

Germany

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INTRODUCTION

This outline introduces records and research strategies that can help you discover your German ancestors. It teaches terminology and describes the contents, uses, and availability of major genealogical records. You can use this outline to set meaningful research goals and select the records that will help you achieve your goals.

Generally, you must know a specific *town* where a German relative was born or married before beginning your research, because most records were kept locally.

You will need a basic understanding of genealogical research procedures before you begin to look for your ancestors. You may want to read the booklet, *Guide to Research*, which is available at the Family History Library and at family history centers. *Guide to Research* is also available in German.

Genealogical information is available through the Family History Library or by correspondence directly with Germany. In some areas of Germany, however, opportunities for genealogical research are limited for the following reasons:

- Some records have been destroyed.
- Some records are restricted from public use.
- Some records are not easily accessible.
- Some records are hard to use or read.
- Some record keepers may be unable or unwilling to search their records for you.

Despite these obstacles, there are many other sources you can use to find German ancestors. This outline discusses those sources.

Using This Outline

The “German Search Strategies” section of this outline explains how to effectively research your family history. This section is particularly valuable if you are just beginning your research.

The “Records Selection Table” on page 7 helps you select records to search. “Records at the Family History Library” describes the library's collection of German records. The “Family History Library Catalog” section explains how to use the library's catalog to find specific records in the collection.

Beginning on page 10, the outline discusses the major records used for German research, such as “Church Records” and “Civil Registration.” These sections are listed alphabetically, and the section headings are the same as the subject headings used in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

Related records and concepts are grouped together under the same heading. For example, information about the history of emigration from Germany, passenger lists, and emigration indexes are discussed under “Emigration and Immigration.”

In this outline, German-language terms are frequently given in brackets and italics after the English terms, such as Marriages [*Heiraten*]. English translations in parentheses follow German-language book, microfilm, or microfiche titles. German spellings are used for German place-names. For example, *Bayern* is used instead of *Bavaria*, and *Preußen* is used instead of *Prussia*.

This outline does not mention all possible genealogical record sources. At the end of the outline, you will find a brief list of additional subject headings under “Other Records” and a short bibliography of sources under “For Further Reading.” For help tracing German emigrants, use the research outlines for the country of arrival and the *Tracing Immigrant Origins* research outline.

GERMAN SEARCH STRATEGIES

Step 1. Identify What You Know about Your Family

Begin your family history research with family and home sources. Look for names, dates, and places in certificates, family Bibles, obituaries, diaries, photographs, and similar sources. Ask your relatives for any information they may have. It is very likely that your second cousin, great-aunt, or other relative already has some family information. Organize the information you find and record it on pedigree charts and family group record forms.

Step 2. Decide What You Want to Learn

First, select a specific German relative or ancestor *for whom you know at least a name, the town or parish where he or she lived in Germany, and an*

approximate date of birth or marriage. It is also very helpful to know your ancestor's religion and the names of other family members born in the same area.

If you do not have enough information on your German relative, review the sources mentioned in step one. The “Emigration and Immigration” section of this outline gives more suggestions for finding an emigrant ancestor's birthplace. The *Tracing Immigrant Origins* research outline may also help.

Next, decide what you want to learn about your ancestor, such as a marriage date and place or parents' names. You may want to ask an experienced researcher or a librarian to help you select a specific research goal that you can achieve.

It is usually best to begin by verifying information about the ancestor for whom you know the most, and then continue searching from there. It is often hard to find an ancestor's records when you know only a name and country of birth. With so little information, your research is limited to a few general indexes like the International Genealogical Index and Ancestral File.

Step 3. Select a Record to Search

Effective researchers begin by obtaining background information about their ancestor. Then they survey previous research in compiled records. Finally, they search original documents.

Background Information Sources. You may need some geographical and historical information. You can save time and effort by focusing your research in the correct place and time period.

- *Locate the town or place of residence.* Examine maps, gazetteers, and other place-finding aids to learn about each of the places where your ancestors lived. Identify the major migration routes, nearby cities, county boundaries, geographical features, and government or ecclesiastical jurisdictions. Place-finding aids are described in the “Maps,” “Gazetteers,” and “History” sections of this outline.
- *Review history.* Understanding Germany's history will help you search because historical events affected the development of records. If possible, study a history of the areas where your ancestors lived. Look for clues about the people, places, religions, and events that may have affected their lives and the records about them. Records with information about settlement patterns, government and ecclesiastical jurisdictions, major migration routes, and historical events are described in the “Church History,” “Gazetteers,”

“Historical Geography,” “History,” and “Periodicals” sections of this outline.

- *Learn about German jurisdictions.* Knowing about past and present German political subdivisions will help you search. See the “Historical Geography” section of this outline for general information. The “Church Records” section tells you how to determine which parish a village was in, and the “Gazetteers” section explains how to find the civil registration office for each town.
- *Use language helps.* German records and histories are usually written in German or Latin. You do not need to speak or read German or Latin to search the records, but you will need to recognize some key words and phrases. Helpful language aids are described in the “Language and Languages” section of this outline.

Previous Research Sources. Most genealogists survey research previously done by others because it can save time and give valuable information. You may want to look for your ancestor in these sources:

- Printed family histories and genealogies
- Biographies
- Local histories
- The International Genealogical Index
- Ancestral File
- The Family Group Records Collection

Records containing previous research are described in the “Biography,” “Genealogy,” “History,” “Periodicals,” and “Societies” sections of this outline. Remember that previous research may contain inaccuracies, so you should verify the information whenever possible.

Original Records. After surveying previous research, you will be ready to begin research in original documents, which are usually handwritten in the native language and are often available on microfilm or microfiche. These documents can provide primary information about your family because they were usually recorded at or near the time of an event by a reliable witness. To do thorough research, search records of:

- Each *place* where your ancestor lived.
- Each religious *parish* or congregation in which your ancestor lived.

- The *time period* when your ancestor lived there.
- All *jurisdictions* that may have kept records about your ancestor (town, parish, province, state, and nation).

Many types of original documents are described in this outline. In German genealogical research, most family information is found in the records described under “Church Records” and “Civil Registration.”

Step 4. Find and Search the Record

Suggestions for Obtaining Records. You may obtain the records you need from the following sources:

- *Family History Library.* You are welcome to use the records available at the Family History Library. The library is open to the public, and there are no fees for using the records. If you would like more information about the library and its services, write to the following address:

Family History Library
35 North West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
USA

Or check our website at: www.familysearch.org

- *Family history centers.* Copies of most of the records on microfilm at the Family History Library can be lent to more than 2,000 family history centers. There are small duplication and postage fees for this service.

The library cannot lend its books to the centers, but copies of many books not protected by copyright are available on microfilm or microfiche. For a list of the family history centers near you, write to the Family History Library or check our website at: www.familysearch.org.

- *Archives and local churches.* Most of the original documents you will need are in Germany at state, church, and local archives or in local parish offices. Although the Family History Library has many of these records on microfilm or microfiche, others are available only at these archives (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline). You can write to archives and local parishes to request information, but be careful not to ask for too much. An archive can briefly answer questions about which records are in its collection. If a parish

or archive is reluctant to do research, ask for a referral or a list of local researchers you could hire to search the records. Complete instructions on how to prepare a genealogical letter in German are given in the Family History Library publication, *German Letter-Writing Guide* (34066).

- *Libraries and interlibrary loan.* Public, academic, and other research libraries may have some published sources for German research. Your local public library may provide interlibrary loan services that allow you to borrow records from other libraries. The Family History Library does not participate in the interlibrary loan system.
- *Professional researchers.* You can hire a private researcher to search records for you. Many researchers specialize in German records. Lists of qualified professional researchers and a four-page guide, *Hiring a Professional Genealogist*, are available from the Family History Library and family history centers. Local churches in Germany may provide names of individuals who can search their records for you.
- *Photocopies.* The Family History Library and some other libraries offer limited photoduplication services for a small fee. You must specify the exact pages you need copied. Books protected by copyright cannot be copied in their entirety. However, a few pages can usually be copied for personal research. The library does not copy large portions of microfilm. The archives that have the original records usually do not offer this service either.

Photocopying facilities are not always available in Germany. Archives and parish offices rarely offer photographic prints of records. When they do, the costs may be relatively high.

When requesting photocopies and other services from libraries or professional researchers, you will have more success if your letter is brief and very specific. Cite the record, person, event date, and, if possible, page number you want. Do not ask for too much at once. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped, long envelope when writing *within your own country*.

Suggestions for Searching the Records. Follow these principles as you search the records for your ancestor:

- *Search for one generation at a time.* Do not try to connect your family to others with the same surname who lived more than one generation before your proven ancestor. It is much easier to prove parentage than descent.
- *Search for the ancestor's entire family.* When you find information about an ancestor, the record may include clues for identifying other family members. In most families, children were born at regular intervals. If there appears to be a long period between some children, reexamine the records for a child you may have overlooked. Consider looking at other records and in other places to find a missing family member.
- *Examine a copy of the original record.* In some cases, transcripts of the original records are available. These may be easier to read, but they may be less accurate than the original records.
- *Search each source thoroughly.* A minor detail in a record may be the clue you need to find an ancestor or trace a family further. Note your ancestor's occupation and address and the names of witnesses, godparents, neighbors, relatives, guardians, and others. Also note the places of origin of these additional people.
- *Search a broad time period.* Dates obtained from some sources may not be accurate. Search records from several years before and after the date you think an event took place.
- *Look for indexes.* Many records have indexes that may help you find an ancestor quickly. These indexes are usually located at the beginning or the end of a record. However, many indexes are incomplete. They may include only the name of the specific person the record is about. They may not include parents, witnesses, or other incidental persons. Also be aware that the original records may have been misinterpreted or names may have been omitted during indexing.
- *Search for information about prior residences.* Information about previous residences is crucial to successfully continuing research into earlier generations.
- *Watch for spelling variations.* Spelling was not standardized until the late nineteenth century, and names were often written phonetically. Many names were spelled differently than they are today. You may find a surname spelled differently for each member of the family.
- *Record your searches and findings.* Make copies of the information you find, and keep detailed notes about each record you search. These notes should include the author, title, location, call number, description, and results of your search (even if you find nothing). Many researchers use a research log for this purpose.

Step 5. Use the Information

Evaluate the Information You Find. Carefully evaluate whether the information you find is complete and accurate. Ask yourself these questions:

- Who provided the information? Did that person witness the event?
- Was the information recorded near the time of the event or at a later date?
- Is the information consistent and logical?
- Does the new information verify the information found in other sources? Does it differ from information in other sources?
- Does the information suggest other places, time periods, or records to search?

Share Your Information with Others. Your family history can become a source of enjoyment for you and your family. You can submit your family history information through the Internet site: www.familysearch.org. You may want to compile your findings into a family history and share it with family members, the Family History Library, and other archives.

If you are a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, be sure to submit information about your deceased family members so you can provide temple ordinances for them. Your ward family history consultant or a staff member at the Family History Library or your family history center can help you. You can also use the booklet, *A Member's Guide to Temple and Family History Work*, available through Church distribution (item number 34697).

RECORDS AT THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

Microform Records

The Family History Library presently has more than 100,000 microfilms and microfiche containing information about people who lived in Germany. Most of the library's records have been obtained through an extensive and ongoing acquisition program. The library has copies of records found in government archives, church archives, and private collections.

These records include the following:

- Church and civil birth, marriage, and death records.
- Passenger lists.
- Family histories and genealogical collections.

The library has an extensive collection of genealogical sources for some areas of Germany. For example, the library has a large percentage of the birth, marriage, and death records for Rheinland, the Pfalz (Palatinate), Baden, Württemberg, and Mecklenburg.

The library also has records from many areas that were once part of Germany that now belong to a neighboring country. These include:

- Records from the province of Elsaß-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine), which is now part of France.
- Records from the eastern provinces of Preußen (Posen, Pommern, Ostpreußen and Westpreußen, Schlesien, and parts of Brandenburg), which are now part of Poland, Lithuania, and Russia.
- Records from the northern portion of Schleswig-Holstein, which is now part of Denmark.

The library does not have records for every time period or locality in Germany. For example, the library has few records from Hannover, Oldenburg, Bayern, and Sachsen. Most library records are for the years before 1875.

Printed Records

The library has thousands of books and other printed materials helpful for German research. Copies of some of these books are also available in microform. The library's collection includes such books as:

- Atlases and maps.
- Church inventories.
- Family histories.
- Gazetteers.
- Handbooks and manuals.
- Histories (national, regional, and local).

- Lineage books.
- Village lineage books.

FAMILYSEARCH™

FamilySearch is a powerful computer system that simplifies family history work. The FamilySearch system includes the following:

- *Computer programs* designed to work on personal computers
- *Computer files* of information drawn from family history records gathered by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The main FamilySearch computer program helps a user search for ancestors in FamilySearch files. When the name of an ancestor is typed at the keyboard, FamilySearch quickly searches through millions of names and finds any that match. It matches last names that are spelled differently but sound the same. It can guide users from the matches they find to full screens of information—dates and places of birth, marriage, and death; and names of parents, children, and spouses.

The Family History Library and some family history centers have computers with FamilySearch. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

An increasing number of family history centers have access to the Internet. These services are also available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

The following FamilySearch files are useful for German research:

- *Ancestral File*. This file contains family history information linked in family groups and pedigrees. The file contains the names of over 36 million persons.
- *Family History Library Catalog*. This is an automated edition of the Family History Library's catalog. By using the catalog on FamilySearch, patrons may easily find information about the library's holdings and call numbers.
- *International Genealogical Index*. This file provides names and vital information for over 23 million deceased persons who lived in Germany. This valuable research tool lists birth, baptism, or marriage dates. The index for Germany includes

names extracted from parish registers by volunteers and names submitted by other researchers.

Other files will be added to FamilySearch as they become available.

THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The key to finding a record in the Family History Library's collection is the Family History Library Catalog. The catalog describes each of the library's records and provides the call numbers. The catalog is available on compact disc as part of FamilySearch and also on microfiche. It is at the Family History Library and at each family history center.

Catalog entries for German records are usually written in German. The description of each record includes a brief English summary of the record's content. The key German words used in the catalog are found in the Family History Library publication *German Genealogical Word List* (34067).

The Family History Library Catalog on compact disc has five types of searches:

- Locality Search
- Locality Browse
- Surname Search
- Film Number Search
- Computer Number Search

The Family History Library Catalog on microfiche has four major divisions:

- Locality
- Subject
- Surname
- Author/Title

To find the records described in this outline, you will most often use the Locality Search, which organizes entries on geographic levels. Records relating to the entire country are listed under GERMANY. Most records are listed under a specific town or city. You may need to look at each geographic level (area, country, state, province, and town) to find all the records that apply to the locality in which you are interested. Look in the Locality Search for the following:

- The *place* where an ancestor lived, such as:

EUROPE
GERMANY (country)
GERMANY, WÜRTTEMBERG (country, state)
GERMANY, WÜRTTEMBERG, ULM (country, state, town)

- Then the *record type* you want, such as:

EUROPE - **NOBILITY**

GERMANY - **HISTORY**

GERMANY, WÜRTTEMBERG - **GAZETTEERS**

GERMANY, WÜRTTEMBERG, ULM - **CHURCH RECORDS**

The record types (or *topics*) used in the Locality Search of the catalog are the same as the subject headings used later in this outline (such as “Church Records”).

A list of German states and provinces as they appear in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog is found on page 35.

Towns in Preußen (Prussia)

Because Preußen was so large, all towns in Preußen are listed in the catalog after their *state and province*, as in this example:

GERMANY, PREUßEN, RHEINLAND, THÜR
(country, state, province, town)

The provinces of Preußen were Brandenburg, Hannover, Hessen-Nassau, Hohenzollern, Ostpreußen, Pommern, Posen, Rheinland, Sachsen, Schlesien, Schleswig-Holstein, Westfalen, and Westpreußen.

Whenever this outline suggests you look under GERMANY, [STATE] - [TOPIC], Preußen records are under GERMANY, PREUßEN - [TOPIC] or GERMANY, PREUßEN, [PROVINCE] - [TOPIC].

Towns in Thüringen (Thuringia)

Records for towns in Thüringen are listed twice: once under Thüringen and once under the specific duchy or principality the town belonged to. For example, a record listed under GERMANY, THÜRINGEN, SULZE (country, state, town) is also listed under GERMANY, SACHSEN-ALTENBURG, SULZE (country, duchy, town).

The duchies and principalities of Sachsen (Thüringen) were Reuß ältere Linie, Reuß jüngere Linie, Sachsen-

Altenburg, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, Sachsen-Meiningen, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, and Schwarzburg-Sondershausen. The Coburg part of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha joined Bayern in 1920 and is listed under Bayern instead of Thüringen in the catalog.

Places Now Outside of Germany

German states, provinces, and counties have changed many times. The Family History Library Catalog lists records according to the jurisdictions of the German Empire (1871-1914). Records of places that were formerly part of Germany but that now belong to other countries are listed under *both* Germany and the other country in the Family History Library Catalog. For example, if a place is listed in the catalog under GERMANY, PREUßEN, SCHLESIEN, BRESLAU, it is also listed under POLAND, WROCLAW, WROCLAW.

This rule applies to former German territories that are now part of France, Belgium, Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, and Russia. For more information about jurisdictions, see the “Gazetteers,” “Historical Geography,” “History,” and “Maps” sections of this outline.

This outline provides the library's call numbers for some of the listed sources. These numbers are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for the Family History Library. The outline also provides Family History Library Catalog computer numbers for some sources. These numbers are preceded by *computer number*.

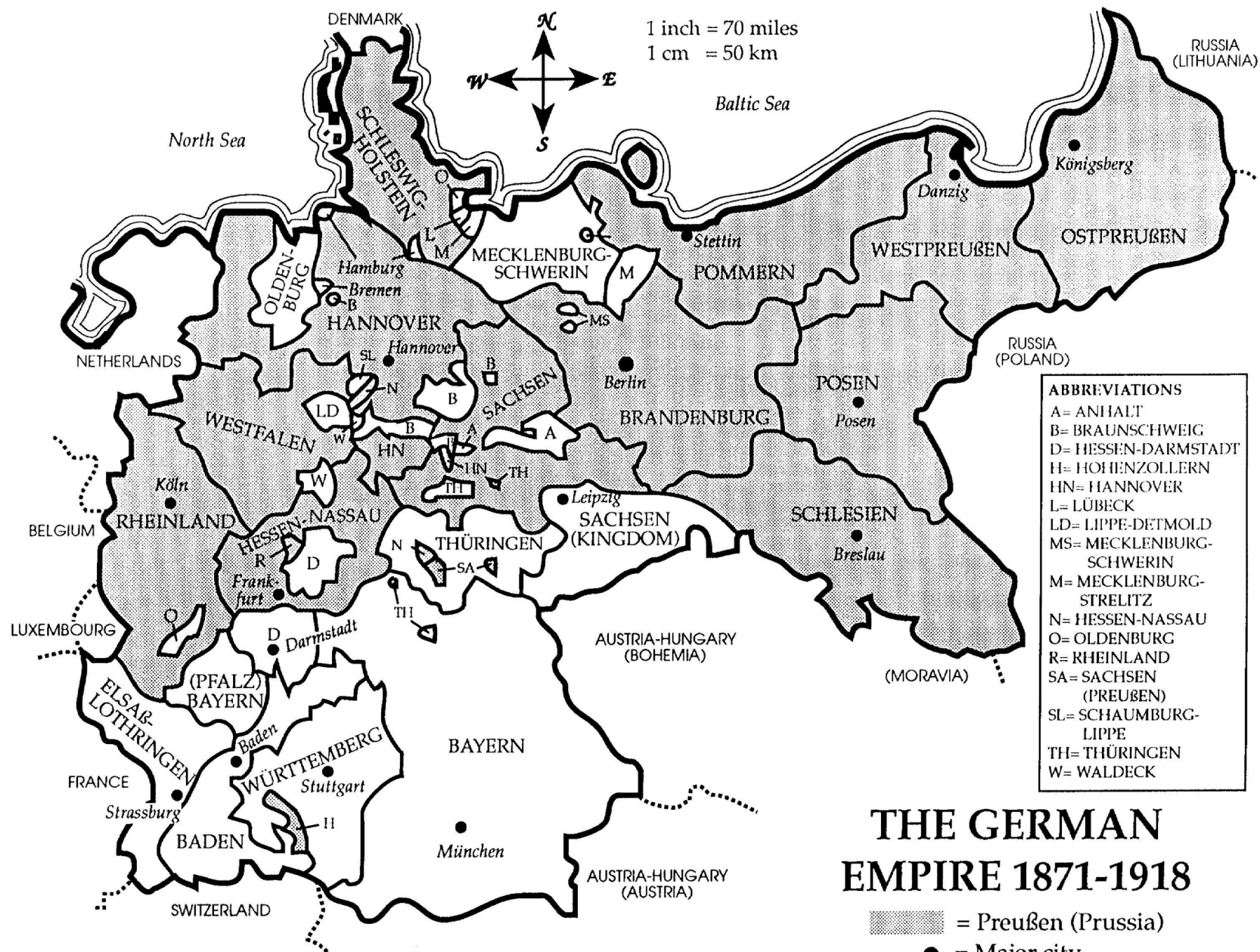
If you need help with the Family History Library Catalog, the Family History Library and Family History Centers have a short video program, written instructions, and staff members that can answer questions.

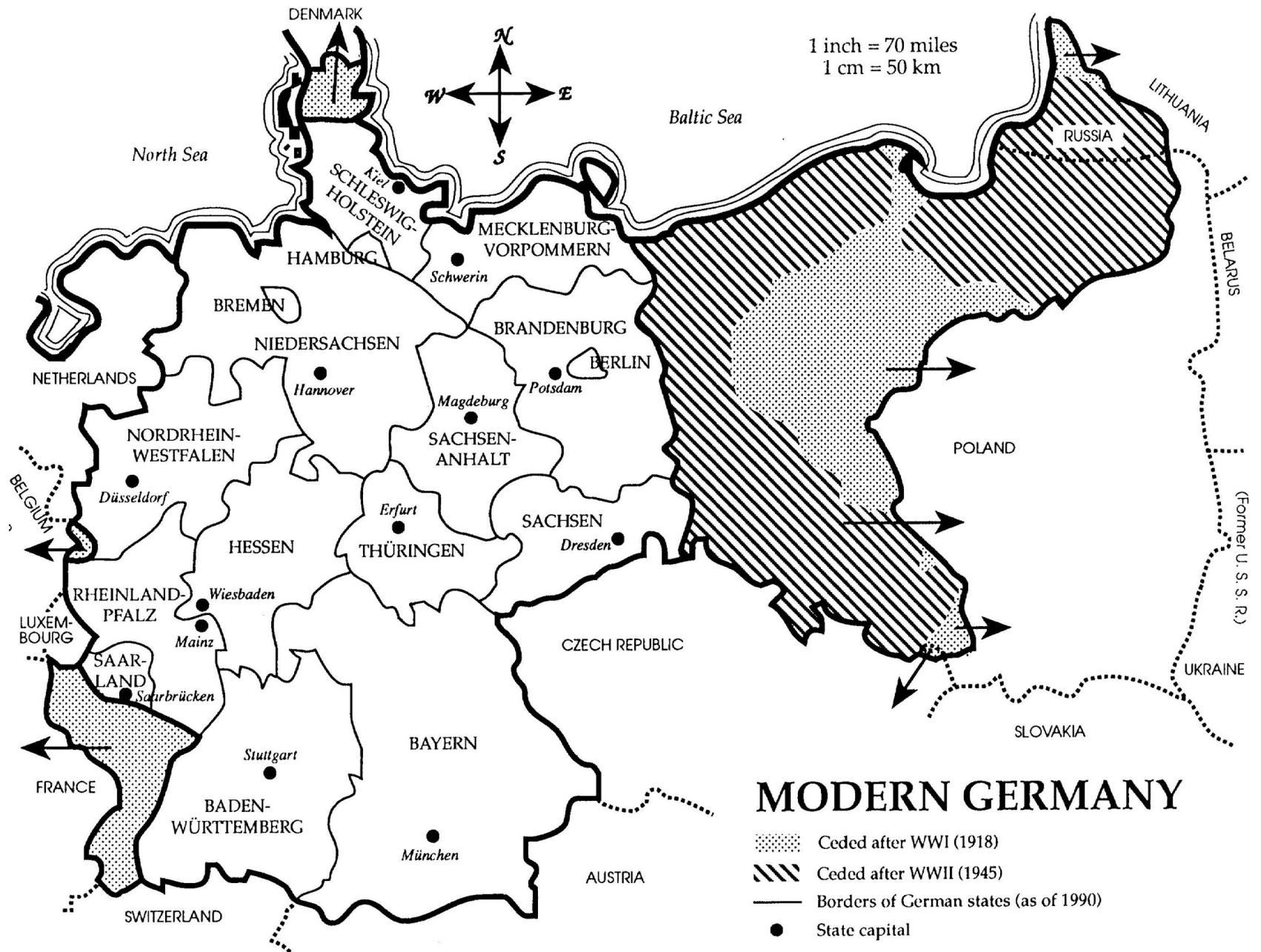
RECORDS SELECTION TABLE: GERMANY

This table can help you decide which records to search. In column 1, find the goal you selected. In column 2, find the types of records that are most likely to have the information you need. Then turn to that section of this outline. Additional records that may also be useful are listed in column 3.

The terms used in columns 2 and 3 are the same as the subject headings used in this outline and in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. Records containing previous research (biography, genealogy, history, nobility, periodicals and societies) could provide information for most of the goals. These have not been repeatedly listed unless they are especially helpful for the goal.

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records	Obituaries, Naturalization and Citizenship, Schools
Birth date	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records	Obituaries, Occupations, Census
Birthplace	Church Records, Jewish Records, Census, Obituaries	Occupations, Naturalization and Citizenship, Schools, Military Records
Boundaries (parish, district, or county)	Gazetteers, Church History	Maps, History, Historical Geography
Death	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records, Obituaries, Newspapers	Probate Records, Court Records, Occupations, Cemeteries
Emigration information	Emigration and Immigration, Societies, Military Records, Periodicals, Newspapers	See the research outline for the country to which the ancestor immigrated
Historical background	History, Church History	Societies
Language helps	Language and Languages	Handwriting
Living relatives	Directories, Genealogy	Societies, Periodicals
Maiden name	Church Records, Civil Registration	Jewish Records, Obituaries
Marriage	Church Records, Civil Registration, Jewish Records	Genealogy, Periodicals, Nobility, Newspapers
Naming customs	Names (Personal)	Genealogy, Periodicals
Noble families	Nobility, Heraldry	Biography, Periodicals
Occupations	Church Records, Occupations, Directories, Population	Naturalization and Citizenship, Census, Church Directories, Dwellings
Parents, children, and other family members	Church Records, Civil Registration, Obituaries, Jewish Records	Probate Records, Land and Property, Naturalization and Citizenship
Physical description	Military Records, Biography	Genealogy, Emigration and Immigration
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps	Historical Geography
Places of residence	Population, Church Records, Emigration and Immigration, Directories, Jewish Records, Military Records	Biography, Genealogy, Census, Dwellings, Land and Property, Periodicals Names (Personal)
Previous research (compiled genealogy)	Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies	History, Biography, Nobility, Dwellings
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries, Church History, Church Directories	Societies, Periodicals





ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives collect and preserve original documents from organizations such as churches or governments. Libraries collect mostly published sources, such as books, maps, and microfilm. This section describes Germany's major repositories of genealogical and historical records and sources.

If you plan to visit one of these repositories, contact the archive or library and ask for information about its collection, hours, services, and fees. Also ask who may use their facility.

Although the original records you need may be in an archive or library in Germany, the Family History Library may have a microfilm copy of them. Check the Family History Library Catalog before writing to or visiting archives in Germany.

German archives and parishes often refer family history letters to historical or genealogical societies. Members of these societies can usually search the local archives. Sometimes the archive will recommend other archives to which you can write. You will usually find what you need more quickly by contacting local parish or civil archives before larger state archives or libraries.

When writing to a German-speaking archive or library, it is best to write in German. For help in writing a letter in German, see the publication *German Letter-Writing Guide* (34066) available at the Family History Library and at family history centers.

There are six major types of genealogical repositories for German records:

- State archives
- German Center for Genealogy
- Archives outside of Germany
- Civil registration offices and town archives
- Church parish offices
- Historical and genealogical societies

“Deutsche Archive in Internet” (German Archives in the Internet) provides links to various archive web sites. Archives are sorted by type (state archives, communal archives, church archives, etc.).

www.uni-marburg.de/archivschule/fv61.html

State Archives

The German federal archives have very few records helpful to family historians. However, each modern state archive preserves useful records, including church records, civil registration records, court records, military records, emigration lists, and land records. German state archives are generally open to the public.

If the Family History Library does not have the records you need, you can contact the state archive for the area in which your ancestor lived. The archive will briefly describe its collections and provide a list of researchers you can hire to search the archive.

Addresses and websites for state archives in areas of heavy emigration are listed below.

- For Baden, write to:

Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe
Nördliche Hildapromenade 2
76133 Karlsruhe
GERMANY
e-mail available through www.Lad-bw.de

- For the Pfalz (Palatinate), write to:

Landesarchiv Speyer
Otto-Mayer-Str.9
67326 Speyer
GERMANY
e-mail: posta@Landesarchiv-speyer.de
website: <http://landeshauptarchiv.de/speyer/>

- For Rheinland (Rhineland), write to:

Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz
Postfach 201047
56013 Koblenz
GERMANY
e-mail: posta@Landeshauptarchiv-ko.de
website: <http://landeshauptarchiv.de>

German Center for Genealogy

The German Center for Genealogy [*Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie*] was founded as an archive for genealogical materials. It has an extensive collection of German church records from Posen, Ostpreußen, Westpreußen, Pommern, and Schlesien (now in Poland, Russia, and Lithuania), and it has many records of German settlements in eastern Europe. The Family History Library has microfilms of these records, but if you need more information, you can contact the center. For a fee, employees of the center will try to find genealogical

sources. But as a general rule, research must be done in Leipzig by the researcher.

The address is:

Sächsisches Staatsarchiv Leipzig
Abt. Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie
Schongauer Strasse 1
04329 Leipzig
GERMANY

Archives Outside of Germany

The Family History Library has on microfilm many German records from areas now in Poland, France, Denmark, Belgium, Russia, and Lithuania. If you cannot find the records you need in the Family History Library Catalog, you can write the parish where your ancestor lived, the German Center for Genealogy, or the archives of the country. The main archives outside of Germany are described below.

Poland. The Polish State Archives may be able to help you with records from Ostpreußen, Westpreußen, Pommern, Posen, Schlesien and other areas now under Polish jurisdiction. You may write in English, but it is better to write in Polish. There is a fee for any work done.

The address is:

Naczelna Dyrekcja
Archiwów Państwowych
Ul. Długa 6, skr. poczt. 1005
00-950 Warszawa
POLAND
Fax: 48-22-31-75-63

Addresses for State Archives in Poland can be found at:

www.rootsweb.com/~polwgv/addresses.html

Archives are arranged alphabetically by name of archive. E-mail addresses are included.

The State Archives hold civil registration records more than 100 years old.

France. For information from Elsaß-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine), contact one of the following archives:

- Archives départementales du Bas-Rhin
5, rue Fischart
67000 Strasbourg
FRANCE
e-mail: archives@cg67.fr

- Archives départementales du Haut-Rhin
Cité administrative
3, rue Fleischhauer
68026 Colmar Cedex 3
FRANCE
e-mail: cdhf@telmat-net.fr
Internet: <http://edgf.telmat-net.fr>

- Archives départementales du Moselle
1, allée du château
57070 St. Julien-les-Metz
FRANCE
Internet: <http://www.archives57.com>

The French archivists will not do research, but they will help you determine what records are available. For help writing in French, see the Family History Library publication *French Letter-Writing Guide* (34059).

Archive information, including internet and e-mail addresses, for France are found at:

www.genealogy.tn/fr/archives/archives.html

Denmark. If your research is in Schleswig-Holstein, Oldenburg, Lübeck, or the part of Hamburg that was once part of Denmark, you may be able to hire a researcher through the Danish archive. You may write in English.

The address is:

Landsarkivet i Aabenraa
Haderslevvej 45
6200 Aabenraa
DENMARK
e-mail: mailbox@Laa.sa.dk
Website: <http://wnn.sa.dk/Laa>

Civil Registration Offices and Town Archives

In most areas, local governments began recording births, marriages, and deaths between 1792 and 1876. Although most records are kept in local offices, a few have been turned over to the state archives.

People who lived in small communities or villages usually registered in the nearest town, city, or municipality. Large cities and metropolitan areas are divided into civil registration districts. Civil registration records are not open for public inspection, but abstracts or photocopies are issued to direct descendants. If a particular archive does not have the records you seek, it will usually refer you to the correct archive. For more information about civil records, see the “Civil Registration” section of this outline.

Church Parish Offices

Most church records are kept at local parish offices. Some are sent to the area's central archive. If the Family History Library does not have the records that you need, you should first write (in German) to the local parish in the town where your ancestor lived. If the records have been moved, the local parish can usually tell you which archive currently has the records, and you can then write to that archive. See the "Church Records" section of this outline for more information.

Historical and Genealogical Societies

Dozens of German historical and genealogical societies exist in Germany and elsewhere. These groups have libraries or archives that collect valuable records. For more information, including addresses of the more prominent societies, see the "Societies" section of this outline.

Archive Addresses

The following are good directories of German archive addresses:

International Directory of Archives = Annuaire international des archives. München: K. G. Saur, 1992. (FHL book 020.5 Ar25 v. 38; computer number 36460.) You will need to update the postal codes in this directory by using the postal code book cited in the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.

1993 Updated Addresses to German Repositories. Burbank, Calif.: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 943 D27gr 1993; computer number 712482.) Alphabetical by city.

Web sites that give archive addresses:

www.uni-marburg.de/archivschule/fv61.html

Web addresses by town & archive type:

www.ghi-de.org/guide13/germarch.html

State Archives of Baden and Wuerttemberg:

<http://www.Lad-bw.de/fr-sta.htm>

E-mail can be sent under "Kontakt" to each archive.

Inventories, Registers, Catalogs

Some archives have catalogs, inventories, guides, or periodicals that describe their records and how to

use them. If possible, study these guides before you visit or use the records of an archive so that you can use your time effectively.

The following source is an overall guide to the collections of archives and libraries in Germany:

Minerva-Handbücher. Archive: Archive im deutschsprachigen Raum (Minerva handbooks, archives in German-speaking areas). 2 vols. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1974. (FHL book 943 A5m 1974 Vol.1-2; computer number 245597.)

For a much shorter but more current list:

Pies, Eike. *Aktuelle Adressen und Informationen für Familienforscher* (Addresses and information for genealogists). Solingen: Verlag E. & U. Brockhaus, 1993. (FHL book 943 D24pe; computer number 720664.) Mainly includes German state archives, state-wide church archives, and genealogical society archives.

These guides are available at the Family History Library. They may also be available at your public or university library or through interlibrary loan.

The Family History Library has copies of some published inventories as well as guides, catalogs, and directories for other libraries. The following are examples of such sources:

Wermes, Martina, et al. *Bestandsverzeichnis der Deutschen Zentralstelle für Genealogie Leipzig* (Inventory of the German Center for Genealogy in Leipzig). 2 vols. Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1991-1992. (FHL book 943 D25gi vol. 24-25m; computer number 332537.)

Hope, Anne, and Jörg Nagler. *Guide to German Historical Sources in North American Libraries*. Washington, DC: German Historical Institute, 1991. (FHL book 970 A3ho; computer number 625316.)

These types of records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under one of the following headings:

GERMANY - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES -
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS
GERMANY, [STATE] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS,
CATALOGS
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - ARCHIVES
AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES,
REGISTERS, CATALOGS

BIOGRAPHY

A biography is a history of a person's life. In a biography you may find birth, marriage, and death information and the names of parents, spouses, children, or other family members. Use information from a biography carefully because it may contain inaccuracies.

Many brief biographies have been gathered and published in collective biographies, sometimes called *biographical encyclopedias* or *biographical dictionaries*. These works usually include only biographies of prominent or well-known German citizens. Other collective biographies feature biographies of specific groups of people, such as merchants or students of an academy.

The source below is a collection of 263 important German biographical works published between 1700 and 1910:

Deutsches biographisches Archiv = The German Biographical Archive. München: K. G. Saur, 198-? (FHL fiche 6,002,159.) This work, on 1,447 microfiche, refers to about 225,000 eminent Germans.

An index to this collection is listed below:

Koch, Hans-Albrecht. *Deutscher Biographischer Index* (German biographical index). 4 vols. München: K. G. Saur, 1986. (FHL book 943 D32k Vol. 1-4; computer number 288688.) Available on the Internet at:
~~www.biblio.tu-bs.de/wbi_en/~~

There are several other major collections of German biographies. Listed below are two important collections:

Führende Persönlichkeiten (Leading personalities). See the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

Neue Deutsche Biographie (New German biography). Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1953-. (FHL book 943 D3nd; computer number 227435.) The first 16 volumes, published through 1993, include the surnames Aachen to Melanchthon.

Collective biographies at the Family History Library are usually listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - BIOGRAPHY
GERMANY, [STATE] - BIOGRAPHY

You will also find some biographical information in German encyclopedias.

CEMETERIES

Most older German graves have been replaced with recently deceased persons and new tombstones. However, copies of some old tombstone inscriptions are available, especially for private or church cemeteries and crypts. Parish register burials, funeral sermons, bell tolling accounts, and civil registration death records are easier to find than tombstone inscriptions.

Cemetery records may include the deceased's name, age, death or burial date, birth year or date, and marriage information. They may also provide clues about military service, religion, occupation, place of residence at time of death, or membership in an organization, such as a lodge.

The Family History Library has copies of a few German cemetery records. They are most frequently found under the name of the town. These are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE] - CEMETERIES
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] -
CEMETERIES

CENSUS

A census is a count and description of the population. A few censuses have been taken by the various German states, provinces, or cities and by some ecclesiastical officials. Censuses were taken primarily for taxation or military purposes.

German censuses may not be as helpful as censuses from other countries because better sources, such as church records and civil registration, are available for Germany.

Censuses were not taken nationally in Germany and therefore exist for only a limited number of places and times. Only the compiled statistical information that was gathered from the censuses is generally available. Census records of some towns and regions may be accessible at various archives, but most are presently not available to researchers.

Use census information carefully since accurate information may not have been given to or understood by the census taker.

Census Records at the Family History Library

The census records of several areas have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History

Library. The 1819 census of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and various census records for Schleswig-Holstein are the most significant censuses available at the library.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The library has the 1819 census on 60 rolls of microfilm, but the 1860 census is not available. The 1819 census gives information about all those who lived in a particular household, including age, sex, birthplace, parish to which the birthplace belongs, marital status, and occupation. It also gives the length of residency and some additional comments. The census is arranged by district and city, and records are available for almost every town in Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

An index to the 1819 census is:

Schubert, Franz. *Mecklenburg-Schwerin Volkszählung 1819: Register der Familiennamen*. Berlin; Göttingen: Dittterich: Im Selbstverlag, 1981-1986. 2 vols. in 5. (FHL book 943.17 B4s ser. 4.) The indexes are bound at the back of each volume.

The index is also found on microfiche 6,001,784-788.

This census is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY, MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN - CENSUS

Schleswig-Holstein. Denmark ruled all of Schleswig-Holstein, including Lübeck and parts of Hamburg and Oldenburg, until 1864. Denmark took several censuses of this area. The first census was made in 1769, and subsequent censuses were taken in 1801, 1803, 1834, 1835, 1840, 1845, 1850, 1855, and 1860. The censuses are written in either German or Danish, sometimes with both on the same page. The information contained in the censuses varies according to which year it was taken:

- *1769.* This census names the head of each household and the number of people in the house, grouped by age and sex.
- *1801-1860.* Censuses taken from 1801 to 1860 list each person's name, residence, position in the family, age, marital status, and occupation.
- *1845 and later censuses.* From 1845 on, each census also lists birthplace, the parish of the birthplace, and the length of residency at the census place.

These censuses are microfilmed but not indexed. They are arranged by district and city. These census records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY, PREUßEN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN - CENSUS

The Family History Library has some less significant census records from a number of other German states. These are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE] - CENSUS

Some indexes now available on-line at:

~~ddd.sa.dk/kiplink-en.htm~~

Searching Census Records

When searching census records, remember the following:

- Information may be incorrect.
 - The ages listed may not be correct.
 - A given name may not be the same as the name used in vital records.
 - Names may be spelled as they sound.
 - Place-names may be misspelled.
- Some parts of the census may be illegible.
- If the family is not at the expected location, you should search the surrounding area.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

A church directory is a list of church officials, dioceses, and parishes. Church directories usually list all the parishes in a diocese, so you can determine if your ancestor's village had a parish church, and many directories list all villages belonging to a parish.

Church directories may include the following information:

- The earliest dates for which the church records of each parish exist. (This is similar to the church record inventories described in the "Church Records" section of this outline.)
- Historical information about each parish.
- A list of parishes by district. (This enables you to easily determine all neighboring parishes.)
- The complete address of the parish churches.
- The address of the diocese headquarters where additional records may be kept.

Roman Catholic Dioceses. Church directories exist for each individual Catholic diocese, but the Family History Library does not have copies of directories for all dioceses. Most of the directories in the library were published before 1960, and some information, such as the priest's name, may be out of date. The addresses and parish histories are usually still valid.

One way to determine which Roman Catholic diocese has jurisdiction over your ancestor's parish is to use the following source:

General-Schematismus der katholischen Geistlichkeit Deutschlands (Directory of the Catholic clergy of Germany). Passau: Verlag der Redaktion des General-Schematismus, 1905-1906. Microfilmed in Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress Photoduplication Service, 1981. (FHL film 1,340,500; computer number 112544.) This book is divided into the 25 German dioceses. The parishes within each diocese are listed in alphabetical order, followed by the pastor's name. There is no general index, so you must guess the diocese to find the parish. It does not mention which villages are in a parish.

A directory of dioceses and parish addresses in Germany is:

~~http://home.att.net/~local_Catholic/Catholic-Germany.htm~~

Protestant Churches. For jurisdictions in the Protestant churches, use the following source:

Deutsches kirchliches Adreßbuch (German church directory). Berlin: Evang. Preßverband, 1934. (FHL book 943 K24d 1934; computer number 48585; 1929 edition on film 476,672; computer number 48609.) This source is arranged by denomination and church district. Parishes are alphabetical within each district, and affiliated branches are listed. The place index [*Ortsregister*] at the end lists only parishes, not branches.

It is sometimes hard to determine which of many parishes in a city a family belonged to. The Family History Library Catalog lists directories that contain each city street address and its parish for Berlin, Breslau, Leipzig, and Magdeburg.

Church directories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - CHURCH DIRECTORIES
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN OF DIOCESE]
- CHURCH DIRECTORIES

Internet portal to the Evangelist Lutheran Churches in Germany is:

www.ekd.de/kirche/3218_karte.html

CHURCH HISTORY

Effective research in church records requires some understanding of your ancestor's religion and of the events that led to the creation of church records.

Roman Catholic

The Roman Catholic faith was accepted in parts of Germany from the fifth century after Christ onward. In the 1200s, German Crusaders, called the Teutonic Knights, conquered pagan Preußen and converted it to Catholicism. Catholicism remained the predominant faith of Germany until the 1500s, when the Reformation movements of Martin Luther and the Swiss religious reformers began to take hold.

There was much conflict between Catholics and Protestants. In the 1550s, the Catholic Church began a counterreformation movement. The Thirty Years' War, which swept across central Europe from 1618 to 1648, had its origins in religious conflicts between rulers of parts of Germany and Austria.

After the war, the Catholic, Lutheran, and Reformed churches were the only recognized state churches. Smaller religious groups, such as Jews, Mennonites, and Huguenots, were still persecuted by the Protestant and Catholic churches.

Roman Catholics have remained more predominant in southern Germany than in northern Germany.

Evangelical (Lutheran) and Evangelical Reformed

Beginning in the 1500s, many Germans accepted Luther's teachings. The Evangelical, or Lutheran, Church was formally established by 1531. Despite persecution by both the Catholic Church and some governments, the Lutheran Church spread throughout Germany and became a prominent religion. Lutherans are more predominant in northern Germany than in southern Germany.

Protestants who accepted the creed of the Swiss Calvinist reformers became members of the Evangelical Reformed Church. This group was strong in some areas of Germany, especially in the Pfalz, Baden, Hessen, and near the Dutch border, but it had far fewer followers than the Lutherans.

Other Christian Groups

Anabaptists (Mennonites), Huguenots (French Protestants), Waldensians, Moravians, Dunkards, Separatists, and other groups have existed in Germany since the 1500s.

For more information about the history of the Mennonites and Huguenots, see the following sources:

Horsch, John. *Mennonites in Europe*, 2nd ed. Scottdale, Penn.: Mennonite Publishing House, 1971. (FHL book 940 K21h; computer number 259726.)

Tylor, Charles. *The Huguenots in the Seventeenth Century*. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, 1892. Microfilmed by Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983. (FHL film 1,231,509 item 13; computer number 200906.)

Weiss, M. Charles. *History of the French Protestant Refugees*. New York: Stringer and Townsend 1854. (FHL book 940 W2w; computer number 67063.)

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records [*Kirchenbücher*] are excellent sources for accurate information on names, dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. They are the most significant source of genealogical information for Germany before 1876. Most people who lived in Germany were recorded in a church record.

Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly called “vital records,” because critical events in a person's life are recorded in them. Church records that contain vital records were made by pastors and priests. They are often called *parish registers* or *church books*. They include records of births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. In addition, church records may include account books (which record fees for tolling bells, fees for masses for the dead, and so forth), lists of confirmations, lists of members, and family registers.

Church records are crucial for pre-1876 German research. Since civil authorities in several areas of Germany did not begin registering vital statistics until 1876, church records are often the only sources of family information before this date. Church records continued to be kept after the introduction of civil registration, but the Family History Library has not microfilmed many post-1876 church records. See “Civil Registration” in this outline for more information about post-1876 sources.

General Historical Background

The practice of keeping parish registers evolved slowly. The first surviving Protestant records are from 1524 at St. Sebald in Nürnberg. Lutheran churches in general began requiring baptism, marriage, and burial records in 1540; Catholics began in 1563. By 1650 most Reformed parishes began keeping records.

Many church records were destroyed in the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). In addition, records for some parishes in the Pfalz and Rheinland were interrupted for several years when the French controlled those areas of Germany from 1792 to 1815 and introduced civil registration.

Generally, the earliest church records are in western Germany. The farther east you go, the later the church records begin.

German church records are usually written in Latin or German. Records in German were usually written in Gothic script until as late as the 1930s.

Note the following points about German church records:

- Large cities have many churches, each serving part of the city. Rural churches often serve several villages and hamlets. Parish boundaries often changed, which affected where church records were kept.
- Military churches in garrison towns and cities often kept their own records separate from other parishes.
- In some parts of Germany, the death registers began later than the baptism and marriage registers, especially in Catholic records.
- The registers of baptisms, marriages, and deaths from different geographic areas vary considerably in the amount of information they provide. Each jurisdiction had its own record-keeping rules, and each recorder had his own style.
- In some areas, the records of people of other faiths were kept by the predominant church. The principal churches in Germany were the Catholic and Evangelical-Lutheran churches. For example, Jewish births were occasionally recorded at Catholic parishes, especially in areas where the church was used as the civil registration office.
- Parishes occasionally indexed their records. Indexes are usually filmed at the beginning or end of the record. Moreover, archives sometimes compile indexes of church records. For example, the Lübeck

Stadtarchiv has an alphabetical card index of all names in church records of several parishes at their archive. This index is at the Family History Library on 152 reels of microfilm (FHL films 450,475-626; computer number 356716). Occasionally private researchers create large indexes of church records. An example is the 764-microfilm Brenner collection described on page 38.

For more information, see the “Church History” and “History” sections of this outline.

Feast Dates. Each day of the year had several patron saints and was a feast day to honor those saints. Some vital events are recorded in church records only by the holy day (feast day) on the church calendar. For example, the feast day called “All Saints Day” [*Allerheiligentag*] is “1 November.” To convert feast dates to days of the month for either the Julian (old style) or Gregorian (new style) calendar, use the following book:

Bukke, Inger M., et al. *The Comprehensive Genealogical Feast Day Calendar*. Bountiful, Utah: Thomson's Genealogical Center, 1983. (FHL book 529.44 C738; fiche 6,054,630; computer number 255709.)

Duplicate Church Records

Unfortunately, some of Germany's church records were destroyed in wars or when parish houses burned. Because of concerns about such destruction, authorities in some areas began requiring copies of church books in the 1700s. Copies were either stored separately or sent to a central archive annually. These copies are called transcripts or duplicates [*Kirchenbuchduplikate*], and most are housed in central church archives or state archives. For example, the church record duplicates of 62 parishes in the Sondershausen Evangelical diocese from 1813 to 1846 were all gathered into the diocese's central archive.

Use duplicates, where available, to supplement parish registers that are missing or illegible. Keep in mind that duplicates often differ slightly from the originals.

Information Recorded in Church Records

The information recorded in church records varied over time. Later records usually give more complete information than earlier ones. The most important church records for genealogical research are baptism, marriage, and burial registers. Other helpful church records may include confirmation lists, family registers, lists of pastors, lists of

members, account books, receipt books, and communion records. A detailed discussion of the content and variety of records is found in the following book:

Smith, Kenneth L. *German Church Books: Beyond the Basics*. (See the “For Further Reading” section of this outline.)

Most Catholic records were written in Latin until the 1800s. Protestant records were usually written in German. Local dialects may have affected the spelling of some names and other words in the church records. In German areas under French domination during the early nineteenth century, many church records were kept in French. Sometimes the records combine two languages.

There was no specific record-keeping style for church records. Early records were usually written in paragraph form. As record keeping improved, columns were often used in the entries. However, some places (especially Catholic parishes) used the paragraph format for a long time.

Some areas, such as Bayern and Preußen, often used preprinted forms that required specific information. This format is usually easier to read because the vital information is in the same place in each entry.

Baptisms [*Taufen*]

Children were usually baptized a few days after birth. Baptism registers usually give the infant's name, parents' names, status of legitimacy, names of witnesses or godparents, and baptism date. You may also find the child's birth date, the father's occupation, and the family's place of residence. Death information was sometimes added as a note or signified by a cross.

Earlier registers typically gave less information, sometimes including only the child's and father's names and the baptism date. A few records did not even give the child's name. This problem can sometimes be resolved if the godparents are mentioned in the entry. Boys were often named for the godfather and girls for the godmother. Until the end of the 1700s, pastors in some communities did not name the mother in the birth records, or they included only her given name. Sometimes only the baptism date was recorded, but in later years the birth date was given as well.

Because of social conditions in Germany, the birth of illegitimate children was not uncommon. Illegitimacy is usually noted in baptism records, sometimes by a note in the margin or an upside-down entry.

Marriages [*Heiraten*]

Marriage registers give the marriage date and the names of the bride and groom. The registers may also indicate whether they were single or widowed and give the names of witnesses. Other information about the bride and groom is often included, such as their ages, residences, occupations, birthplaces, and parents' names. In cases of second and subsequent marriages, the registers may include the names of previous partners and their death dates. A note was often made if a parent or other party gave permission for the marriage.

The earliest marriage records may give only the names of the bride and groom and have little or no information about the couple's parents. In some cases, only the names of the bride's parents are recorded. The groom's parents are commonly recorded after 1800. Later marriage records usually give at least the age of the bride and groom. Some even give the couple's birth dates and places.

Couples were often married in the bride's home parish. Typically, girls married for the first time between ages 18 and 25. Men typically married for the first time in their mid-twenties.

Marriage Banns [*Aufgebote*]. For three weeks before the marriage, marriage banns (announcements of intentions to marry) were read or posted in church. This gave other community members a chance to object to the marriage.

The marriage registers of some churches give the three dates on which the marriage banns were announced. The marriage banns themselves may exist in another record. Some parishes kept the marriage banns and other marriage information instead of marriage registers.

Burials [*Begräbnisse*]

Burials were recorded in the parish where the person was buried. The burial usually took place within a few days of death.

Burial registers give the deceased's name and the date and place of death or burial. Often the deceased's age, place of residence, and cause of death and the names of survivors are also given. Occasionally the deceased's birth date and place and parents' names are given. However, information about parents, birth dates, and birthplaces may be inaccurate, depending on the informant's knowledge.

If the burial record mentions a sermon, you may be able to find a printed copy at a local library or archive. Funeral sermons often mentioned several

generations of ancestors. See the "Obituaries" section of this outline for more details.

Some areas began recording burials before births and marriages. Other areas recorded baptisms and marriages for several years before beginning to record burials.

Stillbirths were not recorded the same way in all churches. The pastor or priest often determined how to record stillbirths in his parish. In some areas, stillbirths were recorded in birth records. In other areas, stillbirths were recorded in death records. Some parishes listed stillbirths in both birth and death records. You should check both birth and death records if you suspect that a child was stillborn.

Confirmations [*Konfirmationen*]

Protestants were usually confirmed around age 14, Catholics about age 12. Some confirmation registers merely list the names of those being confirmed and the confirmation date. Other confirmation registers give additional information about those being confirmed, including their ages or birth dates, birthplaces, and fathers' names.

Family Registers [*Familienbücher*]

Some parishes kept family registers that give information about each family group in the parish. Family registers are more common in southern Germany, especially in Württemberg and Baden after 1808. These registers list the names of the husband and wife and their birth dates and places, marriage date and place, parents' names, occupations, and residence. If a second marriage is listed, details about the parents of the new marriage partner are often included.

Children are usually listed in chronological order. Names, birth dates, confirmation dates, marriage dates, and death dates may be listed. In some registers, when a child married and remained in the same parish, the register gives a "see" reference and a page number where that particular child appears as the head of a household.

Some family registers indicate whether the family moved to another village or emigrated to another country.

The information in family registers was compiled from other church books or obtained from the head of the household, and it is subject to error. Whenever possible, you should confirm all information found in family registers with baptism, marriage, and burial records.

Parish Genealogy [*Ortssippenbuch*]

Pastors or genealogists sometimes compiled a village lineage book [*Ortssippenbuch*], which included each family in a parish. For details see the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

Locating Church Records

Church records were kept in the local parish of the church. The term *parish* refers to the jurisdiction of a church minister. Parishes are local congregations that may have included many neighboring villages in their boundaries.

To use church records, you must know both your ancestor's religion and the town where he or she lived. You must also determine in which parish the town was located.

Some gazetteers indicate parish jurisdictions. For more information, see the “Gazetteers” section of this outline and the section below that discusses church record inventories.

A small village that did not have its own church was usually assigned to a parish in a nearby larger town. Consequently, your ancestor may have lived in one village but belonged to a parish in another town. Some parishes had branch churches in neighboring towns. Over time, some villages may have belonged to several parishes as jurisdictions changed. In Schleswig-Holstein, each local district parish office [*Kreis Pfarramt*] has custody of Protestant records.

The Family History Library Catalog refers to parishes by the town in which the parish church was located, unless there was more than one church in the town. In large cities, there may be many parishes for each religion. Church buildings were often named for saints, so the catalog uses the church name (such as Sankt Pauli Bremen) to distinguish between different parishes in the same city.

Church Record Inventories

Church record inventories are essential tools for finding German records. They identify what records should be available for a specified parish and where to write for information on these records. They list the church records, their location, and the years they cover. Sometimes inventories explain which parishes served which towns at different periods of time. For example, an inventory may state that the village of Schönberg belonged to the parish in Prinzbach before 1696 and to the parish in Schönberg after that date. For more information, see the “Church Directories” section of this outline.

The following source contains a helpful list of German church record inventories with Family History Library call numbers and English annotations:

Blodgett, Steven W. *Germany: Genealogical Research Guide*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1989. (FHL book 943 D27bs; film 1,573,115 item 2; fiche 6,001,630; computer number 543018.)

