ePaveldas: Roman Catholic Records Online

Lithuania "How to" Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to identify and use the website *ePaveldas* to locate online Lithuanian Roman Catholic records.

INTRODUCTION

ePaveldas is an online Lithuanian library and archive that has digitized most of the parish records of the Roman Catholic Church. They are continuously updating their website and adding more digitized parish records. For this packet to be of use to you, you will already have to know the name of the Roman Catholic parish that you would like to search for.

You may want to consult the following "How to" Guides before continuing:
- Russia-Cyrillic Alphabet
- Russia-Cyrillic Script
- Inserting Special Characters

HOW TO

Steps:

1. Find out how the name your parish is spelled in *ePaveldas*.

   To do this, you will need to understand a few Lithuanian grammar rules. The spelling of words changes depending on where they are located in a sentence. For instance, the name of a town will is spelled in the nominative case. However, the church books will be indexed by the town's name in the genitive case or the possessive case (think church books **of** Kaunas). Therefore, most towns listed in the website will end with one of the following genitive forms:

Nominative	Genitive	Example: Nominative	Example: Genitive
-as, -is, -ys	-o	Kaunas	Kauno
-a, -i, -ė	-os, -ės	Kelmė Rudamina	Kelmės Rudaminos
-ai	- ų	Zidikai	Židikų

   a. If your parish does not follow the above changes, or you are unsure of the spelling of your parish, go to http://www.epaveldas.lt/documents/10165/20783/archyvai_portale.pdf. This PDF

file is a list of all parishes available online in ePaveldas, including the years the records are available. Scroll through the alphabetical list in order to find the parish name in genitive form using the chart above.

    b. For more detailed instruction go to http://www.lithuaniangenealogy.us/list-of-lith-parish-registers-online.html.

2. Perform a search at *ePaveldas* to see if the church records are available.

    a. Go to http://www.epaveldas.lt/

    b. If the website is in Lithuanian, click on the word "English", found in the upper left corner of the website. If you see the word "Lietuvių", the website has defaulted to the English version.

    c. Type in the name of your parish in the genitive form. Since the beginning of the parish name is the same (for example, Židikai vs. Židikų), the genitive form may appear in a drop-down menu as you type. Make sure the full name of the parish is entered in genitive form. Then type in RKB after the name of the parish. This limits the search of the archive to only Roman Catholic Church records.

    d. Click on the blue Search button.

    e. For more detailed instruction go to http://www.lithuaniangenealogy.us/view-online-lith-parish-registers.html.

This will bring you to a page of results with the name of your parish, the letters "RKB", some Lithuanian words, and a date range. The following chart will help you identify the type of church book available on *ePaveldas*:

Lithuanian	English
gimimo metrikų knyga	birth metrical book
santuokos metrikų knyga	marriage metrical book
mirties metrikų knyga	death metrical book

3. Identify the church book that contains the record type and year span you'd like to search.

4. Click either the picture of the book to the left or the link underneath the title of the book that says, "view digital images of the object".

This will open the digital folder of the records for the parish, type, and year range you have chosen. Researching these parish records requires you to go page by page searching by date or name. There is not a computerized searchable index, although some parishes include handwritten indexes usually found at the back of the book. There are different options for viewing the images, including zooming in and out, rotating the image, and enlarging the image to full screen. You can use the left and right arrows to go from page to page or type in a page number next to the blue box with the word "Image".

Reading the Records

The records will be written in Russian after 1868; before 1868, they may be in various languages depending on the locality and the time period. Be prepared to look through records in Latin, Russian, Lithuanian, or Polish.

PRACTICE

With the help of the instructions above, find the spelling of the parish needed in order to complete a search and you will search the database to find the records needed.

For this activity, identify the **marriage records** in the parish of **Jurbarkas** for **1840**.

- Look at the table with the genitive changes above, and identify the genitive spelling of the parish. It is Jurbarko.

- Next, open up the list of parish records that are included in ePaveldas by going to this URL: http://www.epaveldas.lt/documents/10165/20783/archyvai_portale.pdf

- Scroll alphabetically through the list until you find the parish of Jurbarkas (Jurbarko).

- While scrolling, you will come across this entry:

34.	Jurbarko Švč. Trejybės Romos katalikų bažnyčia	1802-1940	669, 1407	LVAT	20	3616

Source: http://www.epaveldas.lt/documents/10165/20783/archyvai_portale.pdf accessed 11 November 2015.

  This is the parish that you are looking for. From this entry we can see that the Roman Catholic records are available for this parish for the years 1802-1940.

- With this information we can now perform the search. Go to the URL: http://www.epaveldas.lt/

- Type the genitive form of the parish name into the red search box, along with the letters RKB, and click the blue box labeled "Search."

- Scroll through the list of results until you find the one titled "Jurbarko RKB santuokos metrikų knyga. 1835--1848 m". Click on the entry.

- Click on the picture of the book. You are now looking at the title page of the digitized record. Go to image 34 by using the arrows or typing in the page number. You should see the year 1840 on the top of the right page in the image.

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.