of Poznan) into a searchable online database.

"The project is coordinated by Łukasz Bielecki and is supported by dozens of volunteers from many countries, who have been transcribing marriages from the entire region."[1]
A more detailed explanation can be found on the website.

HOW TO

The Poznan Project indexes records that were made in Poznan, regardless of the ethnic group or language. Although the site has an English interface, as well as German, Polish, and French, the following word lists may be helpful:

1. Polish Word List
   https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Poland_Language_and_Languages

2. German Word List https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List

3. Latin Word List https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

The following online gazetteer that covers former German areas in the east that were lost after WWII may also be helpful in locating information about places in Posen:
www.kartenmeister.com.

Steps

1. Go to this URL: http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/search.php, or do a web search for the phrase "Poznan Project".

2. Click on the flag in upper right-hand corner to choose the language you want. The default from the URL given above is English.

3. Look at the tabs across the top of the screen. You will already be in the tab called "Search Engine". The other tabs contain information about the project, other indexing

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[1] http://poznan-project.psnc.pl/index.php?lang=en, accessed 6 January 2016.

projects in Poland, what content is included by district, how to do the search, how to support the project and how to contact them.

4. If you have clicked on another tab, click on the "Search Engine" tab to return to the search screen. You have an option to search using "Simple Search" (the red box) or "Advanced Search (the blue box)." It is recommended that you use the Advanced Search, as you can narrow your search with more criteria.

5. In the "Last name" box for the groom, type the last name of the man you are searching for. For his first name, you cannot type anything. You must choose a name from the list. Click on the "First name" box and a list of given names will appear. Choose the corresponding first name. Do the same for the bride.

6. You can add other search criteria by clicking on "Additional search criteria [Pull down]." These criteria are area on a map, year ranges, record types and similarity. If you know the approximate year they were married, type the year range into the year-range boxes. Notice that under "Records type," you can indicate Catholic, Protestant, or civil. If you want both civil and church records and do not know the religion of the couple, leave this search field blank, which will return more results. You can also limit by place or within a certain distance of a place. Under "Area to search," click on "Define the area to search on the map." You should now see a map with some search boxes to the left. In the "Locate a place" box, type the name of the place in which you would like to search. You can also expand the search radius up to 40 km. You can also click on any of the red dots, each of which represents a parish or a civil registry office, or click and drag the big red balloon on the map to other areas where you want to limit your search. When you have set your location, click on "Accept."

7. When you have all the information you want to search for, click "Search." Some searches will take what seems an inordinate amount of time. Watch the search bar that appears at the top. Do not keeping pressing the search button. You will only slow down your search.

8. You should then see a screen with results. The number of exact and partial matches ("Results above threshold") will be given in the green box above the map. The number of matches under "Results above threshold" includes both exact and partial matches.

9. Scroll down to see the results. Under each entry you will learn the religion, place, entry number and year, and ages of the couple and sometimes the original document. If you click on the place name you will get information about the area, including population, towns that are included in this parish, availability of records and where those records are kept, as well as FamilySearch microfilm numbers for those records.

PRACTICE

Practice using the Poznan Project by searching for Christoph Braun and Anna Caroline Schmidt, who were married in the late 1830s or early 1840s. The marriage place is unknown. The Poznan Project will help determine the place and year of the marriage.

- In the "Last name" box for the groom, type "Braun." For his first name, choose the name "Christoph(orus)/Krzysztof" from the drop down menu. Do the same for the bride by typing in "Schmidt" and selecting "Anna."

- Add other search criteria by clicking on "Additional search criteria [Pull down]." The couple was married in the late 1830s or early 1840s, so type 1835 and 1845 into the year-range boxes. Notice that under "Records type," you can select Catholic, Protestant, or civil. Since you want both civil and church records and do not know the religion of our couple, leave this search field blank. For this specific search, the marriage place is unknown, so do not define the area.

- Click "Search." Some searches will take what seems an inordinate amount of time. Watch the search bar that appears at the top. Do not keeping pressing the search button. You will only slow down your search.

- Now you should see a screen with results. The number of exact and partial matches will be given in the green box above the map. In this case, you see only one result. By scrolling down, you will see the entry which reads:

  Exact matches
  Protestant community Skoki [Schocken]
  entry 53 / 1839
  Christoph **Braun** (24 years old) 100%
  Anna Caroline **Schmidt** (19 years old) 100%

  Here we learn the religion, place, entry number and year, and ages of the couple. Unfortunately, we do not see the original document. However, if we click on **Skoki [Schocken]**, we get information about the area, including population, towns that are included in this parish, availability of records and where those records are kept, as well as FamilySearch microfilm numbers for those records.

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.