Church record inventories are available for most areas in Germany. They are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - CHURCH RECORDS -
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS
GERMANY, [STATE] - CHURCH RECORDS -
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has many German church records on microfilm. Most are from the southwestern states of Germany, including Baden, Westfalen, Rheinland, the Pfalz, Hessen, and Württemberg. The library has fewer church records from the states farther east and north, though this collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed.

The Family History Library has mostly pre-1875 church records. Use the catalog to determine whether the library has records for the place your ancestor came from. The library *does not* have records that were not available in the archive at the time of microfilming, were not microfilmed, or were restricted from public access by the laws of the country.

If you are using the computer version of the catalog on FamilySearch, search for the name of the town where the parish was located (not necessarily the town where your ancestor lived). In the microfiche catalog, look under:

GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - CHURCH
RECORDS

New records are continually added to the Family History Library collection. The catalog is updated annually, so check it every year for the records you need.

Locating Records Not at the Family History Library

If the records you need are not at the Family History Library, you may find baptism, marriage, and burial records by contacting or visiting German parishes or archives.

Germany has no single repository of church records. The present location of a church record depends on several factors, including national borders, religion, and local history. Records may be located in one or more of the following places:

- *Local parishes.* Most church registers are still maintained by the parish. You might obtain information by writing to the parish. Parish employees will usually answer correspondence written in German. Your request may be forwarded if the records have been sent to a central repository.
- *State archives.* Duplicate records from some parishes are in the state archives. Many of these records have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. However, for records that are not microfilmed, you can sometimes write to the state archives to request searches of the duplicates. For more information, see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline.
- *Central church archives.* In a few parts of Germany, church records or duplicates have been gathered from the local parishes into central archives. Some gaps in the church records of local parishes could be filled using these records. Church archives are often unable to handle genealogical requests, but they can determine whether they have specific records you need, or they may recommend a researcher who can search the records for you.

Correspondence. Suggestions about how to write to local parishes for genealogical information are given in the Family History Library publication *German Letter-Writing Guide* (34066). The postal code book is cited in the “Gazetteers” section of this outline.

If your request is unsuccessful, search for duplicate records that may have been filed in other archives, church registers, or in civil registration offices.

Search Strategies

Effective use of church records includes the following strategies in addition to the general strategies found in the “German Search Strategies” section of this outline:

- Search for the relative or ancestor you selected in step 2. When you find his or her birth record, search for the births of brothers and sisters.
- Next search for the parents' marriage date and place. The marriage record will often lead to the parents' birth records.

- You can estimate the ages of the parents and search for their birth records.
- Use the above three strategies for both the father and the mother.
- If earlier generations are not in the record you are using, search neighboring parishes and other denominations.
- Search the burial registers for all family members.

CIVIL REGISTRATION

Civil registration records are vital records kept by the government. Records of births, marriages, and deaths are commonly referred to as “vital records” because they refer to critical events in a person's life. Civil registration records [*Zivilstandsregister* or *Personenstandsregister*] are an excellent source for accurate information on names and on dates and places of births, marriages, and deaths.

Civil authorities began registering births, marriages, and deaths in different time periods in various areas

of Germany. The earliest true civil registration records began in 1792. Since 1876 civil registration records have been kept for almost everyone who was born or married or who died in Germany.

Because they cover such a large part of the population and often provide more information than church records, civil registration records are important sources for German genealogical research.

For birth, death, and marriage records created before civil registration began, see the “Church Records” section of this outline.

General Historical Background

Civil registration developed slowly in Germany. In most areas, the earliest vital records were made by the churches. As early as the 1400s, particular cities recognized the need to make vital records for court, military, or taxation purposes. However, these records are incomplete. Records of marriage contracts are the most common early government or court records. Comprehensive, modern German civil registration began with the French Revolution.

The first German area to start statewide civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths was Elsaß-Lothringen under French rule in 1792.

Between 1792 and 1876, most German states or provinces developed their own separate laws and civil registration systems. Some registration offices were established later than others. Therefore, the date a particular state began civil registration is only a general guideline and does not always apply to every town within its borders. In 1876 civil registration began in all of Germany, and since 1876 almost every German has been registered with the local civil government authorities.

Regional Differences

Between 1792 and 1798, when France occupied the area west of the Rhein River, the government began civil registration in parts of the Pfalz, Oldenburg, Hessen, and Rheinland west of the Rhein. These records are usually written in French until about 1815. Hamburg began keeping civil registration records in 1799. As France's influence increased in Germany through the Confederation of the Rhein, the states of Braunschweig, Hannover, Westfalen, Bremen, Lippe, more of Hessen, the rest of Oldenburg and Lübeck established civil registration between 1808 and 1812. But when Napoleon's power began to fade in 1814, many of these states suspended civil registration.

By 1838 most of the province of Waldeck was recording marriage contracts. The prime minister of Preußen, Otto von Bismarck, instituted civil registration in all the provinces of Preußen in 1874. The remaining states—Anhalt, Bayern, Lippe, Mecklenburg, Sachsen, Schaumburg-Lippe, Thüringen, and Württemberg—began requiring civil registration in 1876.

In areas under French influence, especially Elsaß-Lothringen, ten-year indexes were usually kept. Duplicate copies of civil registers were also made. The mayor's office [*Bürgermeisterei*] kept the original copy, and the duplicate was sent to the court [*Landesgericht*] or another central archive. For example, most of Westfalen and Lippe sent their duplicates to Detmold, and most of Rheinland sent theirs to Brühl.

Information Recorded in Civil Registers

The information recorded in civil registration records varies slightly over time. Each state used a different format for civil registration. Preprinted forms have often been used for civil registration. In these instances, the form determined what information the record contains. The early French records sometimes give slightly more complete information than the later records. The most important civil records are birth, marriage, and death registers.

Births [*Geburten*]

Birth records usually give the child's name; sex; and birth date, time, and place. The father's name, age, occupation, and residence are also usually listed. The mother's maiden name, age, and marital status are usually given, although her age is sometimes omitted. The names, ages, and residences of witnesses are usually provided. The parents' religion is also listed in some states.

Births were usually registered within a few days of the child's birth by the father, a neighbor, or the midwife. Corrections and additions to a birth record may have been added as marginal notes.

Marriages [*Heiraten, or Ehen, or Trauungen*]

Marriages were usually recorded where the bride lived. After 1792 a civil marriage ceremony was required in areas of Germany under French control. In 1876 this law was applied to all of Germany. Most couples also had a church wedding, so records may exist for both the civil and church ceremonies. The civil marriage records may include more information than the comparable church records. When possible search both the civil registration and church records.

Records of Intention to Marry. If you believe a marriage took place but cannot find a marriage record, search records that indicate the couple's "intent to marry." Various records may have been created to show a couple's intent to marry:

- *Proclamations* [*Aufgebote* or *Eheverkündigungen*] were made a few weeks before a couple planned to marry. The couple may have been required to announce their intentions in order to give other community members the opportunity to object to the marriage.
- *Marriage Supplements* [*Heiratsbeilagen*] were often filed by the bride or groom to support their marriage application. Information included may document their births, their parents' births and deaths, and the groom's release from military service. Sometimes the records contain information about earlier generations.
- *Contracts* [*Ehekontrakte*] are documents created to protect legal rights and property of spouses. These may give the same information as the marriage supplements noted above. They also list property and are usually found in court records rather than in civil registration records.

Marriage Records. You may find the following records documenting civil marriages:

- *Marriage Registers [Heiratsregister]*. Civil officials recorded the marriages they performed, usually on preprinted forms bound in a book and kept in the civil registration office. Marriage registers give the date and time of the marriage. They list the bride's and groom's names, ages, birth dates, birthplaces, residences, occupations, and whether they were single or widowed. The registers also give the parents' names, residence, occupations, marital status, and whether they were living at the time of the marriage. Witnesses' names, ages, and relationships to the bride or groom are supplied. Often a note is made as to whether a parent or other party gave permission for the marriage. The couple's religion is often mentioned, especially after 1874.
- *Certificates [Heiratsscheine]*. Some couples were given a marriage certificate or a book [*Stammbuch*] with the marriage entry and space for entering children's births. The certificate or book may be in the possession of the family or the civil registrar.

Deaths [*Sterben* or *Tote*]

Death records are especially helpful because they may provide important information on a person's birth, spouse, and parents. Civil death records often exist for individuals for whom there were no birth or marriage records. Deaths were usually registered within a few days of death in the town or city where the person died.

Early death records usually give the name of the deceased and the date, time, and place of death. The age, birthplace, residence, occupation, and marital status of the deceased may also be given, along with the name of the parents or spouse and their residences. The informant's name, age, occupation, residence, and relationship may also be listed. Post-1874 death registers also include the person's religion. Information about parents, the birth date, the birthplace, and other information about the deceased may be inaccurate, depending on the informant's knowledge.

Locating Civil Registration Records

Civil registration records are kept at the local civil registration office [*Standesamt*]. You must therefore determine the town where your ancestor lived before you can find the records. In a few places, such as Detmold and Speyer, duplicates have been gathered into a central archive.

If your ancestor lived in a small village, the civil records may have been kept in a larger nearby town. You may need to use gazetteers and other geographic references to identify the place where

your ancestor lived and the civil registration office that served it (see the "Gazetteers" section of this outline). You also need to know at least an approximate year in which the birth, marriage, or death of your ancestor occurred.

Large cities often have many civil registration districts. City directories can sometimes help identify which civil registration district a person lived in. The Family History Library Catalog lists books showing registration districts for street addresses in Berlin, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Breslau, and Stettin.

Indexes to Civil Registration Records

Births, marriages, and deaths were written in the civil registration records as they occurred, and thus they are arranged chronologically. Where available, indexes can help you find your ancestor more easily. The indexes usually cover one year at a time and are located at the beginning or end of each year. You will sometimes also find an alphabetical index at the beginning or the end of a volume. These indexes and volumes may cover many years.

Each civil registrar [*Mairie* or *Bürgermeisterei*] in Elsaß-Lothringen has cumulative indexes that cover ten-year periods [*Tables décennales*]. To use these indexes, you need to know the town or district where a person lived; the approximate year of birth, marriage, or death; and at least his or her surname. The indexes are alphabetical by at least the first letter of the surname. The Family History Library Catalog usually indicates which records have index listings.

Records at the Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilmed the civil registration records of many towns throughout Germany up to about 1876. Many of these records are from the Hannover, Hessen-Nassau, Rheinland, and several other Prussian provinces as well as Württemberg and the Pfalz.

In the eastern Prussian provinces, the available civil records are filmed for only about three years, starting in 1874.

The Family History Library has records from many towns and states. However, the library *does not* have records that were destroyed, have not been microfilmed, were not available in the registrar's office at the time of microfilming, or are restricted from public access by the laws of the country. You may use the records at the library for your family research, but you must contact the civil office holding the records if you want an official certificate for living or deceased individuals.

To find civil registration records in the Family History Library Catalog, search the Locality Search under:

GERMANY - CIVIL REGISTRATION
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - CIVIL
REGISTRATION

The library's collection continues to grow as new records are microfilmed and added to the collection. Do not give up if the records you need are not available. The Family History Library Catalog is updated regularly. Check it periodically to see if the records you need have been added to the library's collection.

Locating Records Not at the Family History Library

Birth, marriage, and death records may be found by contacting or visiting German civil registration offices or archives. To protect the privacy rights of living persons, most modern records have restrictions on their access and use.

Use search engines such as www.dogpile.com or www.google.com to enter the name of your town and find town web sites with contact addresses, etc.

Germany has no single repository of civil registration records. A person's records may be found in one or more locations.

- *Local towns.* Most civil records are still maintained by the civil registration office in the local towns. Older records may be at the local office or in the town archives. The records are not public, but descendants can obtain extracts or copies.

You can usually obtain civil registration records by writing to the town. Civil officials will usually answer correspondence that is written to them in German. Your request may be forwarded if the records have been sent to an archive or central repository.
- *City archives.* Large cities have many civil registration offices. Most civil registers are still located at the local offices, but some are collected in city archives. Many German cities have established archives to preserve their older records. Often they cannot handle genealogical requests, but they can determine whether specific records are available for you or your agent to search.
- *State archives.* Duplicate registers from some towns are kept in state archives. Many of these records have been microfilmed and are available

at the Family History Library. However, for more recent records and for those not yet microfilmed, you may write to the state archives of Germany and request searches of the records. See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline. If the archivist cannot do the research you request, you can hire a professional genealogist to search the records for you.

You may also find archive inventories that describe the record-keeping systems and available civil registration records in Germany (see the "Archives and Libraries" section). These and other guides are found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES
GERMANY, [STATE] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES

After deciding who has jurisdiction over the records for the time period you need, write a short request to the proper office. Be careful not to ask for too much when writing German archives. They can briefly answer questions about the records in their collection, but often they are reluctant to do research in these records. You may have more success if you ask for a referral or a list of local researchers you could hire to search the archive's records. See the Family History Library publication *German Letter-Writing Guide* (34066) for more information about writing letters to Germany.

COURT RECORDS

A court record is a document created by or submitted to the judge, jury, or clerk of a court. The earliest German vital records were usually kept by one of many city courts. Some German cities began keeping birth, marriage, and death information in the 1400s, but only a small fraction of Germans are represented in court records. Marriage contracts are the most common early court records of value to family historians.

There were over fifty kinds of courts (each with a different jurisdiction) in the German states before 1870. Court records are rarely indexed, so finding an ancestor in them is difficult. Search court records only after you have tried all other record types first. You may need professional help to use court records.

However, if you do find a person mentioned in court records, you will often find much useful information. Age, residence, political allegiance, property, debts, misdemeanors, taxes, adoptions, and guardianship are typical information in German court records. Divorces are also recorded in court

records, but they are rare before the 1900s. For information about wills, see the “Probate Records” section of this outline.

The Family History Library has only a few court records. They are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - COURT RECORDS
GERMANY, [STATE] - COURT RECORDS
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - COURT RECORDS

DIRECTORIES

Directories are alphabetical lists of names and addresses. Some German directories list all the adult residents or tradesmen who lived in a town or area at the time the directory was published. The earliest German directory, for the city of Halle, was published in 1701. Directories have become common since then.

The most helpful directories for genealogical research are town directories of local residents and businesses.

These have usually been published annually and may include names, addresses, occupations, and other helpful facts. Particularly in large cities with several parishes, addresses often help you find your ancestor's parish. Directories sometimes have town maps and may include addresses of churches, cemeteries, civil registration offices, and other locations of value to the genealogist.

Modern telephone directories with over 32 million addresses and telephone numbers are now available online at: www.dastelfonbuch.de

A list of many German city directories is found on pages 235 to 261 of Ribbe's *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

The Family History Library has a few German city directories. Most date from the 1830s to the early 1900s. They are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE] - DIRECTORIES
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - DIRECTORIES

DWELLINGS

A few cities and towns have house books [*Hausbücher*] that list the owners of each house, their occupations and years of residence, and sometimes other residents of the house. Biographical sketches and genealogies are

sometimes included. The following is an example of this kind of record:

Bauern und Hausbesitzer mit ihren Vorfahren in den 55 Dörfern des Kreises Peine (Farmers and house owners with their ancestors in the 55 villages of the Peine District [Hannover]). Goslar: Blut und Boden, 1938. (FHL book 943 B4q v. 25; film 924,909 item 3; computer number 262811.)

The Family History Library has only a few of these records, and only people wealthy enough to own property are likely to be listed in them. The following bibliography is arranged by both author and place:

Spruth, Herbert. *Die Hausmarke: Wesen und Bibliographie* (The nature of house marks with their bibliography). Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1965. (FHL book 943 B4a no. 4; computer number 246711.)

These records are most often found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE] - DWELLINGS
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - DWELLINGS
GERMANY, [STATE] - GENEALOGY
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigrating) or arriving (immigrating) in Germany. These sources may be passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, or records of passports issued. The information in these records may include the emigrants' names, ages, occupations, destinations, and places of origin or birthplaces. Sometimes they also show family groups.

If you cannot find your ancestor, you may be able to find emigration information on your ancestor's neighbors. People who lived near each other in Germany often settled together in the country they immigrated to.

Records were created when individuals emigrated from Germany. Other records document their arrival in the destination country. This section discusses the following subjects:

- Finding the emigrant's town of origin
- Emigration from Germany, including the historical background of German emigration

- Records of German emigrants in their destination countries

Finding the Emigrant's Town of Origin

Once you have traced your family back to a German emigrant, you must find the city or town your ancestor came from if you wish to find earlier generations. The records you will need to continue your research, such as birth, marriage, and death records, are kept in local areas. Germany has no nationwide index to these records.

Several sources may reveal where your ancestor came from. You may learn of your ancestor's place of origin by talking to older family members. Other relatives or a library may have documents that name the city or town, such as the following:

- Birth, marriage, and death certificates
- Obituaries
- Journals
- Photographs
- Letters
- Family Bibles
- Church certificates or records
- Naturalization applications and petitions
- Passenger lists
- Passports

The Family History Library publication *Tracing Immigrant Origins* (34111) gives more suggestions for finding your ancestor's place of origin.

Emigration From Germany

Significant numbers of German emigrants can be found on every continent and in many countries around the world. Millions of people left Germany in several waves of migration. Most emigrants left Germany during the following periods:

- *1683 to 1820.* Emigrants left Germany and migrated to Southeast Europe, North America, Russia, England, Scotland, and Ireland. This wave of emigration was caused by religious persecutions and economic hardships after the Thirty Years' War. Many of these emigrants were Protestants from the Palatinate area of Germany who wanted religious and economic freedom.

- *1820 to 1871.* This wave of emigration was caused chiefly by economic hardships, including unemployment and crop failures. Many Germans also left to avoid wars and military service. In some cases, government entities encouraged citizens to emigrate. Most of these emigrants were from Rheinland, Hessen, Baden, Württemberg, and Elsaß-Lothringen.
- *1871 to 1914.* The number of emigrants increased dramatically during this time period. Emigration became more affordable, and political and economic problems continued. Emigrants came from all areas of Germany, including large numbers from the eastern areas of Preußen. Emigrants included not only ethnic Germans but also Poles and Jews.

Records that document emigration from Germany include passenger lists, passports, permissions to emigrate, German and French emigration indexes, published emigration lists, police registration records, and other departure documents, as well as sources in the emigrant's new countries.

Links to various lists of German emigrants, passenger lists, etc. are found at:

<http://home.att.net/~weemonster/emigration.html>

Passenger Departure Lists

The earliest German emigrants went down the Rhine River and left Europe from Rotterdam in the Netherlands. As passenger traffic increased, Dutch, Belgian, French, and Danish ports were used. From 1850 to 1891, 41 percent of German and east European emigrants left via the port of Bremen (Germany), 30 percent via Hamburg (Germany), 16 percent via Le Havre (France), 8 percent via Antwerp (Belgium), and 5 percent via several ports in the Netherlands. Only a few Germans emigrated from other European ports. Southern and western Germans tended to emigrate through the ports of Bremen or Le Havre. Northern and eastern Germans tended to leave through Hamburg.

The records of departures from these ports are called *passenger lists*. Information given in passenger lists varies but usually includes the emigrant's name, age, occupation, last residence or birthplace, and destination. The records also name the ship and the date of departure. The most significant passenger departure lists for German emigrants are from the following ports:

Bremen. Unfortunately, the passenger departure lists for the port of Bremen were destroyed. The lists for 1847 to 1871 have been partially reconstructed. Some

20 to 25 percent of the Bremen passengers arriving at New York during this time period are indexed with their place of origin in the source below:

Zimmerman, Gary J., and Marion Wolfert. *German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York*. 4 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1993. (FHL book 974.71 W3g; computer number 377998.)

An early commercial partner with Bremen was the port at Baltimore, Maryland. Many Germans going to America through Bremen landed in Baltimore. The Baltimore passenger arrival lists are indexed.

Hamburg. The most significant surviving passenger departure lists are from Hamburg. The original departure records for Hamburg are at the state archive [*Staatsarchiv*] in Hamburg. Every emigrant from every country who left from Hamburg between 1850 and 1934 should be on these passenger lists. Most importantly, these lists show each passenger's hometown, and the lists are indexed. The Hamburg passenger List indexes are being put online at:

http://fhlh.hamburg.de/fhhbehoerden/staatsarchiv/link_to_your_roots/english/index.htm

For most years, the index is handwritten in gothic script and alphabetized only by the first letter of the surname. A separate index of departures was created each year. There is also a compiled fifteen-year index for 1856 to 1871. The passenger lists themselves are alphabetical from 1850 to 1855.

The Hamburg passenger list records and indexes have been microfilmed and are available at the Family History Library. They are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, HAMBURG, HAMBURG -
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

For more information on using the Hamburg passenger lists, see the Family History Library's *Hamburg Passenger Lists* (34047) resource guide.

Le Havre. The only lists available for the French port of Le Havre are lists of crews and passengers on commercial cargo vessels. Passenger vessels are not included. A few German emigrants are included in these records, but most Germans who sailed from Le Havre are not recorded. These lists are not indexed. The Family History Library has filmed the Le Havre commercial cargo vessel passenger lists for the years 1750 to 1886. The film numbers are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

FRANCE, SEINE-MARITIME, LE HAVRE -
BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE

Antwerp. The library has only the passenger lists of emigrants who sailed from Antwerp in 1855. This year is only a small percentage of the total. Many German emigrants sailed from this port. The following is an index to the Antwerp passenger lists:

Hall, Charles M. *The Antwerp Emigration Index*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Heritage International, 1983?. (FHL book Ref 949.3 W22h; FHL film 1,183,596; computer number 14470.)

The Library also has registers of foreign nationals residing in Antwerp prior to Emigration: Vreemdelingendossiers, 1840-1930; indexed.

Netherlands. The Family History Library has copies of passenger lists for the port of Rotterdam for the years 1900 to 1938. (FHL fiche 6,109,126-6,109,217; computer number 758018.) However, most German travel through Dutch ports was before 1820. Pre-1807 Philadelphia port arrivals include many Germans who left via Dutch ports (see Strassburger and Hinke's book, listed later in this section of this outline).

Copenhagen. The library has the passenger lists of emigrants from Copenhagen [*København*], Denmark, from 1868 to 1940. Only a few Germans appear on these lists, which are alphabetical for intervals of one to five years. The film numbers are in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

DENMARK, KØBENHAVN, KØBENHAVN -
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

On-line index at: <http://ddd.sa.dk/>

Passports

Each state or city had its own laws regarding passports. In many cases, the applications for passports and the supporting documentation have been preserved. These records often give information such as the emigrant's name, birth date or age, birthplace, occupation, last residence, verification of identity, and physical description.

Hamburg. Residents of Hamburg had to apply for a passport to emigrate. A few emigrants from other parts of Germany stopped in Hamburg long enough to become residents. If they were residents, they might be in the passport records. The Hamburg passport applications have been microfilmed for the years 1851 to 1929 and include indexes. They are in

the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY, HAMBURG, HAMBURG - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Stuttgart (Württemberg). The Family History Library has indexed the Stuttgart-area passport records for the years 1845 to 1920. This index usually gives the emigrant's hometown and destination. Names beginning with the letters A through R are on FHL film 1,125,018, and S through Z are on film 1,125,019; computer number 354364. Many of the individuals listed were internal migrants who came from another part of Württemberg and remained in Württemberg. Most names are from the early 1900s. To find the original passport and visa record microfilm numbers, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY, WÜRTTEMBERG, STUTTGART - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Permission to Emigrate Records

Germans had to apply for permission to emigrate from most areas. The Family History Library has these application records for several states and cities, including Baden, Rheinland, the Pfalz, and Zwickau. For example, the library has microfilmed the emigration application records of Württemberg. They list the emigrant's birthplace, residence, assets, and indebtedness. Most Württemberg records consist of applications and accompanying documents that were collected by district offices. These records begin in the mid-1700s, with most from the 1800s. Most districts also have handwritten indexes for the mid-1800s. Six published volumes of indexes are available, which so far cover 35 of the 64 districts:

Schenk, Trudy, and Ruth Froelke. *The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1986-. (FHL book Ref 943.47 W22st; computer number 405643.) Available on: www.ancestry.com

German Emigration Card Indexes

Dozens of card indexes exist for German emigrants. For example, the Family History Library has microfilmed card indexes for emigrants from Hessen. The indexes are divided into five sections for various time periods or areas of Hessen, each in alphabetical order. Other card indexes at the library include the following:

- From Baden 1660s-1900s
- From the Pfalz 1500s-1900s

- To the Austro-Hungarian Empire 1750-1943
- To Russia 1750-1943

There are card indexes of World War II refugees from many parts of central and eastern Europe. These indexes are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the region from which the refugees fled.

Periodicals publish many emigration records. The following source is a card index for emigrants that have been listed in the periodical *Deutsches Familienarchiv* (German Families Archive):

Emigrants to and from Germany from the 18th to the 20th Century. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL film 1,125,001; computer number 354655.)

Genealogical societies often compile card indexes of emigrants from the German region they specialize in. For details on how to contact these societies (to learn if they have an emigration index), see the "Societies" section of this outline.

French Emigration Indexes

Many Germans either lived in Elsaß-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine) or passed through it to emigrate. The following sources help identify many of them.

Alsace Emigration Index. The Family History Library has compiled an index of persons who emigrated from or through Elsaß-Lothringen from 1817 to 1866. About half the names are from southern Germany. The alphabetical index gives the emigrant's name, age, occupation, place of origin, residence, destination, passport date, and source microfilm number. Not everyone who emigrated via Alsace is in this index. The index is easiest to find in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under *Alsace Emigration Index*. It is also listed as:

France. Ministère de l'Intérieur. *Registres des émigrés, 1817-1866* (Index of emigrants, 1817-1866). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL films 1,125,002-7; computer number 403094.)

Alsace Emigration Books. Cornelia Schrader-Muggenthaler used the *Alsace Emigration Index*, other emigration records, passenger lists, genealogies, genealogy periodicals, and newspaper articles to compile the following index:

Schrader-Muggenthaler, Cornelia. *The Alsace Emigration Book*. 2 vols. Apollo, Penn.: Closson Press, 1989-1991. (FHL book 944.38

W2s; computer number 549007.) This index has over 20,000 entries, mostly of 1817 to 1870 emigrants.

The following is also an excellent book on the subject:

Burgert, Annette Kunselman. *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America*. Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992. (FHL book 974.8 B4pgp v. 26; computer number 684917.)

Published Emigration Records

Lists of emigrants are often published. These usually focus on the emigrants from one town, principality, or state. An example is listed below:

Gruhne, Fritz. *Auswandererlisten des ehemaligen Herzogtums Braunschweig 1846-1871* (List of emigrants from the former Duchy of Braunschweig, 1846-1871). Wolfenbüttel: Braunschweigischer Geschichtsverein, 1971. (FHL book 943.59 W29g; film 1,045,468 item 10; computer number 310002.) This list does not include the city of Braunschweig and the district of Holzminden

Links to various Lists of German emigrants, passenger lists, etc. are found at:

<http://home.att.net/~weemonster/emigration.html>

Dozens of other published emigrant lists are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the town, state, or province from which the emigrants came. A partial bibliography of German emigration sources is in Smith's *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*, pages 207 to 232 (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

Police Lists or Registrations

German police began keeping records of each person's residence in the 1840s. Citizens were required to tell the police when they moved. These records are discussed further in the "Population" section of this outline.

Other Records of Departure

Several other records were usually created as emigrants left Germany.

Church Records (Annotations). Often the local pastor or priest noted peoples' departures in the parish registers next to birth or marriage entries.

Sometimes these notes include the year of emigration and names of those who went with the person. Where family registers were kept, the departure was sometimes noted there. See the "Church Records" section of this outline for more information.

Probate Records of Relatives Who Stayed. Wills or testaments of relatives who stayed in Germany occasionally mention their relatives in foreign lands. For more information, see the "Probate Records" section of this outline.

Newspaper Announcements. Local newspapers often told of residents in their area moving to other lands. See the "Newspapers" section of this outline for more information.

The *Germanic Emigrants Register* (1992 edition) indexes German emigrants listed in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* newspaper from 1820 to 1914. This 277,000-name, 23-microfiche index shows name, event year, birth date, emigration date, destination, and last known residence. It does *not* give the place of origin, but you can get the place of origin for a fee by writing to:

Germanic Emigrants Register
Postfach 10 08 22
51608 Gummersbach
GERMANY

The Family History Library has the 1991 edition of the *Germanic Emigrants Register*:

Germanic Emigrants Register. Diepholz: [s.n.], 1991. (FHL fiche 6,312,192; computer number 445448.) This source consists of 10 microfiche and contains about 118,000 names.

Locating Emigration Records of Germany

The Family History Library has emigration records or indexes for almost every German state and various German districts or cities. These are listed in the catalog under the particular state, province, or town in Germany where the records were made. Check the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Records of German Emigrants in Their Destination Countries

Often the best sources for information about German emigrants are found in the country they immigrated to. Records of German immigrants may list their towns of origin and other valuable information. To learn more about these records, see the research outline for the country where your ancestor settled and the research outline *Tracing Immigrant Origins*.

United States

Early German immigrants to the United States (1683-1820) settled mainly in Pennsylvania. Those in the second wave of migration (1820-1871) often settled in Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri, and Texas. During the third wave (1871-1914), many German immigrants settled in New York City, Chicago, St. Louis, or other large cities.

German immigrants from Pommern often went to Wisconsin. Large numbers also settled in Illinois, Minnesota, and other Midwest states. Immigrants from the Palatine area usually settled in Pennsylvania. The book below describes the history and process of migrating from Germany to the United States:

Wellauer, Maralyn Ann. *German Immigration to America in the Nineteenth Century: A Genealogist's Guide*. Milwaukee: Roots International, 1985. (FHL book 943 W2we; computer number 124557.)

Immigrant records available in the United States include the following:

Passenger Arrival Lists. Most German immigrants to the United States arrived at New York City. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the arrival records and indexes of this and other ports. See the *United States Research Outline* for more information about emigration and immigration records of the United States. Unfortunately, few United States arrival records give the immigrant's specific town of origin.

New York passenger lists, 1892-1924, are available on-line, indexes, at www.ellisland.org; passenger lists for 1851-1891 are available on www.ancestry.com.

Published Passenger Arrival Lists. The arrival records for many German immigrants to the United States are partially indexed. By mid-1994 there were 36 volumes covering the years 1850 to 1880. Each volume is individually indexed:

Glazier, Ira A., and P. William Filby. *Germans to America*. On-going. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 1988-. (FHL book Ref 973 W2ger; computer number 465274.)

The following bibliography contains over 2,500 published lists of emigrants and immigrants:

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigrations Lists Bibliography, 1538-1900*. 2nd ed. Detroit: Gale Research, 1988. (FHL book 973 W33p 1988; computer number 482522.) More than 1,600 of these lists are indexed in P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, 12+ vols. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-; FHL book Ref 973 W33p; computer number 122828). This does not index official U.S. arrival lists. Many of the names are from post-1820 published sources.

Two of the hundreds of German immigration records indexed in Filby are listed below:

Jones, Henry Z, Jr. *The Palatine Families of New York: A Study of the German Immigrants Who Arrived in Colonial New York in 1710*. Universal City, Calif.: Jones, 1985. (FHL book 974.D 2j; computer number 362903.)

Strassburger, Ralph Beaver, and William John Hinke. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808*. 2 vols. Norristown, Penn.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934. 3 vols. Reprint. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1966. (FHL book 974.8 F2st 1966; 1934 edition on films 1,035,683 item 5 and 1,321,373 item 3; fiche 6,057,507-9; computer number 139222)

Please note that published immigration lists are subject to errors and should be verified in original records.

Census Records. The 1920 United States census sometimes lists the province or city of birth for people (or their parents) born in Germany. Some state censuses, such as the 1925 New York census (which gives the date and place of naturalization), contain more information than federal censuses.

Military Records. Many German immigrants served in the United States military, especially in the American Civil War. Their military records may help identify their German hometowns. Records of German soldiers who served as British mercenaries in the American Revolution are described in the "Military Records" section of this outline.

Newspapers. Arriving German immigrants are occasionally mentioned in newspapers, especially

German-language newspapers. See the "Newspapers" section of this outline for a bibliography of German-language newspapers.

Southeast Europe

Starting in 1722, the Austro-Hungarian monarchs encouraged Germans to settle their lands, especially along the devastated border with the Turks. Colonies developed in what later became Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia. Initially, twice as many Germans moved to this area as went to America. More references and research tools for locating Germans who emigrated to Southeast Europe are found on-line at:

www.genealogientz.de/reg/ESE/dsrec.html.

Following World War II, most returned to Germany or Austria, but many also moved to the United States, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and other countries.

Below are listed some indexes that can help you find Germans from Southeast Europe:

Deutsches Ausland-Institut (Stuttgart). *Auswandererkartei der Deutschen nach Ungarn und Rußland, 1750-1805* (Emigration index of Germans in Hungary and Russia, 1750-1805). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1,340,060 item 5 to 1,340,061 item 2; computer number 516675.)

Deutsches Ausland-Institut (Stuttgart). *Kartei der Auswanderer nach Ungarn, 1750-1945* (Index of emigrants to Hungary, 1750-1945). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL film 1,552,795 items 1-2; computer number 516660.)

Deutsches Ausland-Institut (Stuttgart). *Kartei der im Ausland lebenden Deutschen, 1940-1945* (Index of Germans in foreign countries, 1940-1945). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL films 1,340,062-5, 1,197,320-23, 1,197,492-7; computer number 516816.)

Brandt, Bruce. *Where to look for hard-to-find German-speaking ancestors in Eastern Europe: index to 19,720 surnames in 13 books, with historical background on each*. 2nd ed. Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1993. (FHL book 943 H22b; computer number 716691.) This contains surnames only.

Russia

In 1763 Catherine the Great of Russia offered free land, no taxes for thirty years, freedom of religion, and other incentives to encourage Germans to settle her vast, sparsely populated domain. Dozens of German colonies were established and grew until World War I. Many Russian Germans moved to the United States, Canada, or South America beginning in 1874.

The following is the single most valuable source for researching German families from Russia:

Stumpp, Karl. *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763-1862*. Tübingen: Stumpp, 1972. Reprint. Lincoln, Neb.: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, 1978. (FHL book 943 W2sk; film 1,183,529; 1972 edition on fiche 6,000,829; computer number 63974.) The most useful parts of this source for genealogists are the alphabetical lists of German immigrants, which are divided into three sections: Volga region immigrants (pp. 117-165), Mennonites in South Russia and Samara (pp. 167-204), and Black Sea region immigrants (except Mennonites) (pp. 204-497).

A good web site for Germans from Russia coming to the U.S. is:

www.angelfire.com/KS/gerrus

Many on-line sources for Germans from Russia are found in the Odessa Digital Library:

<http://pixel.cs.vt.edu/library/adessa.html>

The German Protestant church [*Evangelische Kirche*] of Russia was organized into consistories headquartered in St. Petersburg. The Family History Library has microfilmed the 276 volumes of the consistories' church record civil transcripts in the Russian State Historical Archives. These records are from German settlements in Ingermanland (surrounding St. Petersburg), near the Black Sea, and in Bessarabia for the years 1833 to 1900. They are in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

RUSSIAN EMPIRE, [PROVINCE], [TOWN], -
CHURCH RECORDS

German Protestant records are also listed in the Subject Search of the catalog under:

GERMANS - RUSSIA - CHURCH RECORDS
AND REGISTERS

In addition, several organizations, such as the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, will help genealogists. More information about such organizations is found in the "Societies" section. Web site for AHSGR:

www.ahsgr.org

Web site for Germans from Russia Heritage Society:

www.grhs.com

Other Countries

Similar immigration records and indexes are available at the library for most nations and states where Germans settled. They are listed under the new nation or state in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

[NATION or STATE] - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

You can look in the Subject Search of the catalog under:

GERMANS - [NATION or STATE]
RUSSIAN GERMANS

GAZETTEERS

A gazetteer is a dictionary of place-names. Gazetteers describe towns and villages, parishes and counties, states and provinces, rivers and mountains, and other geographical features. They usually include only the names of places that existed at the time the gazetteer was published. The place-names are usually listed in alphabetical order, similar to a dictionary.

Gazetteers may also provide additional information about towns, such as:

- The population size.
- The different religious denominations.
- The schools, colleges, and universities.
- Major manufacturing works, canals, docks, and railroad stations.

Gazetteers can help you find the places where your family lived and determine the civil and church jurisdictions over those places. For example, Falkenberg, Germany, was a small village in the state of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. It had its own civil registration office, but the Protestants attended the

Evangelical parish at Dömitz. If your ancestor was a Protestant from Falkenberg, a gazetteer can tell you where to look for your ancestor's civil and church records.

Some places in Germany have the same or similar names. You will need to use a gazetteer to identify the specific town where your ancestor lived, the government district it was in, and the jurisdictions where records about him or her were kept.

Gazetteers can also help you determine county jurisdictions used in the Family History Library Catalog.

Finding Place-Names in the Family History Library Catalog

German place-names used in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog are based on the German Empire as it existed in 1871. To find the state or province that a town is filed under in the catalog, use the "see" references on the first few microfiche of the catalog for Germany. If you are using the catalog on compact disc, use the "Locality Browse" search. The computer will find a place with the name you select if the library has records from that place.

The Family History Library uses one gazetteer as the standard guide for listing German places in the catalog. Regardless of the various jurisdictions a place may have been under at different times, all German places are listed by the jurisdictions used in the following reference:

Uetrecht, E. *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* (Meyers commercial gazetteer of the German Empire). 5th ed. Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institute, 1912-3. (FHL book Ref 943 E5mo; films 496,640-1; fiche 6,000,001-29; computer number 282809.) This book lists the names of places as they existed in Germany from 1871 to 1918. It gives the name of the state or province where each town was located at that time. The gazetteer is written in gothic print, which can be hard to read.

The first volume of this gazetteer contains an explanation of the many abbreviations the gazetteer uses. For example, *Meyers* indicates where to find the civil registration office [*Standesamt*]. If a comma or semicolon follows the abbreviation *StdA* (Standesamt), the town had its own civil registration office. If it does not have a comma or semicolon, the town name that follows the abbreviation and has a comma or semicolon after it is the town where the civil registration office is found.

The gazetteer also indicates if the town had its own parish by using the abbreviation *ev. Pfk.* for a Lutheran parish [*evangelische Pfarrkirche*]; *reform. Pfk.* for a Calvinist parish [*reformierte Pfarrkirche*]; or *kath. Pfk.* for a Roman Catholic parish [*katholische Pfarrkirche*]. A Jewish synagogue [*Synagoge*] is indicated by the abbreviation *Syn.* If no parish is indicated, you must check a state (or provincial) gazetteer or parish register inventory to find the parish. Occasionally Meyers only gives a “see” reference, indicated by the abbreviation *S* (see the example below). For example, if you look for the village of Filge, county Lübbecke, the gazetteer refers you to the larger village of Lerne Westfalen for more information.

The table on page 34 shows the abbreviations used in Meyers for each German state or province. It also provides a sample entry from the Locality Search of the catalog for that province, and lists the English spelling of the state or province.

Civil Registration Offices

The following source lists the 1930 German civil registration offices:

Höpker, H. *Deutsches Ortsverzeichnis: unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der zuständigen Standesämter* (German gazetteer of civil registration offices). Frankfurt/Main: Verlag für Standesamtswesen, 1978 reprint of a 1930 edition. (FHL book 943 E5h; computer number 637890.) In part one (pp. 1-310), any locality with an asterisk (*) has a civil registration office. The civil registration office for towns without the asterisk is shown immediately following the double ring (∞). In part two (pp. 313-66) the civil registration offices for areas Germany lost after World War I are shown.

Modern Place-Names

For some research purposes, such as correspondence, you need to know the modern jurisdictions for the place where your ancestor lived. This may also help you find the ancestral town on modern maps. The following modern gazetteer is available through family history centers and may also be found at some large public libraries:

Müller, Friedrich. *Müllers Großes Deutsches Ortsbuch* (Müllers German gazetteer). 12th ed. Wuppertal-Barmen: Post und Ortsbuchverlag Postmeister A.D. Friedrich Müller, 1958. (FHL book 943 E5m 1958; film 1,045,448; fiche 6,000,343-54; computer number 282525.) This work alphabetically lists modern German place-names as they existed before Germany was reunited in 1990. The last part of each

entry is the abbreviation for the German state. In cases where more than one town has the same name, each is listed separately. The district [*Kreis*] name usually follows the town name and is printed in bold type to distinguish the towns with the same name. Müller's gazetteer is printed with modern type, making it easy to use.

Postal Code Book. The German postal code book lists in alphabetical order all towns with post offices. Part two of the book lists a postal code for each street address in cities with more than one post office. You can use the book's maps to find post office towns and the approximate location of city streets.

Available on-line at: www.deutschepost.de

On 1 July 1993 Germany significantly revised its postal codes. To update addresses published before July 1993, use the following book:

Das Postleitzahlenbuch (The postal code book). Bonn: Postdienst, 1993. (FHL book 943 E8p 1993; computer number 695930.) This book is available for purchase in the United States from Genealogy Unlimited (see p. 41 for ordering information).

German Places in Foreign Countries

A supplement to Müller's gazetteer (described above) lists localities that were formerly in German territory but that were placed under the administration of another country after 1945. The place-names are listed both in German and in the language of the other country:

Müllers Verzeichnis der jenseits der Oder-Neiße gelegenen, unter fremder Verwaltung stehenden Ortschaften (Müllers gazetteer of foreign localities beyond the Oder-Neiße). Wuppertal-Barmen: Post und Ortsbuchverlag Postmeister A.D. Friedrich Müller, 1958. (FHL book 943 E5m 1958 Supp.; film 1,045,448; fiche 6,000,343-54n; computer number 359851.)

The following source lists German localities that were placed under foreign control in 1918, at the end of World War I, with their name changes (German to foreign and foreign to German):

Kredel, Otto, and Franz Thierfelden. *Deutsch-fremdsprachiges (Fremdsprachig-deutsches) Ortsnamenverzeichnis* (German-foreign [foreign-German] gazetteer). Berlin: Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1931. (FHL book Q 940 E5kt; film 583457; computer number 260956.)

Another place to find foreign names of former German localities is:

Bundesanstalt für Landeskunde. Amtliches Gemeinde- und Ortsnamenverzeichnis der deutschen Ostgebiete unter fremder Verwaltung (Gazetteer of Eastern German areas under foreign administration). 3 vols. Remagen: Bundesanstalt für Landeskunde, 1955. (FHL book 943.8 E5b; film 824,243 and 1,045,449 item 5; fiche 6,053,256; computer number 359819.)

For an explanation of how to use the above gazetteers, see pages 57 to 84 of Jensen's *A Genealogical Handbook of German Research* (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

Historical Place-Names

Many German place-names and boundaries have changed or no longer exist. Historical gazetteers that describe places as they were known earlier may help you. Use gazetteers that were published during the time period you are researching to find the names and boundaries that existed during that time. Some places that used to be part of Germany are now part of another nation, such as France, Denmark, or Poland. These are described in the "Historical Geography" section of this outline.

Additional gazetteers and similar guides to German place-names are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - GAZETTEERS
GERMANY, [STATE] - GAZETTEERS

Additional sources of genealogy for noble families in Germany are described in the "Nobility" section of this outline.

Latinized place names can be found in Orbis Latinus online at:

www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/Graesse/contents.html

Web sites that list German-Polish locality name changes are:

www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html

www.kartenmeister.com/databaseUWE.asp

(This one includes the Memelland area, which is now Lithuania)

For Schlesien, go to:

www.genealogienetz.de/reg/SCI/orte-d.html

German States and Provinces in Meyers Gazetteer and the Family History Library Catalog		
Meyers Listing	Locality Section Listing for a Sample Town	English Spelling
Anh.	GERMANY, ANHALT, HOYM	Anhalt
Baden	GERMANY, BADEN, ADELSHEIM	Baden
Bay.	GERMANY, BAYERN, DAHN	Bavaria
Braunsch.	GERMANY, BRAUNSCHWEIG, UFINGEN	Brunswick
Bremen	GERMANY, BREMEN, BORGFELD	Bremen
Els.-Loth.	GERMANY, ELSAß-LOTHRINGEN, SURBURG	Alsace-Lorraine
Hamburg	GERMANY, HAMBURG, GRODEN	Hamburg
Hessen	GERMANY, HESSEN, DARMSTADT	Hesse-Darmstadt
Lippe	GERMANY, LIPPE, ELBRIN	Lippe
Lübeck	GERMANY, LÜBECK, NUSSE	Luebeck
Meckl.-Schw.	GERMANY, MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN, FEDEROW	Mecklenburg-Schwerin
Meckl.-Str.	GERMANY, MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ, KUBLANK	Mecklenburg-Strelitz
Oldenb.	GERMANY, OLDENBURG, GIMBWEILER	Oldenburg
Pr.	GERMANY, PREUßEN	Prussia
Pr., Brandbg.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, BRANDENBURG, LENTZKE	Brandenburg
Pr., Hann.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, HANNOVER, MOLZEN	Hanover
Pr., Hessen-N.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, HESSEN-NASSAU, NORDECK	Hesse-Nassau
Pr., Hohenzollern	GERMANY, PREUßEN, HOHENZOLLERN, OSTRACH	Hohenzollern
Pr., Ostpr.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, OSTPREUßEN, PÜLZ	East Prussia
Pr., Pomm.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, POMMERN, RUMBSKE	Pomerania
Pr., Posen	GERMANY, PREUßEN, POSEN, SADKE	Posen
Pr., Rheinl.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, RHEINLAND, THÜR	Rhineland
Pr., Sa.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, SACHSEN, URBICH	Saxony (Province)
Pr., Schles.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, SCHLESIEN, VIEHAU	Silesia
Pr., Schlesw.-Holst.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, WELT	Schleswig-Holstein
Pr., Westf.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, WESTFALEN, ZÜSCHEN	Westphalia
Pr., Westpr.	GERMANY, PREUßEN, WESTPREUßEN, WROTZK	West Prussia
Reuß ä. L.	GERMANY, REUß ÄLTERE LINIE, GREIZ	Reuss elder line
Reuß j. L.	GERMANY, REUß JÜNGERE LINIE, OßLA	Reuss younger line
Sa.	GERMANY, SACHSEN, BORSODORF	Saxony (Kingdom)
Sa.-A.	GERMANY, SACHSEN-ALTENBURG, SULZA	Saxe-Altenburg
Sa.-C.-G.	GERMANY, SACHSEN-COBURG-GOTHA, COBURG	Saxe-Coburg-Gotha
Sa.-M.	GERMANY, SACHSEN-MEININGEN, RIETH	Saxe-Meiningen
Sa.-W.-E.	GERMANY, SACHSEN-WEIMAR-EISENACH, HERDA	Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach
Schaumb.-L.	GERMANY, SCHAUMBURG-LIPPE, LUHDEN	Schaumburg-Lippe
Schwarzb.-Rud.	GERMANY, SCHWARZBURG-RUDOLSTADT, LICHTHE	Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
Schwarzb.-Sond.	GERMANY, SCHWARZBURG-SONDERSHAUSEN, ÖLZE	Schwarzburg-Sondershausen
Waldeck	GERMANY, WALDECK, TWISTE	Waldeck

This table shows the state or province abbreviations used in Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs, a sample entry from the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog, and the English spelling of the state or province.

GENEALOGY

The term genealogy is used in this outline to describe records that contain family information gathered by individuals, societies, or archives. These records may include pedigree charts, compiled family information, correspondence, ancestor lists, research exchange files, record abstracts, and collections of original or copied documents. These excellent sources of information can save you time. However, because they are compiled from other sources, they may contain inaccuracies. You should verify the information found in them when possible.

Major Collections and Databases

The Family History Library has several sources that contain previous research or that can lead you to other people who are interested in sharing family information. These sources include many ancestral lines that extend into Germany:

- **International Genealogical Index and Appendix.** The 1993 edition of the index provides names and vital information for 25 million deceased persons who lived in Germany. This valuable research tool lists birth, baptism, or marriage dates. The index for Germany includes names extracted from parish registers by volunteers and names submitted by other researchers.

The International Genealogical Index is available on microfiche and also on compact disc as part of FamilySearch (see the “FamilySearch” section of this outline). In both editions you can search all of Germany in one alphabetical list. If you are using the compact disc edition, the computer will also search France at the same time to include Elsaß-Lothringen in the search.

Filtering a compact disc search enables you to limit the search to selected states. You can filter on one to nine German states:

- Alsace-Lorraine [France]
- Baden
- Bayern
- Germany, Misc.
- Hesse-Darmstadt
- Prussia
- Sachsen
- Thuringen
- Wuerttemberg

Filtering on Germany, Misc. includes only the small states and free cities of Anhalt, Braunschweig, Bremen, Hamburg, Lippe, Lübeck, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Schaumburg-Lippe, and Waldeck.

References to many genealogical collections are found at:

www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html

- **Ancestral File.** This file, part of FamilySearch, contains family history information linked in

family groups and pedigrees that have been contributed since 1979. The file contains the names of 36 million people, including thousands of German families. Ancestral File can print pedigree charts, family group records, and individual summary sheets for any person in the file.

- **Family Group Records Collection.** More than 8 million microfilmed family group record forms make up the Family Group Records Collection. The collection has two major sections: the Archive Section and the Patron Section. The film numbers for both sections are listed in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under Family Group Records Collection.
- **German Pedigree Charts, about 1750-1937.** This collection contains over 5,200 pedigrees on fifteen microfilms. The film numbers for the index and pedigrees are found on FHL films 417,525-39 (computer number 365425).
- **German Genealogists Directory.** Use directories to find others working on your lines. A directory with about 34,000 indexed surnames and a list of 1,900 genealogists (mostly German), their addresses, and their ancestors is listed below:

Glenzdorf, Johann. *Glenzdorfs internationales Genealogen-Lexikon* (Glenzdorf's international directory of genealogists). 3 vols. Bad Münden/Deister: Wilhelm Rost Verlag, 1977-1984. (FHL book 943 D27gi; computer number 31443.) This source is not completely up-to-date, but it is still useful.

References to many genealogical collections are found at: www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html

Family Histories

Many German families have produced family histories or newsletters. These often contain genealogical information about several generations of the family, and they may include biographies, photographs, and pedigrees.

The Family History Library has many German family histories and newsletters listed in the Surname Search of the catalog. However, only the major surnames discussed in a family history are listed in the catalog.

The following indexes of published genealogy books and articles in genealogical periodicals are described in the “Periodicals” section of this outline:

- *Der Schlüssel* (The Key)
- **Familiengeschichtliche Quellen** (Family History Sources)

Many German family histories are listed in the following 400-page bibliography:

Heinzmann, Franz, and Christoph Lenhartz. *Bibliographie gedruckter Familiengeschichten, 1946-1960* (Bibliography of printed family histories, 1946-1960). Düsseldorf: Heinzmann, 1990. (FHL book 943 D23he; computer number 660289.) This bibliography cites 6,486 titles alphabetically by the main family discussed in each history. It also contains indexes of collateral lines, authors, and localities mentioned in the titles.

The Family History Library also has several statewide bibliographies of family history, such as the following:

Spruth, Herbert. *Landes- und familiengeschichtliche Bibliographie für Pommern : Drucke und Handschriften* (State and family history bibliography for Pomerania: Printed and Manuscripts). Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1962-1965. (FHL book 943.81 D23s; computer number 6359.)

Ancestor Certificates

During the Nazi era, starting about 1937, many families from all over Germany were asked to compile a four-generation genealogical chart [*Ahnenpaß*]. The information in the chart was usually verified in original civil and church records. The chart became an official certificate from the government. The Family History Library has very few of these records. They are hard to find. Many were discarded after World War II, but some families still kept them.

Village Lineage Books

For some German towns, a type of local genealogy book called an *Ortssippenbuch* or *Dorfsippenbuch* is available. These local histories give extensive genealogical information on almost all of the town's inhabitants. They usually begin with the earliest town records in the 1500s or 1600s and continue up to the twentieth century. They typically list families in roughly alphabetical order, with a surname index and place index at the end. They frequently have appendixes listing war casualties, mayors, pastors, refugees, or veterans. If your ancestor's town is the subject of one of these books, you will probably be able to easily trace his or her family back many generations. Since it is compiled information, you should verify it whenever possible. These books usually list only families whose members were born or married or died in the town. Some regions of Germany have more than others; Baden, Württemberg, and Hannover have the most.

A list of on-line Ortssippenbücher (only available on-line) is found at:

<http://db.genealogy.net/ofb/map.cgi?land=deutschland>

A list of published Ortssippenbücher is found at:

www.genealogienetz.de/misc/ofb/index/html

Some of these books are indexed in the composite indexes described in the "Periodicals" section of this outline. Below is listed an important bibliography of 668 village lineage books in alphabetical order by town name:

Heinzmann, Franz. *Bibliographie der Ortssippenbücher in Deutschland* (Bibliography of village lineage books in Germany). Düsseldorf: Heinzmann, 1991. (FHL book 943 D23h 1991; computer number 678491.) This work lists both monographs and village lineages in periodicals.

Some recently discovered village lineage books are now available through the German Center for Genealogy (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).

Village lineage books are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY

Genealogical Collections

Germany. The Family History Library has many genealogical collections for German families, including published and unpublished collections of family histories and lineages and research files of prominent genealogists. Two major published collections are listed below:

Deutsches Geschlechterbuch (German lineage book). 194+ vols. Limburg/Lahn: C. A. Starke, 1889-. (FHL book 943 D2dg; computer number 278503.) The Family History Library is missing a few volumes, and earlier volumes are in Gothic type. These volumes often give many generations of German families. They are indexed at the end of each volume, and the first 150 volumes are indexed in a cumulative index called *Stammfolgen-Verzeichnisse für das genealogische Handbuch des Adels und das deutsche Geschlechterbuch* (Index of the genealogical handbook of nobility and the German lineage books), (Limburg/ Lahn: C.A. Starke, 1969; FHL book 943 D2dg index 1969). The 1963 index for volumes 1-134 has been filmed (FHL book 943 D2dg index 1963; film 1,183,565 item 5; fiche 6,053,506; computer number 16373). A cumulative surname index to Vols. 1-209 (1999) and a supplemental index (2000) are available on computer (CD-ROM) disk at the FHL.

Institut zur Erforschung Historischer Führungsgeschichten Bensheim. *Führende Persönlichkeiten* (Leading personalities). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1980-1983. (On 388 FHL films; computer number 0092838.)

The library also has a collection of half a million German pedigrees, often hundreds of pages long, mostly for the years 1650 to 1850:

Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie. Die Ahnenstammkartei des deutschen Volkes (The German pedigree card index). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991-1992. (638 index films, computer number 688651; over 600 pedigree films, computer number 677728.)

The handwritten, phonetic index on 2.4 million cards is arranged by the wife's married name. For a detailed introduction in German see FHL film 1,799,712 item 3. A film register in English is on FHL fiche 6,001,616; computer number 688651. The following book can help you use this collection. It explains the phonetical system used and how to locate the correct film number for your name.

Edlund, Thomas Kent. *An Introduction and Register to "Die Ahnenstammkartei Des Deutschen Volkes" of the Deutsche Zentralstelle Fur Genealogie Leipzig, 1922-1991*. Salt Lake City, Utah: The Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1993. (FHL book 943 D231 1993; fiche 6,001,616; computer number 727397.) This is available on-line at: <http://feefhs.org/fij/ahnstamm.html>, with a detailed explanation and all film numbers.

Bayern. The Family History Library has the following collection of records on forty microfilms:

Regensburg (Bayern). *Stadtarchiv. Genealogische Sammlung von Familiengeschlechtern Namenskartei, 800-1900* (Card index of genealogical collections, 800-1900). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. (FHL films 1,337,855-94; computer number 446493.) These records list births, marriages, deaths, professions, parents, spouses, and places of residence. The records are taken from city archives in Amberg, Augsburg, Nürnberg, Würzburg, and Regensburg. Family names are arranged phonetically.

The following sources list two alphabetical card indexes of births, marriages, and deaths from the Pfalz:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde. *Pfälzische Ahnenkartei, 16.-20. Jahrhundert* (Palatinate ancestor index, sixteenth to twentieth century). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1979. (On 63 FHL films; computer number 131154.)

