

***Alegata* — Unknown and Important Documents in Genealogy**

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Alegat is a Polish word of Latin origin, from *allegatio*, “sending someone as an intermediary; a citation of proof; a submitted document.” It is not only an interesting relic of phraseology from ecclesiastical language, but above all, it includes great potential genealogical significance. This word, seemingly forgotten and archaic, is currently undergoing a rebirth, precisely because of genealogy. Many beginning researchers do not know about the existence and meaning of these documents.

Alegata (the plural of *alegat*) are original documents attached to metrical records, most often to marriage records, as essential proof of the fulfillment of formalities required by parish priests or civil registrars (during the Napoleonic era, one person, as a rule, held both titles). In other words, they are original extracts from the birth records of spouses who come from areas outside the territory of a given parish, or death records of spouses as proof of widow or widower status. Also found in *alegata* are extracts from death records in the case of persons who died outside their home parish. Also attached sporadically are transcripts of divorce cases or bans. The documents were drawn up during the period 1808–1945 by priests, administrators, and, at times, local justices of the peace (for example, the form of loose documents at the end of the books or as separate files of documents sown in to the book, also called *aneksy*).

Alegata or *aneksy* are standard items in inventories of metrical registers (for all faiths) from the territory of the former Russian partition. This resulted from internal regulations of the Russian administration that ordered submission of *alegata* and of duplicates of the records to the appropriate units of national administration.

Unfortunately, *alegata* are lacking as archival units in the holdings of metrical documents from the territories of Galicia and Prussia. Sometimes one may encounter this type of document among the pages of metrical registers. Unfortunately, the *alegata* have rarely been microfilmed by the Mormons; nor have they been copied, and thus they are accessible only on site at the archives.