Raimar, Josef A. *Genealogische Quellensammlung-Karteien, 14.-20. Jahrhundert* (Index of a collection of genealogical sources, fourteenth to twentieth century). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1980. (FHL films 1,203,923-37 and 1,258,025-26; computer number 134180.)

The following is an alphabetical collection of unpublished family group sheets and other miscellaneous material representing 97 parish registers of Kreis Ansbach and other places in Mittelfranken, Bayern, for 1650 to 1969:

Brenner, Tobias. *Brenner Collection of Genealogical Records of Mittelfranken, Bayern, Germany, Including Description, List of Card-indexed Parishes, etc., and List of Abbreviations Used for Given Names*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (On 764 FHL films; computer number 289956.)

Hannover. The following sources contain alphabetical genealogies for Hannover:

Pohlsander, Hermann Walter. *Genealogische Sammlung von Niedersächsischen Familien, 800-1975* (Genealogical collection of families of Lower Saxony, 800-1975). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 1,043,746-851; computer number 185094.)

—. *Genealogische Sammlung von Niedersächsischen Familien, 1600-1900* (Genealogical collection of families of Lower Saxony, 1600-1900). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975. (FHL films 1,043,852-73; computer number 355895.) This work is especially for the area around the city of Celle.

Lübeck. Two alphabetical genealogies for Lübeck are listed below:

Lübische Genealogie (Lübeck genealogies). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1960. (FHL films 492,120-31; computer number 357775.)

Genealogisches Register, Lübeck (Lübeck genealogical register). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1960. (FHL films 492,132-40; computer number 357784.)

Württemberg. The Family History Library has a collection of Württemberg genealogies collected by Max Cramer. The collection is on 72 microfilms and is in two parts:

Cramer, Max. *Genealogien - Ahnen* (Genealogies - ancestors) Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (Computer number 110266.) This section contains an index and genealogies.

—. *Familien - Genealogien, 1600-1930* (Family genealogies 1600-1930). Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (Computer number 110265.) This section contains Protestant parish extracts of baptisms, marriages, and deaths in alphabetical order.

These and dozens of other genealogical collections are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - GENEALOGY
GERMANY, [STATE] - GENEALOGY
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - GENEALOGY

If you find your surname in any of the sources described in this section, determine whether the entry actually pertains to your family. All persons with the same surname are not related. You will usually have to do some research before you can connect your ancestry to families listed in these sources.

HANDWRITING

Old German gothic handwriting and print are very different from the Roman script most English-speaking genealogists use. A useful chapter on German print and script is found on pages 204 to 217 of Schweitzer's *German Genealogical Research* (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline). Another is on pages 171 to 197 of Smith's *German Church Books* (see "For Further Reading"). The chart in the next column shows how each letter of the alphabet looks in gothic handwriting and type.

Links to handwriting samples and reading helps are available on-line at:

<http://genealogy.about.com/ca/handwriting>

ROMAN TYPE	GERMAN TYPE	GERMAN SCRIPT
A a Ä ä	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
B b	ꝶ ꝷ	ꝶ ꝷ
C c	ꝸ Ꝺ	ꝸ Ꝺ
D d	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
E e	ꝸ Ꝺ	ꝸ Ꝺ
F f	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
G g	ꝸ Ꝺ	ꝸ Ꝺ
H h	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
I i	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
J j	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
K k	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
L l	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
M m	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
N n	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
O o Ö ö	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
P p	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
Q q	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
R r	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
S s	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
ß, sz, ss	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
T t	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
U u Ü ü	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
V v	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
W w	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
X x	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
Y y	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ
Z z	ꝺ Ꝼ	ꝺ Ꝼ

HERALDRY

Heraldry is the design, use, regulation, and recording of coats-of-arms. Originally, coats-of-arms were granted to individuals, not families. However, sometimes the right to bear a coat-of-arms was inherited by the descendants of the person to whom it was granted.

In Germany mainly the noble class, gentry, and some burghers (city residents with citizenship rights) were entitled to bear coats-of-arms. The ruling monarch granted a noble title and the right to use a coat-of-arms as a reward for persons who performed a heroic deed, achieved a notable accomplishment, or held a prominent government position. These grants were documented.

The laws and practices of heraldry have changed over the years. In the eighteenth century, many burgher families had coats-of-arms that they recorded with the appropriate government agencies.

An annotated bibliography of heraldry books is found at:

<http://heraldica.org/biblio/annotate.ntm>

Various authors have prepared armorial, or heraldry, books. An *armorial* is a collection of descriptions of coats-of-arms and the families that bear them. It also briefly describes the family's entitlement to that coat-of-arms. It may note early bearers of the coat-of-arms and sometimes notes their relationships, birth dates, and other genealogical information. Each armorial differs from the others and includes different names. Some minor noble families are not included in any books. The following sources are of particular interest in Germany:

Rietstap, Johannes Baptist. *Armorial Général*. 2 vols. Gouda: G.B. van Goor Zonen, 1887. Reprint. Berlin: J.S. Stargardt, 1934. Reprint. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1965. (FHL book 940 D6r; films 1,045,393 items 2-4 and 1,045,394; computer number 261673.)

Siebmacher, Johann J. *Siebmacher's grosses und allgemeines Wappenbuch* (Siebmacher's great book of general heraldic arms). 6 vols. Nürnberg: Bauer und Raspe, 1857-1920. (FHL book 943 D6j old ser.; computer number 274715.)

The books below index Siebmacher's work:

Jäger-Sunstenau, Hanns. *General-index zu den Siebmacher'schen Wappenbüchern* (General index to Siebmacher's heraldry books). Graz: Akademische Druck und Verlagsanstalt, 1964. (FHL book 943 D6j index 1964; film 1,181,781 item 4; computer number 274715.)

Index to v. 1-3 of Siebmacher's Wappenbuch. Chicago: Newberry Library, 1971. (FHL book 943 D6j index 1971; film 1,181,790 item 9; computer number 274715.)

The Family History Library has collected many armorial and heraldry books. These are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - HERALDRY
GERMANY, [STATE] - HERALDRY

Sources with information about noble ancestors may also be listed under:

GERMANY - NOBILITY
GERMANY, [STATE] - NOBILITY

Such families are often subjects of published genealogical books or articles. See the "Genealogy" and "Nobility" sections of this outline.

HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

As a result of wars and political realignments, the internal and external boundaries of Germany have changed several times. Web site discussing German Empire boundary changes (with maps, lists, etc.) is:

www.polishroots.com/genpoland/changes.htm.

Place-names and county, province, and state jurisdictions have also changed, often more than once. Because of these changes, you may not be able to find the name of your German ancestor's town on a modern map. You may also have trouble determining the jurisdiction where their records were kept. This section describes the changes that have taken place in Germany's state structure. This information will help you find records in the Family History Library Catalog for the place where your ancestors lived.

The territory of Germany has varied considerably over the centuries. Until 1871 Germany consisted of numerous independent kingdoms, duchies, principalities, and states, whose borders often changed and merged. These changes often make it hard to determine which archive has the particular records you need. In 1871 all states except the Austrian states were consolidated into the German Empire under the leadership of Preußen.

The Family History Library Catalog is based on German jurisdictions as they existed from 1871 until World War I, regardless of earlier or later changes. Places that are now under foreign jurisdiction but were part of the German Empire in 1871 are listed under both GERMANY, PREUßEN, [PROVINCE], [TOWN] and also under their present location, such as POLAND, RUSSIA, LITHUANIA, FRANCE, or DENMARK.

Boundaries

Several boundary changes occurred after World War I. Elsaß-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine) was returned to France in 1918. A few towns and villages of Rheinland were ceded to Belgium. The northern tip of Ostpreußen (East Prussia) was given to Lithuania.

The northern part of Schleswig-Holstein passed from Germany to Denmark in 1920. Compare the maps found earlier in this outline to see how the boundaries have changed.

After World War II, other former Prussian areas, such as Posen, most of Schlesien, Westpreußen, and parts of Pommern, became part of Poland. Russia and Poland split Ostpreußen, and a tiny part of Schlesien went to the Czech Republic.

Each nation or state determined its own record-keeping practices. You may find that records differ in what they contain and where they are kept according to who ruled that area when the record was created.

States and Provinces

The German Empire, created in 1871, was made up of a patchwork of German-speaking duchies, principalities, and states. These areas often had little in common. The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog uses 38 state or province divisions for Germany. For a list of these states and provinces, see the chart found in the “Gazetteer” section of this outline. More information about four of the most complex states follows.

Preußen. The largest, most powerful German state was Preußen (Prussia). It was divided into 13 large provinces (see p. 35). Only two of the provinces had the name “Preußen” in them, but citizens from all 13 provinces were Prussians. Thus, a resident of Rheinland often said he or she was from Preußen. Most Prussian emigrants to foreign countries came from the provinces of Rheinland, Hessen-Nassau, or Westfalen. The catalog lists each town in Preußen behind its *state and province*, as in this example: GERMANY, PREUßEN, RHEINLAND, THÜR.

Sachsen. Sachsen (Saxony) covered a wide band of Germany from the North Sea to the Czech Republic. The three modern German states carrying this name are Niedersachsen, Sachsen, and Sachsen-Anhalt. The Family History Library Catalog lists several old Empire states under Sachsen:

- Sachsen (the kingdom)
- Preußen Sachsen (the province)
- Thüringen (the Duchies of Sachsen)
 - Sachsen-Altenburg
 - Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha

- Sachsen-Meiningen
- Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach

When using the International Genealogical Index on compact disc, you can filter on “Sachsen” (the kingdom), “Prussia” (including the province of Sachsen), and “Thüringen” (including the Duchies of Sachsen).

Thüringen. Eight duchies and principalities of Sachsen became the state of Thüringen (Thuringia) in 1920. Records for towns in Thüringen are listed twice in the catalog: once under Thüringen and once under the duchy or principality. For example, the same record is cataloged under both GERMANY, THÜRINGEN, SULZE and GERMANY, SACHSEN-ALTENBURG, SULZE.

The duchies and principalities of Sachsen (Thüringen) were Reuß ältere Linie, Reuß jüngere Linie, Sachsen-Altenburg, Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha, Sachsen-Meiningen, Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach, Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt, and Schwarzburg-Sondershausen. The Coburg part of Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha joined Bayern in 1920 and is listed under Bayern instead of Thüringen in the catalog.

Pfalz. The Pfalz (Palatinate) on the French border in southwest Germany was devastated in the Thirty Years War (1618-1648). After the war, settlers from other parts of Germany and Switzerland were attracted to help repopulate the area. In the 1800s, more people emigrated to foreign countries from the Pfalz than from any other part of Germany. The Pfalz has been associated with Bayern most of the time since 1214. Therefore, the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists towns in the Pfalz under BAYERN. For example, the town of Kaiserslautern in the Pfalz would actually be listed as GERMANY, BAYERN, KAISERSLAUTERN.

The following books explain more about Germany's historical geography. You can find these and similar materials at the Family History Library and many other research libraries.

The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World. Morningside Heights, N.Y.: Columbia University Press, 1962. (FHL book 910.3 C723g; computer number 260764.)

Kirn, Paul. *Politische Geschichte der deutschen Grenzen* (Political history of the German borders). Mannheim: Bibliographisches Institut, 1958. (FHL book 943 H2ki; computer number 95628.)

Jensen Publications. *Maps of the German Empire of 1871.* Rev. ed. Pleasant Grove, Utah: Jensen Publications, 1987. (FHL book 943 E7m; computer number 2075.)

On-line information is found at:
www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html in the
section "General Help".

Other sources containing information about boundary
changes are found in the Family History Library
Catalog under:

GERMANY - HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY
GERMANY - HISTORY
GERMANY, [STATE] - HISTORICAL
GEOGRAPHY
GERMANY, [STATE] - HISTORY

The historical atlases described in the "Maps" section
of this outline contain maps depicting boundary
changes, migration and settlement patterns, military
actions, and ethnic and religious population
distribution. Gazetteers and histories are also helpful
sources of information about name and boundary
changes. See the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.

HISTORY

Effective family research requires some understanding
of the historical events that may have affected your
family and the records about them. Learning about
wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious
trends may help you understand political boundaries,
family movements, and settlement patterns. These
events may have led to the creation of records that
mention your ancestors, such as land or military
documents. Your ancestors will become more
interesting to you if you learn about the events that
shaped their lives. For example, by using a history you
might learn about the events that occurred in the year
your great-grandparents were married.

Below are some key dates and events in German
history:

- 1517 Protestant Reformation. The first significant
non-Catholic religions begin in Germany.
- 1524 Protestant church records begin in Nürnberg.
- 1563 Council of Trent. Catholic priests are ordered
to start keeping baptism and marriage records.
- 1583 Catholic areas begin using the Gregorian
calendar.
- 1618- Thirty Years' War. Many records are burned.
1648
- 1622 The Pfalz suffers great destruction in the war.
- 1683 The first permanent German settlement in the
United States is founded at Germantown,
Pennsylvania.
- 1700 The last German Protestant areas finally
switch to the Gregorian calendar.

- 1709 Large numbers of emigrants, called Palatines
[*Pfälzer*], leave the Pfalz region of Germany
for England and America.
- 1722 Austro-Hungarian monarchs begin inviting
Germans to settle parts of their empire.
- 1763 Catherine the Great begins inviting Germans
to settle in Russia.
- 1792 France starts civil registration west of the
Rhein. Some church records are interrupted.
- 1814 Napoleon weakens. German states begin to
reorganize under the leadership of Preußen.
- 1828 Patronymic naming is abolished in Schleswig-
Holstein (then part of Denmark).
- 1848 German Revolution. Emigration to the United
States increases.
- 1850 The Hamburg passenger lists begin to
document the origins or places of residence of
Europeans leaving for the Americas, Africa,
and Australia.
- 1864 Preußen conquers Schleswig-Holstein.
- 1871 Franco-Prussian War. Elsaß-Lothringen
comes under German rule.
- 1874 Preußen introduces civil registration.
- 1876 Civil registration is required throughout
Germany and begins wherever it is not already
in effect.
- 1914- World War I. Elsaß-Lothringen is returned to
1918 France. Northern Schleswig-Holstein returned
to Denmark. Posen and parts of Schlesien and
Westpreußen are ceded to Poland. Northern
tip of Ostpreußen goes to Lithuania.
- 1939- World War II. Ostpreußen divided between
1945 Poland and Russia. Most of Pommern,
Westpreußen, Brandenburg, and Schlesien
come under Polish administration.

The Family History Library has many published
national, regional, provincial, and local histories for
Germany. You can find histories in the Family History
Library Catalog under:

EUROPE - HISTORY
GERMANY - HISTORY
GERMANY, [STATE] - HISTORY
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - HISTORY

The following are only a few of the many historical
sources that are available:

Historical Background Affecting Genealogical Research in Germany and Austria. Salt Lake City, Utah: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1977. (FHL book 929.1 G286gs ser. C no. 19; fiche 6,000,035; computer number 327119.) This work emphasizes religious minorities and emigration.

Detwiler, Donald S. Germany: *A Short History*. 2nd ed. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1989. (FHL book 943 H2dds; computer number 557580.)

Reinhardt, Kurt Frank. *Germany: 2000 Years*. Rev. ed. 2 vols. New York: F. Ungar, 1989. (FHL book 943 H2rk; computer number 283736.)

Local Histories

Local histories describe the settlement of an area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses in that area. They may contain information about families. Some county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. Even if your ancestor is not listed in a history, information on other relatives may be included and may provide important clues for finding the ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

A special type of local history book with extensive genealogical information, called a village lineage book [*Ortssippenbuch*], is available for many towns in Germany. For more information about these books, see the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your ancestors' lifestyle and the community and environment in which they lived. The Family History Library has some local histories for towns in Germany, and similar histories are often available at major public and university libraries and archives.

Bibliographies that list local histories are available for most states and provinces of Germany. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - BIBLIOGRAPHY
GERMANY, [STATE] - BIBLIOGRAPHY
GERMANY - HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY
GERMANY, [STATE] - HISTORY -
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Calendar Changes

The Gregorian calendar is the calendar in common use in the world today. It is a correction of the Julian calendar that had been in use since A.D. 46. Leap years were miscalculated in the Julian calendar, so

that by 1582 the calendar was ten days behind the solar year.

In 1582 Germany was a collection of small principalities, duchies, city-states, and feudal estates. The new calendar was officially adopted by the Catholic dioceses and states in Germany between 1582 and 1585, but many Protestant states did not accept the new calendar until the 1600s. As a result, there were two different dating systems used in various areas of Germany throughout this time period. In some cases, Catholic and Protestant congregations in the same city may have used different calendars at the same time.

The Gregorian calendar was finally accepted throughout Germany in 1700, when the Protestant commission adopted the new calendar. In that year, 18 February was followed by 1 March.

Feast Dates. Date calculation tables are available to convert church feast dates to days of the month (see “Feast Dates” under the “CHURCH RECORDS” section of this outline), but there are separate tables for calculating dates in Julian and in Gregorian years. It is, therefore, important to know the year in which the calendar changed in the area you are searching. You can find a list of over 30 German territories showing exactly when they officially shifted to the Gregorian calendar on pages 317 to 318 of Ribbe's *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline). Individual parishes or villages in a region may have lagged behind the rest of the region in making the change.

Double Dating. When an area changed from Julian to Gregorian calendars, the first day of the year changed to 1 January. Before the change, the first day of the year was 25 March. Prechange dates may be confusing. For example, *before* the change, 24 March 1565 was followed by 25 March 1566. Many researchers record dates between 1 January and 24 March with two years, using a technique called *double dating*. An example of a prechange date using double dating is 16 February 1573/1574.

French Republican Calendar. From 1793 to 1805, many parts of Germany under French control used the French Republican calendar. This calendar was based on the founding of the French Republic, and its days and months were unrelated to the Gregorian calendar. For details see the Family History Library publication *French Republican Calendar* research outline (34046).

A conversion table for French Republican Calendar dates is available on:

www.gefrance.com/calrep/calen/htm.

JEWISH RECORDS

Jewish records [*Jüdische Urkunden*] include records of Jews or Jewish congregations. The Family History Library has over 2,000 microfilms of German Jewish vital records that list births, marriages, and deaths. These vital records are an excellent source for accurate information about Jewish ancestors.

The Family History Library also has other types of Jewish records, including synagogue records, records of Jewish taxpayers, Holocaust victims, and censuses.

A gazetteer of places, sources and indexes can be found at:

www.jewishgen.org.

General Historical Background

The earliest German Jewish records are synagogue records, but these were not kept by all congregations. The German Jews did not usually keep registers of births, marriages, and deaths unless required to do so by law.

In the early nineteenth century, Jews in many parts of Germany were required by law either to register with Catholic or Lutheran parishes or to prepare their own civil transcripts of births, marriages, and deaths. These types of records, whether kept by a Christian parish or civil authorities, are called *Jewish records*.

With the introduction of nationwide civil registration by 1876, Jewish births, marriages, and deaths were recorded by German civil authorities. In most cases, the records for Jews were kept in a separate Jewish register. Jewish synagogue records and separate civil registers of Jews are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under JEWISH RECORDS. Mixed civil registration records are listed in the catalog under CIVIL REGISTRATION. See the “Civil Registration” section of this outline for information about civil registration records.

Censuses were taken from time to time to identify Jews and other minorities, especially during the Nazi era (1938-1939). Many records of Jews who died in the Holocaust are now available. Understanding the history of the Jewish people in Germany can help you in your research. The following are two good reference books:

Adler, H. G. *The Jews in Germany: From the Enlightenment to National Socialism*. Great Bend, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1969. (FHL book 943 F2a; computer number 282632.)

Lowenthal, Marvin. *The Jews of Germany: A Story of Sixteen Centuries*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1939. (FHL book 943 F2lm; computer number 105615.)

Below are listed a useful genealogical handbook and a bibliography of Jewish family histories:

Kurzweil, Arthur. *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Personal History*. New York: William Morrow, 1980. (FHL book 929.1 K967f; film 1,059,468 item 4; computer number 51783.)

Zubatsky, David S., and Irwin M. Berent. *Jewish Genealogy: A Sourcebook of Family Histories and Genealogies*. 2 vols. New York: Garland, 1984. (FHL book 929.1 Z81j; computer number 294278.)

Information Recorded in Synagogue Records

Synagogue records may include the following:

- *Financial accounting records*. These records sometimes list the names of contributors.
- *Circumcision registers* (“Mohel” books). These registers include the Hebrew given name for the male child, the date of circumcision (Hebrew calendar), the father's given Hebrew name, and sometimes the father's surname.
- *Marriage contracts*. These contractual agreements include the names of the bride and groom. They may also give the marriage date and the parents' names. In cases of second or later marriages, names of previous marriage partners and their death dates may be included.
- *Lists of deceased persons*. These lists give the name of the deceased person and the death date.

Information Recorded in Jewish Civil Registration Records

Jewish civil registration records contain the same birth, marriage, and death information as civil registration records for Christians. They are used in the same way as church records or other civil registration records. See the search strategies included in the “Church Records” and “Civil Registration” sections of this outline.

Other Records. From 1809 to 1812, Jews made lists of surnames that show each person's residence, old name, new name, and birth date. The Nazi census of minorities in 1938 lists given names and surnames, birth dates, birthplaces, education levels, and which grandparents were Jewish.

Locating Jewish Records

The Family History Library has Jewish records from many German places, but there are also many places not yet represented in the collection. The library has very few synagogue records. Most of the library's Jewish materials are vital records made by civil authorities. Jewish civil registration records and civil registration records that include Jews along with the rest of the population are available beginning in 1795. Because of privacy restrictions, the library has few records for events that occurred after 1875.

Below are listed places where you can look for records of your Jewish ancestors:

Civil Registration Records. These records are kept at the local civil registration office [*Standesamt*] in each town or city. Therefore, you need to know the town where your ancestor lived before you can look for these records.

Many German archive and parish register inventories touch on various Jewish records. The inventory below concentrates on Jewish records:

Verzeichnis der im Bundesarchiv aufbewahrten Filme von Personenstandsregistern: Jüdischer Gemeinden aus Mittel- und Ostdeutschland (Inventory of microfilms at the German Federal Archive of Jewish Vital Records from central and eastern Germany). Typescript photocopy, 196-? (FHL book 943 A5gp; computer number 245618.) This inventory is divided into five sections: (1) east of the Oder-Neiße line, (2) Russian occupied East Germany, (3) Nordrhein-Westfalen, (4) Berlin, and (5) Locality Index. The inventory lists hundreds of synagogue records—including birth, marriage, and death records; cemetery records; school records; and so forth—and the years they cover.

Leo Baeck Institute. The Leo Baeck Institute in New York has a collection of 50,000 German Jewish records, primarily from Baden, Berlin, Schleswig-Holstein, Westpreußen, and Württemberg. These include circumcision, marriage, death, and memorial records. The following work describes the collection:

Grubel, Fred, et al. *Catalog of the Archival Collections [of the Leo Baeck Institute]*. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1990. (FHL book 974.71 A3gf; computer number 405651.)

More good Jewish information can be found at: www.lbi.com, web site of the Leo Baeck Institute.

Registry of Jewish Research. The Jewish Genealogical Society provides an alphabetical registry of genealogists and the Jewish families they are researching:

Mokotoff, Gary. *Jewish Genealogical Family Finder*. New York: Jewish Genealogical Society, 1984-. Irregular. (FHL Reg Table 940

F2mg; computer number 465035.) On-line at: www.jewishgen.org.

Genealogical Societies. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies may be able to help find records of Jewish ancestors. Their address is:

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
1485 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, NJ 07666
USA
www.jewishgen.org/ajgs

Holocaust Records. Most of the Jewish population of Germany was killed during the atrocities of World War II. Below is a source containing a list of about 130,000 people who died in the Holocaust, their birth and death dates, their places of residence before deportation, and the camps to which they were sent:

Gedenkbuch: Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland, 1933-1945 (Memorial book for the victims of Jewish persecution during Nazi despotism, 1933-1945). 2 vols. Koblenz: Bundesarchiv, 1986. (FHL book Q 943 V4g.)

Family History Library Records. To determine whether the Family History Library has Jewish records for the locality your ancestor came from, search the Locality Search of the catalog under each of the following:

GERMANY - JEWISH RECORDS
GERMANY, [STATE] - JEWISH RECORDS
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - JEWISH RECORDS

Information about Jews may also be found in the Locality Search under:

GERMANY - JEWISH HISTORY
GERMANY - MINORITIES

Additional information may be found in the Subject Search under:

JEW - GERMANY
HOLOCAUST, JEWISH (1939-1945)

LAND AND PROPERTY

Land records often provide a chain of land ownership from father to son (or to daughters and sons-in-law) over several generations. This information can be very useful, especially when other records do not exist or fail to give needed information. However, German land records are seldom used for research since they tend to be about the nobility or wealthy. Better sources, such as church records and civil registration records, are available.

German land records are not easily accessible. Where available, land records are found at state archives. You might be able to use land records for your research if you can visit the German archives in person or hire a local research agent.

The Family History Library has few German land records. They are found in the Locality Search of the catalog under the name of the locality and the subject LAND AND PROPERTY. House owner books are explained under the “Dwellings” section of this outline.

LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Most materials used in German research are written in German. However, you do not need to speak or read German to do research in German records. You will need to know some key words and phrases to understand the records.

Because of Germany's history, you may also find several other languages in German records. Latin was frequently used in Roman Catholic church records. French was often used in Elsaß-Lothringen and during the French domination of the area west of the Rhein river (1806-1815). Danish was used in much of Schleswig-Holstein until Preußen annexed that area in 1864.

German grammar may affect the way names appear in genealogical records, so your ancestor's name in German may vary from record to record. For help in understanding name variations, see the “Names, Personal” section of this outline.

Language Aids

The Family History Library has genealogical word lists for German, Latin, French, Danish, and Polish. The *German Genealogical Word List* includes symbols commonly used in German genealogical sources. For more information about reading German writing, see the “Handwriting” section of this outline.

The following books and English-German dictionaries can help in your research. You can find these and similar materials at many research libraries.

Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1992. (FHL book 433.21 T352g 1992; computer number 211632.)

Langenscheidts German-English, English-German Dictionary = Langenscheidts Deutsch-Englisches, Englisch-Deutsches Wörterbuch. New York: Pocket Books, 1952, 1993. (FHL book 433.21 L262g; computer number 264735.)

Other language aids, including dictionaries of various dialects and time periods, are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES

Also check the Subject Search of the catalog under:

GERMAN LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES

MAPS

Maps can help you find where your ancestors lived. Maps can show churches, geographical features, transportation routes, and neighboring towns. Historical maps are especially useful for understanding boundary changes.

Maps may be published individually or in collections called *atlases*. Maps may also be included in gazetteers, guidebooks, local histories, and history texts.

There are many types of maps. Each can help you in a different way. Historical maps describe the growth and development of countries. They show boundaries, migration routes, settlement patterns, military campaigns, and other historical information. Road maps provide details on highways, rivers, and town size. Street maps are extremely helpful when researching in large cities such as Berlin.

A website for maps is:

www.rootsweb.com/~deupru/maps/

Using Maps

Maps must be used carefully for several reasons:

- Often several places have the same name. For example, 92 towns in present-day Germany are called Steinbach.
- The spellings and names of some towns may have changed since your ancestors lived there. Some localities have different names in different languages. For example, the city formerly known as Breslau (Germany) was called Wrocław (Poland) after 1945.
- Place-names are often misspelled in English-language sources. Difficult names may have been shortened and important diacritical marks omitted. For example in English, München is called Munich; Köln is known as Cologne. Some place-names were greatly altered. For example, the village of Lösenbach was recorded in American records as Loose Creek. (The -bach ending means creek in English.)
- Political boundaries are not clearly indicated on all maps.

Finding a Specific Town on the Map

To do successful German research, you must identify the town where your ancestor lived. Because many towns have the same name, you may need some additional information before you can find the correct town on a map.

Gazetteers can help you identify the government district your ancestor's town was in. With this information, you may be able to distinguish between places with the same name. See the "Gazetteers" and "Historical Geography" sections of this outline for more information. Along with gazetteers, check histories, family records, and other sources to learn all you can about your ancestor's area. The following information can be very helpful:

- The government administrative districts in which your ancestor's town was located
- Your ancestor's state or province
- The name of the parish where your ancestor was baptized or married
- Places where related ancestors lived
- The size of your ancestor's town
- The occupation of your ancestor or his or her relatives (This information may indicate the town size or industries of the town.)
- Nearby localities, such as large cities
- Nearby features, such as rivers and mountains
- Industries of the area
- Other names the town was known by

The more information you can gather about the town where your ancestor lived, the better chance you have of finding it on a map.

Finding Maps and Atlases

Collections of maps and atlases are available at many historical societies and at public and university libraries.

The Family History Library has a good collection of German maps and atlases. These are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - MAPS

Two general maps of Germany are found earlier in this outline. Listed below is the most detailed map of Germany at the Family History Library:

Königliche Preußische Landesaufnahme. Kartographische Abteilung. *Karte des Deutschen Reiches* (Map of the German Empire). Scale 1:100,000. Berlin: Königliche Preußische Landesaufnahme, 1914-1917. (FHL film 68,814; computer number 23525.) This map will help you find places in the former German Empire as they existed from 1871 to 1914. The detailed maps on this microfilm are in numerical order. The identification numbers on the detailed maps correspond to the small numbers in the upper right corner of each grid square on the first several overview maps.

The following are helpful atlases for Germany:

Auto Atlas Deutschland. Scale 1:200,000. Berlin: RV Verlag: Berlin, 1997-. (FHL book 943 E7a; computer number 394143.)

Der Grosse V.A.G. Atlas (*The great V.A.G. atlas*). Scale 1:200,000. Berlin: Reise-und Verkehrsverlag, Annual. (FHL book 940 E7gv 1991-2; computer number 374936.) This is an excellent atlas of Germany. It has an index of cities and towns that makes finding locations easy. It also has some maps of neighboring countries that are on a smaller scale than the maps of Germany. Street maps for several larger cities are also included. Editions published before 1991 are not as detailed for the areas that were then in East Germany.

Der Grosse Shell Atlas (*The great Shell atlas*). Scale 1:500,000. Ulm/Donau: Franz Spiegel Buch, Annual. (FHL book 943 E7gs; computer number 203587.) This atlas contains maps for both western and eastern Germany. The maps are on a smaller scale than those in the atlas listed above. This atlas is indexed and contains street maps of some larger cities. Several neighboring countries are also featured in this atlas.

Stier, Hans-Erich. *Westermann Grosser Atlas zur Weltgeschichte* (Westermann atlas of world history). 8th ed. Braunschweig: Georg Westermann, 1972. (FHL book Ref 940 E3we; computer number 190050.) This is an excellent historical atlas.

You can purchase German maps and postal code books and get current prices from:

Genealogy Unlimited
Interlink Bookshop & Genealogical Services
4687 Falaise Drive
Victoria, B.C.
V8Y1B4
Canada
E-mail: dixie@genealogyunlimited.com
On-line: www.genealogyunlimited.com

MILITARY RECORDS

Military records identify individuals who served in the military or who were eligible to serve. Germany had a large army and a small navy. Since most German states had conscription laws, most young men were required to register for military service. A young man who had not yet served had to get special permission to emigrate. Evidence that an ancestor actually served in the military can sometimes be found in family records, biographies, censuses, photographs, emigration papers, medals, probate records, civil registration records, and church records.

The crucial information needed to find military records is the soldier's regiment or the sailor's ship. This is usually difficult to find, making military records hard to use for genealogical research. Search the sources cited above to find your ancestor's regiment, ship, or commanding officer. Commanding officers can be identified with their units relatively easily. Photographs sometimes show insignia that identify a regiment or ship.

Types of Military Records

The earliest German military records, which began around 1485, usually list only the names of the soldiers. Records from the middle 1800s often give information about promotions, places served, pensions, conduct, and other details concerning the soldier's military career. In addition, these records may include the soldier's age, birthplace, residence, occupation, and physical description as well as the names of family members.

However, many German military records provide very few details about individuals other than those who served as officers.

Military records include the following:

- Military church records [*Kirchenbücher*] These records include garrison [*Garnisons-*] records, parish registers, and regimental [*Regiments-*] church records. They date from 1672.
- Personnel files [*Stammrollen*] of common soldiers and noncommissioned officers
- Published officer files [*Offizier-Stammlisten*]
- Officer rolls [*Ranglisten*]
- Regimental histories [*Regimentsgeschichten*]

Foreign Military Service

Germans frequently served with the armies of foreign countries.

Denmark. Before 1772 the Danish army was made up mostly of German soldiers and officers. After 1772

the army began to recruit more Danes, and by 1803, the army was entirely Danish. If your German relative served in the Danish military before 1803, you may be able to find valuable genealogical information in Danish military records. For more information, see the [Denmark Research Outline](#).

American Revolution. Germans served on both sides of the American Revolution. To find information about Germans who fought for the Americans, see the [U.S. Military Records Research Outline](#).

About 25,000 mercenary troops raised in Germany worked for the British. They may have come from any part of Germany, but they are usually called "Hessians." Some deserted or were sold to Americans as laborers. Many remained in the United States or went to Canada after the war. The following source is a major index of German mercenaries:

[Hessische Truppen im amerikanischen Unabhängigkeitskrieg \(HETRINA\)](#) (Hessian troops in the American Revolution). 6 vols. Marburg: Archivschule, 1971-1976, 1987-. (FHL book 943 M2mg; [films 1,320,516](#) items 6-7 and [1,320,542](#) items 5-6; computer number 296972.) Indexes from this series list each soldier's name, year of birth, place of origin, rank, and military unit and the source of the information.

The following source indexes thousands of American and British records of German mercenaries:

Smith, Clifford Neal. *Cumulative Surname Index and Soundex to Monographs 1 through 12 of the German-American Genealogical Research Series*. McNeal, Ariz.: Westland Publishing, 1983. (FHL book 973 W2smn no. 13; computer number 257434.) This index lists only the soldier's surname and the series number of the monograph where information about that soldier can be found. Each monograph is individually indexed. The monograph normally lists the soldier's name, rank, and unit. Some of the following may also be listed: birthplace; age; occupation; promotions; where the soldier resided or was recruited; and whether he was wounded, killed, missing in action, captured, deserted, or sold, and where.

American Civil War. About one in ten Union soldiers was born in Germany. Over 200,000 German immigrants to the United States were recruited by the Union, many as they stepped off the boat. Some were drafted. Some Germans served in the Confederate military. To find information about Germans who fought in the Civil War, see the [U.S. Military Records](#) research outline.

Locating Military Records

German military records can be of great genealogical value, but getting access to them is often a problem.

For example, it is very hard to get information from military records through correspondence. Also, the Family History Library has microfilmed only a few German military records. Those that have been microfilmed are hard to read, incomplete for several years, poorly arranged, and not indexed.

If you write to archives for information from military records, you must indicate the regiment or company to which your ancestor belonged. Also include the garrison town or commanding officer's name and your ancestor's rank if you know that information.

Two books help identify where regiments from Preußen were stationed. Although the records they describe were burned in World War II, the garrison towns listed are locations to look for other records:

Lyncker, Alexander von. *Die altpreußische Armee 1714-1806 und ihre Militärkirchenbücher* (Old Prussian army and its military parish records, 1714-1806). Berlin: Verlag für Standesamtswesen, 1937. (FHL book 943 M21 v.1; film 477,806; computer number 123824.)

———. *Die preußische Armee 1807-1867 und ihre sippenkundlichen Quellen* (Old Prussian army and its genealogical sources, 1807-1867). Berlin: Verlag für Standesamtswesen, 1939. (FHL book 943 M21 v. 2; film 477,807; computer number 123853.)

Records at German State Archives

There is no central archive for German military records. German states each had their own system of keeping military records before 1867. These records are now stored in several German state archives. The following pamphlet lists the archives where existing military records for each state are found:

Reschke, Horst A. *German Military Records as Genealogical Sources*. Salt Lake City, Utah: Reschke, 1990. (FHL book 943 M2r; fiche 6,001,596; computer number 592812.)

In 1867 the armies of all but three German states were integrated into the armies of Preußen. From that time, soldiers of any German state (except Bayern, Sachsen, or Württemberg) were recorded only in the military records of Preußen. Unfortunately, the Preußen military records were almost completely destroyed in 1945.

Records at the Family History Library

Only a few German military records are available at the Family History Library. They are mostly military parish registers, a few published officer rolls [*Stammlisten and Ranglisten*], and regimental histories. German military church records are usually listed in the Family History Library Catalog with

other church records. For other German military records, see the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - MILITARY RECORDS
GERMANY, [STATE] - MILITARY RECORDS

Military History

Germans were involved in the following military actions, among others:

- 1618- 1648 Thirty Years' War. Protestant and Catholic states fought. Sweden, Denmark, and France all seized German territory. Parts of Germany were decimated.
- 1688- 1697 Palatine Wars of Succession - destroyed mainly Southwestern Germany
- 1740- 1748 War of Austrian Succession. Preußen invaded Schlesien.
- 1756- 1763 Seven Years' War. Preußen kept Schlesien.
- 1775- 1783 American Revolution. Several German states, led by Hessen, provided troops to fight for the British.
- 1805- 1815 Napoleonic Wars. German troops served throughout Europe. Rheinland was temporarily occupied by France.
- 1864 War with Denmark. Preußen seized Schleswig-Holstein.
- 1866 Seven Weeks' War. Preußen consolidated power in a fight with Austria.
- 1867 Army Reorganized. Preußen absorbed the armies of all other states except Bayern, Sachsen, and Württemberg.
- 1870- 1871 Franco-Prussian War. Germany annexed Elsaß-Lothringen.
- 1914- 1818 World War I. Elsaß-Lothringen returned to France. Parts of eastern Germany ceded to Lithuania and Poland.
- 1939- 1945 World War II. Many German records were destroyed.

For more historical information about the German military, see the following sources:

Alfoldi, Laszlo M. *The Armies of Austria-Hungary and Germany, 1740-1914*. Pennsylvania: Carlisle Barracks, 1975. (FHL book 943 A3a v. 1, film 1,045,372 item 3; computer number 244690.)

Sigel, Gustav A. *German Military Forces of the 19th Century*. New York: Crown Publishing, 1989. (Not at FHL.)

Other military histories are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - MILITARY HISTORY
GERMANY, [STATE] - MILITARY HISTORY

NAMES, PERSONAL

Understanding German surnames and given names can help you find and identify your ancestors in the records.

Surnames

Before record keeping began, most people had only one name, such as John. As the population increased, it became necessary to distinguish between individuals with the same name. The problem was usually solved by adding descriptive information. John became John the smith, John the son of Matthew, John the short, or John from Heidelberg. At first “surnames” applied only to one person, not to the whole family. After a few generations, these names became hereditary and were passed on from generation to generation.

Surnames developed from four major sources:

- 1689- *Patronymic*, based on a parent's name, such as Johann Petersohn (son of Peter).
- 1690- *Occupational*, based on the person's trade, such as Johann Weber (weaver).
- 1691- *Descriptive or nickname*, based on a unique quality of the person, such as Johann Langbein (long leg).
- 1692- *Geographical*, based on a person's residence, such as Johann Schlesier (a person from Schlesien).

The nobility and wealthy land owners were the first to begin using surnames. Merchants and townspeople then adopted the custom, as did the rural population. This process took two or three centuries. In most of Germany, the practice of using surnames was well established by the 1500s.

Patronymics. The use of patronymic names was prevalent in the Schleswig-Holstein and Ostfriesland areas in northern Germany. Patronymic names changed with each generation. For example, Hans Petersen was a son of a man named Peter. If Hans had a son Jens, the son was known as Jens Hansen (son of Hans). The use of patronymics continued until decrees were passed that required persons to adopt permanent hereditary family names. Subjects were often reluctant to comply, so several decrees were needed. These decrees were passed in 1771, 1820, and 1822 in the province of Schleswig-Holstein and in 1811 in Ostfriesland.

Alias Surnames. In some areas of Germany, individuals took a second surname. In the records, the second surname may be preceded by the word *genannt*, *vulgo*, *modo*, *sive*, or *alias*. This practice was common in the provinces of Westfalen and Hannover and parts of Rheinland and Schlesien.

The development of alias surnames was often tied to agriculture. When a man moved to a new farm, he sometimes changed his name to the name of the farm. Also, when a man married a woman who had inherited a farm, his name may have changed to her family name. In this situation, some of the children born to the couple may have used his surname, while others in the same family used the wife's family name.

Jewish Naming Customs. Before the 1800s, the use of a family name by Jews was left to the discretion of the individual. Jews in Germany followed the custom of using only a given name and the name of the father, such as Isaac, son of Abraham. Most Jews did not adopt hereditary family names until required to do so by law. In 1790 Baden was the first German state to require fixed surnames. Preußen issued an edict on 11 March 1812 that required that permanent family names be adopted within six months. Compulsory surname laws were enacted in the German states of Bayern and Mecklenburg in 1813 and 1814. By the 1820s, most small German states had extended civil rights to Jews and required them to adopt surnames.

Given Names

German given names are usually derived from Biblical names, such as Josef (Joseph); from the names of saints, such as Joannes (Joan); or from Old German, such as Siegfried.

When baptized, children were usually given two or more given names. In most of Germany, the child was normally called by the first name given at baptism. In some areas, however, it was more common for the child to be called by the second name. For example, if the first two males born in a family were named Johann Christoph and Johann Friedrich, they were usually called by their second given names. If an elder child died young, the parents frequently reused the deceased child's exact name on the next born child of the same gender.

Some children received as many as four or more given names at baptism. Multiple given names were often the names of parents or other relatives. Many of these names were frequently dropped as the child matured. Thus, a person's later records do not always use the name he or she was given at birth.

Grammatical Effects on German Names

Gender and grammar can affect German word endings. Feminine names often end with **-in**. For example, *Barbara Meyer* may appear as *Barbara*

Meyerin. Germans occasionally use **-chen** and **-lein** as diminutive endings meaning “little.” *Gretchen* could be translated *little Greta* (Margret). The endings **-s** or **-es** show possession. *Hermann Josefs Sohn* would mean *Joseph's son Hermann*.

Names in Foreign Languages

Because German genealogical records were kept in various languages, you may find your ancestor's name in different languages at different times. For example, your great-grandfather's name could be in Latin on his birth record, in French on his marriage record, and in German on his death record. Some given names are often very different when translated into different languages, as shown by the following table.

German	Latin	French	Polish
Albrecht	Adalbertus	Adalbert	Wojciech
Anna	Anna	Anne	Hanna
Elisabeth	Elisabetha	Isabelle	Elżbieta
Franz	Franciscus	François	Franciszek
Georg	Georgius	Georges	Jerzy
Gottlieb	Bogumilus	Bogomil	Bogumił
Johann (Hans)	Joannes	Jean	Jan
Karl	Carolus	Charles	Karol
Katharine	Catherina	Catherine	Katarzyna
Lorenz	Laurentius	Laurent	Wawrzyniec
Ludwig	Ludovicus	Louis	Ludwik
Margareta	Margarita	Marguerite	Małgorzata
Marie	Maria	Marie	Marja
Wilhelm	Guilielmus	Guillaume	Wilhelm

The following source contains given names translated into 23 different European languages, including English:

Janowowa, Wanda, et al. *Słownik Imion* (Dictionary of names). Wrocław: Zakład Narodowy im Ossolińskich, 1975. (FHL book Ref 940 D4si; film 1181578 item 2; fiche 6,000,839; computer number 26595.)

Variations on Given Names

Many given names have variants and dialectical forms. Barbara, for example, can appear as Barbel, Barbele, Barbeli, Bärbel, Bärbchen, Bärmel, Bäbi, or even Wawerl or Wetti. Several books are available that give variant forms of given names.

For more details about German naming customs, spellings, grammatical endings, and variants read Kenneth L. Smith's *German Church Books* (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

There are also many books that discuss German names and their meanings. Some indicate the cities or regions where some surnames are most common or the earliest date and place the name was documented. One such source is listed below:

Bahlow, Hans. *Deutsches Namenlexikon* (German name dictionary). Frankfurt/Main: Suhrkamp Taschenbuch, 1972. (FHL book 943 D4ba 1972; computer number 275948.)

More such books are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - NAMES, PERSONAL

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

In Germany, citizenship was a valuable privilege that included the following:

- 1693- Rights to engage in business in a town
- 1694- Protection under the law
- 1695- Permission to reside in a town without being expelled

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship privileges and responsibilities to residents. Citizenship was usually extended by individual cities to certain of their inhabitants. National citizenship was rare until the German Empire of 1871.

Those who received the rights to citizenship were recorded in citizenship books [*Bürgerbücher* or *Bürgerlisten*]. Although some German citizenship books date from medieval times, most are for later centuries. They are among the earliest and most consistently kept records of genealogical value for Germany. They include information about citizens' names, ages, social and economic status, occupation and training, and sometimes birthplaces and relationships.

Only males of the middle or upper classes were granted citizenship, and only if they were born legitimately. Merchants and craftsmen were commonly granted citizenship.

Genealogical use of citizenship books is usually limited to the time period before church records are available. They may also be used to trace migrations not found in other records. A bibliography of 517 published *Bürgerlisten* is found on pages 138 to 180 in Ribbe's *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

The Family History Library has obtained copies of some German citizenship books. In the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog they are usually listed under the specific town. For example:

GERMANY, PREUßEN, HESSEN-NASSAU,
FRANKFURT (MAIN) - NATURALIZATION
AND CITIZENSHIP

The original citizenship books were usually kept by the town and may be found in town archives or town halls.

NEWSPAPERS

You can use German local newspapers to inquire for genealogical help in your ancestor's town. However, you may have a better response if you use a local genealogical society periodical rather than a general newspaper. The following is a current newspaper directory for Germany:

Benn's Media Directory International. Tonbridge, England: Benn's Business Information Services, annual. (FHL book 011.35 B439; computer number 23967.) This is arranged by the nation and city of the newspaper.

Newspapers printed during your ancestor's lifetime may contain birth or marriage notices. Death notices and war casualties are especially common in old German papers. Death notices typically list birth and death dates and burial places. Sometimes they list the birth place or immediate family members. Since few indexes are available, you must know the approximate date of the newspaper to search. Newspapers became more common in Germany after 1855, when a tax on paper was lifted.

The Family History Library has virtually no German newspapers. A few related items may be found in the Locality Search of the catalog under the name of the town and the topic NEWSPAPERS. To find newspapers in German repositories, use the source below:

Hagelweide, Gert. *Deutsche Zeitungsbestände in Bibliotheken und Archiven = German Newspapers in Libraries and Archives*. Düsseldorf: Droste, 1974. (FHL book 943 B3h; computer number 246709.) This book covers the years 1700 to 1969, citing 2,018 papers from 222 towns and stored at 579 German and foreign repositories. It does not list every paper ever published, but it is still an excellent list.

German Immigrant Newspapers

In most places where Germans settled around the world, they published a German-interest newspaper. The directory below lists modern newspapers by language and title:

Wynar, Lubomyr R., and Anna T. Wynar.

Encyclopedic Directory of Ethnic Newspapers and Periodicals in the United States, 2nd. ed.

Littleton, Colo: Libraries Unlimited, 1976. (FHL book 973 E4w; computer number 237101.)

Newly arrived immigrants and their home towns are often listed in old newspapers. For a listing of about 5,000 historical German-interest newspapers and their repositories, see the following source:

Arndt, Karl J. R. *The German Language Press of the Americas, 1732-1968: History and Bibliography = Die Deutschsprachige Presse der Amerikas, 1732-1968: Geschichte und Bibliographie*. 2 vols. München: Verlag Dokumentation, 1973-1976. (FHL book 973 B33a 1976; computer number 63754.)

NOBILITY

The nobility is a class of people who had special political and social status. Members of this class had titles such as Baron [*Freiherr*], Duke [*Herzog*], Count [*Graf*], Margrave [*Markgraf*], and Knight (Sir) [*Ritter*]. Noble status was usually inherited. It originated with people who had power, influence, and land in ancient times or who received a grant of nobility from a king.

Most family traditions about a noble ancestor prove to be untrue. Members of the noble class seldom left their country or disowned their children. Illegitimate children of nobility, though not entitled to noble status, were often recorded (although the father may not have been named) and can be found in the records.

The noble class formed only a small percentage of Germany's population, and Germany limited the growth of the noble class. Laws specified which children of the nobility inherited their parents' status.

Although some original records such as grants of nobility still exist, you can often research your noble ancestors by using compiled sources. German nobility was frequently associated with the military and a mobile lifestyle. When the family moved frequently, compiled sources become especially helpful. The compiled sources for German nobility include both published and manuscript genealogies. If your ancestor was of the noble class, the following books may help you in your research:

Hefner, Otto Titian von. *Stammbuch des blühenden und abgestorbenen Adels in Deutschland* (Lineages of flourishing and extinct nobles in Germany). 4 vols. in 2. Regensburg: Georg Joseph Mainz, 1860-1866. (FHL book 943 D22h; film 491,136; computer number 273733.) This is a quick reference list of German noble families.

Fritsch, Thomas, Freiherr von. *Die Gothaischen Taschenbücher, Hofkalender, und Almanach* (The gotha pocketbooks, calendar and almanac). Limburg/Lahn: C. A. Starke, 1968. (FHL book Ref 943 B4da vol. 2; computer number 129897.) A comprehensive index of four published serials on German nobility is found on pages 187 to 349. Pages 350 to 415 index six other published serials on German nobility.

Führende Persönlichkeiten (Leading personalities). See the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

In addition to "Genealogy," see the "Biography" and "Heraldry" sections of this outline. The Family History Library has collected some records of noble families. These records are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - NOBILITY
GERMANY, [STATE] - NOBILITY
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - NOBILITY

OBITUARIES

Funeral Sermons [Leichenpredigten]

Funeral sermons include remarks (eulogies) made by ministers regarding the life of a deceased person. In Germany, these sermons were often collected and published. The middle and wealthier classes were more likely to have sermons for their dead, but sermons can occasionally be found for farmers, printers, or soldiers. Protestants started the practice and made the most funeral sermons, but Catholic priests also followed the custom.

Published funeral sermons were most popular from about 1550 to about 1750. They usually contain information such as names, dates, places, relatives, life histories, and sometimes pedigrees for many generations. Eulogies are subject to error because the information was given by relatives who did not always remember facts accurately.

If you find a phrase like "with sermon" ["*mit Predigt*"] in a burial record, check for a published funeral sermon. If you suspect a funeral sermon was given for one of your ancestors, you can contact archives in the area where you ancestor was buried, asking for help finding the sermon. Published abstracts are often available. Two helpful lists of funeral sermon collections and indexes are listed below:

Wentscher, Erich, and Hermann Mitgau.
Einführung in die praktische Genealogie (4. Aufl.) (Introduction to practical genealogy [4th ed.]). Limburg/Lahn: C. A. Starke, 1966. (FHL book 943 B4gg v.1; computer number 251242.) See pages 92 to 93 of the book.

Jensen, Larry O. "Leichenpredigten (Funeral sermons)." *German Genealogical Digest* 8 (Fourth Quarter 1992): 119-24. (FHL book 943 B2g; computer number 366089.)

The following source indexes abstracts of over 40,000 funeral sermons:

Katalog der fürstlich Stolberg-Stolberg'schen Leichenpredigten-Sammlung (Catalog of the funeral sermon collection from principality of Stolberg). Leipzig: Degener, 1927-1935. (FHL book 943 B4b v.2; films 477,802-4; computer number 247096.)

Funeral sermon abstracts available in the Family History Library are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - OBITUARIES
GERMANY, [STATE] - OBITUARIES
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - OBITUARIES

The German Center for Genealogy has an index of about 324,000 names from records of the 1600s to the 1700s. The original records are from about 450 repositories. The index is called the *Union Catalog for German Collections of Personal Writings and Eulogies* (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).

OCCUPATIONS

Many trades, such as butchers, tanners, shoemakers, and tailors, were organized into professional associations called guilds [*Gilden* or *Zünfte* or *Innungen*]. The purpose of a guild was to provide training of apprentices and otherwise regulate the practice of the trade in the area.

Beginning in the eleventh century, guilds were established in major cities. The records of these guilds contain lists of members and information on journeymen practicing in the town, marriages of journeymen, and advancements from the rank of apprentice to journeyman and from journeyman to master craftsman. Some guilds kept records of children similar to church baptism records. Contracts between masters and parents of apprentices may also be included. Boys from ages 7 to 18 could be apprenticed for four to seven years in trades such as shoemaking, barrel making, blacksmithing, and tanning. Young girls often became servants or lived with relatives.

Guild records are usually found in the town archives or in the possession of the modern guilds. The records are extensive, but few have been published or indexed. To use guild records, you need to know your ancestor's place of residence and craft. Since sons often had the same occupation as their fathers, you may find information about several generations of a family.

Only part of the male population is included in guild records, although their wives and daughters are sometimes mentioned. Guild records are most useful where they exist before the beginning of church records. Because of their antiquity, such records are often hard to read, even for persons fluent in German. They may require an expert's help.

The Family History Library has collected a few German guild records. These records and related items are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - OCCUPATIONS
GERMANY, [STATE] - OCCUPATIONS
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] -
OCCUPATIONS

Biographical works often focus on the members of a specific occupation or trade, such as theologians or communications workers. See the "Biography" section of this outline. For help in determining the meaning of old occupational terminology, see the Family History Library publication *German Genealogical Word List* (34067). Also check the "Language and Languages" section of this outline.

PERIODICALS

A periodical is a regularly published magazine, newsletter, or journal. Several valuable periodicals concerning German genealogical research exist. Most genealogical and historical societies in North America and in Germany publish magazines and newsletters. The articles in these periodicals often include the following:

- 1696- Family genealogies and pedigrees
- 1697- Helpful articles on research methodology
- 1698- Transcripts of church records, migration lists, and cemetery records
- 1699- Indexes to genealogical sources
- 1700- Information about records, archives, and services
- 1701- Interesting articles about social life and customs
- 1702- Book advertisements and book reviews
- 1703- Advertisements of professional researchers
- 1704- Queries or requests for information about specific ancestors that can help you contact other interested researchers

North American Periodicals

Some historical and genealogical societies publish periodicals focusing on German immigrants to North America. These periodicals are often published quarterly and may focus on the immigrants to a particular region or state. Some examples are listed below:

German American Genealogy. 1988-. Published by The Immigrant Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369, USA. (FHL book 973 F25ga; computer number 523764.)

The German Connection. 1976-. Published by the German Research Association, P.O. Box 711600, San Diego, CA 92171-1600, USA. (FHL book 943 D25gc; computer number 184589.)

German Genealogical Digest. 1985-. Published by German Genealogical Digest, P.O. Box 700, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062, USA. (FHL book 943 B2g; computer number 366089.)

Journal (American Historical Society of Germans from Russia). 1978-. Published by the AHSGR, 631 D St., Lincoln, NE 68502-1199, USA. (FHL book 973 B2aht; computer number 2930.)

Palatine Patter: The Newsletter of Palatines to America. 1975-. Published by Palatines to America, Capital University Box 101, Columbus, OH 43209-2394, USA. (FHL book 973 D25pa; computer number 37398.)

German Periodicals

Nationwide. Many societies and organizations in Germany publish genealogical periodicals. These are in German. Much of their content is devoted to compiled genealogies of native families. They are also an excellent place to publish queries or advertisements for a lost ancestor from Germany. Below are listed two major examples published by C.A. Starke Verlag (mailing address: Postfach 1310, 65533 Limburg/Lahn, GERMANY):

Archiv für Sippenforschung (Archive for ancestral research). 1941-. (FHL book 943 B2as; computer number 51747.)

Praktische Forschungshilfe (Practical research help). 1924-. (FHL book 943 B2pf; computer number 51747.) This is an insert in *Archiv für Sippenforschung*.

Three nationwide family history periodicals published by Verlag Degener (mailing address: Postfach 1340, 91403 Neustadt/Aisch, GERMANY) are listed below:

Deutsches Familienarchiv (German families archive). 1952-. (FHL book 943 D2df; computer number 273457.)

Familienkundliche Nachrichten: Mitteilungen, Rundfragen, Empfehlungen (Family history news: announcements, queries, suggestions). 1956-. (FHL book 943 B2f; computer number 224465.)

Genealogie: Deutsche Zeitschrift für Familienkunde (Genealogy: German periodical for family studies). 1952-. (FHL book 943 B2gf; computer number 63124.)

Regional. In addition to the national periodicals, excellent regional publications are also available. Most articles in these periodicals are about families from the area covered by the periodicals. Examples of regional periodicals are listed below:

- 1705- *Badische Familienkunde* (Baden family studies)
- 1706- *Blätter des Bayerischen Landesvereins für Familienkunde* (Pages of the Bavarian State Association for Family Studies)
- 1707- *Hessische Familienkunde* (Hessian family studies)
- 1708- *Norddeutsche Familienkunde* (North German family studies)
- 1709- *Oldenburgische Familienkunde* (Oldenburg family studies)
- 1710- *Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde* (Palatinate-Rhine family studies)
- 1711- *Altpreußische Familienkunde* (Old Prussian family studies)
- 1712- *Mitteilungen der Westdeutschen Gesellschaft für Familienkunde* (Notices of the West German Society for Family Studies, specializing in Rheinland)
- 1713- *Beiträge zur westfälischen Familienforschung* (Contributions to Westphalian family research)

Indexes

Most magazines have annual or cumulative indexes. A major composite index to over 175 German periodicals is listed below:

Der Schlüssel: Gesamtinhaltsverzeichnisse für genealogische, heraldische und historische Zeitschriftenreihen mit Orts-, Sach-, und Namenregistern (The key: comprehensive index of genealogical, heraldic, and historical serials with place, subject, and name indexes). 9 vols. Göttingen: Heinz Reise Verlag, 1950-1986. (FHL book 943 D25sc; computer number 244443.) This source indexes 68,660 article and book titles. About half of each volume is a numbered bibliography of periodical articles and genealogical books. Each bibliography entry gives the issue and page number of the article. The second half of each *Schlüssel* volume contains a place, subject, and surname index of that volume's bibliography. It is easy to quickly browse each volume's surname index for the surname you seek. Volumes 7, 8, and 9 each summarize the years and major periodicals covered in previous volumes.

The following is another major composite index:

Familiengeschichtliche Quellen: Zeitschrift familiengeschichtlicher Quellennachweise (Family history sources: periodical of family history source references). 17 vols. Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1926-. (FHL book 943 B2fq; films 496,680-82; fiche 6,000,817; computer number 224301.) This index totals over 6,400 pages, citing over 2,300 sources and listing over 2.5 million surname citations. The first few pages of each volume are a numbered bibliography of genealogy periodicals and books. Most of each volume is a separate index of surnames cited in the sources at the beginning. You will need to check each volume's surname index for the surname you seek.

Obtaining Periodicals

Copies of periodicals are available from the individuals or societies that publish them. Major archives and libraries with genealogical collections often have copies of many periodicals, particularly those that represent the area they serve. Some libraries collect certain periodicals as part of a special collection about an area or topic.

The Family History Library subscribes to numerous periodicals. These publications are listed in the catalog in several ways. If you know the title of a periodical, look in the Author/Title Search of the catalog. To find periodicals in the Locality Search of the catalog, look under the following:

GERMANY - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
 GERMANY - HISTORY - PERIODICALS
 GERMANY - PERIODICALS
 GERMANY - SOCIETIES - PERIODICALS
 GERMANY, [STATE] - (same topics as above)
 GERMANY [STATE], [TOWN] - (same topics as above)

POPULATION

Police began keeping records of each German's residence in the 1840s. Citizens were required to tell the police at the local registration office [*Meldeamt* or *Einwohnermeldeamt*] when they moved. The records created are called registrations [*Melderegister*] or residents lists [*Einwohnerregister*]. They are usually found at the city archives.

To use the records, you must know the approximate years a person lived in a town. The records usually give a person's name, birth date, birthplace, occupation, each residence in the city, and where he or she moved. These records supplement church records and civil registration. The Family History Library has a selection of these records, most notably in Hamburg, Sachsen, and Thüringen. For example, the library has over 4,000 films for Leipzig (1890-1949). Population registers are found in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - POPULATION
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] -
OCCUPATIONS

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records and wills [*Testamente*] are court records that deal with the distribution of a person's estate after death. Information in probate records can include the deceased person's death date and occupation; relationships, residences and names of heirs and guardians; an inventory of the estate; and names of witnesses.

Probate records are not usually used for German genealogical research. Only individuals who owned property, along with their relatives, were mentioned in probate records. Most farmers, merchants, and artisans did not own their own farms or shops and did not leave wills. Other sources, such as church records and civil registration records, give much of the same information as probate records and cover a larger percentage of the population. In addition, probate records are hard to access. Very few probate records have been microfilmed. However, some German probate records are very old, as early as the 1300s, and occasionally they provide information found nowhere else.

Original probate records can still be found in state and town archives or local courts [*Amtsgericht*]. You can write to a city or state archive and request a search of their probate records for your ancestor if you believe that he left an estate.

The Family History Library has only a few probate records for Germany. The are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - PROBATE
RECORDS

SCHOOLS

If your ancestors were educated in German universities, they may have been recorded in the matriculation records of their schools. The library has a limited number of these records for the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. They are not available for all states.

School records sometimes contain valuable information, such as your ancestor's name, age, hometown, and enrollment and graduation dates. Sometimes they contain biographical information, including names of parents, wife, and children. The few school records that the Family History Library has are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

GERMANY - SCHOOLS
GERMANY, [STATE] - SCHOOLS
GERMANY, [STATE], [UNIVERSITY TOWN] -
SCHOOLS

The university may have kept original school records (and any published versions). In some areas, local or state archives may have these records. You can find citations for German university matriculation sources on pages 181 to 197 of Ribbe's *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (see the "For Further Reading" section of this outline).

Though you may not be successful in getting the information you want, you can try writing for school records. Address your letter to the town and school in which you are interested. The Family History Library does not have the addresses of German schools.

SOCIETIES

Many societies and organizations may have information of value to your genealogical research. There are many genealogical and historical societies in Germany and in the country your ancestors immigrated to, especially the United States. You may find it helpful to join one of these societies and support its efforts.

Genealogical Societies

Many genealogical societies emphasize German research. They publish helpful periodicals and compiled genealogies. They may also have special indexes, collections, and projects. Some publish queries about German ancestors or maintain a list of Many societies cannot give research assistance, but members' research interests. Some specialize in immigrants to a specific area. they will inform you of addresses of researchers and other sources that may assist you in your research. They can usually help you find and hire a researcher to investigate local records that an archivist does not have time to search. When contacting a society for help, remember the following:

- 1714- Research is impossible without exact information about places (town) and detailed information about dates (day, month, and year). Asking for help on an ancestor born in "Preußen in the nineteenth century" will not be successful.
- 1715- Determine which German state your ancestor is from before contacting that state's society.
- 1716- If you cannot specify enough detail to begin research in Germany try a well-written, paid genealogical query offering a generous reward. Two periodicals that publish such queries are:
 - *Familienkundliche Nachrichten* (see p. 48 of this outline).
 - *Praktische Forschungshilfe* (see p. 48 of this outline).

- 1717- When writing to any society in a foreign nation, include three international reply coupons to guarantee a response. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope if writing to a society in your own nation.

German Societies. Most German states have genealogical societies. Contact the society in the state where your ancestor lived. See “Guides to Societies and Associations”, found later in this section, for a more complete list. The following societies may be of interest:

- 1718- Specializing in Württemberg and Baden is:

Verein für Familien- und Wappenkunde in
Württemberg u. Baden
Postfach 10 54 41
70047 Stuttgart
GERMANY
e-mail: wappen@wlb-stuttgart.de
www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/VFWKWB/index/html.

- 1719- Specializing in Hessen is:

Hessische Familiengeschichtliche Vereinigung
Karolinenplatz 3
64289 Darmstadt
GERMANY
www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/HFV/hfv.html.

- 1720- Specializing in the Pfalz and Rheinland is:

Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde E. V.
Rottstr. 17 (Stadtarchiv)
67061 Ludwigshafen/Rhein
GERMANY
www.prfk.de

- 1721- Specializing in Rheinland is
(Questions directed at the organization at large):

Geschäftsstelle der Westdeutsche Gesellschaft für
Familienkunde
Claus Geis
Unter Gottes Gnaden 34
50859 Köln
E-mail: wgff@genealogy.net

(Questions regarding mailing lists):

Tobias A. Kemper
Günter Junkers
E-mail: wgff-1-admin@genealogy.net
www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/WGFF

- 1722- Specializing in middle Germany is:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft für mitteldeutsche
Familienforschung

For help, write to work group or each geographic area; addresses on web site:

www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/AMF/AMF.html

- 1723- Specializing in east Germany is:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft ostdeutscher Familienforscher
For research help write to the ‘Forschungsstelle’
(research group)

For help by geographic area, see address on website:

www.genealogienetz.de/Vereine/AGoFF/AGoFF-d.html

Societies Outside Germany. If your ancestors are from Elsaß-Lothringen contact:

Cercle Généalogique d'Alsace
5, rue Fischart
67000 Strasbourg
FRANCE

Links to German Genealogical Societies on the Internet are found at:

www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/vereine.html

There are often Germanic genealogical societies in the nations to which Germans immigrated. For example:

- 1724- German Genealogical Society of America
P.O. Box 517
LaVerne, CA 91750-0517
USA
www.scsgenealogy.com

- 1725- German Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 16312
St. Paul, MN 55116-0312
USA

- 1726- German Research Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 711600
San Diego, CA 92171-1600
USA
<http://feefhs.org/gra/frg-gra.html>

- 1727- Immigrant Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 7369
Burbank, CA 91510-7369
USA
www.feefhs.org/igs/frg-igs.html

- 1728- Palatines to America
611 East Weber Road
Columbus, OH 43211-1097
USA
www.palam.org

- 1729- Sacramento German Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 660061
Sacramento, CA 95866
USA
<http://feefhs.org/siggs/frg-siggs.html>

Historical Societies

Historical societies can provide valuable sources of information on Germany. Some historical societies collect information about German emigrants, and some exist in the countries where German immigrants settled.

Historical societies sometimes have information about specific German individuals. Many societies have special collections of books and manuscript material for Germany that may be hard to find in libraries and archives. You may be interested in the services, activities, and collections of the following societies:

- 1730- Institut für pfälzische Geschichte und
Volkskunde
Benzinring 6
67657 Kaiserslautern
GERMANY
E-mail: info@institut.bv-pfalz.de
www.institut-pfaelzische-geschichte.de
- 1731- American Historical Society of Germans from
Russia
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199
USA
E-mail: ahsgr@ahsgr.org
www.ahsgr.org
- 1732- Germans from Russia Heritage Society
1125 West Turnpike Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
USA
www.grhs.com
- 1733- Pennsylvania German Society
P. O. Box 244
Kutztown, PA 19530-0244
USA
E-mail: pagerman@pgs.org
www.pgs.org

The following source includes the addresses of over 100 ethnic heritage historical societies in North America:

Wheeler, Mary Bray, ed. *Directory, Historical Societies and Agencies in the United States and Canada*. 14th ed. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1990. (FHL book Ref 970 H24d 1990; computer number 531083.)

Family Associations

Family organizations in the United States or Germany may be gathering information about your German relatives. Family histories, newsletters, family group

records, Glenzdorf's directory (see p. 31), and Ancestral File can help you find active family associations (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).

Guides to Societies and Associations

The source below is the best German genealogical society directory:

Zwinger, Dieter. *Mitgliederverzeichnis* 1992
DAGV (1992 membership directory of the German study group of genealogical societies). Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1992. (FHL book 943 B4a no. 13; computer number 756409.) This directory lists the address, telephone, services, publications, and territory covered by each of the 65 member societies. You will need to update the postal codes from the directory using the postal code book cited in the "Gazetteers" section of this outline.

The following sources contain additional information on societies and other sources of information about Germany:

Meyer, Mary Keysor. *Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada*. 9th ed. Mt. Airy, Md.: Meyer, 1992. (FHL book 970 C44m 1992; computer number 648346.) See pages 98 to 101 of this book.

Wasserman, Paul and Alice E. Kennington, eds. *Ethnic Information Sources of the United States*. 2nd ed. Detroit: Gale Research, 1983. (FHL book Ref 973 F24w; computer number 255.)

Records at the Family History Library

Society records are usually described in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the society. The Locality Search also lists societies under one of the following headings:

GERMANY - SOCIETIES
GERMANY, [STATE] - SOCIETIES
GERMANY - GENEALOGY
GERMANY, [STATE] - GENEALOGY

Lists and guides that describe the collections of societies are listed in the Locality Search of the catalog under:

GERMANY - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES -
INVENTORIES, REGISTERS, CATALOGS
GERMANY, [STATE] - ARCHIVES AND
LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES, REGISTERS,
CATALOGS
GERMANY, [STATE], [TOWN] - ARCHIVES
AND LIBRARIES - INVENTORIES,
REGISTERS, CATALOGS

OTHER RECORDS

Other types of records that are not mentioned in this outline are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog. See the following subject headings:

ALMANACS
BIBLIOGRAPHY
BUSINESS RECORDS AND COMMERCE
COLONIZATION
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL
ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES
ETHNOLOGY
FOLKLORE
JEWISH HISTORY
LAW AND LEGISLATION
MANORS
MEDICAL RECORDS
MIGRATION, INTERNAL
MILITARY HISTORY
NAMES, GEOGRAPHICAL
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES
POSTAL AND SHIPPING GUIDES
PUBLIC RECORDS
RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS LIFE
SOCIAL LIFE AND CUSTOMS
YEARBOOKS

FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of Germany can be found in the following sources:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft ostdeutscher Familienforscher e.V., Herne, Germany. *Genealogical Guide to German Ancestors from East Germany and Eastern Europe*. Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1984. (FHL book 943 D27gg; computer number 293384.)

Bellingham, Mary, et al. *Research Guide to German-American Genealogy*. St. Paul, Minn.: German Interest Group, MGS, 1991. (FHL book 973 D27rg; computer number 612067.)

Jensen, Larry O. *A Genealogical Handbook of German Research*. Rev. ed. Pleasant Grove, Utah: Jensen, 1978-1983. (FHL book 943 D27j; film 1,181,765 item 4; fiche 6,000,366-8; computer number 38460.)

Ribbe, Wolfgang, and Eckart Henning.

Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung (Pocketbook for family history research). Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1975. (FHL book 943 D25t 1975; computer number 275405.)

Schweitzer, George K. *German Genealogical Research*. Knoxville: Schweitzer, 1992. (FHL book 973 D2sg; computer number 681111.)

Smith, Clifford Neal, and Anna Piszczan-Czaja Smith. *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1976. (FHL book 943 D27sp; computer number 265734.)

Smith, Kenneth Lee. *German Church Books: Beyond the Basics*. 1989. (FHL book 943 D27skl; computer number 542741.)

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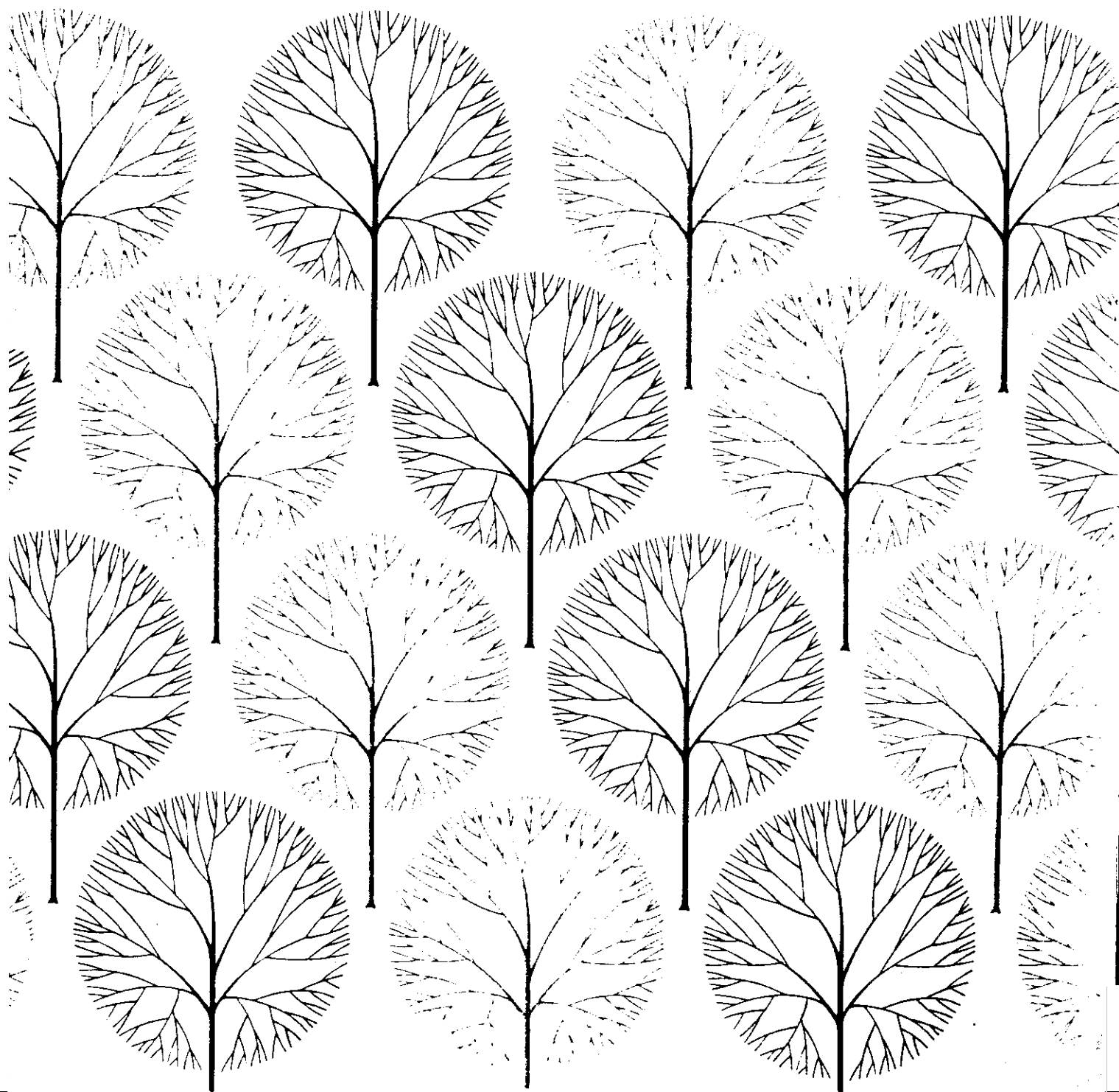
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File: Europe-Germany

Historical Background Affecting
— Genealogical Research in

Germany and Austria

The Genealogical Department of
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of Latter-day Saints
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Germany and Austria

From the time of the earliest movements of Germanic and Slavic tribes into central Europe until almost modern times, the Germanic area has been the scene of constant migrations of people from one locality to another. Rivalry among the numerous rulers of small earldoms and principalities caused continual war and unrest.

Record keeping amid such turbulence was difficult, and the records that were kept were often destroyed by war. In Germany the Thirty Years' War between the Roman Catholics and Protestants, from 1618 to 1648, destroyed great numbers of churches and their records. Thus, many parish records in Germany exist only for the period following the Thirty Years' War. Any other available sources prior to 1650 are generally essential for genealogical research.

The Turkish invasion of Austria in 1683 destroyed many Austrian church registers, so that few of these records exist for earlier periods. Sources in city and state archives must be sought for genealogical research prior to the Turkish invasion, especially for the eastern part of Austria.

The Protestant Reformation had a major influence on the migrations of the Germanic and other European peoples. The Reformation began during the first quarter of the sixteenth century, and Protestants were persecuted from the beginning of the movement. The history of the Reformation, however, took quite a different course in the German Empire than in the Austrian Empire. Catholicism had a much stronger hold on Austria—primarily through the ruling family of Hapsburg (or Habsburg).

In the early part of the sixteenth century, a German Catholic priest and theological scholar named Martin Luther became frustrated by the corruption and abuses which he saw in the organization and doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church. He made serious attempts to bring reform to the Church. Luther failed to accomplish his purpose, but as a result of his efforts, part of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany broke away from the main body and adopted his teachings, eventually establishing the Evangelical-Lutheran and Evangelical-Reformed churches. Rulers of many of the kingdoms and dukedoms in Germany followed Luther and took their subjects with them into the new religion.

The Lutheran Church was finally established after the so-called Augsburg Confession (Augsburger Konfession, 1530)¹ as a direct result of the German Reformation started by Luther in 1517. It had its strongest beginnings in Saxony, but spread from there into other German provinces, including Braunschweig, parts of Hannover, Oldenburg, Mecklenburg, most of Prussia, Wuerttemberg-Baden, and Hessen. It also spread to the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

Also a product of the early sixteenth century, the Reformed Church originated in the works of John Calvin and Ulrich Zwingli, who instigated the Protestant movement in Switzerland. Zwingli died on the battlefield in 1531, but Calvin continued the work, establishing the Helvetian Reformed Church, which was accepted in parts of neighboring countries. One of those areas was a district west of the Rhine River, a state of the German Empire known as the Palatinate. Many Protestants from Switzerland and France were able to find refuge there.

Duke Ludwig V (1508-1544) was ruler of the Palatinate when the Helvetian Reformed Church found sanctuary there. Though the duke himself was a Roman Catholic, he operated a regime which was tolerant of all religions. In 1576 when Duke Ludwig VI became ruler of the Palatinate, he was not sympathetic to the Reformed Church. He made Lutheranism the official religion and many Reformed priests were driven out. In 1583 Duke Friedrich IV became ruler at the age of nine, with Count Johann Kasimir as regent. At that time the Calvinists were allowed to return. Freedom was short-lived, however, as the Spanish conquered most of the Palatinate in 1619 and occupied the country until 1648, bringing much suffering to the population.

In the Franco-German War of 1673-1679, the French demanded the allegiance of the Palatines. When the latter refused, the French devastated their country. In 1688 the French again invaded and occupied the Palatinate. The occupation was finally ended in 1697 with the Palatines paying the French 300,000 guilders² for their freedom. These events left the population of the Palatinate so impoverished and discouraged that they desired to move to localities where they could own land, worship according to their beliefs, and rear their families in peace. As a

¹The Augsburg Confession, a statement of Lutheran theology in twenty-eight articles, was presented to the emperor Charles V at the Diet in Augsburg by seven Lutheran princes and two imperial free cities in June 1530. The principal author, the Reformer Philipp Melanchthon, utilized earlier Lutheran statements of faith to compose a statement of theology which would be acceptable to the predominant Roman Catholics and the Holy Roman Empire.

²About one guilder would have been an average week's wages for a man at that time.

result, large numbers of them emigrated to North America in the eighteenth century, as well as to areas of eastern Europe, such as Russia, Poland, and eastern Austria (now part of Romania, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia),

Lack of space, always a problem in Germanic areas, and the consequent difficulty in providing for a family were other major reasons for migration of the German populace,

Until recent times there were two major classes in Europe. One class consisted of the rulers and land owners. The other was the poor class of dependent laborers and servants, the feudal serfs. The serf had no freedom of choice. He had to obtain permission of his lord if he wanted to move to another place; but in spite of this, many did flee without permission and made their way to the New World,

Emperor Joseph II decreed an end to serfdom in Austria in 1781. It was abolished in Prussia in 1809, in Wuerttemberg in 1817, and in Bavaria in 1818. By contrast, Russian serfdom remained until 1861 when Czar Alexander II decreed that each peasant had the right to his own home and property.

The Empress Maria Theresa and her successor, Joseph II of Austria, called many thousands of German settlers to go to the areas known as Galicia, Bucovina, Transylvania, and the Banat in the late 1700's and early 1800's. This was the main period of settlement in the eastern part of Austria-Hungary by Germans.

Illiteracy was common except among craftsmen and the middle-class families in the cities who were able to give their children some education. For those who lived in serfdom or similar conditions, few records other than church records are available. The genealogist is thus more likely to find sources (other than church records) containing genealogical information about the educated classes than about the uneducated poorer families.

The Mennonite Movement

In the 1520's, "Christian fellowships" were formed in many German-speaking areas. These fellowships felt that neither the major reformers nor the established church taught the simple gospel of the New Testament. A particularly active group was called the Anabaptists because of their opposition to infant baptism. The term Anabaptist, however, came to be applied generally to any person or group which did not accept the teachings and practices of the established state churches. One of these groups was the Mennonites, named for Menno Simons, the most influential leader of the group in the Netherlands and northern Germany.

The Mennonites opposed infant baptism, military service, the taking of oaths, and the acceptance of public office. They also believed that the state had

no right to dictate church affiliation. Their literal interpretation of New Testament teachings caused them great difficulty. Many thousands were put to death for their beliefs; others sought homes in lands more tolerant of their beliefs. It was not until the influence of the French Revolution swept across Europe that Mennonites found relative freedom.

During the first years of the Reformation, Anabaptists gained a foothold in Tyrol, Austria, but by 1530 more than 1,000 of them had met death as a result of persecution. In spite of opposition, however, **their numbers continued to increase.**

Moravia then began welcoming Anabaptists, and the persecuted moved there from many areas. Throughout the sixteenth century Anabaptism flourished in Moravia, which was almost the only European country offering freedom and tolerance to these people. Some Anabaptist communities were also established in neighboring Slovakia, then under the rule of Hungary. It is estimated that there were about 100 congregations, with a membership of 20,000 to 30,000.

During the seventeenth century, the Hapsburg Catholic rulers permitted a renewal of persecution in Moravia. Anabaptists living there then moved to Slovakia where they reestablished many of their congregations. By the eighteenth century, however, the Hapsburgs gained strength in Slovakia, and the **situation was repeated.**

Because of the continuous migrations and the fact that the Mennonite groups kept few records in earlier times, genealogical research in families of Mennonite ancestry is extremely difficult. Entries concerning Mennonites are sometimes found in Lutheran and Roman Catholic records, but records kept by the Mennonites are now widely scattered. Some are in Poland, others are in western Germany, and still others are in private hands in Uruguay. Some are in the possession of the "Mennonitische Forschungsstelle" in Weierhof, near Mannheim, Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), with some microfilmed copies of these registers at the Genealogical Department. Microfilmed copies of some registers are also available in Mennonite libraries in the United States. The Mennonites formed perhaps the most significant German religious migration to **America.**

Special precautions must be taken in using Mennonite parish records. It is not unusual to find several persons living contemporaneously in the same parish with identical names.

The Huguenot Movement

The doctrines of Calvin inspired Protestantism in France. Those who followed him became known as Huguenots, a term of unknown origin, which in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries applied to all French Protestants.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Huguenots in France became strong enough to contend with the Roman Catholics for political and religious supremacy. But the struggle ended in catastrophic defeat for the Huguenots in 1685 at the hands of Louis XIV. Prior to that time they had been given freedom and political equality under the Edict of Nantes, issued in 1598 by the French ruler, King Henry IV. In the early part of the seventeenth century, religious wars raged in France, and the Huguenots were forced to surrender their fortified cities and were deprived of their civil rights. French troops were quartered in their homes with permission to do as they pleased, and Protestant children were taken from their parents and raised as Roman Catholics. As a final measure, the Edict of Nantes was revoked in 1685 and more than 400,000 French Protestants were driven out of France. They fled to Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, England, Ireland, Scandinavia, South Africa, and the American colonies. In Switzerland, and especially in the Palatinate, many French Protestants found refuge, because the population was already largely Protestant. Most of those who settled in the Palatinate, however, moved in later decades to other Germanic areas for permanent settlement. Many of them settled in the Prussian provinces of Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, and East Prussia. In the early eighteenth century many of them emigrated to the colonies of North America.

In the course of their migrations, information on many Huguenot families was recorded in Protestant Church records along the way. Such records can be found in Switzerland, Germany, Holland, and England. Huguenot societies and archives have done much to preserve the records of these people.

It is also important to note that many small Huguenot groups were absorbed by other Protestant groups, because they were often too few in number to exist independently and keep their own records. This was particularly true in the Palatinate, where typically-French names appear often in records of the Reformed Church.

The Jews in Germanic Countries

The Jewish population of Central Europe has always been comparatively small. Only in larger cities were there communities large enough to support synagogues. In a few areas of eastern Europe, some Jews were farmers, but in western and central Europe they made a living mostly as merchants and financiers.

The Jews did not obtain citizenship rights and legal equality until after the middle of the nineteenth century. Before the nineteenth century they suffered severe persecution. Many were killed, and often the entire Jewish population was driven from a country. Because of these persecutions and migrations it is

very difficult to trace Jewish pedigrees earlier than the middle of the nineteenth century.

There are very few Jewish records left in Germany. Most of the Jewish records in both Germany and Austria were destroyed during World War II, though there have been a few records transferred to the archives of Israel. The Genealogical Department **microfilms Jewish records whenever possible.**

Occupational Movements

Until the end of the nineteenth century it was customary for German and Austrian craftsmen, when they had completed their apprenticeships, to gain **experience as journeymen by working in various** places about the country for masters of their crafts. This experience was essential to the obtaining of a master's certificate.

Many of these journeymen married during their travels and did not return to their earlier places of residence. As new residents in a city, they were required to apply and qualify for acceptance as citizens before establishing their own business. Citizenship registers in the burgher rolls of a city give the place of origin of new citizens. These records are invaluable to genealogical research in tracing the origins and movements of these craftsmen.

Some occupations required a man and his family to move frequently, remaining in a given place only as long as his contract required. Such occupations included those of miller, dairyman, coachman, shepherd, day laborer, and others. These migrant families were recorded in local church registers, but the records seldom indicate the places from which they came or the places to which they departed. This condition makes it very difficult to trace such families in genealogical research.

Austrian Exiled Protestants

By the end of the Thirty Years' War (1648), many farming communities in Germany were completely destroyed. The surviving Protestant population from these areas migrated to less affected areas, hoping to find a place to start new lives.

The Treaty of Westphalia, which was signed by France, Sweden, and the Holy Roman Empire to end the war, allowed equal rights to Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and the Reformed faiths in Germany, but in Austria only the Protestant nobility were granted the legal right to remain Protestant.

Protestant uprisings in Austria against Roman Catholic suppression in the 1620's and the 1630's were crushed ruthlessly. About 30,000 Protestants from Austria and Bohemia were exiled in the 1620's, most of them settling in the Prussian provinces of Lower Saxony and Brandenburg. As a result of an edict by Archbishop Firmian of Salzburg in 1731, about 23,500 Protestants from the Salzburg area were expelled from the country and emigrated to Prussia. About

18,500 settled in East Prussia, with the rest settling in Brandenburg and other places in Prussia.

These Salzburg Protestants migrated as a group, founding and settling entire communities. They kept excellent records which have been preserved to the present day. Many publications concerning this group of people are also available. The church records from East Prussia are on microfilm at the Genealogical Department and at the state archives in Leipzig, German Democratic Republic (East Germany).

Twentieth Century Migrations

At the end of World War II, a great part of the German population from East and West Prussia, Posen, Silesia, Brandenburg, and Pomerania left their homes to go west and find new homes in present-day East and West Germany. This was a tremendous movement, involving 13,000,000 persons, most of whom left before the arrival of the Russian army.

Following the war, the northern part of East Prussia was annexed by the Soviet Union, and the southern part became part of Poland. The German people from the northern part were transferred to eastern Russia (Siberia). Those who survived were released later to East and West Germany.

Most of the German people still remaining in Poland were expelled after 1945 and resettled in East and West Germany. Only a small number of Germans remained in Poland. The West German government is negotiating for the release of the last groups, and it appears that most of these will settle in Germany before the end of the 1970's.

Significant Historical Events

1517

Beginnings of the Protestant Reformation in Germany. The way was opened for establishment of non-Catholic religious groups.

1521

Ban against Protestants by Emperor Charles V ordering them to return to Roman Catholicism or face punishment; imprisonment and execution of Anabaptists (Mennonites). Anabaptists migrated to Moravia.

1542

Earliest known date of Roman Catholic Church records in Austria.

1563

Council of Trent. Catholic parish priests were instructed to establish registers of christenings and marriages.

1614

Roman Catholic parish priests were instructed to keep death records.

1618

Beginning of the Thirty Years' War between Roman Catholics and Protestants, during which large numbers of German parish churches and registers were destroyed.

1619

Spanish invaded the Palatinate and remained there until the end of the Thirty Years' War.

1648

Peace treaty in 1648 allowed equal rights for Protestants and Roman Catholics in Germany (Treaty of Westphalia).

1673-1679

War of German Empire against France. France invaded and devastated the Palatinate.

1683

Turkish invasion of Austria defeated near Vienna. Many church records in eastern Austria were destroyed by the Turks. The first group of German emigrants landed in North America.

1688-1697

French troops under King Louis XIV invaded the Palatinate, and Protestants migrated from the area.

1708

Beginning of large-scale emigration from west, central, and southern Germany to America because of extreme poverty and desire for religious freedom.

1731

Edict of Archbishop Firmian of Salzburg, when 23,500 Austrian Protestants were expelled, most of whom settled in East Prussia and Brandenburg; some also settled in Bavaria and America. Protestant churches banned in Austria, with Protestants being forced to either join the Roman Catholic Church or leave the country.

1740-1744

Silesian War. Austria lost Silesia to Prussia.

1756-1763

Seven Years' War. England and Prussia defeated Austria, France, Russia, Sweden, and Saxony.

1763

Catherine II, Empress of Russia (born as princess of Anhalt-Zerbst, Germany) invited German peasants to settle in southern Russia. They were given financial assistance for their journey across Poland, and after their arrival in Russia they enjoyed such special privileges as tax relief, exemption from military service, and freedom of religion. Thousands of German peasants, mostly of the Protestant faith (Mennonites), settled in the area west of the Volga River, around Odessa on the shores of the Black Sea, and in Central Ukraina (Wolhynia-Germans).

- 1770
Austrian parishes were required to record the name of the father of an illegitimate child and to keep a new, standardized form or register. (The entire Austrian population was still compulsory Roman Catholic at this time.)
- 1776
Beginning of the American Revolution. Hessian soldiers fought on the side of the British. American Palatine soldiers fought on the side of the colonists. Many of both groups remained in America after the war.
- 1781
Emperor Joseph II of Austria invited German peasants to settle in Galicia, and 3,300 German families accepted. Tolerance edict by Joseph II gave non-Catholic religious groups the privilege of keeping duplicate church registers in the parish. The originals were to be kept in the Roman Catholic parish.
- 1798
Civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths started in the German area west of the Rhine and **in adjoining areas. Registration was on the town level.**
- 1798-1813
Napoleonic Wars.
- 1828
Patronymic naming abolished by law in Schleswig-Holstein (then a part of Denmark). Each individual was required to accept a fixed family surname, but compliance was poor except in larger cities. (The law was finally enforced in 1856.)
- 1848-1849
German revolution unsuccessful. Following a decade of severe economic depression and famine, discontent with the German Confederation was manifest in a full-scale revolution. The revolution lost popular support, however, when dissention and quarreling divided the revolutionary leaders. The revolution was soon crushed, and between 5,000 and 10,000 Germans emigrated to the United States.
- 1864
Danish-Prussian War. Schleswig-Holstein, part of Denmark since 1773, became a province of Prussia in 1867.
- 1871-1872
Franco-Prussian War. Alsace-Lorraine added to the German Empire.
- 1914-1918
World War I. End of the Austrian Empire; creation of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Poland. Southern Tyrol was lost to Italy, Transylvania was lost to Romania, and Galicia was lost to Poland and Russia.
- 1919
Denmark obtained northern Schleswig-Holstein from Germany. Alsace-Lorraine returned to France.
- 1938
German occupation of Austria. Introduction to civil registration in Austria.
- 1939-1945
World War II.
- 1941
German population of Bessarabia (Romania) removed to southern Poland by Hitler's order. (They settled in West Germany after the war.)
- 1947
German-speaking population of Czechoslovakia expelled to West Germany. Allied powers granted Poland large portions of Germany; East and West Prussia granted parts of Brandenburg, Posen, Pomerania, and Silesia. German population of these provinces expelled to West Germany. (In order to give those away from home a chance to find their families, extensive "Refugee Card Files" were established. These records are a valuable source for genealogical research behind the Iron Curtain.)

Historical Synopsis of Each State in the German Empire, 1871-1918

Alsace-Lorraine (*Elsass-Lothringen*)

Originally Alsace-Lorraine belonged to the Frankish empire of Charles the Great. In the eleventh and twelfth centuries it formed the beginning of the Zaehringer territorial state. The Zaehringers originated in Swabia (Weilheim, Kreis Nürtingen). As they extended their power, they soon gained control of the Alsatian area. After the Zaehringer line died out in 1218, power shifted to the counts of Kiburg in the south and the counts of Urach in the north. These lines were followed by the house of Staufer, which by the middle of the thirteenth century had also died out. The end of the house of Staufer facilitated the rise of the house of Hapsburg. The main opposition to the Hapsburgs in Alsatia came from the bishops of Strasbourg and Basel. At the beginning of the fifteenth century the Alsatian towns of Beinheim, Leutenheim, Neuhaeusel, and Langenau belonged to Baden. During the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), Alsace-Lorraine, like most of the Rhine River valley, suffered great destruction and loss of life.

As the Hapsburgs turned their attention to Austria and the east in the fifteenth century, France began acquiring power in Alsace-Lorraine and finally annexed that area in 1681. Germany was unable to force the return of Alsace-Lorraine until after the unification of the German empire and the Franco-Prussian war of 1871. Following World War I, Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France and divided into the departments of Haut-Rhin, Bas-Rhin, and Moselle.

Anhalt

Today Anhalt is divided between Magdeburg and Halle, two states in East Germany (*Deutsche Demokratische Republik*). The name *Anhalt* comes from the Castle Anhalt in the Selke Valley (*Selketal*), which was probably built by Count Esiko von Ballenstedt, who died in 1059. The Ballenstedt family formed their county (*Grafschaft*) by combining an inheritance of part of the Swabia district (*Schwabengau*) with the county of Aschersleben, which they already possessed. At the same time they increased the size of their holdings by crossing the Saale River into what would later be known as East Anhalt (*Ost-anhalt*).

At various times the county (*Grafschaft*) was divided between the heirs of its rulers. In 1252 it was divided among-

1. Heinrich II, the founder of the Ascherslebener line, which lasted to 1315.
2. Bernhard I, founder of the Bernburger line, which lasted to 1468.

3. Siegfried I, founder of the Kothener line, which lasted to 1918.

The area known as Anhalt became involved in the Reformation between 1526 and 1534. In 1570 Joachim Ernst von Dessau (1551-86) was able to unite **the various areas of the principality once more; however**, in 1603 his five sons divided their inheritance into the following areas:

1. Anhalt-Dessau, which lasted until 1918.
2. Anhalt-Bernburg, which lasted until 1863.
3. Anhalt-Kothen, which lasted until 1665.
4. Anhalt-Zerbst, which lasted until 1797.
5. Anhalt-Ploetzkau, which lasted until 1847 (after 1665 it was known as Kothen-Ploetzkau).

Originally the area was principally Lutheran (*evangelisch*). About 1750 the principality of Anhalt declared itself to be of the Calvinist faith (*reformiert*). In spite of many battles, the Reformed church was unable to eliminate Lutheranism completely; today the principal religion is once again Lutheran.

The area was 'devastated during the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), and as a result much genealogical **source material was destroyed**.

In 1863 the total area was once again united by the surviving line of Anhalt-Dessau. In 1937 the area was divided into five districts (*Kreise*). They were Dessau, Kothen, Zerbst, Bernburg, and Ballenstedt.

Originally Anhalt was organized by manors (*Höfe*), **which had provincial administration over their respective areas. In 1181 we find mention of manor courts (Hofämter)**, which were administered by ministerialen (approximately equal to knights in social standing). This practice continued into the fourteenth century. In the second half of the sixteenth century **the provincial administration was separated from the manor administration. A marshal was placed as head of the manor administration while the provincial administration was conducted by various councils. Manor court records are mentioned in the** genealogical materials, but no description is given of the level of society with which they deal. This system lasted until late in the seventeenth century.

Baden

Today Baden forms the western portion of Baden-Württemberg, a state in West Germany (*Bundesrepublik Deutschland*). Originally Baden consisted of four separate areas. The original portion, the Upper Margravate in Breisgau (*Obere Markgrafschaft im Breisgau*), consisted of Sausenberg and Hachberg **and came into existence in 1074**.

The northern portion of Baden was acquired in 1102, including the area about as far north as Heidelberg (Kreis Karlsruhe) and as far south as BUhl (Kreis Baden-Baden).

From 1311 to 1315, Baden was enlarged to include Roetteln and, in 1444, Badenweiler. Then it continued to expand up the Rhine River. Between 1442 and 1497, Lahr and Mahlberg were taken from Moers-Saarwerden and added to Baden.

Baden was divided at various times among the heirs of its rulers. Not until the reign of Markgraf Bernhard I (1372-1430) was it united and provided **with a central government. This unification did not, however, last long, for the sons of Christoph I divided it again between the years 1515 and 1535.**

During the Thirty Years' War (1618-48) Baden changed from Lutheran to Catholic, then to Calvinist, and finally back to Lutheran, depending upon the religion of its rulers. After changing religion eight **times during a one-hundred-year period, the situation finally settled with the southern portion (from Baden-Baden south, including Alsace and Breisgau) as Catholic, and the northern portion (from Baden-Durlach north, including Landau in the Palatinate) as Protestant.** Because of the heavy population losses during the Thirty Years' War, many families from Switzerland moved into the Baden-Durlach area. After 1677 many Huguenots, Walloons, and Waldenses moved into Baden-Durlach from the Palatinate.

In 1689 both Baden-Durlach and Baden-Baden suffered great losses from the French during the wars of succession. All three major cities-Baden, Durlach, and pforzheim-were burned. In 1715 the city of Karlsruhe was founded by Markgraf Karl Wilhelm. It was here in 1722 that freedom of religion was guaranteed to all Lutherans, Calvinists, Catholics, and Jews.

In 1803 the area east of the Rhine was occupied by Napoleon, and out of the margravate (Markgrafschaft) of Baden, Napoleon formed the electorate of Baden. In 1810, because the grand duke had changed his allegiance to the allies at the decline of Napoleon's power, the electorate of Baden remained intact and was raised to the status of a grand Duchy. **The boundaries remained the same until Baden-Wuerttemberg was formed after World War II.**

Bavaria (Boyern)

Today Bavaria (Bayern) forms the southeastern area of the Federal Republic of Germany and is the largest of the West German states. Since the early Middle Ages it has always been one of the largest **and most important of the German states.**

In the twelfth century its borders extended from the Lech River on the west to the Leitha on the east, and from the Adriatic Sea on the south to the Eger **River on the north. This area is now occupied by both Bavaria and Austria. Because of its size and importance, almost continuous discord existed be-**

tween the German emperor and the grand dukes of **Bavaria. The emperors were able to extend their influence over the area by breaking up the territory into smaller principalities and bishoprics.**

The Germanic tradition of dividing a deceased **person's inheritance equally among his heirs contributed to the partitioning of the principality through the thirteenth century.** However, at the death of Otto II in 1253, Bavaria was still the largest principality **in the empire. In 1255 Bavaria was divided once more.** Heinrich XIII took the eastern half-lower Bavaria (Niederbayern)-and Ludwig II the western half-upper Bavaria (Oberbayern), including the Palatinate area on the Rhine River. Although in 1268 these two brothers inherited part of the Staufens family possessions (Stoufischen Hausgutes), they were unable to lay hold of it due to Austria's interference.

In 1289, after the deaths of Heinrich and Ludwig, Bavaria was once again divided. After defeating the Austrians near Gammelsdorf in 1313, Ludwig IV, the Bayer (1294-1347), originally the Duke of Oberbayern-Ingostadt, was made guardian of his young Niederbayern cousins. All the election in 1314 he was elected emperor of the Germans. As emperor, he attempted to return the power and influence of **Bavaria to its original stature. He was unable to complete his designs, and at his death in 1347 Bavaria was divided once again.**

Bavaria was divided once more before a law of primogeniture (the exclusive right of the eldest son to inheritance) was passed in 1506.

Although the Reformation at first found acceptance in Bavaria, **it was soon confronted by the Counter-Reformation, which eventually won a complete victory for Catholicism.** During the Thirty Years' War, Bavaria supported Austria and, therefore, **managed to extend its influence over a wider area.** From that time until the founding of the **German Empire in 1871, Bavaria continued to extend its borders and to unify its holdings.**

Palatinate (Pfalz)

Originally the Palatinate occupied the area that is now the southern end of Rheinland-Pfalz. Today it is divided between Hesse (Hessen), Rhineland-Palatinate (*Rheinland-Pfalz*), Baden-Wuerttemberg, and the Saarland.

The principality of the Palatinate became part of Bavaria in the thirteenth century when Friedrich II gave the principality to Duke Ludwig of Bavaria. The Palatinate remained with the Wittelbacher family until it was taken by Napoleon between 1797 and 1801. It was divided many times because of the traditional Germanic rights of inheritance. At one time it was divided between as many as forty-four **sovereigns.**

During the Thirty Years' War the Palatinate was completely devastated. Prior to the war the major **religion was Calvinism. After the war there was a brief period of tolerance for all religions, followed**

by a change once again to Catholicism. It is currently both Catholic and Protestant.

Between the years 1618 and 1700, the area was **devastated at least six or more times. As in northern Baden**, 70 percent of the population of the Palatinate after the year 1648 was made up of immigrants with **as many as 40 percent of them coming from Switzerland**. Because of the many wars that followed the Thirty Years' War, many of these immigrants later left the Palatinate and emigrated to America, Russia, and to South America.

Birkenfeld

See Oldenburg.

Brunswick (Braunschweig)

Today the Duchy of Brunswick (Braunschweig) is divided between Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) in West Germany and Magdeburg in East Germany. In 1180 Henry the Lion took possession of Lower Saxony, of which Brunswick was a part, and raised it to the status of a principality. After his death his son Otto took possession of it. In 1209 Otto became Otto IV, Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations. He died in 1218. Because neither he nor his brother, Prince Heinrich of the Palatinate, left any sons, the principality was divided among their next of kin.

Brunswick was raised once more to a principality under Otto the Child in 1235. Between 1235 and 1252 the city of Brunswick was granted political independence. After the death of Otto the Child, the principality was divided among his children with Albrecht receiving the Duchy of Brunswick. Brunswick remained in the house of Welf until 1918.

In 1528 the city of Brunswick became Protestant, although the surrounding countryside remained Catholic. In 1568 the rest of the duchy accepted Protestantism.

The effects of the Thirty Years' War varied from area to area. Those areas within the paths of invading armies were usually completely destroyed, while others were left untouched. The city of Brunswick was one of those areas that escaped the ravages of the war. In 1671 the city lost its freedom and became once more a part of the duchy of Brunswick-Wolfenbützel.

Napoleon made the Duchy of Brunswick a department in the kingdom of Westphalia (*Westfalen*) in 1807, and it remained as such until 1813. In 1834 the **city of Brunswick once again was granted independence** from the duchy of Brunswick. Brunswick remained a duchy until 1918.

Hesse (Hessen)

Hesse is presently a state in West Germany. It was formerly an electoral principality and county (*Grafenschaft*). It is made up of two other former principalities-Hesse-Darmstadt (Hessen-Darmstadt) and Hesse-Kassel (*Hessen-Kassel*)-plus part of the former

Prussian **province of Hesse-Nassau (Hessen-NCISSQU)**. During the medieval period Hesse was the focal point **of struggles between the secular and the ecclesiastical powers**. By the end of the fifteenth century, the Landgrafschaft of Hesse was the greatest and strongest **power of central western Germany**.

Under the direction of Philipp the Magnanimous (1517-67), Hesse played an important role in the Reformation, specifically in the drafting of the Wittenberger Concord of 1536, which was an attempt to bring the followers of Zwingli (the founder of the Reformed church) and of Luther to an understanding. At the death of Philipp, Hesse was divided among his four sons. Wilhelm IV, the oldest, received Hesse-Kassel, about half of the principality; Ludwig, **with Hesse-Marburg, received about one-fourth; and Phillip, with Hesse-Rheinfels, and Georg, with Hesse-Darmstadt, each received about an eighth**. The line of Hesse-Rheinfels died out in 1583 and Hesse-Marburg in 1604. The debate over the division of **these two areas resulted in the Marburger Succession Conflict (Marburger Erbfolgestreit)**. As a result, the **destructiveness of the Thirty Years' War was intensified** by a continuing feud between the two ruling houses of Hesse during the war.

Hesse-Darmstadt (Hessen-D(Jnnstndt)

Hesse-Darmstadt gained in power and influence after the Peace of Westphalia (1648) through the time of Napoleon. From 1803 to 1815 it lost territory on **the west side of the Rhine, but was given territory on the east side in recompense. It gained Kurmainz, Kurpfalz, and the Kurkölnische duchy of Westphalia**. In 1806 Darmstadt gained the county (Grafshoft) of Erbach. In 1815 the Kurkölnische duchy of Westphalia was exchanged with Prussia for Isenberg-Birstein, Worms, Alzey, and Bingen.

Hesse-Kassel (Hessen-Kassel; Kurhessen)

In 1807 Hesse-Kassel was combined with the kingdom of Westphalia, and Napoleon placed his brother Jerome on the throne. In 1813 the electoral principality of Hesse-Kassel was reestablished, and it acquired the lower county (*Nieder-Grufschafft*) of Katzenelnbogen. In 1866 Hesse-Kassel was annexed **by Prussia and the name was changed to Hesse-Nassau. This new Prussian state included territories taken from Hesse-Darmstadt-the duchy of Nassau and Hesse-Homburg, the former Bavarian areas of Gersfeld and Orb, the districts of Biedenkopf and Voehl, and the city of Frankfurt am Main**.

Hesse-Nassau

See Hesse-Kassel.

Lippe

Today Lippe is a part of Northrhine-Westphalia (*Nordrhein-Westfalen*) in West Germany. Originally a manor (1190), it developed into a county (*Grafenschaft*) in 1528 and finally became a principality in 1789. In 1605 Lippe (with the exception of the city of

Lemgo, which remained Lutheran) adopted the Reformed church as its state religion. The effects of the Thirty Years' War (1618-48) were not as widespread nor as severe in Lippe as in other areas. Lippe remained a separate state until it was forceably absorbed into the Third Reich by the National Socialists (1933-45).

Mecklenburg

Today Mecklenburg is divided among the East German districts of Rostock, Schwerin, Potsdam, and Neubrandenburg. Mecklenburg was originally the home of such German tribes as the Langobards, Angles, and Saxons. It was depopulated during the great Völkerverwanderung (mass migration) of the fifth and sixth centuries and was repopulated by Slavic tribes from the east.

From the sixth to the eleventh centuries almost continual warfare between the various Slavic tribes gradually depopulated the area once again. This condition enabled the Germans to return during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Paganism prevailed until the return of the Christian Germans during the thirteenth century. From the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries there was continuous political turmoil. In 1524 the rulers of Mecklenburg, Heinrich V and his brother Albrecht VII, asked Martin Luther to send ministers to them. By 1542 the Reformation was complete in Mecklenburg.

During the Thirty Years' War the population of Mecklenburg was so greatly reduced that travelers through the area during that period repeated the common phrase, "There is nothing but air and sand in Mecklenburg." After the war the population was rebuilt by immigration from Holstein, Denmark, and Sweden, but Mecklenburg soon suffered additional destruction in the Swedish-Polish and the Swedish-Brandenburg wars. In 1720 Mecklenburg was divided into two separate principalities: Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

Mecklenburg-Schwerin

From 1747 to 1756 the feudal system was strengthened to such an extent that lords of manors had supreme authority. Theirs was the only law until the November Revolution of 1918, which brought an end to feudalism. During the Napoleonic period the duke of Mecklenburg was driven from his country and did not return until 1815.

Mecklenburg-Strelitz

Mecklenburg-Strelitz consisted of two parts. The smaller western area was known as Ratzeburg, and the eastern area was known as Strelitz. Under more enlightened rulers the feudal system ended for Mecklenburg-Strelitz by the end of the eighteenth century. As in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Napoleon drove the duke from his land in 1809; however, he was reinstated by 1815.

Oldenburg

Today Oldenburg is divided between Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Schleswig-Holstein, Rhineland-Palatinate (*Rheinland-Pfalz*), and Saarland in West Germany. The founding of the house of Oldenburg dates back to the beginning of the twelfth century. Originally it was subject to Henry the Lion, who helped Count Christian I attempt to subjugate the astringer and Rustringer (Friesian tribes). Oldenburg remained a political power until 1866, when it discontinued its own military units.

During the Reformation Oldenburg adopted **Lutheranism, but some of the southern areas** (Friesoythe, Cloppenburg, and Vechta) remained Catholic. During the Thirty Years' War, Oldenburg remained neutral and consequently suffered little damage.

From 1448 to 1667, Oldenburg came under Danish influence because Christian, the heir to Oldenburg, was made the king of Denmark. In 1667 the manor (Herrschaft) of Jever was inherited by the ruler of Anhalt-Zerbst and in 1793 by the Russian Czarina Catherine II. In 1767 Oldenburg received the Princely Bishopric (Fürstbistum) of Lubeck.

During the Napoleonic period, Oldenburg became a member of the Confederation of the Rhine (Rheinbund). In 1810 France took over Oldenburg and made it part of France. The duke fled to Russia but returned after the Battle of Leipzig (*Völkerschlacht*) in 1813. In 1813 it became a duchy and acquired the principality of Birkenfeld in the Rhineland. In 1829 Oldenburg was raised to the status of a principality.

The Kingdom of Prussia (Das Königreich Preussen)

The most influential German country was Prussia (Preussen). Although it did not develop as a power until the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Prussia became powerful so quickly that all other German states soon became subject to its influence. Its borders stretched from the Rhine River and France on the west to beyond the Memel River and Russia on the east. The following provinces made up the Kingdom of Prussia:

1. Brandenburg
2. East Prussia (Ostpreussen)
3. Hanover (Hannover)
4. Hesse-Nassau (Hessen-Nassau)
5. Hohenzollern
6. Pomerania (Pommern)
7. Posen
8. Rhineland (*Rheinland*)
9. Saxony Province (Provinz Sachsen)
10. Schleswig-Holstein
11. Silesia (Schlesien)
12. Westphalia (*Westfalen*)
13. West Prussia (Westpreussen)

Prior to the unification of Germany in 1871 Prussia controlled, at one time or another, territory belonging to every German state.

Brandenburg

Today Brandenburg is divided between Poland and East Germany. Although the history of Brandenburg begins much earlier, the Hohenzollern period began in 1415, when Friedrich I (1417-40) received the marches (Mark) and electorate (Kur) of Brandenburg for himself and his heirs. The Elector Johann (1486-99) was the first of the Hohenzollern rulers to **be born and to die in Derlin**.

By 1534 most of the Mark of Brandenburg (Mark Brandenburg) had been converted to Lutheranism, and by 1555 the conversion was complete. By 1577 Brandenburg was at the forefront in the fight against the Reformed church and Calvinism; however, in 1613 Johann Sigismund, elector of Mark-Brandenburg and duke of Prussia (1608-19), was converted to the Reformed church.

The politics of the Thirty Years' War brought Brandenburg into conflict with both the Protestants and the Catholics. The ultimate result was that Brandenburg suffered some of the heaviest destruction of the war. It is estimated that there was a 70 percent loss of life in the cities, with a corresponding loss on the farms and manors. After the Peace of Westphalia (1648), the Mark of Brandenburg received Magdeburg, Halberstadt, and Hinterpommern. From 1648 the history of Brandenburg is merged into that of **Prussia**.

East Prussia (Ostpreussen)

Today East Prussia is divided between Russia and Poland. East Prussia was originally a part of the area conquered by the Order of Teutonic Knights in the thirteenth century. In 1525 civil rule was introduced by Albrecht of Brandenburg, the grandmaster of the Order of Teutonic Knights; at that time it became a fief of the Hohenzollerns under the Polish crown. In 1618 East Prussia was united with Brandenburg and came under complete control of the Hohenzollern family. East Prussia was affected very little by the Thirty Years' War.

Between 1655 and 1660, East Prussia owed allegiance to Sweden. In 1656 the Tartars attacked Poland and spread destruction into the southern part of East Prussia. In 1657 a treaty was signed giving East Prussia to Poland should the Hohenzollern line die out. During the Napoleonic period (1805-12), East Prussia suffered great destruction. The population was reduced by as much as one-third, and its economy was crippled. From 1812 until the First World War, East Prussia remained relatively isolated from world politics.

Hannover

Today Hannover takes up most of what is Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) in West Germany. It came into existence in 1635 as the principality of Calenberg through the will of Duke Georg. It was ruled in succession by his four sons, who strengthened the central government by establishing a standing army of some thirty thousand soldiers. In 1692 Hannover be-

came an electoral principality. In 1714 Duke Georg I of Hannover became George I of England, and from 1714 to 1837 Hannover and England were under the **same ruler**.

During the Napoleonic period, Hannover was occupied by Prussia in 1801 and 1805 and by France in 1803 and 1806. From 1807 to 1813 the southern portion was part of the kingdom of Westphalia, and from **1810 to 1813 the northern portion was occupied by France**. In 1813 Hannover was enlarged to include Osnabrueck, Emsland, Ostfriesland, Hildesheim, Goslar, and Unterreichfeld. In 1866 Hannover became part of Prussia.

Hohenzollern

Today Hohenzollern is a part of Baden-Württemberg in West Germany. In the late Middle Ages it stretched from the Danube on the east, to the Neckar River on the west. By the fifteenth century it had shrunk to a small area surrounding the hereditary castle.

Under the direction of energetic rulers Hohenzollern then began to increase its territory. In 1497 it purchased the manor of Haigerloch and in 1552 that of Wehstein. In 1535 it received as a fief from **Austria the counties of Sigmaringen and Veringen**. This growth was checked when the area was divided, in accord with the will of its ruler, into three portions; Hechingen, Sigmaringen, and Haigerloch. In 1634 Haigerloch fell to the Sigmaringen branch. The Sigmaringen area remained Catholic, but the **Hechingen area was converted to Protestantism. In 1695** both areas were inherited by the Brandenburg-Prussian branch of the family.

Pomerania (Pommern)

Today Pomerania is divided between East Germany and Poland. As a political entity, it is first mentioned in 1046. It seems to have been a melting pot of the Germanic and Polish races. From 1121 to 1478 **Pomerania existed as a separate dukedom, but during this period Sweden, Denmark, Brandenburg, and Poland all interfered with the political affairs of the area**. Brandenburg obtained a corridor to the sea through Pomerania during this period.

In Pomerania the Reformation was led personally by a colleague and friend of Martin Luther, Johannes Bugenhagen. In 1536 Duke Philipp I was married to Maria, the daughter of the Prince Elector John, the constant of Saxony, by Martin Luther. At this time the dukes of Pomerania accepted the Reformation. During the Thirty Years' War, Pomerania lost as much as a third of its population and an equal amount of property. During the war the male line of the dukes of Pomerania died out, and in 1637 Sweden **ruled it as a province**.

With the Peace of Westphalia (1648), Sweden received Hither Pomerania (Vorpommern), and Brandenburg received Farther Pomerania (Hinterpommern). In 1720 Sweden sold the southern portion of Hither Pomerania to Brandenburg. Sweden kept only the area north of the Peene River and the island of

Ruegen. In the Peace of Kiel (1814), Sweden gave its remaining possessions in Pomerania to Denmark; however, under the Agreement of Vienna the territory was given to Prussia. Thus all of Pomerania was finally united into one Prussian province.

Posen

Today Posen is a part of Poland. Posen has had German settlements since the beginning of the thirteenth century; however, many of the early German settlements were absorbed into the Polish culture. During the sixteenth century, the German settling of Posen was made up for the most part of refugees fleeing religious persecution in the Netherlands. These immigrants developed their own laws, towns, and business customs. They achieved a form of freedom previously unknown to Europe, including almost complete religious freedom. In the seventeenth century many refugees from Silesia joined them to avoid the Counter-Reformation.

In 1772 the first partition of Poland occurred. Poland was divided between Prussia, Austria, and Russia; Prussia took possession of Posen. In 1806 Napoleon conquered the area without opposition, and in 1807 he abolished the feudal system. In 1813 Posen was occupied by Russia, but in 1815 Prussia once more took control of the area.

Rhineland (Rhein Provinz)

Today the Rhineland is divided between the West German states of Rhineland-Palatinate (Rhineland-Pfalz), Northrhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen), Saarland, and Hesse (Hessen). Originally it was primarily composed of the religious jurisdictions of the bishoprics of Cologne (Köln) and Treves (Trier). The bishoprics of Cologne and Treves continuously plotted together to extend their influence. As a result, a state of hostility existed between them and the nobility of the Lower Rhine (Niederrhein). The Bishoprics of Cologne and Treves emerged as ecclesiastical electoral principalities-Cologne (Kurköln) by the end of the thirteenth century, followed by Treves (Kurtrier).

During the Thirty Years' War the Rhineland remained for the most part untouched, but during the late seventeenth century it was overrun by the French on several occasions. In 1689 Friedrich I of Brandenburg, after heavy fighting, was able to drive the French out of the Rhineland. In the early eighteenth century the Rhineland was fought over by the French, Prussians, Austrians, Dutch, and Spanish, and in 1794 the French once more occupied the Rhineland. In 1815 the Rhineland was given to Prussia by the Congress of Vienna.

Saxony, Kingdom of (Königreich Sachsen)

See Saxony Province.

Saxony Province (Provinz Sachsen)

Today Saxony Province is in East Germany. What became Saxony Province was the result of many partitions and hereditary divisions that left the original

principality with portions of land belonging to other political entities.

The Reformation took a foothold under Duke Heinrich between 1539 and 1541. During the Thirty Years' War, the kingdom of Saxony was overrun and plundered by both Catholics and Protestants.

During the Napoleonic period the area was a member of the Confederation of North German States. After the Confederation's defeat at Jena and Auerstedt in 1806, Saxony signed the Peace of Posen with France and was made a kingdom by Napoleon. At the same time it became a member of the Confederation of the Rhine and an ally of France. After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, according to the articles of the Congress of Vienna, the northern portion of the kingdom of Saxony was given to Prussia and became known as Saxony Province.

Schleswig-Holstein

Today Schleswig-Holstein is a state within East Germany. Originally Schleswig-Holstein existed as two individual political bodies.

During the Middle Ages Holstein-Stormarn was a county (Grafschaft), and Schleswig was a duchy within the kingdom of Denmark. During the thirteenth century the county of Holstein became the ally of Schleswig and remained such in all of their conflicts with Denmark. In the first half of the fourteenth century the count of Holstein-as the guardian of his nephew, the duke of Schleswig-nominated his nephew to be king of Denmark. With the election of the duke of Schleswig as the king of Denmark (1326), the count of Holstein managed to have himself recognized as the guardian and regent for the king because his nephew was under age. Thus began the rule of the count of Holstein over all of Denmark (1326). Holstein and Schleswig were briefly united under one ruler for the first time. Schleswig and Holstein were separated in the latter part of 1326 because of the laws of succession and were not reunited politically until 1440. Schleswig remained a fief of Denmark until that time. In 1474 Holstein was a fief of the German Emperor and was raised to the status of a duchy by Emperor Friedrich III.

Soon after 1520 the first Lutheran ministers began preaching in the cities of Holstein and Schleswig. By 1537 Lutheranism was the official religion of the two duchies. During the Thirty Years' War, Schleswig-Holstein tried to remain neutral and was partially successful in this, but during the war with Sweden (1658), Schleswig-Holstein suffered much destruction.

Schleswig-Holstein remained under Danish control until Prussia and Austria took it by force in 1864. In 1866 Austria gave to Prussia its rights to Schleswig-Holstein, and in 1867 Schleswig-Holstein became a Prussian province.

A small area of Schleswig-Holstein north of Flensburg was given to Denmark after the Second World War.

Silesia (Schlesien)

Today Silesia is divided between East Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, Poland has all but the western tip, which belongs to East Germany, and a small area in the south, which belongs to Czechoslovakia. As a political body Silesia is mentioned as early as the twelfth century. Its culture has been a mixture of German and Polish influences for centuries. Originally a kingdom, it covered most of Poland in the thirteenth century, but decreased in territory through inheritance partitions to a position of little significance by the fourteenth century. In the sixteenth century Silesia became a part of the Austrian Empire.

The Reformation began to affect Silesia in 1522 in the towns of Freystadt and Liegnitz. At the beginning of the Thirty Years' War, Silesia was divided between the Catholics and the Protestants, and in 1626, as Wallenstein occupied Silesia, the Counter-Reformation began. Protestants were severely restricted or forced to flee, and by 1632 only a few of the strongest Protestant areas-Breslau, Liegnitz, and Brieg-were allowed to maintain their religious freedom, after first surrendering to the emperor. At the Peace of Westphalia (1648), the duchies of Liegnitz, Brieg, Oels, Muensterberg, and Breslau were granted freedom of religion, because of the intercession of Sweden. The Protestants were also allowed to build churches outside the city gates of Glogau, Jauer, and Schweidnitz.

From 1648 through 1740, Silesia remained a part of the Austrian Empire. In 1741 King Frederick II (the Great) of Prussia subdued Silesia. In the articles of peace signed between Austria and Prussia in 1742, Prussia received nine-tenths of Silesia, and Austria one-tenth. In following wars, including the Seven Years' War, these boundaries did not change. The inhabitants suffered greatly during the Seven Years' War, with a loss of about 1.3 million lives.

After apparently passive submission during the Napoleonic period, Silesia began a popular movement of resistance to French imperialism. At the end of the Napoleonic period in 1815, some changes were made to the borders of Silesia (see map).

Westphalia (Westfalen)

Today all of the former province of Westphalia is within the state of Northrhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen) in West Germany. Originally Westphalia was made up of the following religious and secular political bodies:

1. Bishopric of Cologne (Erzbisum Koln)
2. Princely bishopric of Munster (Furstbistum Munster)
3. Princely bishopric of Paderborn (Furstbistum Paderborn)
4. Princely bishopric of Minden (Furstbistum Minden)
5. Princely abbey of Corvey (Furstabtei Corvey)

6. Imperial city of Dortmund (Reichsstadt Dortmund)
7. Counties of Mark and Ravensburg (Gmfschaften Mark und Ravensburg)
8. Counties of Tecklenburg and Lingen (Grafschaften Tecklenburg und Lingen)
9. Principality of Lippe (Furstenlum Lippe)

These units gradually joined together until, under Napoleon, they became the kingdom of Westphalia.

During the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), these areas passed from Catholic to Protestant then back to Catholic control. It is estimated that between 30 and 40 percent of the population of the area died during this war. Afterwards the area suffered severe destruction from other wars in 1689, 1701-14, and 1740-63. In 1815 the entire area-with the exception of Lingen, which was given to Hannover and the principality of Lippe-became a province of Prussia.

West Prussia (Westpreussen)

Originally West Prussia was known as Royal Prussia (Koniglich Preussen) or "the Royal Polish Portion of the Prussian Lands" (Preussische Lande Koniglich Polnischel Anteils). Today West Prussia is a part of Poland.

From 1466 to 1569, West Prussia was under Polish jurisdiction, but belonged to Prussia. In 1569 the personal union of West Prussia and Poland changed to a real union with West Prussia coming under the complete control of Poland. Nevertheless, the people of the southwestern portion of West Prussia continued their Germanic traditions.

The German areas of West Prussia accepted Protestantism very early: Danzig in 1518, and the rest of West Prussia between 1525 and 1550. During the Thirty Years' War, West Prussia suffered very little destruction; however, during the Polish-Swedish wars of 1626-35, 1655-60, and 1700-21, West Prussia suffered considerable destruction.

In the years 1772, 1793, and 1795, Prussia took West Prussia from Poland. In 1807 France took control of all of Prussia. After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, West Prussia was returned to Prussia.

Schaumburg-Lippe

Today Schaumburg-Lippe is a part of Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) in West Germany. Although in existence prior to the Thirty Years' War, it was never a prominent area. In 1807 it was raised to the status of a principality. From 1918 to 1946 it existed as a sovereign state in the German nation.

The Thuringian States (Thuringische Staaten)

The Thuringian states came into existence through the partitioning of the original principality of Thuringia among the descendants of its rulers. Because of the laws of primogeniture, which were passed at the close of the seventeenth century, a number of these states gradually became fairly stable. By 1815 the Thuringian states consisted of the following:

1. Grandduchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach (existed until 1918)
2. Duchy of Saxe-Hildburghausen (existed until 1826)
3. Duchy of Saxe-Gotha-Altenburg (existed until 1826)
4. Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen (existed until 1918)
5. Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld (existed until 1826)
6. Principality of Reuss-Schleiz (existed until 1848)
7. Principality of Reuss-Gera (existed until 1848)
8. Principality of Reuss-alterer Linie (existed until 1918)
9. Principality of Reuss-Lobenstein (existed until 1824)
10. Principality of Reuss-Ebersdorf (existed until 1848)
11. Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt (existed until 1918)
12. Principality of Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen (existed until 1918)

(In 1848 the principalities of Reuss-Schleiz, Reuss-Gera, and Reuss-Ebersdorf were combined to form Reuss-Schleiz-Gera.)

During the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), the **Thuringian states were left in a condition of almost complete destruction**. During the Napoleonic period, **portions of the states were given to Prussia, replacing areas taken by France from the Prussian territories west of the Rhine River**. In 1807 the Thuringian states joined the Confederation of the Rhine. In 1815, at the **Congress of Vienna, the Thuringian states were recognized as independent**. From 1815 until the unification of Germany in 1871, Prussia made continual **trespasses into Thuringia**.

Waldeck

Today the duchy of Waldeck is divided between Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen) and Hesse (Hessen), West Germany. Due to the heavy influence of Hesse, the counts of Waldeck joined the Reformation very early; however, not until the seventeenth century were they able to exert their independence, with the help of Ferdinand II, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations, during the Thirty Years' War.

Wuerttemberg

Today Wuerttemberg forms the eastern portion of Baden-Wuerttemberg in West Germany. Originally the area of Wuerttemberg was heavily contested between the Hapsburgs and the counts of Wuerttemberg. Beginning in 1081 with holdings in the county of Remstal (Remstalgrafschaft), the counts of Wuerttemberg were able to solidify their holdings so extensively that they became the most important power in Swabia (Schwaben). The Wuerttemberg family's growth in power began at the end of the Staufer period. Count Ulrich took control of the county of Urach

between 1254 and 1265; and under his son Eberhard der Erlauchte (1279-1325), Backnang, Neuffen, Rosenfeld, and Neuenburg were added. The Wuerttembergs **continued their expansion for the next one hundred years**.

The first partition of the state took place in 1442, when it was divided between Ludwig I and Ulrich V. Ludwig I received the Uracher portion, and Ulrich V the Stuttgart area. Ludwig I's son Eberhard V received the Stuttgart portion back in 1482. In 1477 Eberhard V founded the University of Tiibingen. In 1495 Eberhard V became duke of Wuerttemberg.

From 1524 to 1525 the Peasants War took place in Wuerttemberg because of the peasants' dissatisfaction with the inequalities of German feudalism. They were defeated in 1525 at Kiinigshofen an der Tauber and were cruelly punished. In 1536 Duke Ulrich supported the introduction of the Reformation into Wuerttemberg. During the Schmalkaldic War (1546-47), Wuerttemberg was the first of the Protestant states to suffer. During the Thirty Years' War (1618-48), Wuerttemberg suffered great destruction of life and property; some of the most important battles of the war were fought on Wuerttemberg soil. In 1688 and again in 1692-93, Wuerttemberg suffered more destruction when the French invaded the German states along the Rhine River.

On 30 December 1805, the duke of Wuerttemberg was elevated to the position of king of Wuerttemberg. During the Napoleonic period, Wuerttemberg allied itself with France and joined the Confederation of the Rhine (1806). Wuerttemberg was able to keep its status as a kingdom after 1815 because of its timely switch to the side of the Allies in 1813.

The Hanseatic League and the Cities of Lubeck, Hamburg, and Bremen

As the city states began to rise in economic and political power toward the end of the late Middle Ages, they organized themselves into leagues for protection against the feudal lords, for convenience in trade, and for other economic considerations. Of all the city leagues the most important was the Hanseatic League, formed by the North German cities of Liibeck, Hamburg, and Bremen. This league eventually included most of the major cities along the North German coast.

Lubeck

Today Liibeck is a city in Schleswig-Holstein in West Germany. Of the three major Hanseatic cities, Liibeck was the most important. In 1502 Liibeck was the strongest and largest with 25,444 inhabitants.

Because the average city dweller's standard of living was much better than that of the peasant, there **was an almost continual migration from the farms to the cities**.

During the Thirty Years' War, Lubeck maintained strictly a neutral position; as a result, in 1650 the pop-

ulation had grown to 31,068, in spite of the Thirty Years' War,

By 1700 the population had shrunk to 23,596. In 1807 there were 24,631 inhabitants, and in 1871 there were 39,743,

During the Napoleonic period Lubeck was occupied by the French,

Hamburg

Today Hamburg is a state in West Germany. As a medieval city, Hamburg differed greatly from Lubeck. In 1430 it had a population of about sixteen thousand inhabitants, but by 1520 its population had decreased to about fourteen thousand. By 1600 it had surpassed Lubeck with a population of about forty thousand inhabitants, because of the immigration of religious refugees from the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Italy.

In 1510 Hamburg was declared a free imperial city (freie Reichsstadt). Because of the strong city wall (built between 1616 and 1622), Hamburg was never taken during the Thirty Years' War. It became a refugee city, maintaining a neutral position throughout the war.

In 1650 it had a population of sixty thousand inhabitants. During the second half of the seventeenth

century it maintained its independence from outside powers. By 1800 it had a population of one hundred thirty thousand people.

Because of the French occupation of Hamburg from 1810 to 1814, the city's economy suffered almost complete destruction. With English aid the city was enabled to recover so that by 1840 it reached its economic golden age.

Bremen

Today Bremen is the state of Bremen in West Germany. Although the oldest of the three major Hanseatic cities, it was the least important. In 1350 it had a population of about twenty thousand inhabitants. Bremen was the only North German city that switched from Lutheranism to Calvinism. The population was increased by French Protestant refugees in the late seventeenth century. At the end of the eighteenth century Bremen had a population of about thirty-six thousand people. In 1806 Bremen was occupied by French troops, and the city joined the Confederation of the Rhine. In 1810 Bremen was declared a part of the French empire by Napoleon. It regained its freedom in 1813.

German

Genealogical Word List

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Symbols

This list contains German words with their English translations. The words included here are those that you are likely to find in genealogical sources. If the word you are looking for is not on this list, please consult a German-English dictionary. Latin words are often found in German records, and a few are included in this list. See the *Latin Word List* (34077).

German is spoken in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Records written in German may be found in these countries and also in parts of Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Hungary, and wherever German people settled. There are several different dialects in the German language. For example, in the province of Westphalia and other areas of Germany that border the Netherlands, you may notice words that are closely related to Dutch words. You may find the Dutch word list useful when working with these records.

In addition, German is found in some early records of the United States, such as in Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and other states where Germans lived.

LANGUAGE CHARACTERISTICS

German words for persons, places, and things (nouns) are always capitalized. All nouns are classified as masculine, feminine, or neuter. This classification is called *gender*. The gender of a noun is indicated by *der* (masculine), *die* (feminine), and *das* (neuter), which translates as “the.” Word endings may vary, depending on the way the words are used in the sentence.

Variant Forms of Words

In German, as in English, the forms of some words will vary according to how they are used in the sentence. *Who—whose—whom* or *marry—marries—married* are examples of words in English with variant forms. In German, the form of many words can change greatly. This word list gives the standard form of each German word. As you read German records, you will need to be aware that some words vary with usage.

The endings of words in a document may differ from those on this list. For example, the document may use the word *junger*, but you will find it in this word list as *jung*. In addition, the suffixes *-chen* and *-lein* are often added to words to indicate “little.” Therefore, the word *Söhnchen* means “little or young son,” and *Töchterlein* means “little or young daughter.”

Adjectives describe nouns and must have the proper masculine, feminine, or neuter endings. For example, in German you would say “*junger Mann*” (young man) or “*junges Mädchen*” (young maiden) if man and maiden are the subjects of a sentence. Adjective endings can change depending on usage and gender.

Plural words are usually formed by adding *-er*, *-en*, or *-e*. Thus the word *Kind* becomes *Kinder*, *Frau* becomes *Frauen*, and *Aufgebot* becomes *Aufgebote*. Plurality may also change the vowel slightly. For example, *Mann* becomes *Männer*.

In German, many words are formed by joining two or more words. Very few of these compound words are included in this list. You will need to look up each part of the word separately. For example, *Geburtstag* is a combination of two words, *Geburt* (birth) and *Tag* (day).

Alphabetical Order

Written German uses several letters in addition to the 26 letters used in the English alphabet. These are *Ä (ä)*, *Ö (ö)*, *Ü (ü)*, and *ß*. These letters will be alphabetized in this publication as though they were *a*, *o*, *u*, and *ss*. However, many dictionaries and gazetteers will alphabetize these characters as if they were *ae*, *oe*, *ue*, and *ss*.

Spelling

Because spelling rules were not standardized in earlier centuries, spelling variations are common. Local dialect often affects the spelling in genealogical records. In German records, the following letters are sometimes used interchangeably:

p	used for	b	a	used for	e
t	used for	<i>d</i> or <i>dt</i>	s	used for	<i>z</i>
ck	used for	k	y	used for	<i>i</i> or <i>j</i>
v	used for	<i>w</i> or <i>f</i>	k	used for	<i>g</i>
tz	used for	<i>z</i>	ig	used for	<i>isch</i> or <i>ich</i>
t	used for	th	u	used for	<i>i</i>

Examples:

Freitag	for	Freitag
Burckhart	for	Burkhard
Waldpurga	for	Waldburga
undt	for	und

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This word list includes only words *most commonly found in genealogical sources*. For further help, use a German-English dictionary. Several German-English dictionaries are available in the Family History Library. These are in the European collection. The call numbers begin with 433.21.

Particularly helpful dictionaries include:

Langenscheidt New Muret-Sanders Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English and German Languages. Berlin: Langenscheidt, 1969, 1974 (FHL book 433.21 Sp83n).

The New Cassell's German Dictionary, German-English, English-German. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, Inc., 1971 (FHL book 433.211 C272 1971).

Additional dictionaries are listed in the subject section of the Family History Library Catalog under GERMAN LANGUAGE - DICTIONARIES or in the locality section under GERMANY - LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES.

KEY WORDS

To find and use specific types of German records, you will need to know some key words in German. This section gives key genealogical terms in English and the German words with the same or similar meanings.

For example, in the first column you will find the English word *marriage*. In the second column you will find German words with meanings such as *marry, marriage, wedding, wedlock, unite, joined*, and other words used in German records to indicate marriage.

English	German
birth	Geburten, Geburtsregister, Geborene, geboren
burial	Beerdigungen, begraben, Begräbnisse, bestattet, beerdigt
Catholic	katholisch
child	Kind, Kinder
christening	Taufe, Taufen, Getaufte
confirmations	Konfirmationen, Firmungen
civil registry	Standesamt
death	Tote, Tod, sterben, starb, verstorben, gestorben, Sterbefall
father	Vater
husband	Mann, Ehemann, Gatte

index	Verzeichnis, Register
Jewish	jüdisch, Jude(n), israelitisch
marriage banns	Proklamationen, Aufgebote, Verkündigungen
marriage	Heiraten, Trauungen, Getraute, Ehe, Kopulation, kopulieren, verheiratet, Verehelichungen, Eheschliessungen
month	Monat
mother	Mutter
name, given	Vorname, Name
name, surname	Zuname, Familienname, Geschlechtsname, Name
parents	Eltern
parish	Pfarrei, Kirchspiel, Gemeinde
Protestant	evangelisch, lutherisch, Protestant
Reformed	reformiert
wife	Frau, Ehegattin, Weib, Ehefrau, Hausfrau, Gattin
year	Jahr

GENERAL WORD LIST

This general word list includes words commonly seen in genealogical sources. Numbers, months, and days of the week are listed both here and in separate sections that follow this list.

In this list, optional versions of German words or variable endings are given in parentheses. Parentheses in the English column clarify the definition.

In German, some words have both a male and female form, such as:

<i>Burger</i>	male citizen
<i>Burgerin</i>	female citizen

This word list usually gives only the male form. You may find the female forms in most records.

A

ab	from, since
Abend	evening
abends	in the evening
aber	but

abgestorben	deceased
absterben	to die, to die off
acht	eight
achte	eighth
achtundzwanzigste	twenty-eighth
achtzehn	eighteen
achtzehnhundert	eighteen hundred
achtzehnte	eighteenth
achtzig	eighty
achtzigste	eightieth
Ackermann	farmer
Adel	gentry, nobleman
a.D. = außer Dienst	formerly employed, retired
adoptiert	adopted
Ahnen	ancestors
Ahnentafel	pedigree chart
Akten	documents
alle	all
allhier	in this place
alt	old
Altbürger	full citizen
Alter	age
Altersschwäche	weakness of old age
ältest	eldest
alt-katholisch	old Catholic
Amman	bailiff, magistrate
Amt	office, district
Anbauer	peasant
andere	other, next
Angeber	informant
angeblich	alleged, assumed
Anmerkungen	remarks
Anspanner	farmer
apostolisch	Apostolic
April	April
Arbeiter	laborer, worker
Archiv	archive
arm	poor

Armut	poverty
Arzt	physician
auch	also, too
auf	on, upon, at
aufbieten	post banns
Aufenthaltserlaubnis	residence permit
Aufenthaltort	residence
Aufgebot	publication of banns
August	August
aus	from, out of
außen	outside
äußere	outside, outward, external
außerehelich	illegitimate
Auswanderer	emigrant
Auswanderung	emigration
Auszehrung	consumption or emaciation (especially from TB)
Auszug	extract

B

Bäcker	baker
Bad	spa, resort
Badeort	spa, health resort
Band	volume
Baptist	Baptist
Baron	baron
Bauer	farmer, peasant
Bayern	Bavaria
Bd. = Band	volume
Beamter	official, registrar
Beck(er)	baker
beerdigt	buried
Beerdigung	burial, interment
beglaubigt	certified, attested
begraben	buried
Begräbnis	burial
Beichte	confession
beide	both

Beilage	supplement
Bekannte(r)	acquaintance
Bekehrung	conversion
Belege	proof, documentation
Bemerkungen	remarks
Berg	hill, mountain
Bergmann	miner
Beruf	occupation, profession
Beschreibung	description
Besitzer	possessor, proprietor, owner
bestätigt	confirmed, verified
bestattet	buried
bettlägerig	bedridden
Bettler	beggar
Bevölkerungsregister	population register
bevorstehend	previously mentioned
Bezirk	district
Biographie	biography
Bischof	bishop
Bistum	diocese
Blattern	smallpox
blutend	bleeding
Blütenmonat	May
Blutsverwandschaft	blood relationship
Böhmen	Bohemia
Bootsmann	bargeman, boatman
Böttcher	cooper, barrel maker
Brauer	brewer
Bräune	diphtheria
Braut	bride
Bräutigam	bridegroom
Brücke	bridge
Bruder	brother
Bub	boy
Buch	book
Büdner	cottager
Burg	castle, fortress
Bürger	burgher, citizen, citizens

Bürgerbuch	citizen register
Bürgermeister	mayor
Büttner	cooper, barrel maker

C

ca. = circa	about
Chirurg	surgeon
Christmonat	December
Colonist	settler, tenant farmer
copulieren	to marry

D

d. = der, dem, des, die, das	the
Dachdecker	roofer
dänisch	Danish
das	the
daselbst	residing in this place
Datum	date
Dekanat	deanery
dem, den	the
der	the, of the
derselbe	the same
des	of the
deutsch	German
Deutschland	Germany
Dezember	December
die	the
Diener	servant
Dienst	service, employment
Dienstag	Tuesday
Dienstmagd	servant girl

dieser	this, these
Domäne	domain
Donnerstag	Thursday
Dorf	village
dort	there
drei	three
dreißig	thirty
dreißigste	thirtieth
dreiundzwanzigste	twenty-third
dreizehn	thirteen
dreizehnte	thirteenth
ditte	third
Duplikat	duplicate record
durch	through
Durchfall	diarrhea

E

ebenda	at the same place
Ehe	marriage
Ehebrecher	adulterer
Ehebruch	adultery
Ehefrau	wife, housewife
Ehehindernis	hinderance to marriage
ehel. = ehelich	legitimate
eheleiblich	legitimate
Eheleute	married couple
ehelich	legitimate
ehemals	formerly
Ehemann	husband
Ehescheidung	divorce
Eheschließung	marriage
Ehestand	married state
Eheverkündigungen	marriage banns
Eheversprechen, Eheverspruch	betrothal, engagement
Eidam (Eidmann)	son-in-law
Eigentümer	proprietor

ein, eine	a, one, an
Einbürgerung	naturalization
Einlieger	landless farm laborer
eins	one
Einsender	informant, declarant
eintausendachthundert	eighteen hundred
eintausendfünfhundert	fifteen hundred
eintausendneunhundert	nineteen hundred
eintausendsechshundert	sixteen hundred
eintausendsiebenhundert	seventeen hundred
einunddreissig	thirty-one
einunddreissigste	thirty-first
einundzwanzigste	twenty-first
Einwanderer	immigrant
Einwanderung	immigration
Einwilligung	permission
Einwohner	inhabitant
einzig	only
Eiterbeule	abscess
elf	eleven
elfte	eleventh
Eltern	parents
Enkel	grandson
Enkelin	granddaughter
Enkelkind	grandchild
eod(em)	the same
Epilepsie	epilepsy
er	he
Erbschaft	inheritance
erhalten	received, receive
erklärt	declared
Erlassung	dispensation, permission
Ermächtigung	authorization
Ernting	August
errechnet	approximated, calculated
erschien	appeared
erste	first
erstgeboren	firstborn

ertrank, ertrunken	drowned
erzeugt	begat
es	it
evangelisch	evangelical

F

Fabrikant	manufacturer
Familie	family
Familienbuch	family register
Familienforschung	genealogical research
Familienregister	family register
Färber	dyer
Faßbinder	cooper, barrel maker
Fäule	cancer
Februar	February
Fehlgeburt	miscarriage
Festtag	feast day, festival day, holy day
Festung	fortress
Fieber	fever
Findling	foundling
Firmung	confirmation
Fischer	fisher
Fl. = Florin	standard monetary unit
Flecken	hamlet, <i>also</i> measles or spots
Fleckfieber	spotted fever, typhus
Fleischer	butcher
Fleischhauer	butcher
Flüchtling	refugee, deserter
Fluß	river
folgende	following, next
Forst	forest
Förster	forester
Fraisen	convulsions, epilepsy, seizures, spasms
Frankreich	France
Frau	Mrs., wife, woman
Fräulein	Miss, unmarried woman
Freibauer	farmer who owns his own land

Freiherr	baron
Freitag	Friday
fremd	foreign, strange
Freund	friend
Friedhof	cemetery
früh	early (a.m.)
früher	former, formerly
fünf	five
fünfte	fifth
fünfundzwanzigste	twenty-fifth
fünfzehn	fifteen
fünfzehnhundert	fifteen hundred
fünfzehnte	fifteenth
fünfzig	fifty
fünfzigste	fiftieth
für	for
Fürst	count
Fürstentum	principality

G

Gärtner	gardener
Gastwirt	innkeeper
Gatte	husband
Gattin	wife
geb. = geboren	born, maiden name
geben, gab	given, gave
Gebiet	region, area, zone
geboren	born, maiden name
Gebühren	fees
Geburt	birth
Geburtsort	place of birth
Geburtsschein	birth certificate
Geburtsurkunde	birth certificate
gegen	against, towards
geheiratet	married
gehört	belongs (to)
Geistliche(r)	clergyman

Gelbsucht	jaundice
Geld	money
Gemahl(in)	spouse, husband, wife
Gemeinde	community, municipality, parish, town
Gemeindemann	village official, village resident
Gemeindsmann	citizen with full rights
gemelli	twins
genannt	named, alias, called
Genealogie	genealogy
Gerber	tanner
Gericht	court
Gerichtsmann	juryman
Gerichtsschreiber	court clerk
Gerichtsverwandter	member of the judicial court
gesagt	said, stated
Geschichte	history
geschieden	divorced
Geschlecht	gender, sex, lineage
Geschlechterbücher	lineage books
Geschlechtsname	surname
Geschwister	siblings, brothers and sisters
Geschwulst	swelling, tumor
Geselle	journeyman
Gesellschaft	society, group
Gesetz	law
gesetzlich	legal
gest. = gestorben	died
gestern	yesterday
gestorben	died
get. = getauft	baptized, christened
Getaufte	person who was baptized
getr. = getraut	married
Getraute	married couple
Gevatter	godfather
Gewerbe	trade, occupation
Gicht	gout, arthritis
Gilde	guild
Glaube	belief, faith

Glauben	religious affiliation
gleich	same, alike, similar, right away
Graf	count (nobleman), earl
Grafschaft	county
Grenze	border
groß	big, great, large
Großeltern	grandparents
großjährig	of age
Großmutter	grandmother
Großneffe	great-nephew
Großnichte	great-niece
Großvater	grandfather
Grundbuch	land register
Gulden	standard monetary unit, florin
Gut	property, estate
gut	good

H

haben	to have
halb	half
halb drei	half three = 2:30 (time)
halb eins	half one = 12:30 (time)
halb zwei	half two = 1:30 (time)
Händler	trader, merchant, peddler
Hartung	January
Haupt-	chief, main
Haus	house
Hausfrau	housewife
Häusler	cottager
Hausmädchen	housemaid
Hebamme	midwife
Heilquelle	spa, bath
Heimat	home, native place, homeland
Heimatschein	domicile certificate
Heimatsort	place of birth, home town
Heirat	marriage
heiraten	to marry

Heiratsantrag	marriage intentions
Heiratsbelege	marriage supplements
Heiratskontrakt	marriage contracts
Heiratsprotokolle	marriage records
Heiratsschein	marriage certificate
heißt	is named
Hektar	hectare (10,000 square meters or 2.47 U.S. acres)
Heraldik	heraldry
Herkunftsort	place of origin
Herr	Mister, Lord, lord
Herrschaft	estate, dominion
Herzog	duke
Herzogtum	duchy
Hessische	Hessian
Heuerling	dayworker, hireling
Heuert, Heumonat	July
heute	today
hier	here
hiesiger Ort	this place
Hinterbliebene	survivors
hinterlassen	surviving, left behind
Hirt	herdsman
hitziges Fieber	burning fever, high fever
hoch	high
Hochzeit	wedding
Hof	courtyard, farm, yard, estate
Hofprediger	chaplain
Holländer	Dutchman, dairykeeper
Hornung	February
Hüfner	farmer
Hufschmied	blacksmith
Hügel	hill
hundert	hundred
Hurenkind	illegitimate child
Husten	cough

I

ihr	their, her
im	in the
immer	always
in	in
Inhalt	content
innerhalb	inside of
Innung	guild
Instmann	tenant farmer
ist	is

J

Jäger	hunter
Jahr	year
Jahrestag	anniversary
Jahreszeit	season
Jahrhundert	century
jährlich	annual, yearly
Jahrzehnt	decade
Jänner	January
Januar	January
jeder (jede, jedes)	each, every
Jgfr. = Jungfrau, Jungfer	maiden, virgin, unmarried woman

jüdisch	Jewish
Jugend	youth, adolescence
Juli	July
Julmonat	December
jung	young
Junge	boy, a youth
Junggeselle	bachelor
Jüngling	bachelor, young man
Juni	June

K

Kantor	choirmaster, organist
Karte	map
Kartei	card index
Käthner	cottager
katholisch	Catholic
kaufen	to buy
Kaufmann	merchant
kein	no, none
Keuchhusten	whooping cough
Kiefer	cooper, barrel maker
Kind	baby, child
Kindbettfieber	childbed fever
Kinder	children
Kirche	church
Kirchenältester	churchwarden, church elder, vestryman
Kirchenbuch	parish register
Kirchengemeinde	parish
Kirchenpfleger	churchwarden
Kirchenrodel	parish register
Kirchensprengel	parish
Kirchenvorsteher	churchwarden
kirchlich	pertaining to church
Kirchrat	member of a church council
Kirchspiel	parish
K.K. = kaiserlich	royal imperial
königlich	

klein	little, small
Knabe	boy
Knecht	servant, farmhand
Kommunikant	communicant
Kommunion	communion
Konfirmation	confirmation
König	king
königlich	royal
Königreich	kingdom
Kopulation	marriage
kopulieren	to marry
Kossät, Kossath	cottager
Kötter (Kötner)	small farmer, cottager
Krämer	grocer, small retailer
Krämpfe	cramps, convulsions
Krankheit	disease, sickness
Krebs	cancer
Kreis	county, district
Krieg	war
Küfer	cooper, barrel maker
Kuhhirte	cowherd
Kupferschmied	coppersmith
Kurort	spa, bath
Kusine	female cousin
Küster	sexton

L

Land	land, country
Landarbeiter	farmhand
Landkarte	map
Landwirt	farmer
lassen	to let, leave, allow
lebendig	living
ledig	single, unmarried
legitimiert	made legitimate, legitimized
Lehrer	teacher
Lehrling	apprentice

Leiche	corpse, body
Leichenpredigt	funeral sermon
Leinenweber	linen weaver
Lenz	spring (season)
letzte Ölung	last rites, extreme unction
letzte Salbung	last rites, extreme unction
Letzter	latter, last
letzter Wille	last will
links	left
Lungenentzündung	pneumonia
Lungenschwindsucht	consumption, tuberculosis
lutherisch	Lutheran

M

Mädchen, Mädel	girl
Magd	maiden, maid, servant girl
Mägdlein	girl
Mai	May
Maler	painter
Mann	husband, man
männlich	male
Markt	market
März	March
Masern	measles
Matrikel	register
Maurer	mason, bricklayer
Meister	master
Mennoniten	Mennonites
Metzger	butcher
Militär	military
minderjährig	underaged, minor
mit	with, via, by
Mitglied	member
Mittag	midday
mittags	at noon
Mitternacht	midnight
Mittwoch	Wednesday

Monat	month
Montag	Monday
Morgen	morning, tomorrow
Morgen (morgen)	measure of land, 0.6 to 0.9 acres
morgens	in the morning
Mühle	mill
mündlich	verbal, verbally
Mutter	mother

N

nach	to, after, according to
Nachbar	neighbor
Nachbarschaft	neighborhood
nachgelassen	surviving
Nachlaß	estate, inheritance
Nachmittag	afternoon
nachmittags	in the afternoon
nächst(e)	next
Nacht	night
Näherin	seamstress
Name	name
nat. = natus, nata	born
neben	next to
Nebenfrau	concubine
Neffe	nephew
Nervenfieber	nervous fever, typhus
neu	new
neun	nine
neunte	ninth
neunundzwanzigte	twenty-ninth
neunzehn	nineteen
neunzehnhundert	nineteen hundred
neunzehnte	nineteenth
neunzig	ninety
neunzigste	ninetieth
nicht	not
Nichte	niece

nichts	nothing
nie	never
nieder	lower
Niederländisch	Dutch
N.N. = nomen nescio	name not known
noch	still
noch lebende	still living, surviving
noch nicht	not yet
Nord	north
Notizen	notices, miscellaneous records
Nottaufe	emergency baptism
November	November
Nummer	number
nur	only

O

ober	upper, over
ober-	chief, head
oder	or
öffentlich bekanntmachen	publish, make known publicly
oft	often
Oheim	uncle
ohne	without
Oktober	October
Onkel	uncle
Ort	place, town
Ortslexikon	gazetteer
Osten	east
Osteren	April
Ostermonat	April
Ostern	Easter
Österreich	Austria
österreichisch	Austrian

P

Pächter	leaseholder
Pate	godfather
Paten	godparents
Pest	plague
Pfalz	Palatinate
Pfarramt	parish office
Pfarrbuch	parish register
Pfarrei	parish
Pfarrer	parish minister, pastor
Pflegekind	foster child
Pflegesohn	foster son
Pflegetochter	foster daughter
Platz	place (location)
Pocken	pox, smallpox
Polen	Poland
polnisch	Polish
preußisch	Prussian
Priester	priest
Prinz	prince
Prinzessin	princess
protestantisch	Protestant
Provinz	province
provinzial	provincial

R

Rathaus	city hall, town hall
Ratsherr	alderman
Ratsmann	councilman, town councilor
Rechnung	account, bill
rechtgläubig	orthodox
reformiert	reformed
Regierungsbezirk	administrative area
Register	register
Reich	empire, kingdom
relicta	widow
relictus	widower

Religion	religion
ren. = renatus, renata	baptized, christened
Rentner	retired person
Rheuma	rheumatism
Richter	judge
Rodel	register
römisch katholisch	Roman Catholic
rot	red
Rotgerber	tanner
Ruhestand	retirement
Ruhr	dysentery
russisch	Russian
Rußland	Russia

S

S. = Seite	page
s. = siehe	see the following reference
Sachsen	Saxony
Salbung	anointing
Samstag	Saturday
Satertag	Saturday
Sattler	saddler, leather worker
Schäfer	shepherd
Scharlachfieber	scarlet fever
Scheiding	September
Scheidung	divorce
Schein	certificate
Schenkungen	donations
Schlaganfall	stroke, seizure
Schlagfluß	stroke
Schloß	castle
Schlosser	locksmith
Schmied	smith
Schneider	tailor
Schreiber	scribe, clerk
Schreiner	cabinetmaker, joiner
Schuhmacher	shoemaker, cobbler

Schule	school
Schullehrer	schoolteacher
Schultheiß (Schulze)	village mayor, head of town council
Schuster	shoemaker, cobbler
Schwäche	weakness
Schwager	brother-in-law
Schwägerin	sister-in-law
schwanger	pregnant
schwarz	black
Schweiz	Switzerland
Schweizer	Swiss; <i>also</i> a dairyman
Schwester	sister
Schwiegermutter	mother-in-law
Schwiegersohn	son-in-law
Schwiegertochter	daughter-in-law
Schwiegervater	father-in-law
Schwindsucht	consumption
S.d. = Sohn des, der	son of
sechs	six
sechste	sixth
sechszwanzig	twenty-six
sechszwanzigste	twenty-sixth
sechshundert	sixteen hundred
sechzehn	sixteen
sechzehnte	sixteenth
sechzig	sixty
sechzigste	sixtieth
See	lake
Seelen	souls
Seelenregister	church membership list
Seemann	sailor
Seifensieder	soap maker
Seiler	rope maker
sein	to be; his
seit	since
Seite	page
selige	(the) late, blessed
September	September

sich	himself, herself, itself
sie	she, they
Sie	you
sieben	seven
siebente	seventh
siebenundzwanzigste	twenty-seventh
siebte	seventh
siebzehn	seventeen
siebzehnhundert	seventeen hundred
siebzehnte	seventeenth
siebzig	seventy
siebzigste	seventieth
Sieder	soap maker
siehe	see
Sigrist	sexton
sind	are
so	as, so, thus, such
Sohn	son
Söhnlein (Söhnchen)	young son
Soldat	soldier
sollen	should
Sonnabend	Saturday
Sonntag	Sunday
spät	late (p.m.)
spur. = spurius, spuria	illegitimate
Staat	state
Staatsangehörigkeit	citizenship, nationality
Staatsarchiv	state archives
Stadt	city
Stammbaum	family tree, pedigree
Stand	occupation, status, condition
Standesamt	civil registrar's office
starb	died
stellen	place, put, impose
Stellmacher	wheelwright
Sterbefälle	deaths
sterben	to die

Steuer	tax
Stickfluß	asthma
Stiefbruder	half brother, stepbrother
Stiefkind	stepchild
Stiefmutter	stepmother
Stiefschwester	half sister, stepsister
Stiefvater	stepfather
Stillgeburt	stillbirth
Straße	street
Stunde	hour
Sucht	sickness, mania, rage
Süden	south
S.v. = Sohn von	son of

T

T.d. = Tochter des, der	daughter of
T.v. = Tochter von	daughter of
Tabelle	index, table
Tag	day
Tagelöhner	day laborer
Tagner	day laborer
Tal	valley
Tante	aunt
Taufe	baptism
taufen	to baptize
Taufpaten	godparents
Taufschein	baptismal certificate
tausend	thousand
Testament	will
Tischler	cabinetmaker, furniture maker
Tochter	daughter
Töchterchen	young daughter
Töchterlein	young daughter
Tochtermann	son-in-law
Tod	death
Todesart	manner of death

Töpfer	potter
tot	dead
Totengräber	grave digger
totgeboren	stillborn
Trauung	marriage
Trennung	separation, divorce
tschechisch	Czech
Tschechoslowakai	Czechoslovakia
Tuberkulose	tuberculosis
Tuchmacher	cloth maker, draper
Tumor	tumor

U

über	about, concerning, over
u.d. = und des, und der	and of
Uhr	o'clock, clock, watch
um	at, about, around, concerning
unbekannt	unknown
und	and
und der	and of
und des	and of
unehelich	illegitimate
ungarisch	Hungarian
Ungarn	Hungary
ungefähr	about, circa, approximately
uns	us
unter	under, lower
Unterrichter	judge
Unterschrieben	signed
Unterschrift	signature
Unterzeichnete	the undersigned
unverheiratet	unmarried
Urenkelkind	great-grandchild
Urgroßmutter	great-grandmother
Urgroßvater	great-grandfather
Urkunde	record, document

Ururgroßmutter	great-great-grandmother
Ururgroßvater	great-great-grandfather
ux. = uxor	wife

V

Vater	father
verehelicht	married
Verehelichung	marriage
vergangen	past
vergraben	buried
verh. = verheiratet	married
Verkäufer	seller, vendor
verl. = verlobt	engaged
verlebte	deceased
verloben, sich	to become engaged
Verlobte	fiancée
Verlobter	fiancé
Verlobung	betrothal, engagement
Vermieter	landlord, lessor
Vermögen	estate, assets
Verpächter	landlord, lessor
verrichtet	performed
verschiedene	various
Verstopfung	constipation
verstorben	deceased, defunct
Verstorbene	the deceased
Verwaltung	administration
Verwandten	relatives
Verwandtschaft	relationship
verwitwet	widowed
Verzeichnis	register, list, index
Vetter	male cousin
vid. = viduus, vidua	widower, widow
vielleicht	perhaps, maybe
vier	four
vierte	fourth
vierundzwanzigste	twenty-fourth

vierzehn	fourteen
vierzehnte	fourteenth
vierzig	forty
vierzigste	fortieth
Vo(i)gt	steward, overseer
Volkszählung	census
volljährig	of age, of legal age
vollzogen	performed
von	of, from, by
vor	before; ago
vorherig	previous, preceding
vorheriger Tag	the previous day
vorläufig	for the time being
vormals	formerly
Vormittags	in the morning
Vormund	guardian
Vorname	given name
Vorstadt	suburbs, outskirts of town

W

Wagner	cartwright
Waise	orphan
Wald	forest, woods
wann	when
Wappen	coat of arms
Wappenkunde	heraldry
war	was
waren	were
warum	why
was	what
Wassersucht	dropsy, edema
Weber	weaver
Weduwe	widow
wegen	because of
Wehmutter	midwife
Weib	wife, woman
weiblich	female

weiland	deceased
Weiland	the deceased
Weiler	hamlet
weiß	white
Weißgerber	tanner
welche	which
wer	who
werden	to become
West	west
weyland	deceased
wie	how
Windpocken	chicken pox
Wintermonat	November
Wirt(h)	innkeeper
Wittib	widow
Wittiber	widower
Witwe	widow
Witwer	widower
wo	where
Woche	week
Wochenbett	childbed
woher	from where
wohnen	to live, residing
Wohnort	place of residence
Wohnplatz	place of residence
Wohnung	domicile, residence
wollen	to want
Wonnemonat	May
Wörterbuch	dictionary
wurde geboren	was born
wurde getauft	was baptized
würdig	worthy
Wwe. = Witwe	widow
Wwer. = Witwer	widower

X

Xber (Xbris)	December
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Z

zählen	to count
Zahnkrämpfe	teething
Zahnung	teething
zehn	ten
Zehnt(en)buch	tithing book
zehnte	tenth
Zehnten	tithes
zehrendes Fieber	consumptive fever
Zehrung	consumption
Zeit	time
Zeuge	witness
Ziegler	brick maker
Zimmermann	carpenter
Zivilstandsamt	civil registrar's office
Zöllner	publican, tax collector
zu Hause	at home
Zukunft	future
Zuname	surname, last name
zusammen	together
zwanzig	twenty
zwanzigste	twentieth
zwei	two
zweihundert	two hundred
zweitausend	two thousand
zweite	second
zweiundzwanzigste	twenty-second
Zwilling(e)	twin, twins
zwischen	between
zwölf	twelve
Zwölfer	member of a council
zwölfte	twelfth

THE GOTHIC ALPHABET
(CAPITAL LETTERS)

A. B. C. D. E. F.

A B C D E F

G. H. I. J. K. L.

G H I J K L

M. N. O. P. Q. R.

M N O P Q R

S. T. U. V. X. Y. Z.

S T U V X Y Z

AE. Ø. Aa. Sk. St.

AE Ø Aa Sk St

The Gothic Alphabet
small letters

a. b. c. d. e. f. g. h.

a b c d e f g h

i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p.

i j k l m n o p

q. r. s. t. u. v. x. y.

q r s t u v x y

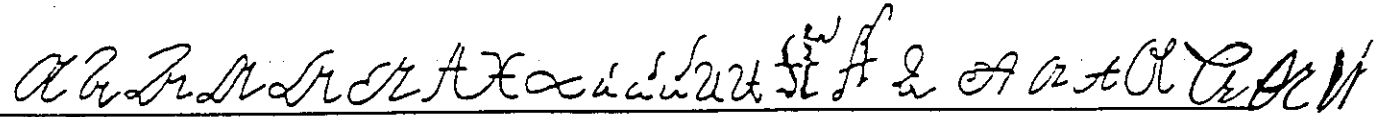
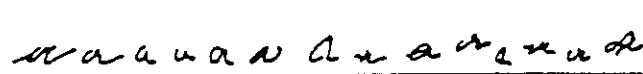
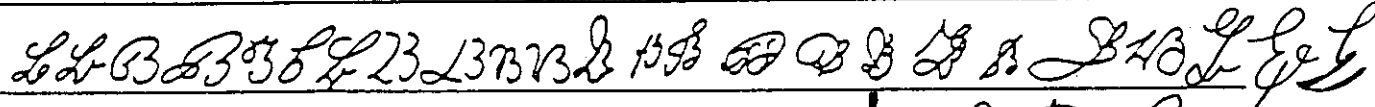
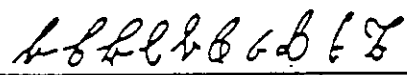
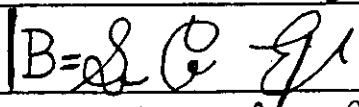

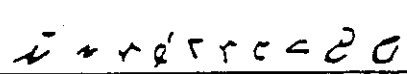
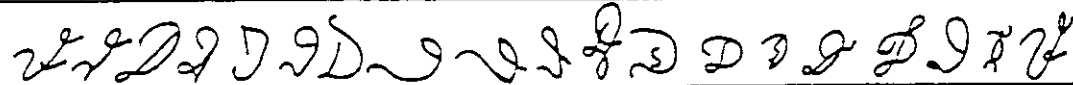
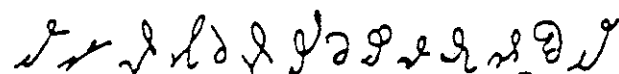
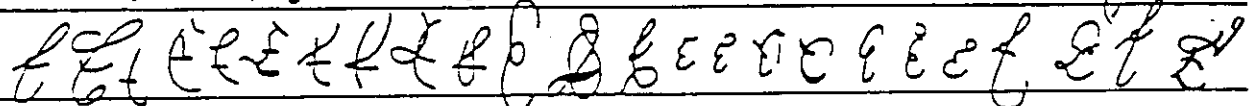
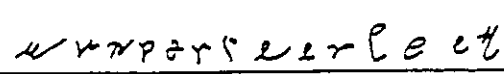
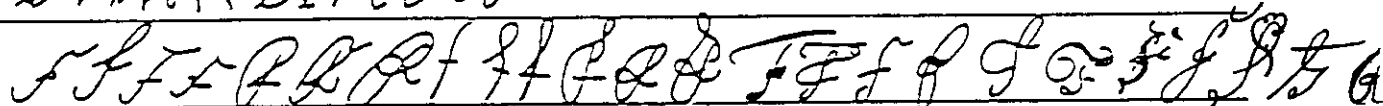
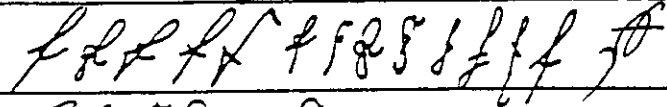
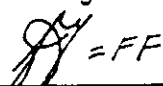
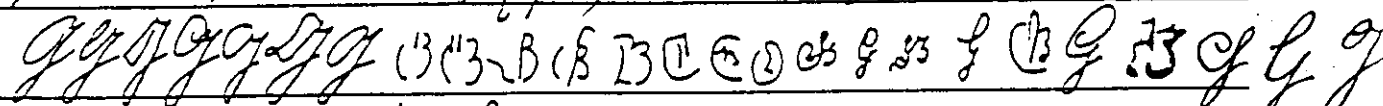
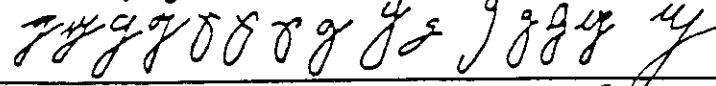
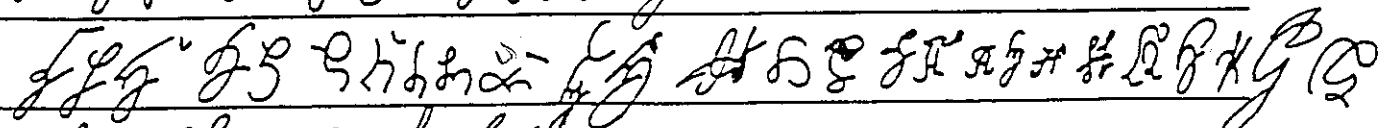
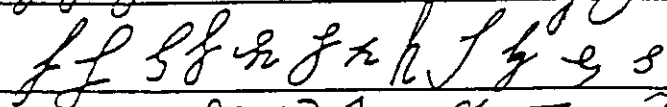
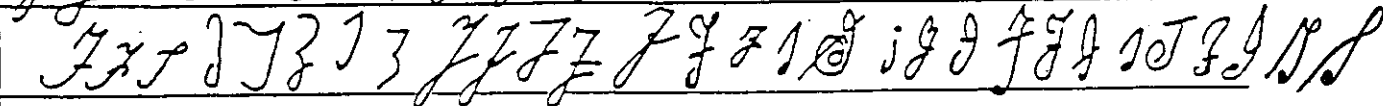
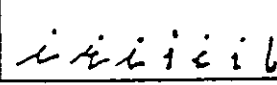
z. ae. ö. aa.

z ae ö aa

sk. st.

sk st


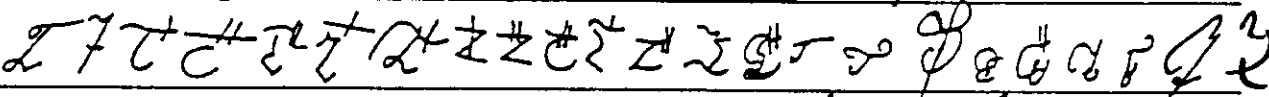
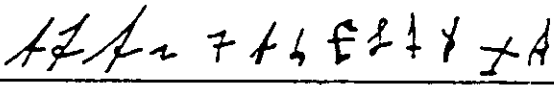
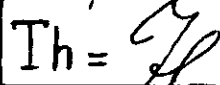
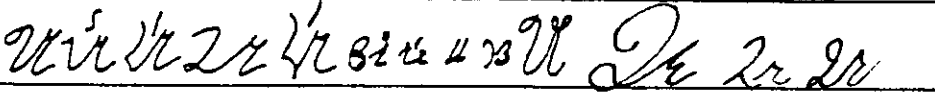
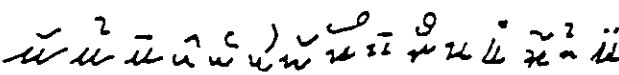
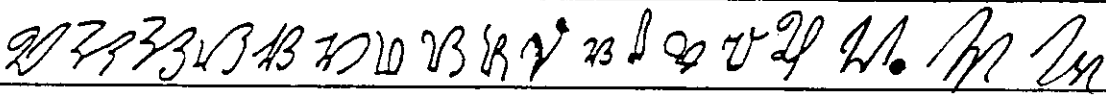
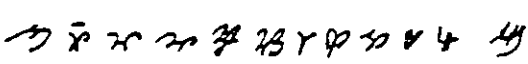
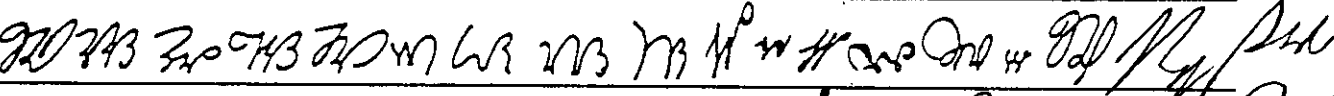
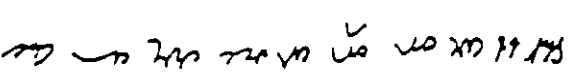


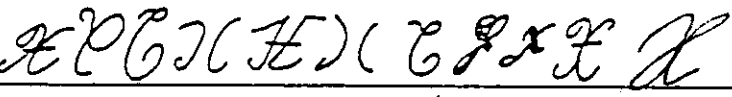
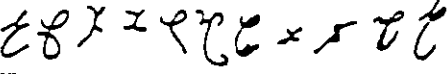
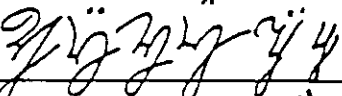
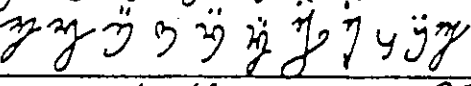
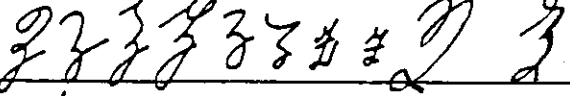
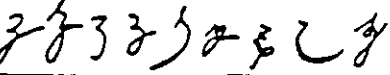
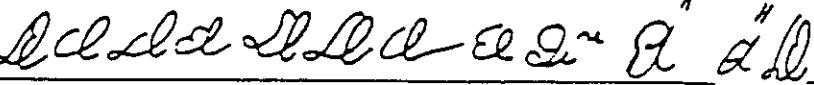
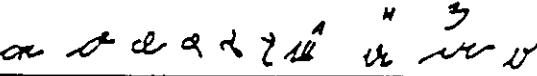
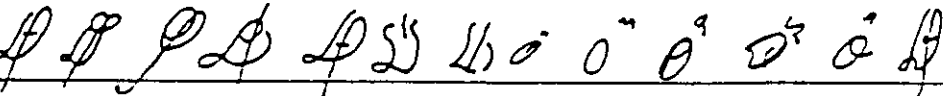
The Gothic Alphabet
(Variations)

A	
a	
B	
b	 B = 
C	
c	
D	
d	
E	
e	
F	
f	 F = 
G	
g	
H	
h	
IJ	
i	

I = 

J = 

The Gothic Alphabet
(Variations)

s	
T	
t	| Th = 
U	
u	
V	
v	
W	
w	| W =  
X	
x	
Y	
y	
Z	
z	
AE	
æ	
o	

Examples of early or dialect spellings found in German parish registers compared with modern spelling:

<u>Spelling in parish registers:</u>	<u>Modern spelling:</u>	<u>English:</u>
abgefördert	begraben	buried
absterben	sterben	to die
Altersschweche	Altersschwäche	weakness of old age
Amptman	Amtmann	official
bede	beide	both
bedi	beide	both
Beck, Bek	Bäcker	baker
beyde, beydi	beide	both
Brodtbek	Brotbäcker	bread baker
Brut	Braut	bride
Bueb, Buob	Knabe, Junge	boy
Chilchenpflager	Kirchenpfleger	church warden
Chile	Kirche	church
Chirche	Kirche	church
chli, chlin	klein	little
Chli Hans	Klein Hans	Little Johnny
Cospar	Kaspar	Casper
Davit	David	David
Dochter	Tochter	daughter
drey	drei	three
drü	drei	three
Ee	Ehe	marriage
eelich	ehelich	legitimate
Eeleüth, Eelüth	Eheleute	married couple
Eheweib, Eheweyb	Ehefrau, Frau	wife
Eiehumb, Eyehumb	Eigentum	property, ownership
erboren	geboren	born
Feldweibel	Feldwebel	sergeant
Feltwebel	Feldwebel	sergeant
feuf	fünf	five
Frauw, Fraw, Frouw	Frau	Mrs., wife, woman
frey	frei	free
freyledig	freiledig	single
Freylein, Frölein	Fräulein	Miss, young woman
Froo	Frau	Mrs., wife, woman
gebohren, geporen	geboren	born
Gfattern	Gevattern	godparents
genampt	gennant	named, called, alias
getaufft, getoufft	getauft	baptized
gewessen	gewesen	been, has been, was
gheirate, gheuratet, ghuratet	gheiratet	married
Graffschaft, Graffschafft	Grafschaft	county
gsi, gsin, gsein	gewesen	been, has been, was
Gvattern, Gvatteren	Gvattern	godparents
Haussfrau, Haussfrau, Haussfrow	Hausfrau	wife
Herpstmonath	Herbstmonat	September
Heurath, Heyrath	Heirat	marriage
hie	hier	here, local, at this place

Spelling in parish registers:Modern spelling:English:

hieselbst	hierselbst	here, in this very place
Hilchenpfläger	Kirchenpfleger	church warden
Hindersass, Hindersess	Hintersass	small farmer, settler
Hochzeyt	Hochzeit	marriage, wedding
Holt	Holz	wood, forest
Hotlzhauwer	Holzhauer	woodcutter
Huss	Haus	house
Hussfrow	Hausfrau	wife
Inwohner	Einwohner	inhabitant, person who owns no property
Jungfer	Jungfrau	virgin, unmarried woman
Kirchler	Küchler	baker
Kilche	Kirche	church
Kint	Kind	child
Knächt	Knecht	servant; knight
lediges Kind	uneheliches Kind	illegitimate child
Magt	Magd	maid, maiden, female servant
Maitschi	Mädchen	girl
Mertz, Merz	März	March (the month)
Mihle	Mühle	mill
Mihler, Miller, Möller, Mühler	Müller	miller
Mülle	Mähle	mill
Myller	Müller	miller
Nachtwechter, Nachtwöchter	Nachtwächter	night watchman
Nahme	Name	name
Number	Nummer	number
Pauer	Bauer	peasant, farmer
Peter, Petter	Pate	godfather
Peterin, Petterin	Patin	godmother
Pfefferkichler	Pfefferküchler	gingerbread baker
Pur	Bauer	peasant, farmer
Relion	Religion	religion
Seckelmeister	Säckelmeister	treasurer, bagmaker
Schnider	Schneider	tailor
Schweche	Schwäche	weakness
seindt	sind	are, were, have, had
Son, Sun	Sohn	son
Suntag, Suntig	Sonntag	Sunday
Tagelehner	Tagelöhner	daily laborer
Thal	Tal	valley
Thochter	Tochter	daughter
uff	auf	on, on the, upon, at
Uhrlauber	Urlauber	a person on vacation
us, uss	aus	out, out of, from
wälsch	welsch	foreign
ward	wurde	was
Weibel	Webel	sergeant
weyland	weiland	deceased
Wolffmonath	Wolfmonat, Dezember	December
Wymonat	Weinmonat, Oktober	October
Ynsegnung	Einsegnung	consecration (usually of a marriage)

Spelling in parish registers:

Zeyt
Zieschtig, Ziestag, Zinstig
Zimmerman
Zit
zwey
zwoa
Zwyling

Modern spelling:

Zeit
Dienstag
Zimmermann
Zeit
zwei
zwei
Zwilling

English:

time
Tuesday
carpenter
time
two
two
twin

SOME GIVEN NAMES FOUND IN GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS

Abbreviations: f=feminine, m=male, mf=can be male or female

--A--

Aaltje f	Adelgund f	Ago m	Alfred m	Amadeus m
Aanken f	Adelgunde f	Aigolf m	Alfredina f	Amalberga f
Aaron m	Adelhard m	Aigulf m	Alfreid m	Amalbert m
Abbo m	Adelheid f	Ailbert m	Alfrieda f	Amalberta f
Abel m	Adelhelm m	Aile f	Alfrun f	Amalburga f
Abelka f	Adelhild f	Aimé f	Alhard m	Amalfried m
Abelke f	Adelhilde f	Aimée f	Alheid f	Amalfrieda f
Abigail f	Adeli f	Ainers m	Alheit f	Amalgund f
Abo m	Adeline f	Alard m	Alida f	Amalgunde f
Abraham m	Adeline f	Alban m	Alina f	Amalgundus m
Abram m	Adelmann m	Albana f	Aline f	Amalhilde f
Absalom m	Adelmar m	Alberich m	Alinde f	Amalia f
Achill m	Adelmut f	Albero m	Alix f	Amalie f
Achim m	Adelmute f	Albert m	Alja f	Amalrich m
Achmed m	Adelmoda f	Alberta f	Alke f	Amanda f
Ada f	Adelrich m	Albertina f	Alkje f	Amandus m
Adaibald m	Adelrun f	Albin m	Alma f	Amarante f
Adalbero m	Adelrune f	Alboin m	Almansor m	Amara f
Adalbert m	Adeltraud f	Albrand m	Almar m	Amatus m
Adalberta f	Adeltrud f	Albrecht m	Almarich m	Ambros m
Adalbold m	Adelwin m	Albrun f	Almerich m	Ambrosius m
Adalbrand m	Adhelm m	Albruna f	Almod f	Amédé m
Adalbrecht m	Adina f	Albuin m	Almoda f	Amelfried m
Adalfried m	Ado m	Albwin m	Almudis f	Amelfrieda f
Adalger m	Adolar m	Aldebrand m	Almut f	Amelie f
Adalhard m	Adolf m	Aldeger m	Almute f	Amelrich m
Adalhelm m	Adolfa f	Aldegund f	Almuth f	Amelung m
Adalmann m	Adolfina f	Aldegunde f	Alois m	Amilia f
Adalmar m	Adolfine f	Aldemar m	Aloisius m	Amilius m
Adalrich m	Adolph m	Alderich m	Aloisia f	Amöna f
Adalwin m	Adrian m	Aldhelm m	Aloys m	Amos m
Adalwolf m	Adriane f	Aldiger m	Aloysius m	Amrei f
Adalwulf m	Adrion m	Aldo m	Alphart m	Anastasia f
Adam m	Aegidius m	Aldrich m	Alrun	Anastasius m
Adda f	Aegidus m	Alebrand m	Alruna f	Anatol m
Addo m	Afra f	Aleide f	Altfried m	Andel f
Ade f	Agatha f	Aleit f	Altfrieda f	Anderes m
Adela f	Agathe f	Alena f	Altraud f	Anders m
Adelaide f	Ägid m	Aletta f	Altrud f	Andolf m
Adelar m	Ägidius m	Alette f	Alveradis m	André m
Adelberga f	Agilbert m	Alexander m	Alvin m	Andrea f
Adelbert m	Agilhard m	Alexandra f	Alwara f	Andreas m
Adleberta f	Agilo m	Alexandrine f	Alwarin m	Andrée f
Adelbrand m	Agilolf m	Alexis m	Alwin m	Andres m
Adelbrecht m	Agilulf m	Alexius m	Alwine m	Angela f
Adelburg f	Agilwart m	Alf m	Alwina m	Angelbert m
Adelburga f	Agimar m	Alfons m	Amabilia f	Angelike f
Adele f	Agimund m	Alfonsa f	Amabilius m	Angelina f
Adelger m	Agnes f	Alfonsine f	Amadea f	Angelus m

Angilbert m	Armin m	Badurad m	Beatus m	Bertolf m
Anita f	Arminius m	Badurich m	Bechtel m	Bertrada f
Anke f	Arnfrieda f	Badwin m	Becke f	Bertram m
Anna f	Arnd m	Bahnes m	Beda f	Bertrand m
Ännchen f	Arndt m	Balazs m	Bedus m	Bertrun f
Anne f	Arne mf	Balbina f	Beh m	Bertrune f
Änne f	Arnfried m	Balbinus m	Bela f	Bertsch m
Annele f	Arnfriede f	Balda f	Béla m	Bertschi m
Annelene f	Arno m	Baldebert m	Bele f	Bert m
Anneli f	Arnold m	Baldegund f	Bella f	Bertus m
Anneliese f	Arnolda f	Baldegunde f	Bendicht m	Bertulf m
Annemarei f	Arnolde f	Balder m	Benedict m	Bess f
Annemarie f	Arnolf m	Balderich m	Benedikt m	Bethli f
Annemie f	Arnost m	Balduin m	Benedikta f	Betti f
Annerle f	Arntrauf f	Baldur m	Beneke m	Bettina f
Annetraud f	Arnulf m	Baldus m	Benigna f	Bibiana f
Annette f	Arthur m	Baldwin m	Benignus m	Bilhildis f
Annina f	Artur m	Baldwina f	Benjamin m	Biligrim m
Annli f	Arwed m	Baleke m	Benno m	Billfried m
Anno m	Asam m	Balko m	Beowulf m	Billhard m
Annunziata f	Aschwin m	Baltfried m	Beppa f	Billhild f
Annus m	Aser m	Balthasar m	Beppo m	Billo m
Ansald m	Asgard f	Baltram m	Berald m	Billung m
Ansatt m	Asmus m	Bälzel m	Beralda f	Bilterolf m
Ansbert m	Asser m	Bäni m	Berbe f	Bine f
Anselma f	Assmann m	Bandulf m	Berchtold m	Binke f
Ansfried m	Astrid f	Baptista mf	Berengar m	Birk m
Ansgar m	Athalia f	Barbara f	Berlind f	Biterolf m
Ansgard f	Athanasius m	Barbel f	Berlinde f	Blanche f
Anshelm m	Atta m	Barbeli f	Bernald m	Blanda f
Anstadt m	Attila m	Bardo m	Bernd m	Blandine f
Answald m	Aubel m	Bardolf m	Bernhard m	Blanka f
Answalt m	Aubert m	Bardulf m	Bernhardine f	Blasi m
Antal m	Audomar m	Barnabas m	Bernhelm m	Blasius m
Antje f	August m	Barnard m	Berher m	Blidger m
Antoinette f	Augusta f	Barnd m	Bernhild f	Blidhilde f
Anton m	Auguste f	Barteka f	Bernhold m	Bodbert m
Antonella f	Augustin m	Barthel m	Bernold m	Bodmar m
Antonia f	Augustine f	Barthlime m	Bernulf m	Bodo m
Antonius m	Aurel m	Barthold m	Bernward m	Bodomar m
Apollo m	Aurelia f	Bartholomäus m	Berwig m	Bodowin m
Apollonia f	Aurelius m	Bartle m	Bero m	Bodwin m
Apollonius m	Axel m	Bartli m	Bert m	Boëmund m
Arabella f	Ayl f	Bärwald m	Berta f	Bogdan m
Arbo m	Azzo m	Baschi m	Bertalam m	Bogislaw m
Arbogast m	--B--	Baschion m	Bertel mf	Boi m
Archibald m		Basil m	Bertfried m	Boie m
Arend m	Bäbe f	Basilius m	Bertha f	Boje m
Ariadne f	Babel f	Basti m	Berthild f	Bolesaw m
Ariane f	Babeli f	Bastian m	Berthilde f	Bolte m
Aribert m	Babett f	Bathilde f	Berthold m	Bona f
Aristid m	Babette f	Batt m	Bertholda f	Bonaventura m
Arlette f	Bado m	Beat m	Berti m	Bonifacius m
Armand m	Badobert m	Beata f	Bertine f	Bonifatius m
Armgard f	Badolf m	Beate f	Berto m	Bonifaz m
		Beatrix f	Bertold m	Boppo m

Borbala f	Carel m	Cissi f	Cuonrat m	Desiré m
Borg m	Carelus m	Cita f	Cyprian m	Desirée f
Borghard m	Carissima f	Claar m	Cyriacm	Detlef m
Boris m	Carissimus m	Claara f	Cyrill m	Detlev m
Bork m	Carita f	Claas m		Detmar m
Börries m	Carla f	Claasus m	--D--	Detmarus m
Bosse m	Carmen f	Clara f		Detwin m
Bosso m	Carola f	Clarissa f	Dädalus m	Dewald
Boto m	Carolina f	Clarissus m	Daem m	Dewes m
Botwin m	Carolus m	Claud m	Dag m	Dewis m
Boy m	Carsten m	Clauda f	Dagmar f	Diana f
Bozena f	Caspar m	Claude mf	Dagmara f	Diane f
Brand m	Casparus m	Claudia f	Dagobert m	Dias m
Brandolf m	Casper m	Claudius m	Dagobertus m	Didda f
Brecht m	Casperle m	Claus m	Dagomar m	Diebald m
Brechtel m	Casperli m	Clausius m	Damaris f	Diemo m
Brentano m	Catharina f	Clelia f	Damion m	Diemut f
Briectius m	Cathri f	Clemens m	Damionus m	Dierk m
Brigitte f	Cathrina f	Clement m	Daniel m	Dies m
Broder m	Cella f	Clementia f	Daniella f	Dieta f
Brun m	Cellus m	Clementius m	Dankmar m	Dietbald m
Brunger m	Charlemagne m	Clemenzen m	Dankrad m	Dietberga f
Brunhard m	Charles m	Cleopha f	Dankward m	Dietbert m
Brunhild f	Charlotte f	Cleophas m	Dankwart m	Dietberta f
Brunhilde f	Childerich m	Cleophea f	Daphne f	Dietbertus m
Bruni f	Chlodwig m	Clewy m	Daria f	Dietbold m
Bruno m	Chlothilda f	Clöwy m	Darius m	Dietbrand m
Brunold m	Chlothilde f	Cölestin m	David m	Dietburga f
Brunolf m	Chrimhilda f	Cölestine f	Davida f	Dietcher m
Bruntje f	Chrischona f	Coletta f	Debald m	Dietegen m
Brunwald m	Christa f	Coletus m	Debaldus m	Dietegenus m
Brutus m	Christel mf	Coloman m	Deborah f	Dieter m
Burchard m	Christen m	Concordia f	Deddo m	Dietfried m
Burchkardt m	Christfried m	Concordius m	Dedon m	Dietgard f
Burga f	Christhild f	Conrad m	Dedonus m	Dietger m
Burgel f	Christian m	Conradus m	Dedo m	Dietgrim m
Burghilde f	Christiana f	Constantia f	Dedolph m	Diethard m
Burgl f	Christiane f	Constantius m	Dedolphus m	Dietharda f
Burkhard m	Christina f	Constantin m	Degen m	Diethelm m
Burki m	Christine f	Constantina f	Degenhard m	Diether m
Busse m	Christlieb m	Contz m	Dehmel m	Diethild f
Busso m	Christlieba f	Cordelia f	Deike f	Diethilde f
	Christliebe f	Cordula f	Dela f	Dietleib m
--C--	Christoffel m	Corinna f	Delf m	Dietlind f
	Christoffer m	Cornel m	Delia f	Dietlinde f
Cäcilia f	Christoph m	Cornelia f	Delilah f	Dietmar m
Cäcilie	Christopher m	Cornelius m	Delus m	Dietmut f
Cäcilius m	Christophorus m	Cornell f	Demes m	Dietmute f
Cajetan m	Chrysantha f	Crescentia f	Demeter m	Dietolf m
Camilla f	Chrysanthus m	Creszentia f	Demeterus m	Dietram m
Camillas m	Chunrad(t) m	Crispian m	Demetrius m	Dietrich m
Candia f	Cilla f	Crispianus m	Deno m	Dietrun f
Candid m	Cilli f	Crispin m	Derek m	Dietrune f
Candida f	Cillus m	Cunegonde f	Derk m	Dietwald m
Candidus m	Ciprian m	Cunegunda f	Derkus m	Dietward m
Canisius m	Ciprianus m	Cunegunde f	Desideria f	Dietwin m
Carda f	Cipriana f	Cuntz m	Desiderius m	Dietz m

Dilia f	Eberharde f	Egida f	Eleonore f	Engel mf
Dina f	Eberhart m	Egidius m	Elert m	Engelberga f
Diogenes m	Eberhelm m	Egidy m	Elfrieda f	Engelbert m
Dionis	Eberhild f	Egil m	Elfriede f	Engelberta f
Dionisius m	Eberhilde f	Egilbert m	Elfrun f	Engelbrecht m
Dionys m	Ebermund m	Egill m	Elga f	Engelburga f
Dionysius m	Ebernand m	Egilo m	Elger m	Engelfried m
Diotima f	Eberolf m	Egilolf m	Elgerius m	Engelger m
Dirk m	Eberta f	Eginald m	Elgerus m	Engelhard m
Dittmar m	Ebertine f	Eginhard m	Elias m	Engelmar m
Dittmer m	Eberwin m	Egino m	Elig m	Engelmund m
Dold m	Eberwolf m	Eginolf m	Eligius m	Engelradis f
Dolf m	Eberwulf m	Egla f	Elisa f	Engeltrud f
Dominika f	Ebo m	Egle f	Elisabeth f	Enno m
Dominikus m	Eckart m	Egloff m	Elisabetha f	Ennus m
Domitiana f	Eckbert m	Egmont m	Elisabethe f	Enoch m
Domitianus m	Eckbrecht m	Egmund m	Elise f	Ephersina f
Donata f	Eckehard m	Egolf m	Elke f	Epheryn f
Donatina f	Eckehart m	Egon m	Elko m	Ephraim m
Donat m	Eckewart m	Egulf m	Ella f	Eppo m
Dora f	Eckhard m	Ehler m	Elle f	Erasmus m
Dorel f	Eckhart m	Ehlert m	Ellen f	Erdmann m
Dorina f	Edda f	Ehlertus m	Ellinor f	Erdmute f
Dorinus m	Eddo m	Ehm m	Elmar m	Erdmuthe f
Doris f	Edbert m	Ehregott m	Elmer m	Eremund m
Doritt f	Edbertus m	Ehrenbert m	Elmo m	Erhard m
Dorle f	Edberta f	Ehrenfried m	Elsa f	Eric m
Dorma f	Edel f	Ehrengard f	Elsabe f	Erich m
Dormus m	Edelbert m	Ehrenreich m	Elsbe f	Erik m
Dorothe f	Edelberta f	Ehrentraud f	Elsbeth f	Erika f
Dorothea f	Edelburg f	Ehrentrud f	Else f	Erk m
Dorothee f	Edelburga f	Ehrhard m	Elseke f	Erken m
Dorte f	Edelgard f	Eigel m	Elsi f	Erkenbald m
Dortel f	Edelmann m	Eike mf	Elvira f	Erkenbert m
Dorthe f	Edeltraud f	Eilard m	Elvirus m	Erkenfried m
Dortje f	Edeltrud f	Eilbert m	Elwina f	Erkengard f
Dragomira f	Edgar m	Eilemann m	Elwine f	Erkenger m
Dragomirus m	Edith f	Eilenmann m	Elwinus m	Erkenhild f
Drewes m	Editha f	Eilert m	Emanuel m	Erkentraud f
Dries m	Edmund m	Eilfried m	Emelrich m	Erkentrud f
Drutwin m	Edna f	Eilhard m	Emerentia f	Erkenwald m
Dubislau m	Edo m	Eilika f	Emerentiana f	Erla f
Dubislaw m	Eduard m	Eiliko m	Emerich m	Erlebald m
Durs m	Edwin m	Eilmar m	Emil m	Erlefried m
Dürte f	Edwina f	Eilward m	Emilia f	Erlenfried m
Dürten f	Edwine f	Eilwart m	Emilie f	Erlewin m
--E--	Effersina f	Einar m	Emma f	Erlfried m
	Effraim m	Einer m	Emmeline f	Erlfriede f
	Efraim m	Eitel m	Emmeram m	Erlgard f
Ebba f	Egbert m	Eitelmann m	Emmeramus m	Erlwin m
Ebbo m	Egberta f	Ekkehard m	Emmerich m	Erlwine f
Eber m	Egbrecht m	Elard m	Emmi f	Erma f
Ebergard f	Egfried m	Elbert m	Emmo m	Ermanreich m
Ebergund f	Egfrieda f	Elberta f	Emund m	Ermanrich m
Ebergunde f	Egge m	Elena f	Enders m	Ermbert m
Eberhard m	Eggo m	Eleonora f	Endres m	Ermenbert m

Ermenfried m	Eustachius m	Felizia f	Folkmar m	Friedel mf
Ermengard f	Eutychia f	Felizitas f	Folko m	Friedelind f
Ermenhard m	Eutychius m	Feodor m	Fortuna f	Friedelinde f
Ermenhild f	Eva f	Feodora f	Fortunat m	Friedemann m
Ermenrich m	Evamaria f	Ferdinand m	Fortunata f	Friedemar m
Ermentraud f	Eve f	Ferdinande f	Frank m	Friedemund m
Ermentrud f	Eveline f	Ferdl m	Franka f	Frieder m
Ermengard f	Evelyn f	Ferenc m	Franko m	Friederich m
Ermingard f	Ewald m	Ferencz m	Frankobert m	Friederike f
Erminold f	Ewart m	Ferfried m	Franz m	Friederun f
Ermlinde f	Exechiel m	Ferhild f	Fränze f	Friedes m
Erntraud f	Ezechiel m	Fermund	Fränzel f	Friedewald m
Erntrud f	Ezeckiel m	Festus m	Franzine f	Friedger
Erna f	Ezra m	Fick m	Franziska m	Friedhelm m
Ernesta f	Ezzo m	Fickus m	Franziskus m	Friedhild f
Ernesto m	Ezzus m	Fida f	Frauke f	Friedhilde f
Ernfriede f		Fidel m	Fred m	Friedli m
Erno m	--F--	Fidelis m	Freda f	Friedlieb m
Ernst m		Fides f	Fredegund f	Friedmann m
Erntruda f	Fabia f	Fieke f	Fredegunde f	Friedmar m
Erntrude f	Fabian m	Fiene f	Frederich m	Friedmund m
Erwin m	Fabiane f	Fiete m	Frederik m	Friedolin m
Erwine f	Fabius m	Filibert m	Fredrich m	Friedrich m
Erzsébet f	Falk m	Filiberta f	Freia f	Friedrun f
Esaias m	Falke m	Filipp m	Frein m	Friedwald m
Esmerelda f	Falko m	Filippo m	Freins m	Frieso m
Esra m	Falstaff m	Fina f	Frek m	Frigga f
Estella f	Fanchon f	Finni f	Fren f	Frigge f
Ester f	Fanni f	Fintan m	Frene f	Friso m
Esther f	Farahilda f	Fips m	Freni f	Frithjof m
Estrella f	Farahilde f	Firma f	Frenne f	Fritz m
Etelka f	Faramund m	Firmin m	Frerich m	Frodebert m
Ethelbert m	Farfried m	Firmus m	Frerk m	Frodegard f
Etta f	Farhild f	Fita f	Freya f	Frodehild f
Etzel m	Farkas m	Flavia f	Freych m	Frodemund m
Eucharius m	Farmund m	Flavius m	Freyr m	Frodewald m
Eudoxia f	Fasolt m	Fleur f	Fricka f	Frodewin m
Eifrpsoma f	Fasther m	Flora f	Frida f	Frogard f
Eugen m	Fastolf m	Florens m	Fridericus m	Frohild f
Eugenia f	Fastrad m	Florentin m	Friderun f	Frommhold m
Eugenie f	Fastrada f	Florentine f	Fridle m	Fromund m
Eulalia f	Fastradius m	Florentius m	Fridli m	Fromut mf
Euphemia f	Fastradus m	Florenz m	Fridolin m	Fronegg f
Euphemius m	Faust m	Florenze f	Fridolina f	Froni f
Euphrasia f	Fausta f	Florian m	Fridoline f	Fröni f
Euphrasina f	Faustina f	Floriane f	Fried m	Frowein m
Euphrosina f	Faustinus m	Flotin m	Frieda f	Frowin m
Euphrosyne f	Faustus m	Fock m	Friedbald m	Fulbert m
Euripides m	Feddo m	Focke m	Friedbert m	Fulberta f
Euryantha f	Fedor m	Focko m	Friedburga f	Fulk m
Euryanthe f	Fedora f	Foilan m	Friedebald m	Fulke mf
Eusebia f	Fei f	Folbert m	Friedebert m	Fulko m
Eusebius m	Felicia f	Folke mf	Friedeger m	Fulkhard m
Eustachia f	Felicitas f	Folker m	Friedgund f	Fulkmar m
Eustach m	Felix m	Folkhard m	Friedegunde f	Fulkrad m

Fürchtegott m	Geli f	Gerson m	Giuseppe m	Grada f
--G--	Genave f	Gert mf	Glado m	Grades m
	Generosa f	Gerta f	Glares m	Gratia f
Gabi f	Genophe f	Gertraud f	Glaubrecht m	Gratian m
Gábor m	Genoveva f	Gertraut f	Glismod f	Gratius m
Gabriel m	Genuin m	Gertrud f	Gloi m	Grazia f
Gabriela f	Geo m	Gertrudis f	Gloy m	Grazian m
Gabriele f	Georg m	Gervasius m	Gneomat m	Greet f
Galata f	Georgette f	Gerwald m	Goar m	Greg m
Galate f	Georgia f	Gerwig m	Goarus m	Gregor m
Galatus m	Georgina f	Gerwin m	Gobo m	Gregorius m
Gallant m	Georgius m	Gerwine f	Goda f	Grein m
Gall m	Gepes m	Gesa f	Godeberta f	Greta f
Galli m	Gerald m	Gesina f	Godehard m	Gretchen f
Gallus m	Geralde f	Geva f	Godelind f	Grete f
Gandolf m	Geraldine f	Gevaert m	Godelinde f	Gretel f
Gandulf m	Gérard m	Gherardo m	Godestiu f	Grethe f
Gangolf m	Géraud m	Ghianna f	Godo m	Gretje f
Gangolph m	Gerbald m	Ghita f	Godolef m	Gretle, Gretlif
Garbrand m	Gerbert m	Giacomo m	Godolewa f	Grickel m
Garbranda f	Gerbod m	Gianna f	Godwin m	Grietje f
Gard m	Gerbold m	Gianni m	Golda f	Grimald m
Garibald m	Gerborg f	Giannina f	Golo m	Grimbert m
Garin m	Gerbrand m	Gid m	Gombert m	Grimhilda f
Garlef m	Gerburg f	Gideon m	Gombertus m	Grimhilde f
Garlieb m	Gerd m	Giert m	Gomer m	Grimold m
Garlieba f	Gerda f	Gila f	Gonda, Gonde f	Grimwald m
Garnier m	Gereon m	Gilbert m	Gontard m	Grischa m
Garrit m	Gerfried m	Gilbrecht m	Gontardus m	Griselda f
Gaspar m	Gergely m	Gilgian m	Gonton, Gontona f	Griseldis f
Gaspard m	Gerhard m	Gilgianus m	Gorch m	Grit f
Gast m	Gerharde f	Gina f	Gordian m	Grita f
Gaston m	Gerhardine f	Giovanni m	Gordianus m	Gritli f
Gate f	Gerhart m	Girard m	Gorgis m	Gritt f
Gaubert m	Gerhild f	Girarda f	Gorius m	Gritta f
Gaudentius m	Gerhilde f	Girod m	Gosbert m	Grolmus m
Gaudenz m	Gerit mf	Girodus m	Goswin m	Grotia f
Gautier m	Gerke mf	Gisa f	Gottbald m	Grotius m
Gawril m	Gerko m	Gisbert m	Gottbert m	Gross-: see suffix
Gayus m	Gerlach m	Gisbrecht m	Gottfried m	portion for sex.
Gayzus m	Gerlind f	Gisela f	Gottfrieda f	(Hans for Grosshans,
Geba f	Gerlinde f	Giselberga f	Gotthard m	etc.)
Gebbo m	Gerlindis f	Giselbert m	Gottharda f	Gualfart m
Gebhard m	German m	Giselberta f	Gotthelf m	Guda f
Gebharde f	Germann m	Giselbrecht m	Gotthild m	Gudbrand m
Gebo m	Germana f	Giselburga f	Gotthold m	Gudrun f
Gedeon m	Germar m	Giselher m	Gottlieb m	Gudula f
Geel m	Germo m	Giselmarm	Gottlieba f	Gudus m
Geelke f	Germund m	Giselmund m	Gottliebe f	Guguk m
Geert m	Gernand m	Gislinde f	Gottlob m	Guichard m
Geerta f	Gernot m	Gismar m	Gottmar m	Guido m
Geertje mf	Gero m	Gismund m	Gottram m	Guillaume m
Gefion f	Gerold m	Gissmund m	Gottschalk m	Guiscard m
Gela f	Geroldine f	Giso m	Gottwald m	Gumpert m
Gelasius m	Gerolf m	Gita f	Gottwin m	Gumprecht m
	Gerritt mf	Gitta f	Götz m	Gunda f

Gundakar m	Hadeberta f	Harms m	Heimeran m	Henner m
Gundeberga f	Hadeburg f	Harmus m	Heimerich m	Hennes m
Gundeberta f	Hadelind f	Haro m	Heimfried m	Henni f
Gundehild f	Hadelinde f	Harold m	Heimke f	Hennig m
Gundehilde f	Hademar m	Harri m	Heimo m	Henning m
Gundel f	Hadwin m	Harriet f	Heimrich m	Henno m
Gundela f	Hadmut f	Harro m	Hein m	Henrich m
Gundelinde f	Hadmute f	Harry m	Heine m	Henriette f
Gundfried m	Hadrian m	Hartbern m	Heiner m	Henoch m
Gundhilde f	Hadrion m	Hartbert m	Heinerich m	Henrik m
Gunhild f	Hadubert m	Hartger m	Heinfried m	Henrika f
Gundobad m	Hadubrand m	Hartlieb m	Heini m	Henrike f
Gundobald m	Hadumar m	Hartmann m	Heinke mf	Hephaistos m
Gundobaldus m	Hadumothe f	Hartmut m	Heinko m	Hera f
Gundobert m	Hadwig f	Hartmuta f	Heino m	Heralt m
Gundolf m	Hadwin m	Hartmute f	Heinrich m	Herbald m
Gundula f	Hagen m	Hartrad m	Heinrike f	Herbert m
Gudwara f	Haila f	Hartrich m	Heinz m	Herbrand m
Guntbert m	Haimo m	Hartwig m	Heio m	Herburg f
Guntbrecht m	Haio m	Hartwin m	Heiri m	Herburga f
Gunter m	Hajo m	Harward m	Hektor m	Herdegen m
Guntfried m	Haldan m	Hasko m	Hela f	Heribert m
Gunthard m	Hamilkar m	Hasse m	Helen f	Heriberta f
Gunther m	Hamman, Hammon m	Hassel m	Helena, Helene f	Heriger m
Günther m	Haniel m	Hasso m	Held m	Herinand m
Gunthild f	Hanke m	Hattie f	Helga f	Herkules m
Gunthilde f	Hanko m	Hatto m	Helgard f	Herlinde f
Guntlinde f	Hanna, Hannah f	Haubold m	Helge mf	Hermann m
Guntmar m	Hanne f	Haug m	Helias m	Hermes m
Guntrada f	Hannes m	Hake m	Helke f	Hermina f
Guntram m	Hannibal m	Hauke m	Hella f	Hermine f
Guntwin m	Hanno m	Hauser m	Hellas m	Herms m
Guntzel m	Hanns m	Havel m	Hellfried m	Hermund m
Gunzilo m	Hanquet m	Hebela f	Hellmuth m	Hermut m
Gunzo m	Hans m	Hebele f	Helma f	Hernando m
Gust m	Hänschen m	Hedin m	Helmar m	Hero m
Gustaf m	Hänsel m	Hedwig f	Helmbrecht m	Herold m
Gustav m	Hansi mf	Heide f	Helmburg f	Herrada f
Guste f	Hänslein m	Heidenreich m	Helmfried m	Herta
Gustel mf	Hänsle m	Heidi f	Helmine f	Hertha f
Gustela f	Hänsli m	Heidrun f	Helmold m	Hertwig m
Gusti f	Happel m	Heike mf	Helmund m	Hertwiga f
Gustle, Gustli m	Harald m	Heiko m	Helmut m	Herulf m
Guta, Gutha f	Harbert m	Heila f	Helmrad m	Herwart m
Gylo m	Hard m	Heile f	Helmrich m	Herwig m
György m	Hardi m	Heilgard f	Helmtraud f	Herwiga f
Gyözö m	Hardo m	Heilke f	Helmtraut f	Herwin m
Gyula m	Hardonus m	Meilko m	Helmtrud f	Heseka, Heseke f
Gyulus m	Harian m	Heilmarm	Helmtrude f	Hesekiel m
Gyuri m	Haribert m	Heilmut m	Helmwart m	Hesse m
Gyurka m	Hariger m	Heilo m	Helwig m	Hesso m
Gyuszi m	Hariolf m	Heilswint m	Hendrik m	Hester f
--H--	Hariulf m	Heilwig mf	Hendrika f	Hetti, Hettie f
	Hariwald m	Heiltrud f	Hendrike f	Hias m
	Harm m	Heima f	Henn m	Hieronimus m
Habbo m	Harmen m	Heimbirt m	Henne m	Hieronymus m
Hadburga f	Harmke f	Heimbrecht m	Henna f	Hilar m

Hilaria f	Hroswitha f	Inge f	Isa f	Janos m
Hilarius m	Hubert m	Ingebald m	Isaak m	Jaromir m
Hilbert m	Huberta f	Ingeborg f	Isabella f	Jaroslav m
Hilda,Hilde f	Huberta f	Ingeburg f	Isaias m	Jascha m
Hildburg f	Hugbald m	Ingelore f	Isberga f	Jasmin f
Hildburga f	Hugbert m	Ingemar m	Isbert m	Jaspar m
Hildebert m	Hugdietrich m	Ingetraud f	Isburga f	Jasper m
Hildeberta f	Hugnette f	Ingfried m	Isenbert m	Jean m
Hildebrand m	Hugo m	Ingmar m	Isenbrand m	Jean-Jacques m
Hildebrecht m	Hulda f	Ingo m	Isenfried m	Jelka f
Hildefons m	Huldreich m	Ingobert m	Isenger m	Jella f
Hildegard f	Huldrich m	Ingold m	Isengrim m	Jenni mf
Hildegger m	Humbald m	Ingolf m	Isenhard m	Jenö m
Hildegrip m	Humbert m	Ingomar m	Isentraud f	Jens m
Hildegunde f	Humberta f	Ingraban m	Istrud f	Jeremias m
Hildemar m	Humbrecht m	Ingram m	Isfried m	Jerome m
Hildemund m	Hunfried m	Ingrid f	Isgard f	Jeronimus m
Hildemut m	Hunold m	Ingrun f	Isgar m	Jerrit mf
Hilderat f	Hunolf m	Ingwar m	Ishilde f	Jesaias m
Hilderich m	Huschke m	Ingwin m	Isidor m	Jesko m
Hildewin m	Hyazinth m	Inken f	Isidora f	Jessica f
Hildmut m		Innocentia f	Ismael m	Jette f
Hildolf m	--I--	Innocentius m	Ismena f	Jo mf
Hildrun f		Innozentia f	Iso m	Joachim m
Hiltrud f	Ibrahim m	Innozentius m	Isolde f	Joar m
Hilger m	Ida f	Innozenz m	Israel m	Joas m
Hilke f	Iduna f	Inse f	Istraud f	Job m
Hilla f	Ignatia f	Iolanthe f	Istvan m	Jobst m
Hilma f	Ignatius m	Iphigenia f	Ita mf	Jochem m
Hilmar m	Ignaz m	Iphigenie f	Itta f	Jochen m
Hilpert m	Igo m	Ira f	Ivan m	Joder m
Hiltraud f	Igor m	Iren,Irena f	Ivar m	Jodocus m
Hiltrud f	Iken f	Irenaeus m	Ivo m	Jodok m
Hinnerk m	Ildefons m	Irene f	Ivonne f	Joel m
Hinrich m	Iliane f	Irg m	Iwan m	Joggli m
Hinz m	Ilja m	Irina f		Johann m
Hiob m	Ilona f	Iring m	--J--	Johanna f
Hjob m	Ilonka f	Iris f		Jolanthe f
Hippo m	Ilsa f	Irma f	Jaab m	Jombert m
Hippolyt m	Ilsabein f	Irmald m	Jaap m	Jonas m
Hjalmar m	Ilsbeth f	Irmberga f	Jacob m	Jonathon m
Holda f	Ilse f	Irmbert m	Jacqueline f	Joos m
Holdine f	Ilsebein f	Irmela f	Jacques m	Jordan m
Holdo m	Ilseadore f	Irmenfried m	Jadwiga f	Jör m
Holger m	Ilsegret f	Irmfried m	Jaggli m	Jören m
Holm m	Ilsemaria f	Irmgard f	Jago m	Jöres m
Honoratus m	Ilsetraude f	Irmhild f	Jahn m	Jörg m
Horant m	Imagina f	Irminberga f	Jakob m	Jörgen m
Horatius m	Imke f	Irminbert m	Jakoba f	Jörgle m
Horst m	Imma f	Irmingard f	Jakobea f	Jörgli m
Horstmar m	Immanuel m	Irminhild f	Jakobine f	Joris m
Horensia f	Immo m	Irminrich m	Jan m	Jorit m
Hortensius m	Imre m	Irmintraud f	Jana f	Jörn m
Hosea m	Ina f	Irmtraud f	Janes m	Jorrit m
Hoseas m	Ingbert m	Irmtrud f	Janka f	Jos m
Hosius m	Ingbrand m	Irmund m	Janko m	Josabe m

Gundakar m	Hadeberta f	Harms m	Heimeran m	Henner m
Gundeberga f	Hadeburg f	Harmus m	Heimerich m	Hennes m
Gundeberta f	Hadelind f	Haro m	Heimfried m	Henni f
Gundehild f	Hadelinde f	Harold m	Heimke f	Hennig m
Gundehilde f	Hademar m	Harri m	Heimo m	Henning m
Gundel f	Hadwin m	Harriet f	Heimrich m	Henno m
Gundela f	Hadmut f	Harro m	Hein m	Henrich m
Gundelinde f	Hadmute f	Harry m	Heine m	Henriette f
Gundfried m	Hadrian m	Hartbern m	Heiner m	Henoch m
Gundhilde f	Hadrion m	Hartbert m	Heinerich m	Henrik m
Gunhild f	Hadubert m	Hartger m	Heinfried m	Henrika f
Gundobad m	Hadubrand m	Hartlieb m	Heini m	Henrike f
Gundobald m	Hadumar m	Hartmann m	Heinke mf	Hephaistos m
Gundobaldus m	Hadumothe f	Hartmut m	Heinko m	Hera f
Gundobert m	Hadwig f	Hartmuta f	Heino m	Herald m
Gundolf m	Hadwin m	Hartmute f	Heinrich m	Herbald m
Gundula f	Hagen m	Hartrad m	Heinrike f	Herbert m
Gudwara f	Haila f	Hartrich m	Heinz m	Herbrand m
Guntbert m	Haimo m	Hartwig m	Heio m	Herburg f
Guntbrecht m	Haio m	Hartwin m	Heiri m	Herburga f
Gunter m	Hajo m	Harward m	Hektor m	Herdegen m
Guntfried m	Haldan m	Hasko m	Hela f	Heribert m
Gunthard m	Hamilkar m	Hasse m	Helen f	Heriberta f
Gunther m	Hamman, Hammon m	Hassel m	Helena, Helene f	Heriger m
Günther m	Haniel m	Hasso m	Held m	Herinand m
Gunthild f	Hanke m	Hattie f	Helga f	Herkules m
Gunthilde f	Hanko m	Hatto m	Helgard f	Herlinde f
Guntlinde f	Hanna, Hannah f	Haubold m	Helge mf	Hermann m
Guntmar m	Hanne f	Haug m	Helias m	Hermes m
Guntrada f	Hannes m	Hake m	Helke f	Hermina f
Guntram m	Hannibal m	Hauke m	Hella f	Hermine f
Guntwin m	Hanno m	Hauser m	Hellas m	Herms m
Guntzel m	Hanns m	Havel m	Hellfried m	Hermund m
Gunzilo m	Hanquet m	Hebela f	Hellmuth m	Hermut m
Gunzo m	Hans m	Hebele f	Helma f	Hernando m
Gust m	Hänschen m	Hedin m	Helmar m	Hero m
Gustaf m	Hänsel m	Hedwig f	Helmbrecht m	Herold m
Gustav m	Hansi mf	Heide f	Helmburg f	Herrada f
Guste f	Hänslein m	Heidenreich m	Helmfried m	Herta
Gustel mf	Hänsle m	Heidi f	Helmine f	Hertha f
Gustela f	Hänsli m	Heidrun f	Helmold m	Hertwig m
Gusti f	Happel m	Heike mf	Helmund m	Hertwiga f
Gustle, Gustli m	Harald m	Heiko m	Helmut m	Herulf m
Guta, Gutha f	Harbert m	Heila f	Helmrad m	Herwart m
Gylo m	Hard m	Heile f	Helmrich m	Herwig m
György m	Hardí m	Heilgard f	Helmtraud f	Herwiga f
Gyözö m	Hardo m	Heilke f	Helmtraut f	Herwin m
Gyula m	Hardonus m	Meilko m	Helmtrud f	Heseka, Heseke f
Gyulus m	Harian m	Heilmarm	Helmtrude f	Hesekiel m
Gyuri m	Haribert m	Heilmut m	Helmwart m	Hesse m
Gyurka m	Hariger m	Heilo m	Helwig m	Hesso m
Gyuszi m	Hariolf m	Heilswint m	Hendrik m	Hester f
	Hariulf m	Heilwig mf	Hendrika f	Hetti, Hettie f
--H--	Hariwald m	Heiltrud f	Hendrike f	Hias m
	Harm m	Heima f	Henn m	Hieronimus m
Habbo m	Harmen m	Heimbirt m	Henne m	Hieronymus m
Hadburga f	Harmke f	Heimbrecht m	Henna f	Hilar m

Josaphat m	Karin f	Kleon m	Kuss m	Leona f
Jose m	Karina f	Kleophea f	Kyra f	Leonard m
Josef m	Karges m	Kleophas m	Kyria f	Leonarda f
Josefa f	Karl m	Klodulf m	Kyrill m	Leonhard m
Joseph m	Karla f	Klodwig m		Leonhardt m
Josephina f	Karlheinz m	Klotar m	--L--	Leonharda f
Josephine f	Karlmann m	Klothilde f		Leonie f
Josias m	Karol m	Knut m	Ladwig m	Leonore f
Josobe m	Karoline f	Koba f	Ladislaus m	Leontina f
Joss m	Karoly m	Kobes m	Laelius m	Leontine f
Jost m	Karpus m	Kolja m	Laetitia f	Leontius f
Josua m	Karsta f	Koloman m	Laetus m	Leonz m
Jozsef m	Karsten m	Kolumban m	Lambert m	Leopold m
Jucunda f	Karstine f	Kolumbine f	Lamberta f	Leopolda f
Juncundus m	Kasimir m	Koneke f	Lambrecht m	Leopoldine f
Jud m	Kaspar m	Konrad, Kontradt	Lamprecht m	Leyekt f
Judas m	Kasper m	Konrade f	Landelin m	Levin m
Judica f	Kasperle m	Konradin m	Landerich m	Lewin m
Judit f	Kastor m	Konradine f	Landewin m	Lex, Lexel m
Judith f	Katalin f	Konstantin m	Landfried m	Lia f
Juditha f	Kate f	Konstantine f	Landhild f	Liana f
Judithe f	Katharina f	Konstanze f	Landhildis f	Liane f
Judo m	Katharine f	Kora f	Lando m	Libentius m
Jula f	Käthchen f	Korbinian m	Landolf m	Liberatus m
Julia f	Kathe, Käthe f	Kordelia f	Landolin m	Liborius m
Julian m	Katherine f	Kordula f	Landolt m	Libussa f
Juliana f	Kathi f	Korinna f	Landrada f	Lida f
Julius m	Kathinka f	Korl m	Landrich m	Lidda f
Junda f	Kathrein f	Kornel m	Landuin m	Lidia f
Jupp m	Kathrin f	Kornelia f	Landulf m	Lidwina f
Jürg m	Kati f	Kornelius m	Landwin m	Liebegard f
Jürgen m	Katia f	Kosmas m	Landtwinn m	Liebetraud f
Jüri m	Katinka f	Kraft m	Lares f	Liebfried m
Jürn m	Katrein f	Kredel f	Lars m	Liebgard f
Just m	Karrin f	Krees m	Lauf m	Liebhard m
Justin m	Kay mf	Krein mf	Laura f	Liebhilde f
Justina f	Keno m	Kress m	Laurent m	Liebold m
Justinian m	Kersten m	Kreszentia f	Laurentia f	Liebmutter mf
Jutta f	Kerstin f	Kreszentzia f	Laurentius m	Liebrat mf
	Ketil m	Kreszenz f	Laurenz m	Liebraut f
--K--	Kilian m	Kriemhild f	Laurenzia f	Liebrud f
	Kirsten mf	Kriemhilde f	Lauritz m	Liebwin m
Kadmus m	Kirstin f	Krispian m	Lazarus m	Lienhard m
Kai mf	Klaas m	Krispin m	Lea f	Liesa f
Kaia f	Klara f	Krispina f	Leah f	Liesbern
Kaietan m	Klarina f	Kudrun f	Leander m	Liese f
Kaius m	Klarissa f	Kunat m	Leberecht m	Liesel f
Kaja f	Klas m	Küngold f	Lebrecht m	Liesl f
Kajetan m	Klaudia f	Küngolt f	Leffert m	Lieselotte f
Kajus m	Klaudius m	Küni m	Leger m	Lieven m
Kalixtus m	Klaus m	Kunibert m	Lemke m	Lilian f
Kalle m	Kleinanna f	Kunigunde f	Lena f	Lilli f
Kalman m	Kleingret f	Kunihild f	Leonore f	Lilo mf
Kandid f	Kleinhans m	Kunimund m	Lent m	Lina f
Kandida f	Klemens m	Kuno m	Lenz m	Linda f
Kanut m	Klement m	Kunold m	Leo m	Linde f
Karda f	Klementia f	Kunz m	Leodegar m	Linus m
Karen f	Klementine f	Kurt m	Leon m	Lioba f

Lionel m	Lucius m	Madel f	Margitta f	Medea f
Lipp m	Lücke f	Mäder m	Margret f	Meike f
Lisa f	Lucretia f	Madge f	Margreth f	Meina f
Lisabeth f	Lucretius m	Madla, Madle f	Margrit f	Meinald m
Lisabetha f	Lucrezia f	Mafalda f	Maria f	Meinard m
Lisbeth f	Lüder m	Magda f	Marian m	Meinarda f
Lise f	Ludger m	Magdalena f	Mariane f	Meinbert m
Liselotte f	Ludmilla f	Magdalene f	Marianne f	Meinbrecht m
Lisette f	Ludolf m	Magnus m	Marie f	Meinel m
Litt m	Ludovicus m	Mai f	Marieke f	Meinfreid m
Litzel f	Ludowika f	Maia f	Marina f	Meinharde f
Liu-	Ludwig m	Maie f	Mario m	Meinhild f
Liutbald m	Ludwiga f	Maike f	Marius m	Meinhilde f
Liutberga f	Ludwina f	Maja f	Mark m	Meinhold m
Liutbert m	Luf m	Mala f	Marko m	Meino m
Liutbrand m	Luidolf m	Male f	Markolf m	Meinold m
Liutfried m	Luisa, Luise f	Malte m	Markward m	Meinolf m
Liutgard f	Luitberga f	Malvida f	Markwart m	Meinrad m
Liutger m	Luitbert m	Malwida f	Marlena f	Meintrade f
Liutold m	Luitbrand m	Malwin m	Marlene f	Meinulf m
Liutolf m	Luitbrecht m	Malwina f	Marlies f	Melanie f
Liutwin m	Luitfried m	Malwine f	Marlitt f	Melcher m
Livia f	Luitgard f	Mamertus m	Marsillius m	Melchior m
Livius m	Luitger m	Manassah m	Marta f	Melina f
Ljuba f	Luithard m	Mand m	Marten f	Melisch m
Ljubomir m	Luither m	Mandi m	Martha f	Melissa f
Lobegott m	Luitolf m	Manes m	Marthe f	Melitta f
Lobel m	Luitpold m	Manfred m	Marti m	Menta f
Lohengrin m	Luitprant m	Mang m	Martin m	Menzel m
Loki mf	Luitwin m	Mangold m	Martina f	Meret f
Lola f	Luitwine f	Manhard m	Martine f	Merga f
Lona f	Lukas m	Mann m	Marton m	Merkel m
Longhard m	Lukretia f	Mannel m	Martsch m	Merten m
Longin m	Lukretius m	Männele m	Martemus m	Meta f
Longinus m	Lunz m	Männeli	Marwald m	Metta f
Loni mf	Lupus m	Manon f	Marx m	Mia f
Lonna f	Lurtz m	Mansuetus m	Marzella f	Michael m
Lóns m	Luther m	Manuel m	Marzellus m	Michaela f
Lora f	Lutz m	Manuela f	Mathesius m	Michel m
Lorent m	Lux m	Marbod m	Mathilde f	Mieke f
Lorenz m	Luzey f	Marcella f	Mathis m	Mies m
Lotar m	Luzia f	Marcellina f	Mathys m	Mieze f
Lothar m	Luzie f	Marcellus m	Matthäus m	Mignon f
Lothard m	Luzifer m	Marei f	Matthias m	Mihaly m
Lotta f	Luzinde f	Mareike f	Matyas m	Miklas m
Lotte f	Luzius m	Maren f	Maud f	Mikula m
Lotz m	Lydia f	Marena f	Maurice m	Mila f
Louis m	Lydimilus m	Maret f	Mauritius m	Milchbart(h) m
Louise f	--M--	Marfa f	Mauritz m	Milda f
Lubentius m		Marga f	Maurus m	Mildburga f
Lubert m		Margareta f	Max m	Mildner m
Lucas m	Maas m	Margarete f	Macimilian m	Miltrada f
Lucia f	Mabel f	Margareth f	Maximiliane f	Miltraut f
Lucianus m	Macarius m	Margaretha f	Mechthild f	Mima f
Lucie f	Machus m	Margarita f	Mechthilde f	Mine f
Lucinde f	Madalen f	Margit f	Medardus m	Minerva f

Mira f	Nesa f	Odomar m	Otberga f	Peppi f
Mirabell f	Nestor m	Oktavia f	Otbert m	Peregrin m
Mirabella f	Nibelung m	Oktavianus m	Otbertus m	Peregrina f
Miranda f	Nicasius m	Olaf m	Otburga f	Perpetua f
Miriam f	Niclaus m	Oldwig m	Otfried m	Perpetuus m
Mirl f	Nicolaus m	Ole m	Otfrid m	Pertzeval m
Mischa m	Nicoletta f	Oleg m	Otger m	Perzeval m
Mitja m	Niels m	Olf m	Orgunde f	Peter m
Modest m	Nike f	Olivia f	Othilde mf	Petronella f
Modesta f	Nikita m	Olrik m	Othli m	Petronellus m
Mombert m	Niklas m	Olympia f	Othmar m	Petronilla f
Mombrecht m	Niklaus m	Olympus m	Otmar m	Petrus m
Momme m	Nikolaus m	Omke m	Otmund m	Petz m
Mommo m	Nilla f	Omko m	Otoolf m	Pharhilde f
Mona f	Nils m	Ommo m	Otrad m	Phia f
Monika f	Nina f	Onno m	Ottegebe f	Philibert m
Moritz m	Ninon f	Onophria f	Ottheinrich m	Philiberta f
Moriz m	Nisse f	Onophrius m	Ottilie f	Philibertus m
Morten m	Nithard m	Onuphrius m	Ottmar f	Philip m
Mumme m	Nithardus m	Operlie m	Otto m	Philippa f
Muntfrid m	Noah m	Ophelia f	Ottogebe f	Phliipp m
Muntfried m	Noel m	Opitz m	Ottokar m	Phlio m
Munthelm m	Nold, Noldus m	Orell m	Ottomar m	Philomele f
Muntrich m	Nora f	Orest m	Ottrave m	Philomena f
Muothelm m	Norbert m	Orestus m	Otward m	Philomenus m
Muthelm m	Nordwin m	Orscheli f	Otwin m	Phöbe f
	Norma f	Orschelmann m	Owe m	Phöbus m
--N--	Norman m	Ortel m		Phoebe f
	Normann m	Ortger m	--P--	Phoebus m
Naemi f	Norwin m	Orthia f		Phyllis f
Nandel m	Notburg f	Orthild f	Pacificus m	Pia f
Nanna f	Notburga f	Orthilde f	Pacifius m	Piero m
Nanne f	Notcker m	Ortlieb m	Pado m	Pierre m
Nannette f	Notger m	Ortlinde f	Pal m	Piet m
Nanno m	Notker m	Ortnid m	Paley m	Pieter m
Nantwig m	Nütliman m	Ortolf m	Palmania f	Pilar f
Nantwin m		Ortraud f	Palmatius m	Pilt m
Napoleon m	--O--	Ortrud f	Pancras m	Pine f
Narcissus m		Ortrun f	Pankras m	Pinkas m
Narzissus m	Obadja m	Ortulf m	Pankratius m	Pinkus m
Nastasia f	Oberon m	Ortwald m	Pankraz	Piotr m
Nastasja f	Obert m	Ortwin m	Pankreas m	Pipin m
Natalie f	Obertus m	Osanna f	Paridam m	Pirmin m
Natalis m	Octavia f	Osbert m	Parzival m	Pirminius m
Nates m	Octavius m	Osberta m	Paschalis m	Pistis f
Nathan m	Oda f	Oskar m	Paschasius m	Pitt m
Nathanael m	Odalberta f	Osmar m	Patricius m	Pitter m
Naze, Nazius m	Odalbertus m	Osmund m	Patrizia f	Pius m
Neidhard m	Ödeli m	Ossel m	Patrizius m	Placida f
Neidhardt m	Odette f	Osterhild f	Paula f	Placidius m
Nelda f	Odilberga f	Osterlind f	Pauline f	Placidus m
Nella f	Odilgart f	Oswald m	Pualinus m	Plecktrude f
Nemesius m	Odilie f	Oswalda f	Pelagia f	Ploni f
Nepomuk m	Odilo m	Oswin m	Pelagius m	Polde m
Neres m	Odo m	Oswine f	Pelmeke f	Polle m

Polykarpus m	Randulf m	Reimund m	Richher m	Roland m
Poppo m	Randwig m	Reimunde f	Richhild f	Rolanda f
Portiuncula f	Raoul m	Reinald m	Richhilde f	Rolande f
Pretiosa f	Raphael m	Reinbald m	Richilde f	Rolf m
Pretiosus m	Raphaella f	Reinbert m	Richlind f	Roman m
Prima f	Rappo m	Reinbold m	Richlinde f	Romana f
Primus m	Rasmus m	Reinbot m	Richmar m	Romilda f
Prisbus m	Rasso m	Reindel m	Richmodis f	Romuald m
Prisca f	Ratbald m	Reiner m	Richolf m	Rombout m
Priscilla f	Ratbert m	Reinfried m	Rihwald m	Ronald m
Probus m	Ratberta f	Reingard f	Richwara f	Ronismus m
Prosper m	Ratbod m	Reinger m	Richwart m	Rosa f
Prosperina f	Ratbold m	Reinhard m	Richwin m	Rosalie f
Prosperinus m	Ratburg f	Reinharda f	Rickel m	Rosalinde f
Prudentia f	Ratburga f	Reinhild f	Rickmer m	Rosamunde f
Prünhilt mf	Ratfried m	Reinhilde f	Ricksta f	Rose f
Pulcher m	Ratger m	Reinhold m	Ridsert m	Rosina f
Pulcheria f	Ratgis m	Reinmar m	Ridzard m	Rosine f
Pulcherius m	Rathard m	Reinmut m	Riehle m	Roswith f
Quinta f	Rather m	Reinold m	Rietschel m	Roswitha f
Quintin m	Rathild f	Reinsi f	Rik m	Roswittchen f
Quintus m	Rathilde f	Reinulf m	Rika f	Rothard m
Quirin m	Rathold m	Reinward m	Rikdag m	Rother m
Quirina f	Ratold m	Reitz m	Rike f	Rothlieb m
--R--	Ratward m	Relief m	Riklef m	Rothlieba f
	Rautard m	Remoald m	Rimbert m	Rotmund m
	Rautgund f	Rembert m	Rinner m	Rotraud f
Raab m	Rebecca f	Rembrand m	Riquet m	Rotraut f
Rabanus m	Rebekka f	Remedia f	Riquier m	Roy m
Rabe m	Redbad m	Remedius m	Riquin m	Ruben m
Rabenold m	Redeke m	Remigius m	Rita f	Ruder m
Rachel f	Reder m	Remis m	Ritz m	Rudewig m
Radegunde f	Rees m	Remond m	Rixta f	Rudi m
Radel m	Refried m	Renard m	Roald m	Rüdiger m
Radolf m	Regel f	Renata f	Robert m	Rudolf m
Radulf m	Regeli f	Renate f	Roberta f	Rudolfa f
Rafael m	Regelindis f	Renarus m	Rochold m	Rudolfine f
Ragnar m	Regina f	Rendel f	Rochus m	Rudolph m
Ragnehild f	Reginald m	Rene m	Rode m	Rufina f
Ragnhild f	Reginar m	Renee f	Rodegang m	Rufinus m
Rahel f	Regine f	Reni f	Rodehild f	Rufus m
Raimar m	Regiswindis f	Renker m	Rodehilde f	Rul m
Raimer m	Regula f	Renold m	Rodelind f	Rulle m
Raimo m	Reich m	Renward m	Rodelinde f	Rumold m
Raimund m	Reichard m	Renz m	Rodemund m	Rumolt m
Raimunde f	Reichold m	Renzi f	Roderich m	Runa f
Rainald m	Reicholf m	Rese f	Rodewald m	Rune f
Rainer m	Reichwein m	Reta f	Rodewig m	Runhild f
Ralf m	Reimar m	Richard m	Rodolf m	Rupert m
Ralph m	Reimbald m	Richarda f	Rodolph m	Ruperta f
Rambald m	Reimbert m	Richbald m	Rodrigue m	Ruprecht m
Rambert m	Reimbold m	Richbert m	Rogarus m	Rutgard m
Ramulf m	Reimbrand m	Richbrecht m	Roger m	Ruth f
Rando m	Reimbrecht m	Richburgis f	Röhle m	Ruthard m
Randoald m	Reimer m	Richel m	Röhrig m	Ruthild f
Randolf m	Reimo m	Richfried m	Roi m	Ruthilde f

Rutlieb m	Selma f	Siegmar m	Sixta f	Swaantje f
Rutwald m	Selmar m	Siegnand m	Sixtus m	Swana f
Rutwin m	Senand m	Siegrich m	Sjard m	Swanhild f
	Senta f	Siegrun f	Soldanella f	Swanhilde f
--S--	Sepp m	Siegrune f	Soldanellus m	Swantje f
	Seppel m	Siegstab m	Solomon m	Sweder m
Sabina f	Seppi m	Siegtraud m	Sonja f	Swen m
Sabine f	Seppl m	Siegwald m	Sonke m	Swidger m
Sabrina f	Seraphia f	Siegwalt m	Sonnele f	Swidbert m
Sabrine f	Seraphim m	Siegward m	Sonngard f	Switgart m
Sacha m	Seraphin m	Siegwart m	Sonnhild f	Switzer m
Sachar m	Seraphine f	Siegwin m	Sonntag m	Sybille f
Sachso m	Serena f	Siegwolf m	Sophia f	Syfried m
Saladin m	Serenus m	Sierk m	Sophie f	Sygfried m
Sales m	Serge m	Sievert m	Sophus m	Sylvester m
Salome f	Sergius m	Siewert m	Soren m	Sylvia f
Salomon m	Servatius m	Siffert m	Sorgel m	Symon m
Samson m	Servaz m	Sigfrid m	Soster f	
Samuel m	Servus m	Sigfried m	Spes m	--T--
Sander m	Setta f	Sigg m	Spess m	
Sandor m	Severa f	Siggo m	Staats m	Tabea f
Sandra f	Severin m	Sigi mf	Stachia f	Tag m
Sandrina f	Severina f	Sigisbert m	Stachius m	Tage m
Sandro m	Severus m	Sigismund m	Stachus m	Tale f
Sanna f	Sibilla f	Siglind f	Stanislaus m	Taleke f
Sanne f	Sibo m	Sigmund m	Stanislaw m	Tamara f
Sara f	Sibold m	Sigo m	Stefan m	Tamas m
Sarah f	Sibylla f	Sfgrun f	Stefania f	Tammo m
Sascha mf	Sibylle f	Sigrune f	Stefanie f	Tancred m
Saskia f	Sider m	Sigune f	Steffan m	Tanja f
Sasso m	Sidonia f	Sigurd m	Steffen m	Tanko m
Saul m	Sidonie f	Sikko m	Steffi m	Tankred m
Schascha f	Sidonius m	Silja f	Steinhart m	Tasja f
Scheifart m	Siebo m	Silke f	Steinmar m	Tassilo m
Scholastika f	Sigband m	Silvana f	Stella f	Tatanja f
Scholastikus m	Siegbert m	Silvester m	Stephania f	Tatjana f
Schorsch m	Siegberta f	Silvia f	Stephanie f	Tave m
Schul m	Siegbold m	Silvius m	Stillfried m	Tebbo m
Schwanhilde f	Siegbod m	Simeon m	Stina f	Tebbo m
Schwanhilde f	Siegbot m	Simon m	Stine f	Tenz f
Schweikard m	Siegbrand m	Simona f	Stini f	Terkel m
Schwidher m	Siegbrecht m	Simone f	Stinka f	Ternes m
Sebald m	Siegburg f	Simplicius m	Stinnes m	Tessa f
Sebalde f	Siegburga f	Simplicissimus m	Stoffel m	Tetje m
Sebastian m	Sieger m	Simson m	Stoffet m	Teut m
Sebert m	Siegerich m	Sina f	Sturm m	Thaddaeus m
Sebo m	Siegfried m	Sinbad m	Suitbert m	Thalia f
Secunda f	Sieghard m	Sindbald m	Sulamith f	Thankmar m
Secundus m	Siegheld m	Sindbert m	Sulpicius m	Thassilo m
Seffi mf	Sieghelm m	Sindolf m	Sulpiz m	Thea f
Sefried m	Siegher m	Sindolt m	Sunhild f	Theda f
Segeboth m	Sieghild f	Sintram m	Sunhilde f	Thees m
Segimer m	Sieghilde f	Sirach m	Susanna f	Thekla f
Selim m	Sieglind f	Sirenen f	Susanne f	Theo mf
Selina f	Sieglinde f	Sixt m	Susette f	Theobald m

Theodebald m	Tiburtius m	Trutbald m	Urich m	Viktoria f
Theodolf m	Tiede m	Trutbert m	Uriel m	Viktorine f
Theodebert m	Tiedo m	Truthild f	Urs m	Vikus m
Theodefried m	Tiemo m	Truthildis f	Ursel f	Vilmar m
Theodegar m	Tienes m	Trutmann m	Urseli f	Vincent m
Theodelinde f	Tilde f	Trutwin m	Ursina f	Vincentia f
Theodemar m	Tilg f	Trutz m	Ursinus m	Vincentius m
Theoderich m	Till m	Tryggve m	Ursula f	Vinzens m
Theodor m	Tilla f	Tugendreich mf	Urte f	Vinzentia f
Theodora f	Tillmann m	Tunnes m	Uschi f	Vinzenz m
Theodore f	Tilmann m	Ture m	Uta f	Viola f
Theodosia f	Tilo m	Türli m	Ute f	Virgil m
Theodosius m	Timm m	Tycho m	Uto m	Virgila f
Theodul m	Timmo m	Tyra f	Utta f	Virgilia f
Theodulf m	Timo m		Utz m	Virgilius m
Theodulfa f	Timotheus m	--U--	Uwe m	Vitalis m
Theophana f	Tina f	Uald m	Uwo m	Vitus m
Theophano m	Tine f	Ubald m	Uz m	Vivian mf
Theophil m	Tinka f	Ubbo m		Viviane f
Theophila f	Tino m	Uda f	--V--	Vogelo m
Therese f	Titus m	Udalbert m		Voitech m
Theresia f	Tjalf m	Udalfried m	Valentin m	Vojtech m
Theunis m	Tjard m	Udalrich m	Valentina f	Volbert m
Thewald m	Tjark m	Udalwig m	Valentine f	Volbrecht m
Thias m	Tjerk m	Udelhild f	Valeria f	Volhard m
Thiemo m	Tobias m	Udehilda f	Valerian m	Volkard m
Thies m	Toffel m	Udellind f	Valeriane f	Volkart m
Thietmar m	Toni mf	Udina, Udine f	Valerie f	Volkbert m
Thilde f	Tönnies m	Udo m	Valerius m	Volkberta f
Thilo m	Tony mf	Uffo m	Valeska f	Volkenand m
Thimotheus m	Tord m	Ugo m	Varus m	Volker m
Thoas m	Tore m	Ugolino m	Vastrada f	Volkert m
Thoma m	Torhild f	Uhlmann m	Vaubert m	Volkhard m
Thoman m	Torolf m	Ulf m	Vauburg f	Volkher m
Thomas m	Torsten m	Ulfert m	Vauburga f	Volkhild f
Thomen m	Torwald m	Ulfhard m	Vautier m	Volkhilde f
Thor m	Tosca f	Ulfried m	Vedastus m	Volkhold m
Thora f	Toussaint m	Uli mf	Veit m	Volko m
Thorbjörn m	Traude f	Ulla f	Velten m	Volkmar m
Thorbrand m	Traudel f	Ulli mf	Ventur m	Volko m
Thorhild f	Traugott m	Ulrich m	Vera f	Volkrad m
Thorid f	Traute f	Ulrike f	Verena f	Volkrat m
Thorkell m	Trautwein m	Ulysses m	Verenli f	Volkram m
Thorolf m	Trienes m	Umberto m	Veries m	Volkward m
Thorsten m	Trina f	Una f	Verona f	Volkwart m
Thorwald m	Trine f	Undine f	Veronica f	Volkwin m
Thrud f	Trini, Trinli f	Unno m	Veronika f	Volquard m
Thurid f	Tristan m	Uoli m	Vester m	Vollrad m
Thuring m	Trockel m	Uorich m	Vick m	Vollrat m
Thürnegg m	Trudbert m	Urania f	Vicki f	Volmar m
Thusnelda f	Trude f	Uranus m	Victor m	Volrat m
Thyra f	Trudel f	Urban m	Victoria f	Vrena f
Thys m	Trudhild f	Urbana f	Viktorine f	Vreneli f
Tiana f	Trudhilde f	Urech m	Vigilius m	Vreni f
Tiberia f	Trudi f	Uri m	Vike f	Vronegg f
Tiberius m	Trudwin m	Urias m	Viktor m	Vroni f

--W--

Wachsmuth m	Warner m	Werno m	Wilko m	Wise f
Wacker m	Wasja m	Wert m	Willeger m	Wishard m
Wackermann m	Wasil m	Wessel m	Willegis m	Witege m
Walahfried m	Wasmut m	Werta f	Willehad m	Witiko m
Walahfrieda f	Wastel m	Wiard m	Willehard m	Wito m
Waland m	Wastl m	Wibbelt m	Willem m	Witold m
Walarich m	Wätzold m	Wibert m	Willemar m	Wittekind m
Walbert m	Wauter m	Wiberta f	Willerad m	Witzel m
Walburg f	Wawta m	Wibke f	Willeram m	Wladimir m
Walburga f	Weda f	Wiborada f	Willibald m	Wladislaus m
Waldebert m	Wedekind m	Wichard m	Willibert m	Wladislaw m
Waldebert f	Wedis f	Wichmann m	Willibrord m	Woitech m
Waldebold m	Wedukind m	Wick m	Willigis m	Wojtech m
Waldebot m	Weert m	Wickel m	Williram m	Wold m
Waldegund f	Weerta f	Wickelmann m	Willmann m	Woldemar m
Waldegunde f	Weichert m	Wicker m	Willmar m	Wolf, Wolff m
Waldemar m	Weichhart m	Wido m	Willo m	Wolfbald m
Waldfrieda f	Weigand m	Widukind m	Wilm m	Wolfbert m
Waldfriede f	Weiker m	Wieba f	Wilma f	Wolfdieter m
Waldgunde f	Weikhard m	Wiebe f	Wilmar m	Wolfdietrich m
Waldhild f	Weikher m	Wiebke f	Wiltraud f	Wolfgang m
Waldhilde f	Weiland m	Wiederolt m	Wiltraude f	Wolfgang m
Waldo m	Weimann m	Wiegand m	Wiltraut f	Wolfger m
Waldtraut f	Weimar m	Wieland m	Wiltrud f	Wolgund f
Waleska f	Weinmann m	Wiemar m	Wiltrude f	Wolgunde f
Walfried m	Weinmar m	Wienand m	Wiltrudis f	Wolfhard m
Walla f	Weinand m	Wierich m	Wim m	Wolfhart m
Walo m	Weinreich m	Wiete f	Wimmer m	Wolfhelm m
Walpurga f	Weinrich m	Wigand m	Wina f	Wolfhild f
Walpurgis f	Weiprecht m	Wigbert m	Winald m	Wolfhilde f
Walram m	Welf m	Wigberta f	Winand m	Wolfram m
Walter m	Welfhard m	Wigbrand m	Windi m	Wolfrat m
Walthard m	Wellem m	Wigbrecht m	Wineke m	Wolftraud f
Walthelm m	Welter m	Wigburg f	Winfried m	Wolftrud f
Walther m	Wendel m	Wigburga f	Winfrieda f	Wolftrude f
Walthild f	Wendelbert m	Wiggel f	Wingolf m	Wolt m
Walthilde f	Wendelburg f	Wiggo m	Winhard m	Wolter m
Waltrad m	Wendelgard f	Wighard m	Winibald m	Wortwin m
Waltrada f	Wendelin m	Wigher m	Winibert m	Wrachard m
Waltrade f	Wendelmar m	Wigmar m	Winifred f	Wubke f
Waltraud f	Wennemar m	Wignand m	Winifried m	Wulf m
Waltraut f	Wenzel m	Wiking m	Winimar m	Wulfhild f
Waltrud f	Wenzeslaus m	Wilbert m	Winireich m	Wulfhilde f
Waltrun f	Wera f	Wilbrand m	Winirich m	Wunibald m
Waltrune f	Werenfried m	Wilburg f	Winnimar m	Wunna f
Wambold m	Werna f	Wilderich m	Winrich m	Wunnibald m
Wanda f	Werner m	Wilfried m	Winter m	Wypert m
Wanja m	Wernet m	Wilfrieda f	Wintermann m	Wyprecht m
Warin m	Wernfried m	Wilfreide f	Wintrud f	
Warja f	Werngard f	Wilgard f	Wintrude f	--X--
Warmbold m	Wernhard m	Wilhelm m	Wipert m	
Warmund m	Wernher m	Wilhelma f	Wippo m	Xander
Warmut m	Wernhild f	Wilhelmina f	Wiprecht m	Xaver m
Warnefried m	Wernhilde f	Wilelmine f	Wisa f	Xaveria f

Handwriting Guide: German Gothic

PURPOSE

Reading old German records requires a knowledge of basic German genealogical terms and familiarity with German handwriting. Difficulty in reading a record may not result from a record keeper's poor penmanship but rather the use of a different style of handwriting. As most early German documents were written in some form of Gothic handwriting or printing, familiarity with this style of writing will aid in deciphering early German records. This guide introduces common Gothic letters, type, and handwriting used in German records.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Two major styles of writing emerged in Europe: *Gothic*, which has been used since the ninth century, and *Roman*, also known as *Antigua* or *Latin*. Roman eventually became the standard throughout most of western Europe, Canada, and the United States, but the Gothic style prevailed in Germany until 1941, in the Czech Republic through the 1700s, and in Scandinavia and the Baltic countries through the nineteenth century.

You may find Gothic or Latin handwriting styles used alone or together in the same German record. For example, names and headings may be written in one style and the text of the document in another.

The chart included with this guide lists both the standard printed and handwritten Gothic forms of the German alphabet and their Roman counterparts. Since handwriting varies from person to person, the handwriting in your record may vary from the forms shown on the chart.

You may also find variations of Gothic script. In various regions of the German Empire, slight variations of Gothic handwriting and type developed. Variants included "Schwabacher" and the more formal "German Fraktur."

When printing by moveable type was invented, typefaces were based on the handwriting styles of the time. Two major styles emerged corresponding to the two handwriting styles: Gothic, with pointed, heavy-bodied letters, and Roman, with lighter, more simple letters.

GERMAN ALPHABET

German has all 26 letters used in the English alphabet, plus a few additional letters: umlauted vowels—ä, ö, and ü—and an *Eszett*, ß. Specific information about these additional letters is given later.

There is often no distinction made between the capital *I* (ἲ) and the capital *J* (ἴ). They may be represented by the same letter whether printed or handwritten and may be also indexed as the same letter. When followed by a vowel the letter is a consonant, *J* and when followed by a consonant, it is a vowel, *I*. For example:

Juli (Juli) = July
der Junge (der Junge) = boy
die Idee (die Idee) = the idea
die Insel (die Insel) = the island

PRINTED GOTHIC

Books or forms published with Gothic typeset can be difficult for someone to read. Some of the Gothic letters are similar to Roman style print, but others are quite different. The following letters will probably seem unfamiliar at first: **f** (k), **x** (x), **G** (G), **H** (H), **S** (S), **B** (B), and **T** (T). In addition, as several of the letters are very similar, you will also need to pay particular attention to the small distinguishing characteristics to be able to read typed Gothic. These include the letters:

A and U (A and U),	f and f (s and f)
B , V , and B (B, V, and B)	b and v (b and v)
C and C (C and E)	k and t (k and t)
G and S (G and S)	n and n (n and u)
K and R (K and R)	r and x (r and x)
N and R (N and R)	v and h (v and y)

There are some tricks that will help you recognize Gothic letters. Note which letters extend below the line of writing and which extend above. Some letters extend both above and below. Some letters extend neither above nor below, such as the letter *a*.

Gothic print also has *ligatures* (multiple letters printed as one letter) and *diacritics* (accent notations added to a letter) not found in English. In German certain consonant combinations are common. The early designers of Gothic type used one type piece to print both consonants. The most common ligatures are:

ƿ - ck ʄ - ch ꝑ, ꝑ - sz
 ꝛ - tz ꝛ, ꝛ - ss

The *Umlaut* (sound shift) is commonly used with three vowels: *a*, *o*, and *u*. It appears as two dots placed over the vowel and indicates a change in the sound of the vowel. These sound shifts are often written without the diacritic marks:

Ä ä	=	Ae ae	=	Ꝣ Ꝣ	=	Ꝥe æ
Ö ö	=	Oe oe	=	Ꝣ ö	=	Ꝥe æ
Ü ü	=	Ue ue	=	Ꝣ ü	=	Ꝥe ue

Occasionally two dots were also used over the *y* (ÿ, Ꝛ) and over an *e* as in *Noël* (Ꝣœl) and *Michaël* (Ꝣichaël). In these instances, there is no change in pronunciation of the letter beneath. The dots over the *y* are carried over from Latin when the double *i* at the end of a word was written, ‘*ij*’. (Latin did not have the letter *j* or *y*). The dots over the *e* indicate that the *e* is pronounced with its own value (it is not part of an umlaut).

Another marking found over letters is the *U-bogen*, or u-hook. This was a marking like a curved dash placed over a *u* to distinguish it from an *n*. This is not to be confused with a straight line placed over an *m* or *n* which was used as a shorthand abbreviation for a double letter or leaving out additional letters, as in *Johañ* for Johann or *Joes* for Joannes (Latin form of Johannes).

German has an additional letter not found in English, called an *Eszett* (ß). It looks like a Roman script capital *B* with a tail on top (Ꝟ). It is pronounced and sometimes rewritten as a double *ss*. It is never found at the beginning of a word.

HANDWRITTEN GOTHIC

With handwritten documents, it is not always easy to tell where one letter ends and the next one begins. Many of the letters also have similar shapes making it difficult to tell one letter from another. Practice writing your name and other words in the Gothic alphabet until you can develop a feel for the flow of the letters. This will help you read documents more easily.

When reading German records, you may experience three common problems:

- Gothic letters may look like those you are used to in Roman script, and you will think they are the Roman letters. For example, the *v* may resemble a *w* and a *w* might resemble an *m*.
- Some Gothic letters may look like other Gothic letters. For example, the following letters may appear very similar to each other in Gothic script and must be carefully distinguished:

e, n, u	g, p, q
s, h, f, j	B, C, L
r, v	

- Some Gothic letters may be entirely new to you. For example, the Gothic lowercase letters *e*, *h*, and *s* and the Gothic capital letters *B*, *C*, *H*, and *S* are quite different from the Roman letters.

With practice you will learn to recognize Gothic letters. By studying particular letters, you will be able to read the Gothic handwriting much more accurately. Learning key German genealogical terms will also help.

When a letter cannot be identified in a document, look for the same letter or word in another part of the document. It may be clearer, or the context may make it easier to figure out. Also look for an index. Indexes to German records were often made much later than the original documents and may include the names in a style of handwriting which is easier to read.

Since every individual's handwriting is distinct, you may wish to prepare a handwriting chart with the alphabet for the particular style used by the scribe who wrote the records you are researching. In particular, note letters that are different than those you are used to.

HOW TO USE THE CHART FOR GERMAN RESEARCH

The following chart shows Roman letters with typed and handwritten German Gothic equivalents. To learn this style, practice writing it. This will help you develop a feel for the way letters are written and distinguish the letters when they are written differently.

Old German Type and Handwriting

Roman Type	German Type	German Script	Roman Type	German Type	German Script
Aa	Aa	<i>A a</i>	Vv	Vv	<i>V v</i>
Bb	Bb	<i>B b</i>	Ww	Ww	<i>W w</i>
Cc	Cc	<i>C c</i>	Xx	Xx	<i>X x</i>
Dd	Dd	<i>D d</i>	Yy	Yy	<i>Y y</i>
Ee	Ee	<i>E e</i>	Zz	Zz	<i>Z z</i>
Ff	Ff	<i>F f</i>	Modified Vowels (Umlaute)		
Gg	Gg	<i>G g</i>			
Hh	Hh	<i>H h</i>	Ää	Ä ä	<i>Ä ä</i>
Ii	Ii	<i>I i</i>	Öö	Ö ö	<i>Ö ö</i>
Jj	Jj	<i>J j</i>	Üü	Ü ü	<i>Ü ü</i>
Kk	Kk	<i>K k</i>	Compound Consonants		
Ll	Ll	<i>L l</i>			
Mm	Mm	<i>M m</i>	ch	ch	<i>ch</i>
Nn	Nn	<i>N n</i>	sch	sch	<i>sch</i>
Oo	Oo	<i>O o</i>	ck	ck	<i>ck</i>
Pp	Pp	<i>P p</i>	ss	ss	<i>ss</i>
Qq	Qq	<i>Q q</i>	ß (SZ, SS)	ß (ß ss)	<i>ß</i>
Rr	Rr	<i>R r</i>	st	st	<i>st</i>
Ss	Ss	<i>S s</i>	tz	tz	<i>tz</i>
Tt	Tt	<i>T t</i>	ph	ph	<i>ph</i>
Uu	Uu	<i>U u</i>			

SUGGESTED READING

Dozens of guides and handbooks have been written to assist people in reading German Gothic script. Studying these books will help you to see variations of the script. Most guides for genealogists include examples of names, occupations, and genealogical terms showing how they look in both Roman and Gothic handwriting.

The following is an excellent introductory guide to reading names and genealogical records. It was produced to help people who are unfamiliar with Gothic script:

German Records Extraction—Script Exercises. Salt Lake City, Utah: Family History Library, 1980. (FHL book 943 D27gs; film 1224522 item 1.)

Other helpful guides include the following:

Bentz, Edna M. *If I Can, You Can: Deciphering Germanic Records*. San Diego, Calif.: Edna M. Bentz, 1982. (FHL book 943 G3b; computer number 0170537.)

Mashey, Anne B. *A Guide to Olde German Handwriting of the Mid-1800s for Genealogists, Researchers, Antiquers*. Wexford, Pa.: Anne B. Mashey, 1982. (FHL book 943 G37n no.2; computer number 0205085.)

Storrer, Norman J., and Larry O. Jensen. *A Genealogical and Demographic Handbook of German Handwriting, 17th–19th Centuries*. Pleasant Grove, Utah: Norman J. Storrer, 1977. (FHL book 943 G3sj; computer number 0246694.)

Verdenhalven, Fritz. *Die deutsche Schrift—The German Script: Ein Übungsbuch* [an exercise book]. Neustadt an der Aisch: Verlag Degener & Co., 1991. (FHL book 943 G37v; computer number 0651425.)

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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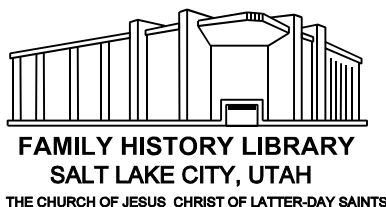
We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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36316



German

INTRODUCTION

This guide is for researchers who do not speak German but must write to Germany, Austria, or parts of Switzerland to request genealogical records. It includes a list of sentences you would use in a letter about genealogical records and a German translation of these sentences.

The best sources of genealogical information in German-speaking countries are records of births, marriages, and deaths kept by churches and civil registration offices. The Family History Library has microfilmed copies of these records for many, but not all, localities. Use the Family History Library Catalog to determine what records are available through the Family History Library and Family History Centers. If records are available from the library, it is usually faster and more productive to search these records first. The library's *Germany Research Outline* (34061) explains how to research records at the library or at Family History Centers.

If the records you want are not available through the Family History Library, you can use this guide to help you write to a church or a civil registration office to obtain information. The *Germany Research Outline* can help you decide whether church or civil registration records will be most helpful to you.

BEFORE YOU WRITE

Before you write a letter in German to obtain family history information, you should do three things:

☐ **Determine exactly where your ancestor was born, married, or died.** Because most genealogical records were kept locally, you will need to know the specific town where your ancestor's records were kept. See the library's *Tracing Immigrant Origins* for help in finding hometowns.

☐ **Determine your ancestor's religion.** Because most early records were kept by churches or synagogues rather than civil registration offices, you may need to write to the church your ancestor attended in his or her hometown. If you are not sure what your ancestor's religion was in Europe, determine what religion he or she practiced after immigrating. Usually people did not change religions when they moved from Europe to their new home.

☐ **Determine where records from your ancestor's hometown are stored today.** Records for smaller localities may be at repositories in nearby larger villages. You can use a gazetteer to determine which parish or civil jurisdiction serves your ancestor's locality. You may also use the *Germany Research Outline* for help locating records.

RESEARCH BY MAIL

Church records are obtained from parishes, and civil records are obtained from civil registration offices. Both kinds of records may be stored in archives. Genealogical Societies may also be able to help you find some of the information you need.

Parishes. Most church records begin in the 1600s, and some begin even earlier. The records may be stored in a local parish or a regional archive. Request information from the local parish first. In your letter, ask where you can write to obtain records that are no longer stored locally.

Civil Registration Offices. Civil registration records begin in 1876 in most of Germany and as early as 1792 in some areas. They begin in 1876 in Switzerland and 1939 in Austria. They are generally deposited at local offices, but older records (especially those over one hundred years old) are sometimes in state or district archives. Write local offices first. Registrars may be able to tell you where to write to obtain records they no longer have.

Archives. If the records you need are deposited in an archive, you may ask the archivist to recommend a private researcher you can hire. Archivists usually do not have time to search records.

Societies. Genealogical societies usually collect genealogies, periodicals, and some original records from their area and recommend researchers you can hire to research local records.

How to Address the Envelope

For a *Catholic Parish*:

An das katholische Pfarramt
(Insert street address, if known.)
(Postal Code) (Name of Locality)
GERMANY
AUSTRIA, or SWITZERLAND

For a **Protestant Parish**:

An das evangelische Pfarramt
(Insert street address, if known.)
(Postal Code) (Name of Locality)
GERMANY
AUSTRIA, or SWITZERLAND

For a **Civil Registration Office**:

An das Standesamt
(Insert street address, if known.)
(Postal Code) (Name of Locality)
GERMANY
or AUSTRIA

An das Zivilstandsamt
(Insert street address, if known.)
(Postal Code) (Name of Locality)
SWITZERLAND

Some archive and society addresses are listed in the *Germany Research Outline*, or you can call the Family History Library at 801-240-3433.

Postal Codes

When addressing your letter, you will need to write the postal (zip) code **in front** of the name of the town to which you are writing. For help finding postal codes, use the postal directory for the country or call the Family History Library at 801-240-3433.

On 1 July 1993 Germany revised its postal codes. Any address published prior to July 1993 must be updated to be correct.

Some towns do not have a post office. When writing to a town without one, put the name of the town at the end of the first line. Write the postal code and the nearest post office on the second line. For example, the German postal directory indicates that the post office for *Blersum* is at nearby *Wittmund*. A letter requesting information from a civil registration office in *Blersum* should be addressed:

An das Standesamt **Blersum**
26409 **Wittmund**
GERMANY

How to Send Return Postage and Money

When you write someone in Europe, send an international reply coupon (available at most large post offices) to pay for return postage. When writing to Germany, some people have had more success sending an international bank draft.

Ruesch International Bank Drafts. An easy and inexpensive way to send money to Europe from North America is to telephone Ruesch International Financial Services at 800-424-2923. Ask for an international bank draft for the equivalent of \$15.00 (or another amount) in either German marks, Austrian schillings, or Swiss

francs. There is a \$3.00 service charge. Have the check made payable to the organization or to the *Pfarramt* (parish). Ruesch will give you a transaction number to write on your payment check. Send the payment to—

Ruesch International Financial Services
700 11th St NW
Washington, DC 20001-4507

When they receive your payment, Ruesch will promptly send you a foreign currency draft (check) you can mail to Europe.

Writing to a Parish. When writing to a parish, it is also a good idea to send a donation of \$15.00 as a courtesy. Do not send a personal check, which is difficult and expensive to exchange in Europe. Cash is most easily converted to European currency, but there are always risks in sending cash.

Writing to Other Offices or Organizations. Some researchers do not send money when writing to a civil registration office, archive, or genealogical society for the first time. These organizations may prefer to bill you for their services. Some may ask you to make the check payable to their account (*Konto*) number. If you want, you may write an institution to determine their fees before making a request. However, this will significantly increase the time it takes to get information.

Checklist for Mailing a Letter to Europe

- ☐ Keep a photocopy of your letter.
- ☐ Enclose payment for the return postage.
- ☐ Convert funds to foreign currency.
- ☐ Mark the envelope "Air Mail."

WHAT TO EXPECT

It may take six months or longer for you to receive a reply to your request for information (airmail improves the response time). The results of writing to parishes or civil registration offices can vary greatly. You may get a great deal of information, or you may get no answer at all. Some pastors and civil registrars are willing to do considerable research. Others will not answer until money is sent or offered. Some may be unable to provide information.

Because some information is not easily obtained by writing directly to a pastor or registrar, you may need to hire a local private researcher. We suggest that you inquire about a competent local researcher when you write.

When you receive a reply, send a note of thanks or acknowledgement. You may wish to do this in a follow-up letter requesting further information. Refer to your earlier letters and their return letters by date. If they have assigned you a reference number, include that number as well.

Use German-English dictionaries to help you understand the reply. Sometimes you can hire accredited genealogists to translate for you.

If you do not receive an answer, write again sending a copy of your first letter. Do not send more money unless you verify that your first letter did not arrive.

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER IN GERMAN

Your letter should include:

- the date (at the top)
- the name and address of the addressee
- a greeting
- a brief introduction
- biographical information about your relative
- a short, specific, genealogical request
- referral request(s)
- a comment about payment
- closing remarks
- your signature
- your return address (including your country).

Be brief and simple. Do not ask for too much at one time.

The following English-to-German translations will help you compose your letter. Read the sentences in English and choose those that best express what you want to say. Be sure that your sentences are arranged logically. You may want to write your letter first in English using the following sentences, then replace the sentences with their German translations. However you proceed, make sure you type or neatly print your letter and, when necessary, add any diacritical marks and special characters (such as ä, ö, ü, ß) with a pen.

Do not use this guide as the letter itself! That might insult the recipient and lessen the chance of a reply.

Writing Dates

Write dates in the European style: day-month-year. Write the name of the month out and write the year in full. For example, write *10 Dezember 1889*, not *12-10-89* or even *10-12-1889*.

January	- Januar	July	- Juli
February	- Februar	August	- August
March	- März	September	- September
April	- April	October	- Oktober
May	- Mai	November	- November
June	- Juni	December	- Dezember

English

German

Greetings

1. Dear Sir or Madam:	1. Sehr geehrter Herr oder geehrte Dame,
2. Dear Pastor:	2. Sehr geehrter Herr Pfarrer,

Introductions

3. I am researching my ancestors and need information from your records.	3. Ich erforsche meine Vorfahren und benötige Angaben aus Ihren Registern.
4. My ancestors come from (<i>fill in locality</i>). I would like to know more about them.	4. Meine Vorfahren stammen aus (<i>fill in locality</i>). Ich möchte gerne mehr über dieselben erfahren.
5. The following individual is my ancestor. Below is all the information I have about this person:	5. Die nachstehend aufgeführte Person ist mein Vorfahr. Ich habe alle mir bekannten genealogischen Angaben über diese Person aufgeführt:

Biographical Information

(Give information about your ancestor using the terms from the following list.)

6. a. Given name and surname:	6. a. Vor- und Familienname:
b. Date of birth:	b. Geburtsdatum:
c. Place of birth:	c. Geburtsort:
d. Father's given name and surname:	d. Vor- und Familienname des Vaters:

e. Mother's given name and surname:	e. Vor- und Mädchenname der Mutter:
f. Husband's given name and surname:	f. Vor- und Familienname des Ehemannes:
g. Wife's given name and maiden surname:	g. Vor- und Mädchenname der Ehefrau:
h. Date of marriage:	h. Heiratsdatum:
i. Place of marriage:	i. Heiratsort:
j. Date of death:	j. Todestag:
k. Place of death:	k. Sterbeort:
l. Date of emigration:	l. Auswanderungsdatum:
m. Religion: Roman Catholic Protestant (Lutheran) Reformed Jewish	m. Religion: römisch-katholisch evangelisch-lutherisch evangelisch-reformiert jüdisch
Genealogical Requests	
7. Could you please check your birth registers from <u>(fill in year)</u> to <u>(fill in year)</u> for the birth or christening record of this person?	7. Bitte suchen Sie in Ihren Geburtsregistern von <u>(fill in year)</u> bis <u>(fill in year)</u> nach dem Geburtseintrag dieser Person?
8. Please send me a complete extract of the birth or christening record (1) of this person. (2) of these persons.	8. Bitte schicken Sie mir einen vollständigen Auszug aus dem Geburts- oder Taufregister (1) für diese Person. (2) für diese Personen.
9. Please send me a complete extract of the marriage record (1) of this person. (2) of this person's parents.	9. Bitte schicken Sie mir einen vollständigen Auszug des Heiratsregisters (1) für diese Person. (2) für die Eltern dieser Person.
10. I believe that <u>(fill in name)</u> died in your locality about <u>(fill in year)</u> . I would like a complete extract of the death record.	10. Ich glaube, daß <u>(fill in name)</u> ungefähr <u>(fill in year)</u> in Ihrem Ort starb. Ich möchte gerne einen vollständigen Auszug aus dem Todesregister für diese Person haben.
11. I would like to know more about the family of this person. I would be grateful if you would provide the names and birth dates of the brothers and sisters and an extract of the marriage record of the parents.	11. Ich möchte gerne mehr über die Familie dieser Person erfahren und wäre Ihnen sehr dankbar, wenn Sie mir die Namen und Geburtsdaten der Geschwister und einen Auszug aus dem Heiratsregister für die Eltern beschaffen könnten.
12. I would like to locate any relatives who may live in <u>(fill in town)</u> . My ancestor was <u>(fill in name)</u> . If you know any relatives of the family, I would be grateful if you would give this letter to them so that they can contact me.	12. Ich möchte meine Verwandten finden, die in <u>(fill in town)</u> wohnen. Der Name meines Vorfahren ist <u>(fill in name)</u> . Wenn Sie Verwandte dieser Familie kennen, wäre ich Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie ihnen diesen Brief geben könnten, damit sie mit mir Kontakt aufnehmen können.
13. Please send me a copy of the family information on <u>(fill in husband's name)</u> and <u>(fill in wife's name)</u> . They were married (1) <u>(fill in date)</u> . (2) approximately <u>(fill in date)</u> .	13. Senden Sie mir bitte eine Abschrift über die Familie von <u>(fill in husband's name)</u> und <u>(fill in wife's name)</u> . Sie heirateten (1) <u>(fill in date)</u> . (2) ungefähr <u>(fill in date)</u> .

14. For my family research I need information from the Jewish records of births, marriages, and deaths from your community. Do you know where such records were kept and where they are presently located?	14. Für meine Ahnenforschung brauche ich Angaben aus den jüdischen Geburts-, Heirats-, und Todesregistern Ihres Ortes. Wissen Sie, wo diese Unterlagen aufbewahrt wurden und wo sie sich gegenwärtig befinden?
15. Would you please inform me if it is possible to obtain photocopies from your records and tell me the cost of such copies?	15. Würden Sie mir bitte mitteilen, ob es möglich wäre, Fotokopien von Ihren Urkunden zu erhalten und was sie kosten?
Referral Requests	
16. If you do not have the necessary records, could you provide the address of the place where the records can be found?	16. Wenn Sie die notwendigen Unterlagen nicht besitzen, könnten Sie mir die Anschrift der Dienststelle mitteilen, wo sich die betreffenden Unterlagen befinden?
17. If you are unable to do this research for me, could you please recommend a local researcher that I could hire for this purpose—someone who speaks some English if possible?	17. Sollten Sie nicht in der Lage sein, mir bei dieser Forschung zu helfen, so bitte ich um den Namen eines Ahnenforschers, den ich beauftragen könnte—wenn möglich jemanden, der Englisch kann?
Payment	
18. To cover your expenses, I am enclosing a donation to your parish as well as payment for the return postage.	18. Zur Deckung Ihrer Gebühren lege ich eine Spende zu Ihrem Pfarramt bei.
19. Please let me know the cost of your help and how I can pay.	19. Bitte teilen Sie mir mit, was ich für Ihre Dienstleistung zu bezahlen habe und wie ich den Betrag überweisen kann.
Closing Remarks and Return Address	
20. I thank you in advance for your help.	20. Ich danke Ihnen im Voraus für Ihre Hilfe.
21. Sincerely,	21. Mit freundlichen Grüßen
22. My address:	22. Meine Anschrift:
Follow-up (Use these sentences in follow-up letters as needed.)	
23. Thank you for the information you sent on (<i>fill in date</i>). It has helped me very much.	23. Vielen Dank für die Angaben, die Sie mir am (<i>fill in date</i>) geschickt haben. Die sind für mir eine große Hilfe!
24. I need further information about one of the individuals you mentioned in your letter: (<i>fill in name</i>).	24. Ich brauche zusätzliche Angaben über eine Person, die Sie in Ihrem Brief erwähnt haben. Es handelt sich um (<i>fill in name</i>).
25. I have already received from you the following information about this person:	25. Ich habe von Ihnen über diese Person schon die folgenden Angaben erhalten:
26. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent you on (<i>fill in date</i>). Please write and tell me if you can do this research.	26. Ich lege eine Kopie von einem Brief bei, den ich Ihnen am (<i>fill in date</i>) geschickt habe. Bitte, schreiben Sie mir, ob Sie diesen Auftrag annehmen können!

EXAMPLE LETTER

Date 20 Juli 1993

Addressee An das evangelische Pfarramt Seele
99799 Nirgendwo
GERMANY

Greeting Sehr geehrter Herr Pfarrer,

Introduction Die nachstehend aufgeführte Person ist mein Vorfahr. Ich habe alle mir bekannten genealogischen Angaben über diese Person aufgeführt:

Biographical Information Vor- und Familienname: Andreas NIEMAND
Geburtsdatum: 28 Mai 1820
Geburtsort: Seele, Sachsen, Preußen
Vor- und Mädchenname der Ehefrau: Beatta CRILE
Heiratsdatum: 13 April 1857
Heiratsort: Jefferson County, Iowa, USA
Religion: evangelisch-lutherisch

Genealogical Request Bitte schicken Sie mir einen vollständigen Auszug aus dem Geburts- oder Taufregister für diese Person?

Referral Requests Wenn Sie die notwendigen Unterlagen nicht besitzen, könnten Sie mir die Anschrift der Dienststelle mitteilen, wo sich die betreffenden Unterlagen befinden?

Sollten Sie nicht in der Lage sein, mir bei dieser Forschung zu helfen, so bitte ich um den Namen eines Ahnenforschers, den ich beauftragen könnte—wenn möglich jemanden, der Englisch kann?

Payment Zur Deckung Ihrer Gebühren lege ich eine Spende zu Ihrem Pfarramt bei.

Closing Ich danke Ihnen im Voraus für Ihre Hilfe.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Signature

Return Address Meine Anschrift:
Jane Doe
674 "Q" Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84103 USA

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this guide. Please send your suggestions to—

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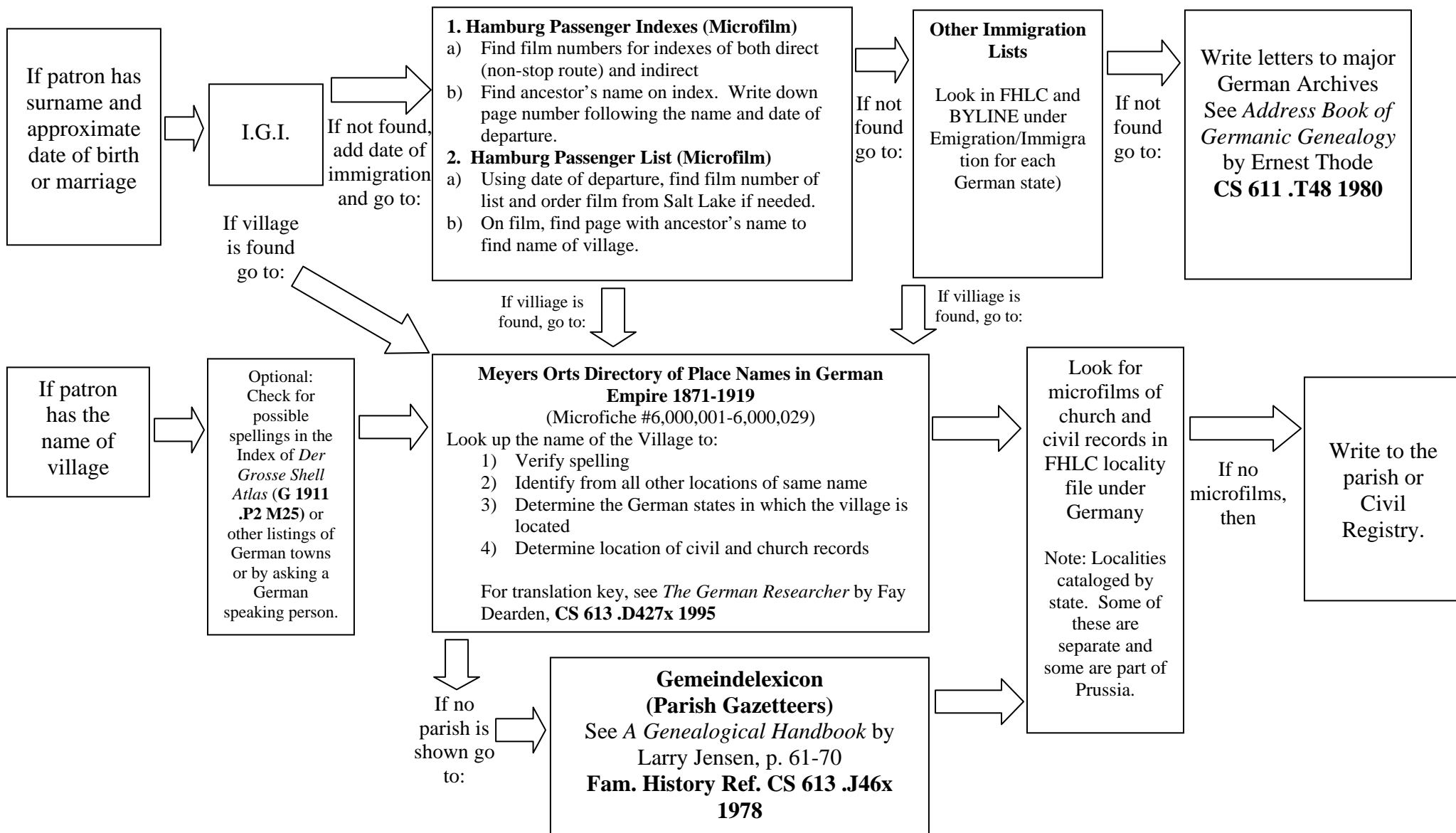
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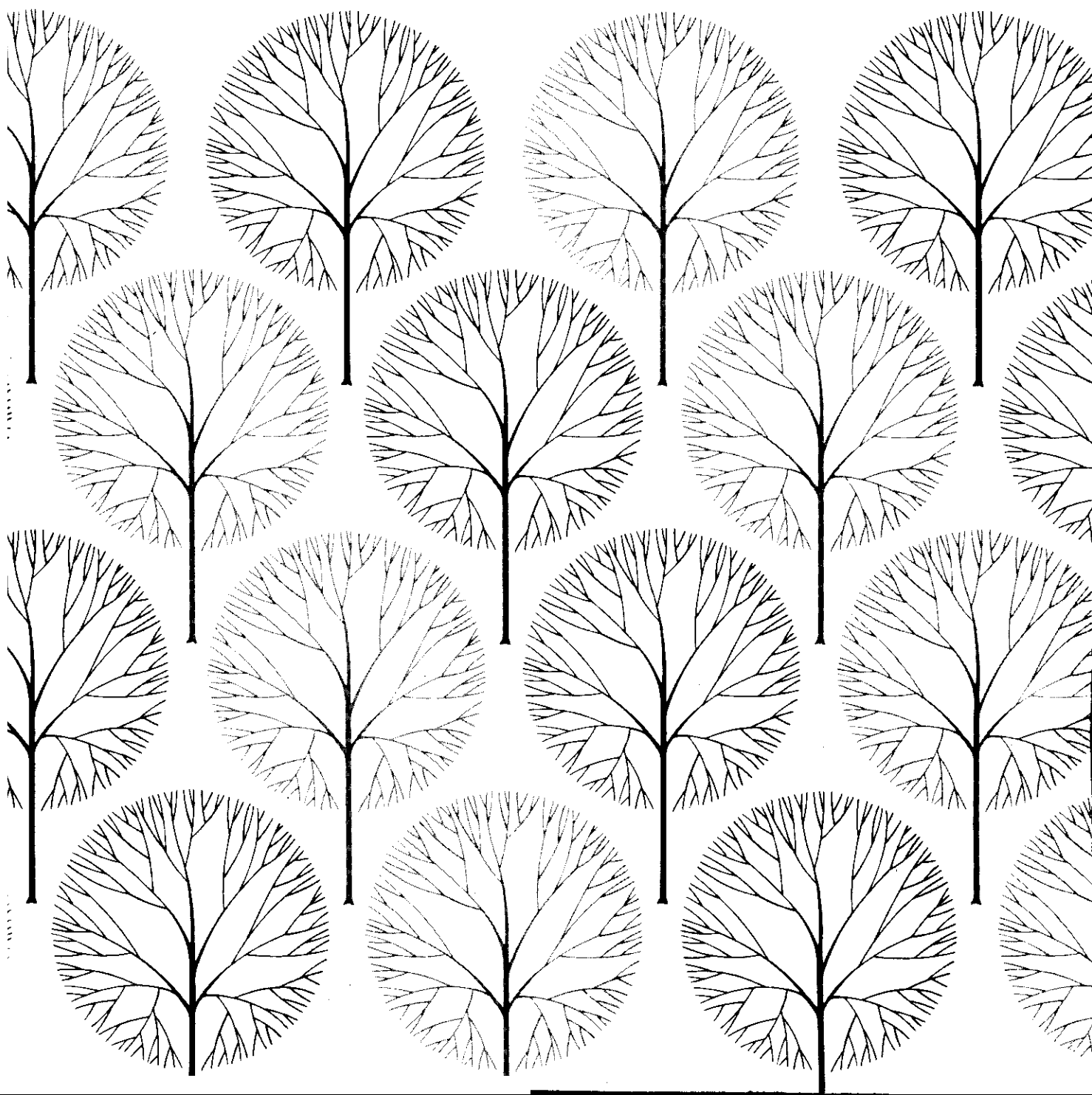
STEPS IN GERMAN RESEARCH AT THE BYU FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY



Major Genealogical
Record Sources in

Germany

The Genealogical Department
of The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints
Series C, no. 1 (revised 1975)



Major Genealogical Record Sources in Germany

In identifying ancestors, genealogical researchers need the answers to four key questions regarding record sources:

1. What types of records exist that will aid in the identification of ancestors?
2. What periods of time do the existing records cover?
3. What genealogical information appears in the existing records?
4. What is the availability of existing records for searching?

The chart and table that follow contain answers to the above questions for the major genealogical record sources of Germany. The major sources are listed, together with type of record, period covered, type of information given, and source availability.

Table A shows at a glance the record sources available for a research problem in a particular century.

Table B provides more detailed information about the major records available. For example, if a pedigree problem is in the 17th century, a quick indication can be obtained from Table A of the sources available for that period. Reference to Table B will then provide more complete information.

Aid to Genealogical Research in Germany

TABLE A

TYPE OF RECORD	CENTURY							
	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
1. Civil Registration								
2. Passenger Lists								
3. City Directories								
4. Emigration Records								
5. Police Registers								
6. Parish Register Transcripts								
7. Parish Registers								
8. Funeral Sermons								
9. Schools and Universities								
10. Census Records								
11. House Books								
12. Burgher Rolls								
13. Wills & Probate Records								
14. Apprentice and Guild Records								
15. Deeds & Other Land Records								

Aid to Genealogical Research in Germany

TABLE B

MAJOR SOURCES CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
1. CIVIL REGISTRATION (<i>Standesamts-Register</i>)	1876 to present (1798 to present for that part of Germany under French administration during Napoleonic times—the area west of the Rhine River)	<i>Birth registers:</i> date and place of birth; names, residence, and occupation of parents <i>Marriage registers:</i> names, ages, residence, occupation of bride and groom; date and place of marriage, names, residence, occupation of parents; names of witnesses and person who performed ceremony <i>Death registers:</i> name, age, sometimes place of birth, date and place of death, occupation, name of surviving spouse, name and residence of informant, cause of death, sometimes names of parents, sometimes names of children	Civil registers of the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen are presently being microfilmed by the GS (check the towns in which you have interest in the GS Library catalog); for places not appearing in the catalog, write to the civil registrar (<i>Standesamt</i>) of the town in question NOTE. It is difficult to obtain certificates from behind the Iron Curtain
2. PASSENGER LISTS (<i>Schiffs-oder Passagier-listen</i>)	1837 to present	<i>Persons embarking from port of Hamburg only:</i> date of embarkation, husband's full name, place of origin, occupation, and age; given names and ages of wife and children, sometimes port of destination	Hamburg State Archive (<i>Staatsarchiv Hamburg</i>); on film (GS) NOTE. Similar records for the port of Bremen were destroyed during WWII
3. CITY DIRECTORIES (<i>Adressbuecher</i>)	Early 19th C. to present	Names and addresses	City archives and local libraries; few (GS)

Continued

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
4. EMIGRATION (<i>Auswandererlisten</i>)	Early 19th C. to present	Name of emigrant, date and place of birth, place of residence, occupation, sometimes country of destination; given names and ages of wife and children	State archives (<i>Staatsarchiv</i>): Bremen, Darmstadt, Altona, Stuttgart (on microfilm at GS), Wiesbaden, Marburg
5. POLICE REGISTERS (<i>Einwohnermelde listen</i>)	1830 to present	The police registers were established for the control of the movements of the population; names and sometimes other identifying data	Town office for registration (<i>Einwohnermeldeamt</i>)—this office can always supply the address of a person living in the town concerned
6. PARISH REGISTER TRANSCRIPTS (<i>Kirchenbuecher Zweit-schriften</i>)	<i>Bavaria</i> : 1807 to present	Same as parish registers, see no. 7	Local and state archives
	<i>Mecklenburg</i> : 1740 to present	Same as parish registers, see no. 7	Local and state archives
	<i>Prussia</i> : 1899 to present	Same as parish registers, see no. 7	Local and state archives
	<i>Wuerttemberg</i> : 1808-1875	Same as parish registers, see no. 7	<i>Protestant</i> : Landeskirchliches Archiv, Stuttgart <i>Catholic</i> : Staatsarchiv, Ludwigsburg
7. PARISH REGISTERS (<i>Kirchenbuecher</i>)	<i>Catholic</i> : 1563 to present; some earlier <i>Protestant</i> : since the Reformation <i>Reformed Church</i> : 1650 to present	<i>Christenings or births</i> : name, date, and place of birth of child; parents' names, residence, occupation; names of godparents <i>Marriages</i> : names, ages, date and place of marriage; names of parents; sometimes occupations <i>Deaths and burials</i> : name, date, age, place of death, and place of burial of deceased; sometimes names of spouse, parents, children	Many on film (GS), especially the area west of the Rhine River; the Province of Mecklenburg on film (GS); the parish registers for the remainder of Germany are in local parishes except for a few in church archives; many church records were destroyed during the 30 Years' War, 1618-1648. The GS is presently filming in West Germany. Check holdings periodically for new acquisitions.
8. FUNERAL SERMONS (<i>Leichenpredigten</i>)	16th-18th C.	Name and age of the deceased, names of next of kin and other identifying data	In printed book form, primarily in Protestant churches; local and state archives; some (GS)
9. SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES (<i>Universitaets-Matrikeln</i>)	16th-19th C.	Name, age, place of residence of student	Local city or state archives
10. CENSUS (<i>Volkszaehungslisten</i>)	<i>Mecklenburg</i> : 1496-1900 at varying intervals	Originally called <i>Tax and Tithing Records</i> (<i>Steuer- und Zehntregister</i>): name, age, place of origin, occupation, residence	State archive at Schwerin, East Germany
	<i>Mecklenburg</i> : 1677-1689 at varying intervals	Same as above	On film (GS), 150 pages
	<i>Mecklenburg</i> : 1819	Same as above	On film (GS), cataloged by localities
	<i>Schleswig-Holstein</i> : 1803-1860	Same as above	On film (GS), cataloged by town and district
	<i>Other areas</i> : 16th-18th C	Same as above	Various city and state archives

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
11. HOUSE BOOKS (Haus-buecher)	15th-19th C.	History of houses, giving names, occupations, and social and economic status of owners of houses	Local city or state archives
12. BURGHER ROLLS (Buerger-buecher)	13th-19th C.	Name, sometimes age, social and economic status of burgher; some printed burgher rolls contain genealogies of burghers	Local city or state archives; a few burgher rolls in print (GS)
13. PROBATE (Testamente)	13th C to present	Name and sometimes age of testator, residence, legatees or heirs, relationships, description of land and property, date of will and probate, signature, witnesses	Local courthouses (Amtsgericht) or state archives
14. APPRENTICE AND GUILD (Zunft, Lehrlings-und Gesellenbuecher)	12th-19th C	Name, residence, occupation of apprentice; names of parents of apprentice; name of employer	Local city or state archives
15. DEEDS & MISC. LAND (Grundbuecher, Kaufbuecher, Ueberschreibungen, etc.)	7th C. to present	Name, date of deed, residence, consideration, description of land, witnesses, sometimes relationships, economic status	Local courthouses and state archives; see Wuerttemberg Urkundenbuch



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A GENEALOGICAL HANDBOOK OF GERMAN RESEARCH

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INTRODUCTION

There are many different aspects of German research that could and maybe should be covered; but it is not the intention of this book even to try to cover the majority of these. Too often when genealogical texts are written on German research, the tendency has been to generalize. Because of the historical, political, and environmental background of this country, that is one thing that should not be done. In Germany the records vary as far as types, time period, contents, and use from one kingdom to the next and even between areas within the same kingdom. In addition to the variation in record types there are also research problems concerning the use of different calendars and naming practices that also vary from area to area.

Before one can successfully begin doing research in Germany there are certain things that he must know. There are certain references, problems and procedures that will affect how one does research regardless of the area in Germany where he intends to do research.

The purpose of this book is to set forth those things that a person must know and do to succeed in his Germanic research, whether he is just beginning or whether he is advanced. Because of the sources available at the genealogical library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon), reference is made to it and to the reference and research materials available there, all sources quoted in this book pertain to genealogical library book or film numbers. Most of these sources are available through the branch libraries of the L.D.S. church throughout the world.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge those who have had an important impact on the writing and publishing of this volume. Mainly to my wife Linda and my family who have been a constant source of support and encouragement.

I am sincerely grateful to those with whom I have worked at the Family History library in Salt Lake City, Utah in particular to Lee Bohm and Gerhard Jeske who taught me the basics of German genealogical research and its related skills. I am especially appreciative of the editing assistance of Laraine Ferguson with whom I have had the privilege of also producing the *German Genealogical Digest*.

Last, but not least, I am eternally grateful to my German ancestors who provided me with the incentive and motivation to become involved in German genealogical research.

Chapter 1 – Historical and Geographical

An understanding of the history and geography of the area in Germany where you are doing research is very important to genealogical research procedure, historical events occurring at the country or kingdom level on down to those occurring at the city or local nobility levels all had an effect on records being kept and on the lives of the people.

Geographical

There are many ways in which the geography of an area affects genealogical research procedures, some of these are also closely associated with historical events and could fall in either or both groups. The geography of an area may have been affected by political events as much as political events being affected by the geography, this would be true of wars as well as boundary changes between areas within Germany and with other countries, a person's occupation, such as farmer, miller, fisher, or miner, is affected by the geography as well. Climatic conditions affected the geographical movements of individuals. Similar to this were economic conditions and overcrowding. Another thing that was closely associated with the geography was the individual's religion.

Political

If a particular area in Germany was geographically valuable either commercially or politically, it is possible for it to have changed hands more than once between different kingdoms or countries. An area such as Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine) was once a part of Charlemagne's empire in the 800s, the holy Roman-German Empire in the 1100s, and the French Empire in the 1700s. It became part of the German Empire in 1871, France in 1918, Germany in 1942, and finally France in 1945.

The following maps show the territorial growth of the kingdom of Prussia and are a good example of changes occurring within Germany:

Map of the territorial growth of the Kingdom of Prussia

With the conquerors often came their record keeping systems and their record types. In France the civil registration began in the early 1790s. Those areas of Germany that were occupied by France have their civil registry beginning in the late 1790s. In many areas of Germany, civil registry did not begin until the 1870s.

During the French revolution, many areas of Germany used the same calendar that was used in France and many of the records used in the Ostfriesland area of Germany are the same as those in Holland due to the Dutch influence. Because of the Danish influence, parts of Schleswig-Holstein used a similar patronymical naming system and their census and military records were also patterned after those in Denmark.

The area of the Pfalz (Palatinate) was not so much politically involved in the Thirty Years' war as were other areas, but it became the battleground for the French, Swedish, Spanish and the imperialists wars. Because of this, there was widespread destruction of both people and records in this area between 1622 and 1707. Many emigrants from this area fled to the main kingdom of Bavaria to which the Pfalz belonged. Many more fled Germany altogether and emigrated to America or England. Another political aspect of the geography of Germany was the fact that many of the German kingdoms were split up into several areas. The map in Fig. 1 shows those kingdoms where this condition existed.

There are several reasons why a knowledge of this is important in doing research.

Figure 1: Kingdoms

1. There may be two or more places by the same name and in the same kingdom but located geographically in completely different areas.
2. Before a place can be found on a map, the area in which the place is located would have to be determined first.

Occupational

Many occupations are geographically oriented. If you know from family tradition that your ancestor was a fisherman by trade, it is not likely that you would be looking for him in places like Bavaria or Hessen, which are inland areas in southern Germany. By consulting a general map of Germany you would quickly see that he would probably be from somewhere in northern Germany along the seacoast.

Knowledge of the geography could be also helpful in determining the correct place of origin if the occupation of the ancestor is known. If your ancestor was a miner, for example, and if in checking under the name of the place where your ancestor was from in the German gazetteer you find that there are several towns by the same name but in different areas of Germany, you should check each town in a gazetteer or encyclopedia to determine which of the towns were mining communities and eliminate those that were not.

It should be remembered that in most areas of Germany, a person with a particular trade could not go into just any town and practice his trade. There first had to be a need in the town for his trade. If he was a goldsmith and the town already had a Place or try to qualify for another trade for which the town had a need. Even if the town needed a goldsmith, a person often had to become a citizen of the town before they would allow him to practice his trade, becoming a citizen also cost money and was usually denied to those who were not of legitimate birth.

Climate

Often the climatic conditions of a geographical area caused people to migrate or emigrate to other areas or countries, such things as droughts, famines and severe cold all contributed to such movements. There are stories of birds freezing in mid-air due to the extreme cold and of people starving to death because of famines. Although some of the stories are an exaggeration, they show that extreme conditions did exist and as a result people moved from one area to another.

Religion

Religion was also associated with the geography. If an ancestor was Catholic, he was more than likely to be from southern Germany, and from northern Germany if he was Lutheran. There are always exceptions to this, and you will find certain areas in southern Germany that are predominantly Lutheran and areas in northern Germany that are predominantly Catholic, other religious groups such as the Waldenses were found in Baden, Wurttemberg, and Hessen. The Huguenots settled in these same areas as well as in Bavaria and Brandenburg.

Topography

A knowledge of the topography of a country can be helpful in determining whether a person traveled by river or over land when he emigrated or moved to another area in Germany. Knowing the route an ancestor took and the mode of travel used may help to locate a child's birth record, a couple's marriage record, or an individual's death record. This can be done by checking the parishes that they went through en route to their destination. Many emigrants leaving from Rotterdam, Holland, in the 1600s and 1700s stayed in that city several years to earn money to pay for their passage over to America. Many were married in the German Lutheran church there or had members of their family born or die there. A knowledge of the topography is also important in doing an area search. This procedure is explained in more detail in Chapter 10. It should be pointed out here that detailed topographical maps of the area where you are doing research are useful in determining which side of a mountain or river a parish was on. This is important so that you don't waste time searching parishes where an ancestor would have to scale mountains or forge rivers to get to them.

HISTORICAL

There are two aspects of German history that you should be aware of in doing research in Germany:

1. Knowledge of the general history of Germany and Europe as it affected the area where your ancestors came from.
2. Knowledge of the specific history of the area where your ancestor was residing.

General History

There are many historical events that either affected all of Germany or a general area of it. A good example of this would be the establishment of the civil registry. By 1876 it was required throughout Germany that all births, marriages, and deaths had to be properly reported to the civil registrar. If you are doing research after this date, you should know that vital information should be obtained from the civil registrar instead of the parish minister, even though the ministers continued to keep parish registers after this date. The reason for this is that many parish registers give the christening date only. The christening date may have been the same day as the birth, or it may have been several days later. Also, after the civil registry began, many ministers did not keep as detailed records as they had been keeping because the civil registrar was now doing it. Because of this, many of them only recorded what they needed to.

In doing German research, you should obtain a good, general history book of Germany. This can be obtained usually from a bookstore or public library.

The following are some of the important dates dealing with Germany and Europe in general:

1348 -1349	Black Death in Europe
1517	Martin Luther publishes his ninety-five theses
1541	John Calvin introduces reformation into Switzerland
1545-1563	Council of Trent - Catholic Church records required
1550s	Catholic counter reformation
1618-1648	Thirty Years' war
1683	First permanent German settlement in America at Germantown, Pennsylvania
1701-1714	War of Spanish succession - Palatines leave for England
1763	Catherine II, empress of Russia opens area for German colonization
1776	Hessians fight for England, Palatines fight for Colonies
1781	Joseph II of Austria opens area of Galicia for German colonization
1798	French Revolution affects areas of Germany
1805	End of the Holy Roman German empire
1848	German Civil War
1870-1871	Franco-German War
1914-1919	World War I
1939-1945	World War II

Specific History

The majority of historical events that you will be dealing with will concern those pertaining to a specific geographical area. In the example concerning the civil registry given above under - General History - it was noted that by 1876 all of Germany was supposed to be adhering to this law; however, due to the French influences, it began in the Pfalz, Rhineland, and a few other areas during the 1790s. It began in the province of Schleswig-Holstein in 1874 except in and around the areas of Lubeck and Oldenburg where it began in 1811; and in the province of Hannover it began in 1809.

Civil registry was just one record type that varied as far as locality, record content, and the time period it began. A book on the specific area where your ancestor came from should be obtained. If one cannot be obtained from a local bookstore, then you may try writing to an archive or genealogical society in the area of Germany in which you are interested. (See Chapter 22 for a list of societies and archives). The following are some examples of specific historical events:

1687-1697	Invasion of France into the Palatinate
1709	Kocherthal group leaves the Palatinate for England and America
1731	Salzburg, Austria, immigrants settled in East and West Prussia

1742	Silesia becomes a part of Prussia in the war with Austria
1771	Patronymic naming system abolished in Schleswig-Holstein
1806-1807	Prussia loses west of Elbe, Cottbus, and Polish areas in war with France
1811	Oldenburg patronymic naming system discontinued
1850	Beginning of the Hamburg passenger lists
1852	Organization of the first L.D.S. branch in Hamburg, Germany
1866	Schleswig-Holstein annexed by Prussia
1871-1872	Alsace-Lorraine added to German empire

Chapter 2 - Emigration Before 1800

Using the year 1800 as a division date is not done arbitrarily. This is a natural date to use because it marked the separation of two major immigration periods. Emigration out of Germany was on the decrease at this time. This was due primarily to the influence of revolutions in America, France, and other countries and the hope that it would carry over into Germany as well.

An understanding of the reasons for and the causes of the movements of the German people can be useful in determining the general or possibly the specific place that they came from. This was true regardless of whether they were migrating from one place to another within Germany or emigrating from Germany to another country such as England, America, or Russia.

The earliest known migration movements in Germany go back between the third and the eighth centuries. These concerned the movements of the Goths, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Franks, Lombards and the Burgunds (see Fig. 2A), some scholars attribute this movement to what the Germans called "wanderlust." Simply translated, it means a desire to travel or wander. However, there was actually more to it than just wanderlust. This westward movement of the Germanic tribes was primarily due to the conflicts with the Slavic tribes in the east.

The Slavic tribes were making every effort to expand their kingdoms westward. This lasted until about the year 800 when Charlemagne stopped the westward movement of the Slavs and began an eastward expansion of his own kingdom.

Fig. 2A: Movements of the Goths, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Franks, Lombards and the Burgunds

In the middle ages, the movement of Germans was somewhat limited to merchants and craftsmen who traveled the Hanseatic and trade routes. Many of these individuals settled in the foreign places and remained there for many generations.

The first actual attempt at establishing a settlement in America was in 1562 when Alsatian and Hessian Protestants settled in what is now South Carolina. This settlement lasted only until 1566 when it was destroyed by the Spanish Menendez. The first permanent German settlement did not come until 1683 when a group of pietists from the German Palatinate (Pfalz) area came to America on the ship "Concord" and settled Germantown, Pennsylvania.

The next major group of immigrants coming to America was in 1708 when another group from the Palatinate were led by a man by the name of Joshua von Kocherthal. This group went first to England and then to America. In America they settled the city of Neuberg on the Hudson. After this time hundreds of thousands of immigrants went into England and from there they were dispersed into England, Ireland, and Scotland; but the majority of them were sent on to America.

There were three primary reasons for the emigration out of Germany at this time:

Religious Persecutions

Religious persecutions were carried out by both the church and the government. Fifty years after the beginning of the reformation, Lutheranism spread throughout Germany and it looked as though it might eliminate the Catholic church completely. During this time there were many conflicts between Catholics and the Protestants. In 1555 the religious peace of Augsburg was established between the Lutheran and the Catholic churches. This lasted until the Thirty Years'

war broke out in 1618. From the mid-1550s on, the Catholic church began launching a counter reformation movement, it began by putting more pressure on the nobility to control heretics within their kingdoms and estates. Because of this, many people were punished, imprisoned, tortured and often killed if they tried to go against the Catholic church. After the Treaty of Westphalia which ended the Thirty Years' war, the Catholic, Lutheran and reformed Lutheran or Calvinist churches were the only churches officially recognized by the existing kingdoms. Others such as the Huguenots, Mennonites and Anabaptists were still persecuted; and this was often done by the recognized Protestant churches as well as the Catholic church.

Economic and Environmental Conditions

In Germany there have always been economic problems due to the constant wars and the overcrowded conditions that existed. The worst war by far in regards to the amount of destruction of life, property, and records was the Thirty Years' War from 1618 to 1648. During this time, towns were continually being ravaged and plundered by German as well as foreign armies. In 1707, during the war of the Spanish Succession, the Pfalz area of Germany was destroyed for the fourth time. Many people in this area saw no end to the wars; therefore, they left the area for good. Many migrated to the main kingdom of Bavaria, and many more emigrated to England and America.

Climatic conditions also were factors, causing people to leave a particular area. Extremely cold winters and severe droughts and famines forced them to move to better areas or starve to death. It is no wonder that people did not hesitate to go to America, especially when they were told of the near paradisiacal conditions that existed there.

Political Conditions

The political condition of Germany was the third reason for people emigrating. This was because of the despotic methods used by many of the rulers. Often the people were heavily taxed and oppressed in order to support the nobility and to provide for a military force. When enticing tales of the new world were spread around such as being able to worship freely, being free from the threats of war and oppression, and having as much land as they wanted, people could not leave soon enough; and they left by the thousands.

The major problem associated with emigration and immigration before 1800 is determining the exact place of origin in Germany of the emigrant ancestor.

Emigrants during the early to mid-1700s were commonly referred to as Palatines since many of them were from that area in southwest Germany. At this time this area belonged to the kingdom of Bayer (Bavaria) although it was not physically attached to it. Other emigrants, although they were called Palatines, were actually from Alsace-Lorraine, Switzerland, and other areas in southern Germany such as Baden, Rheinland, and Wurttemberg. The following procedures may be helpful in solving the problem of determining the place where the emigrant ancestor was from if he emigrated prior to 1800. (For other aids in determining a place of origin, see Chapters 4, 5 and 6).

Emigration before 1800 was typified by people from the same areas in Germany emigrating together in groups. Those traveling together would often settle in the same areas in America as well. If it is not possible to find some type of local church, civil, or other record in America that would indicate the immigrant's place of birth or origin, then the following suggestions may be of help:

First, your ancestor's name must be located on a passenger list. There are several excellent sources for this time period. They are:

Yoder, Donald, ed. "Emigrants from Württemberg; The Adolf Gerber lists." *The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society*, vol. 10. Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1945. (974.8 C4fg)

Rupp, Israel Daniel. *Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania From 1727 to 1776*. 2nd rev. ed. Philadelphia: Leary, Stuart Co., 1927. (974.8 W2ra)

Strassburger, Ralph Beaver. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*. Norristown, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934. (974.8 B4pg v. 42- 44)
Each of these works is completely indexed.

There are two things that are important about the last two lists. Number one, the lists give the names of those who emigrated to America with your ancestor. Number two, they also give the date of immigration into America.

After locating the name on the passenger list, you should copy the date given and the names of all the other passengers on the list. Again, the church, civil, and other record types in the area where your emigrant ancestor settled in America should be searched; however, this time the search should be made for those whose names were with your ancestor on the passenger list. The records may not have indicated the place where your ancestor was from, but they may give the exact place of one of those who emigrated from the same place in Germany with him.

If it is not possible to find any of those who emigrated with your ancestor in any of the local records or if the records do not give the place of origin for any of them, you should consider

Checking records possibly kept in Germany and made when individuals left the country.

One good example of this would be the manumission records. These records concerned the legal permission given to those desiring to emigrate. There were some who chose to ignore this formality and so these are not complete records of everyone who emigrated.

These manumission records were usually kept by district officials within each kingdom. (See Chapter 6 for more detail.)

If your ancestors cannot be found in the manumission records, you may wish to try the German surname books. The surname books or surname etymology books usually trace names back to the time when they were first recorded, giving also the complete name of the person as found in the early record. These books list the place where the name appeared as well as references to variations of that surname. In many instances, German families remained in

The same areas and places for hundreds of years. The following are a few of these surname books:

Bahlow, Hans. *Deutsches Namenlexikon*. Munich: Keyzersche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1967. (Ref 943 D4ba)
Brechenmacher, Josef Karlmann. *Deutsche Sippennamen*. Gorlitz: Verlag fur Sippenforschung und Wappenkunde C.A. Starke, 1936. (Ref 943 d4br pt. 1-2) (Film no. 492,908)
Brechenmacher, Josef Karlmann. *Etymologisches Worterbuch der Deutschen Familiennamen*. Limburg A.D. Lahn: C. A. Starke = Verlag, 1957. (Ref. 943 D4bj)

Using these surname books is only effective when the name is unusual or uncommon. If your ancestor's surname is neither of these, then return again to the passenger list and use those names that are unusual.

If an exact place still cannot be determined but the general area or kingdom can be, then you may want to check with the main archives or genealogical societies for possible indexes.

Appendix A in the back of this book is a short bibliography of sources which also may help with this type of problem.

Chapter 3 - Emigration After 1800

1800 - 1820

Emigration out of Germany during this time period was very slight. After 1800 it was caused mostly by economic and political reasons and was not from any one particular area of Germany.

It was due to a large extent to the reform movements in various areas of the world. The American Revolution in the 1770s, the French Revolution in the 1790s, and the overthrow of the Holy Roman German empire in 1806, all created the feeling that changes would shortly come to Germany as well.

1820 - 1830

An increase in emigration from certain areas in Germany began at this time due to the Napoleonic wars. The area of Wurttemberg was one of the hardest hit during this time. Of those who emigrated at this time a large portion of them came from this area.

1830 - 1840

Overproduction, overpopulation, unavailability of land, and the fact that mass-production had replaced the artisan worker caused many to decide to emigrate.

In America at this time it was a period of prosperity. The Jacksonian democracy provided what many Germans had been striving for in vain.

Many of the Germans leaving at this time were from the Rhein area of Germany; and they settled extensively in the areas of Ohio, Indiana, and Missouri.

1840 - 1860

During this time period there were many reasons that caused people to emigrate. The following are some of these reasons:

- Crop failures in the late 1840s and early 1850s caused food prices to rise.
- Continued increases in mass-production and the use of machine products caused unemployment to increase.
- Political changes that were expected to come about did not materialize.
- The government itself actually began encouraging emigration.

Cheaper and more convenient means of transportation came with the expansion of the railway system throughout Germany.

All of these things resulted in an increase of Germans leaving their country. In America the immigration of Germans surpasses all other nationalities. With western territories and new states like Wisconsin opening up, immigration into America was very much encouraged.

1860 - 1865

Due to the Civil War in America, German immigration took a sharp decline. Many of the German immigrants who came into America just prior to this either enlisted or were drafted; and the National Archives in Washington, D.C., may have valuable background information on them.

1866 - 1900

Between 1866 and 1900 emigration out of Germany and into the United States fluctuated continually. The Prussian wars from 1866 to 1870 caused an increase in emigration which corresponded with the beginning of homesteading in the United States.

In 1882 a record number of German immigrants was attained with the arrival of 250,630 immigrants.

In 1900 emigration out of Germany began to decline. According to the 1900 census schedules, there were more people of German descent in the United States at that time than any other nationality. This is verified by the map in Fig. 3A which shows that 28 out of the 48 states had more Germans than any other nationality.

Other statistics show that between 1820 and 1974 there were more German immigrants (6.95 million) coming into America than from any other country. Italy was next with 5.26 million; Great Britain and Ireland followed with 4.84 million and 4.72 million respectively.

Fig. 3A: 28 states with more Germans than other nationalities

Chapter 4 - Determining the Place of Origin L.D.S. Sources

One of the major problems facing the German researcher is that of trying to determine the place where an immigrant was from. This was often a result of the nationalistic feeling that many immigrants had when they came to America. Because they were in America, they were, therefore, Americans and no longer German. Many of them carried it to the point of not speaking

German in the home nor mentioning anything to their children about the place in Germany that they were from. Others, not so nationalistic, just did not bother to record the information; or, if they did, it was either lost or not passed on. Regardless of the reason, when the place in Germany is not known, the researcher is forced to check other sources in order to determine the exact place where the immigrant came from.

The reason why finding the exact place is so important is because in Germany there are no central repositories of records. In order to locate the civil, parish, or other records, the exact place must first be determined. This, and the following two chapters, attempt to cover the problem and to examine those records which might provide the needed information for solving this type of problem.

In this chapter, records which are kept by the L.D.S. (Mormon) church will be covered. Before you who are not members of this church decide to skip this chapter and move onto the next ones, you should read the following. Having been associated with the L.D.S. library for some time, it has been my opportunity to help many individuals who were not members of the L.D.S. faith. Much to their surprise, they have often found that a nonmember had done research on their line and had donated it to the church library. Some have found a fourth or fifth cousin that they did not know about had joined this church and had done research on their line. Others found that the church had compiled an index of the parish records from the place where their ancestors were from and all they had to do was to put the families together.

In short, an individual would be a poor researcher indeed if he did not determine whether research had been done on the lines he intended to work on, and this includes checking those records kept by the L.D.S. church.

International Genealogical Index

The first L.D.S. source that will be covered is the International Genealogical Index (I.G.I.). This index was first started under the name Computer File Index (CFI). It presently includes names from all over the world. The majority of these names have been extracted from parish registers.

The I.G.I. is available in two forms:

1. Microfiche

A printout is made on microfiche, with each card containing over 350 pages and each page containing approximately 30 names. The header on each card gives the names of each region and country and the date of the printout. This same information is repeated on each page. As the page in Fig. 4A shows, Germany is filed under the region of Central Europe. Next, under country, the former kingdoms are listed and arranged alphabetically in the following order:

Baden		
Bavaria		
Germany		
Anhalt	Lippe-Detmold	Waldeck
Bremen	Lubeck	Mecklenburg-Schwerin
Brunswick	Oldenburg	Mecklenburg-Strelitz
Hamburg	Schaumburg-Lippe	

Hesse-Darmstadt
Prussia
Saxony
Thuringia
Wurttemberg

In the I.G.I., the surname is listed in the first column on the left, then the given name or names of the individual are listed. Next, the name of the spouse is given if it is an extract from a marriage record, or the names of the parents are given if it is an extract from a birth or christening record. Under the next column titled "Sex," F is given for female, M for male, H for Husband, and W for wife. The next column is titled "Event," and B is for birth, C for christening, M for marriage, N for census and W for will or probate. The next column gives the date of the event and the one after that gives the place of the event.

Several copies of the I.G.I. are available for use at the main library in Salt Lake City and many of the Family History Centers have them as well. By writing to the main library, you will receive the address of a Family History Center near you.

2. CD-ROM

The I.G.I. is also available on the new FamilySearch computer program at L.D.S. Family History Centers. The entire I.G.I. and other programs have been put on compact discs, making it easier to search.

FAMILY GROUP RECORDS ARCHIVE (FGRA)

Another L.D.S. source that provides similar information is the Family Group Records Archive (FGRA). The FGRA is divided into two groups, the main section and the patrons section. Both sections contain family group sheets submitted by members of the L.D.S. church. The difference between the two is that those in the main section are checked for accuracy and receive special processing by the family history library and those in the patrons section do not. Family group sheets in the patrons section were filed just as they were submitted without receiving special handling. One other difference between the two is that sheets were filed in the main section from 1942 through 1969 and in the patron section they were filed from 1962 through 1979. Sheets from both sections provide dates and places of birth, christening, marriage, death and burial of the parents and children as well as the names of the grandparents and spouses of the children.

Both the main and the patrons section are available on microfilm and can be obtained through any of the family history centers.

FamilySearch Ancestral File

FamilySearch computer programs include the ancestral file which in 1991 contained over 10,000,000 names. It is a collection of genealogies from all over the world. The Family History Department encourages anyone who does genealogical research to contribute their findings, preserve their genealogies and share their information with others. With the ancestral file program you can use the computer to retrieve information on individual files, family group records or pedigree charts. The word *living* appears instead of a name when the information pertains to anyone born less than 95 years ago if their death date is not also given. The file also provides the name and address of the person who submitted the information to the ancestral file.

Anyone using the ancestral file must understand the Family History Department accepts genealogies from anyone including professionals who verify and document their research and novices who make mistakes and wrong assumptions. The Family History Department does not accept responsibility for any incorrect information. It is possible to correct mistakes made or found in the ancestral file records. corrected information may be submitted on a diskette along with the documented sources for the changes.

Information from the ancestral file may be printed out or copied onto a diskette. All data in the ancestral file is copyrighted by the Family History Department of the L.D.S.Church but the

submitter retains the right to publish his own information. For a handout on "Contributing Information to Ancestral File," write to the following address:

Ancestral File
Family History Department
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150

FamilySearch- Social Security Death Index

A major problem in locating family records such as family bibles, naturalization or immigration documents and family letters that have been passed on, is determining where living relatives currently reside. The Social Security Death Index can be used to help locate relatives.

This record contains over thirty nine million names of persons who died in the U.S. between 1937 and 1989. This record can assist a researcher in locating birth and death dates, a person's residence at the time of death and the locality where the death benefit payment was sent. This information may help locate family members with additional information on immigrant ancestors. This file also indicates which state the deceased was living in when their social security number was issued. The social security number may be helpful in obtaining additional information from the social security administration as well.

The social security number is not needed to search this index. Researchers using this file should realize it will not provide the name of the deceased's spouse or children. It also will not give place of birth information unless it happens to be the same as where the social security number was issued. It does not contain the person's entire social security file or information on any living person. It is also not possible to look up an entry on a woman using only her maiden name. In addition, there will not be a file on anyone if their death was not reported to the social security administration.

Locality information in this record is based on the 1987 zip code table. If the zip code has changed since the person's death then a wrong locality may be given. If the person died before zip codes were being used then a locality will probably not be given.

Chapter 5 - Determining the Place of Origin U.S. Sources

Vital and Civil Records

More often than not, the U.S. sources will be the only ones available that will give the exact place where an ancestor was from. What may be surprising to some is the variety of U.S. records that exist which could provide this information. First, the different types of vital records will be covered. These records will vary from one state to the next as far as when they began, what they contain, and where they are located. A very helpful brochure as far as giving answers to some of these question is "where to write for birth and death records," which is available from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare - Public Health Service. This pamphlet will tell where to write, when the death and birth records began, and how much it costs for each certificate. A similar brochure is available for marriage records as well.

Assume that your ancestor died at the time when vital statistics were being kept and that you have received a copy of his death certificate. On the certificate it has only the country of Germany as a place of birth. Too often when the certificate does not give the exact place of birth, a person will file it away and forget it. He does not realize that there is other information on the certificate that could get him into other sources which would give the place of birth.

Most death certificates give the address of residence and the length of stay in that city. If the immigrant had lived in that city since his arrival, as many of them did, it would be possible to determine the approximate year of arrival into the U.S. this could get you into port records and maybe even into passenger lists. If an immigrant had lived in other places prior to moving to the

place where he eventually died, the information relative to his length of stay would not be of much help. If it could be determined that he was residing in the U.S. when the 1900 census was taken, this would show the length of stay in the U.S. and then this too could get you into the port records or passenger lists.

On the death certificate there is also a place for the individual's occupation, and very often occupational records, if they are still available, would provide the place of birth.

Usually there will be a place on the certificate that indicates whether or not the immigrant took out U.S. citizenship. If so, this can lead to naturalization records.

Whether the immigrant had been in the military may also be indicated on the death record. If this were so, there may be enlistment, service, discharge, and pension records in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. that you could write for.

The cause of death may indicate that he may have been hospitalized prior to dying. If the hospital records still exist, they too may provide information on the birthplace. The doctor's records would be still another source, and often the name of the mortician and the name of the funeral director will be given.

A final source that is usually found on the death certificate is the name of the cemetery where the immigrant was buried. This can lead you to tombstone inscriptions, or better still, the Sexton records.

As can be seen, even if a death certificate does not give an actual place of birth, it may, nevertheless, lead to other sources which will.

Prior to the keeping of vital statistics, most records were kept by the county officials. Just how detailed these records were depended upon the county recorder. Some of them were very thorough and listed the exact place of birth of the deceased.

If the death registers do not give this information, an individual's obituary may. To locate an obituary, one of two reference sources may be used. The first is as follows:

Gregory, Winifred, ed. *American Newspapers, 1821 - 1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada*. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1937. (Ref Q 970 A3bs) (Film No. 430,291)

This book lists alphabetically every state and province in the U.S. and Canada. Under each state and province, the cities and towns which had newspapers are listed alphabetically. Finally, under the name of the town, the names of the newspapers are given, along with the dates covered. Next, listed alphabetically, are the abbreviations of societies, repositories, and other organizations which have copies of these newspapers. With this information it is possible to write for an obituary. If the town where the immigrant died did not have a newspaper, then the neighboring towns should be checked until the closest one having a newspaper is found. The second reference source for locating an obituary is:

Arndt, Karl J. R. and Olson, May E. comp. *German-American Newspapers and Periodicals, 1732- 1955*. 2nd rev. ed. New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation 1965. (Ref 973 E4ar) (Film No. 824,091 item 1)

This reference book lists each state alphabetically; and in turn, each city having a German newspaper is listed alphabetically. Under the name of each newspaper, the abbreviation for the society or repository having a copy of the newspaper is given.

If a copy of a newspaper is on microfilm at a local library, it may be possible to have the film sent to your own public library through interlibrary loan for a small fee. This would save the expense of having someone search for the obituary for you.

If the immigrant was married in America, the marriage record may also give a place of birth, but given the choice as to which to search first, you should always go after the death record.

Just as with civil records, you should try to obtain the church death record first. It will be found that most of the church records will be written in German, even though they are American church records. Fig. 5A is a copy of a death entry in 1860 for a young lady. This church record gave her place of birth as Hofhagen in the district of Collberg in the grand duchy of Mecklenburg.

4. Dorothea Sophie Anne Passchl (Witts foster-daughter)
 geboren 1849(?) in Hofhagen, Amt Collberg Groggen
 Mecklenburg, starb am 25 September 1860 um 8.
 Uhr am 20 September, Collberg p. m. 4.
 Beigesetzt 20. 9. 1860. N. 122:1-3. N. 122:1-3. N. 122:1-3.

Dorothea Sophie Anne Passchl (Witts foster-daughter) born 1849 (?) in Hofhagen, Collberg district, duchy of Mecklenburg, died the 25 September 1860 at 8 a. m. buried the 26 September, Wednesday, 4 p. m. Funeral text Psalms 122:1-3 Schoenberg

Fig. 5A

If the immigrant was married and had children under the age of 12 with him when he immigrated, the church confirmation record may list the place of birth in Germany for that child. Confirmations in most churches occurred when the child was about 13 years old or older. These church records usually list the name of the child and sometimes the names of the parents. It will usually give the child's birth date or age and often the place name where the child was born.

Other church records that have been known to give a place of birth in Germany are the marriage records, church membership records, and christening records of children born in America.

Naturalization Records

Few people know that prior to the turn of the last century, naturalization records were kept on a county level and that for the most part they are still in the possession of the courts that made them. One of the main problems in obtaining a copy of these records is that of determining to which court one should write. One source for solving this problem, if available, is the County Archives Inventories, compiled by the Works Projects Administration (WPA) during the 1930s and 1940s. Every county in the United States was supposed to be inventoried. Some of the inventories that were printed are available at the genealogical library. The majority of these, however, were never printed and exist today somewhere, still in their manuscript form. The value of these inventories is that they give a complete description of the different types of records, naturalization records included, which were handled by various courts and county officials, you can actually know what information you will receive before writing for it. Fig. 5B is an extract from page 137 of the archive inventory of Erie County, Pennsylvania. Item 169 on this page is a detailed description of the declaration of intention. This is one of three types of naturalization records that may give the exact place of birth for the immigrant. The other two are the application for naturalization and the petition for naturalization. All three of these records were created when the immigrant first applied for naturalization, usually right after he arrived at the place where he intended to settle. You should never write for the final papers, for they very rarely give the actual place in Germany where the immigrant was from.

There are several things to note from this inventory copy. For one thing, the time period that the record was kept will be one of the first things given. That information alone may determine whether you should write for a copy of the document or not. The copy also shows whether there is a separate index.

Many immigrants upon arriving in America declared their intention to become citizens and then for one reason or another, failed to follow through with it. Item 170 in Fig. 5B shows that even if immigrants never followed through with the final papers, if they declared their intention, and most of them did, then the declaration of intention would still be on file.

Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas

169.(DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS), 1906—. 23 vols. (1—23). 1823—1905 in (Naturalization Petition and Record), entry 168. Original affidavits and declarations of intention to become a citizen, showing date, name, address, age, physical description, place and date of birth, last foreign residence, ports of embarkation and entry, vessel, date of arrival, marital status, renunciation of foreign allegiance, signatures of declarant and prothonotary, official seal, and date filed. Arr. chron. by date filed. Indexed alph. by first letter of surname of declarant; for separate index, 1906—32, see entry 167. Typed on ptd. fin. Aver. 400 pp. 10x12x3. Off. 170. (Void) DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS, 1824—1906. 4 f.b. (dated). Discontinued. Declarations of intentions of aliens who failed to receive final papers of citizenship, showing information as in entry 169. Arr. chron. No index. 1 f.b., hdw., 1824—40, 3 f.b., hdw. on ptd. fin., 1841—1906. 10 x 5 x i4. Bsmt. vlt.

The most important information given in this inventory is found at the top of the page. This is the name of the court which handled the naturalization records for this county. In this case it was the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas. In another state it may have been the orphans court or maybe the district court. In New York City, any and all courts handled naturalization because of the large number of immigrants applying for it in that city.

Histories

There are many types of histories which may give information regarding the immigrant's place of origin. The first type, if it is available, is the family history. Too often, researchers take for granted that there will be no family history on the lines they work on. The genealogical library has probably the largest collection of family histories available. At various times, it has become known that the library was collecting family histories and as a result they have received them from all over the world. These family histories range from manuscripts of just a few pages in length to large printed books. For the most part, these family histories are not on prominent people; but as people compiled genealogies and information on their lines, they have submitted them to the library. There have been many instances where people have gone to the genealogical library not expecting to find anything, and they have found family history books where some of their lines have been worked out.

The rest of the histories are combined into what can be called locality histories. These may be city, township, county or state histories. In searching locality histories you should always begin with the smallest area, which in this case would be the city. The reason for this is that if an individual is prominent enough to be mentioned in one of these histories, it will be the city history before any of the others. If the immigrant ancestor is not mentioned in either a city or a township history, he probably will not be mentioned in the county or state. That does not mean that the county or state histories should not be searched. When many of the Germans emigrated out of Germany, they did so in groups. When they settled in America, they usually remained in these same groups as is shown from the extract taken from A History of Orange County Virginia by W.W. Scott in Fig. 5C.

Page 81

All these first colonists belonged to the German Reformed Church, the great German branch of the Presbyterian family of churches. They were natives of the old principality of Nassau-Siegen, now a part of Westphalia, Germany, and their homes were in and near the city of Siegen and the town of Muesen.

Fig. 5C

Military Records

The national archives in Washington, D.C., divide these records into three groups. They are pension, bounty land, and military. The military records pertain to enlistment, service, and discharge records. The bounty land records concern the transfer of land to servicemen for service during war time. The pension records were usually made after the death of the serviceman when his widow applied for it.

Census Records

From the United States 1850 census on, complete families are listed along with the state or country of birth. Occasions have been found where the census taker has inadvertently written down the exact place of birth instead of just the country. Also, if the immigrant ancestor was alive when the 1900 census was taken, it will give his year of immigration into the U.S., the number of years in the U.S., and whether they were naturalized or not. With this information it would be possible to search port records or maybe passenger lists.

Problems of finding a place of origin for individuals who immigrated into the U.S. prior to 1800 were explained in the latter part of Chapter 2. The records mentioned in this chapter are by no means all of the records that might exist and which might give the place of origin, a great deal depends on the area where the immigrant settled and the records that existed there.

The records mentioned in this chapter are by no means all of the records that might exist and which might give the place of origin. A great deal depends on the area where the immigrant settled and the records that existed there.

Chapter 6 - Determining the Place of Origin European Sources

Passenger Lists

In Germany there were two main ports of embarkation. These were the ports of Bremen and Hamburg. Except for a few isolated extracts from part of it, the Bremen passenger list was destroyed during World War II.

The Hamburg passenger list, on the other hand, was left intact. This list began in 1850 and copies of it are available at the genealogical library from this date up to 1934. There is a small gap from August 1914 through 1919 of the index and from September 1914 through 1919 of the passenger list because the lists were not kept during World War II.

There were actually two separate passenger lists for Hamburg. One was the direct list and the other was an indirect list. The difference between the two was that in the direct list emigrants left Hamburg and traveled directly to their place of destination. With the indirect list the emigrants left Hamburg and traveled first to another port, usually in England, and then they went on to their place of destination.

Both the direct and the indirect lists had separate indexes which were alphabetically arranged according to the first letter of the emigrant's last name. In this way all the A's were listed together and the B's were all together, etc.; but they were not in alphabetical order except for the first letter, in the direct list from 1850 through 1854 the passenger list itself was arranged in this manner.

To use the index in conjunction with the passenger list, the following things should be kept in mind:

1. In the index each letter was allowed a certain number of pages for names beginning with that letter. If the pages for a letter were all used up, which happened frequently, the rest of the names beginning with those letters would be continued under letters used less frequently such as the letter "Q" and the letter "X." Two things that indicate that this has happened are: First, the dates for that letter fall short of the dates of that particular volume of the passenger list; and second, if the names beginning with a particular letter stop at the bottom of one page and names beginning with the next letter begin at the top of the following page, it indicates that they ran out of pages. In either case you should begin looking under less-used letters for a continuation of the letter you are searching.

Albers Birtha 1031 Andrzan Josef 1074
 v. Amsberg Marie 1033 Cimbria Capt. Ludwig
 Adolem Stephan 1035 No. 67 3/10 80 New York
 Adriosky Andr. " Ahrens Franz 1081
 Ramses Capt. J.A. Wilson Aber Wolff 1083
 No. 63 25/9 80 Westküste Süd Alka Rajan 1085
 America via Antwerpen " Marie "
 Anwandter Carl 1037

Albers Birtha	1031	Andrzan Josef	1074
v. Amsberg Marie	1033	Cimbria Capt. Ludwig	
Adolem Stephan	1035	No. 67 3/10 80 New York	
Adriosky Andr.	"	Ahrens Franz	1081
<u>Ramses Capt. J.A.</u>	<u>Wilson</u>	Aber Wolff	1083
<u>No. 63 25/9 80 Westküste Süd.</u>		Alka Rajan	1085
America via Antwerpen	"	Marie	"
Anwandter Carl	1037		

Fig. 6A

2. Once the name is found, there are two things that are needed from the index in order to locate the entry in the passenger list as indicated in Fig. 6A. The first thing that is needed from this index is the passenger list page number, which is given directly after the name. If there is no number directly after the emigrant's name, then move up the column to the page number immediately above. The second thing that is needed is the entry date. This is because in later years there may be a number of rolls of microfilm covering one year, and the date will help to determine which roll to use. The entry dates as indicated in Fig. 6A are given directly above the surnames. Again, if there is no date given above the emigrant's name, then move up the column to the next entry date that is given. This may require going down to the bottom of the previous column or the bottom of the previous page. With this information, all that is needed is for you to obtain the microfilm on the passenger list for the corresponding date, turn to that particular page number, and locate the name on that page.

Fig. 6B: actual page

Using the name "Franz Ahrens" which is listed under entry number 67 in Fig. 6A (name is underlined), you would obtain the microfilm copy of the passenger list which would correspond with the date in the index "3 October 1880" and turn to page 1081. After locating the page you would search it until you found the name listed, see Fig. 6B for an example from the passenger list. This entry shows that Franz Ahrens was male, age 35 and his former residence was Hamburg. As years passed, the information given in the passenger lists did change a little.

Essentially, however, the following information was included in all of them:

Zuname, Familienname = surname, family name
Vornamen = given name
Geschlecht, Männlich, Weiblich = sex, male, female
Alter = Age
Bisheriger Wohnort = former residence
Im staate oder in der provinz = kingdom or province
Bisheriger stand Oder Beruf = former standing or occupation
Ziel der Auswanderung = destination of emigration

Later in the 1900s an English translation was provided in the passenger list itself. There were other ports of embarkation in Europe such as le Havre, Antwerp, and Rotterdam to mention the major ones used by German emigrants. The genealogical library has no records from Rotterdam. It does have the Antwerpen, Belgium passenger lists from 1854 through 1.855 (Film Nos. 392,910 to 392,912). For information concerning shipping lists, sojourn registers, and police registration, write to the following address.

Stadsarchief - Antwerpen
Venusstraat 11
2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

For information on the Le Havre, France passenger lists, write to the following address:

Monsieur le Directeur des
Services d'Archives
Archives Departmentales
Prefecture
76 Seine-Maritime = Court
Clemenceau
Rouen, France

When the German emigrants passed through Alsace-Lorraine on their way to the le Havre port, many of them established records which gave their place of origin, the genealogical library has some of these records dating from 1817 to 1866. These have been completely indexed (see example in Fig. 6C) and are available on the following microfilms:

A-C 1,125,002 H-K 1,125,004 Q-S 1,125,006
D-G 1,125,003 L-P 1,125,005 T-Z 1,125,007

Other records on emigration may be found in the city or state archives and genealogical societies of former German kingdoms. Among these are the Württemberg emigration records, which have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Library, covering the 1700s and 1800s primarily and even earlier in some instances.

These records were kept by the Oberamt (District Office) of which there were over 60 for all of Württemberg, with the exception of a few of these, there were no indexes to these records. You would have to know the name of the place to begin with before you could determine which Oberamt to search. If you were lucky enough to find your emigrant ancestor listed in one of the few indexes and in turn find him in the passenger list, you would probably find the following information on him: Date of emigration registration, name, age, residence, occupation, religion, family status, place of destination, reason for emigrating, amount of property and other remarks.

NAME ZIEGLER, Mathaeus
 AGE _____ OCCUPATION _____
 PLACE OF ORIGIN Wittendorf or Dornheim, Wuerttemberg
 RESIDENCE Via Le Havre
 DESTINATION U.S.A.
 EMIGRATION DATE at Strasbourg 12 May 1849
 REMARKS BAS RHIN REC
 COPIED BY _____ G.S. FILM # 1070235

Fig. 6C

The Genealogical Library has acquired some of the emigration indexes from Baden. These indexes provide the place of origin from this former German kingdom. Some emigration information from other areas has been printed such as the *Auswandererlisten des Ehemaligen Herzogtums Braunschweig, 1846 - 1871*. (Emigration lists of the former duchy of Braunschweig) by Fritz Gruhne. (943.59 H2q Vol. 20) (Film 1,045,468 item 10)

A list of emigrants from the Prussian province of Westfalen giving name and place of origin is found in the German periodical:

Beiträge zur Westfälischen Familienforschung. Vol. 22-24 Münster: Verlag Aschendorff, 1966. (943.55 B5bf)

In some cases where a U.S. source gives the name of a kingdom or province, you could use the *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch* (German lineage books). (943 D2dg Vol. 1-183) these books contain compiled genealogies based on certain geographical areas such as Baden, Hessen, Mecklenburg, Pfalz, Posen, and Thüringen. Each volume (there are presently over 183 volumes) contains its own index to the surnames found in it. If your ancestor is not listed but the surname is somewhat unusual, it may be possible to determine the exact places where that name appears.

Another source that can be used to determine the areas where certain surnames occur is the following:

Spohr, Oswald (comp.) *Familaengeschichtliche Quellen*. Vol. 1-13
 Neustadt/Aisch, Germany: Degner and Co., 1927-1959. (943 B2fg)

Vol.1	Film No. 547,171 item 3
Vol.2	Film No. 496,630 item 1
Vol.3	Film No. 496,680 item 1
Vol. 4	Film No. 496,680 item1
Vol. 5	Film No. 496,680 item 2
Vol. 6	Film No. 496,680 item 3
Vol. 7	Film No. 496,680 item 4
Vol. 8	Film No. 496,680 item 5
Vol. 9	Film No. 496,681 item 1
Vol. 10	Film No. 496,631 item 2
Vol. 11	Film No. 496,681 item 3
Vol. 12	Film No. 496,682 item 1
Vol. 13	Film No. 496,682 item 2

A complete index of surnames taken from various German publications is given with a number(s) following the surname (see Fig. 6D under the name Bocholt).

71. die Bochen 71. du Bochet 93 (124).
71. v. B' 92 (26). Bochinger 88. Bochius
Bochold 99 (29). Bocholt 46. de Bocholte
(97). v. b' Asseburg 98 (180). Boholz 99
44 (317). 89. Bochs 68. Bochsén 71. v. B
Fig. 6D

The number(s) refer to a list of sources at the front of the book. See Fig. 6E under number 46.

46.Dr. Ernst Hovel, das Bürgerbuch der Stadt Münster 1538-1660.

Another source, too often neglected by researchers, is the German periodical. Most geographical areas in Germany had them. Most of them have surname indexes to them. Many of them date back prior to World War II and some before World War I. Their value lies in the fact that contained in them are often complete extracts of such records as parish, land, tax, and guild records. In many cases the original record no longer exists due to wars and fires.

There may be many other sources available that can help to identify an ancestor's place of origin. In most instances it is impossible to tell which source is going to provide it.

Chapter 7 - Analyzing Surnames and Place Names

German Surnames in America

Translative

Many Germans, upon immigrating to America, merely changed their names to the English equivalent of the German. The following are examples of this:

Schwarz - Black	Schneider - Taylor
Baer - Bear	Becker - baker
Zimmerman - Carpenter	Mohler - Miller
Scharff - Sharp	Klein - Little

Of all the name changes, this was by far the least confusing. The only real problem this may cause is that in tracing an ancestor that changed his name this way, you may not realize that he was German and, therefore, not look for him under the German equivalent of the name. Often, the only clues would be the area in America where he was residing. If the family name stops in a heavy German settlement area, then it is a strong indication that he was German, and that you will need to change the name to the German equivalent in order to continue the search for the family in Germany.

Anglicization of Names

Quite often, these were names that did not have English equivalents. Usually, because the German form was difficult to pronounce, the name was changed to make it easier. These changes were usually based on phonetics. As the Germans pronounced the names, the Americans wrote it down the way they thought it sounded. The following are examples of this:

Guhr - Gerr	Kurrer - Kerr
Dirsch - Dearth	Pfeil - File
Schafer - Shaffer	Veicht - Fight
Deves - Davis	Zeise - Size

To be able to decipher the anglicized forms, you must have an understanding of German phonetics. The following are a few of these:

Long A - as in father	Long U - as in be (rounded lips)
Short A - as in artistic	Short U - as in lip (rounded lips)
Long E - as in late	AU - ou as in house
Short E - as in bet	AU - oi as in oil
Long I - as in machine	EU - oi as in oil
Short I - as in sin	AI - I as in fine
Long O - as in bone	EI - I as in fine
Short O - as in omit	IE e as in be
Long U - as in pool	SCH - as in sh
Short U - as in pull	CK - as in k
Long A - as in their	DT-as int
Short A - as in let	J - y as in you
Long O - as in lane (rounded lips)	Th - as in t
Short O - as in ten (rounded lips)	V- f as in father
	W - v as in very

With an understanding of these phonetics it becomes easier to determine what the former German spellings of anglicized names were.

Total Change

There were many Germans, who upon coming to America, changed their names completely. These American names neither meant the same as the German nor were they anglicized forms of them. There were also those who changed their names to the name of the locality or variations of it, from where they were from in Germany. The reasons behind these changes are not clear. It is known that in many areas of Germany, complete name changes were a common occurrence, see Chapters 12 and 13 for more information on these types of names. These practices may have been a carry over from these German areas.

This type of name change causes the most difficult type of problem in research procedures. Because of it, determining the former name can sometimes be almost impossible. One of the best sources for helping to determine the former name is the parish or church records. If the immigrant was married and had small children when he came to America, the confirmation records of the children in the church in America may give his former name and possibly his place of birth in Germany. Sometimes the christening records of children born in America may indicate the former name of the immigrant as well. The only other possibility would be either the port records or passenger lists if it can be determined when they came to America.

Surnames In Germany

Phonetics

In Germany the people were more concerned with how a name was pronounced than how it was spelled. Based on the pronunciation, a learned person should be able to spell it correctly. Just how valid an assumption that was is illustrated by the following church record. Over the period of three generations the surname Mosis changed to Mosese, Mosesen, Moses, and then to Muses. Another example is the surname Goos which was also written as Goess, Goesmann, Goes, Gausman, and Gaus within a two generation time period. You may even find a person whose surname was spelled one way when he was christened, another way when he was married, and still other ways with the christenings of the children.

Dialects

Dialects also played an important role in name changes. Each community established its own dialect. The further away a person moved from his own community, the greater the difference in dialect and the more likely that his name would be written differently.

PLACE NAMES IN AMERICA

It should be noted that much of what has been written concerning surnames will apply to German place names as well.

Translative

Although it did not occur as frequently as other types of names changes, there were some places where the English equivalent of the place name was given. The following are some examples:

Koln - Cologne	Westfalen - Westphalia
Munchen - Munich	Pfalz - Palatinate
Bretzenaker - Bretzenacre	Grunlinde - Greenlinde

Anglicization

Of all the types of place name changes, this is by far the most frequent. Again, because of the difficulty in pronouncing these places in English, the Americans wrote these places the way they sounded to them. The following are some examples of this type of change:

Breslau - Brechlau	Brietzen - Breedsen
Breisach - Brisah	Braunschweig - Bronswik
Detmold - Depnoilt	Varenholz - Farenhaultz
Stuttgart - Studgard	Pulvermuhle - Polfermeall

Often the last part of the place name will remain the same. If this is the case, it may be possible to determine the general area in Germany where the place was located. In Appendix C is a list of place endings and the kingdoms and provinces in Germany where they are usually found.

Again, an understanding of the German phonetics is essential in deciphering place names that have been anglicized.

PLACE NAMES IN GERMANY

Because of phonetics as well as dialects, place names in Germany also underwent changes. The close proximity of a place to another country and the shifting of borders between countries resulted in the changing of the names of places within those areas. These changes, however, do not cause as great a research problem as those pertaining to surnames.

Exactness and Verification

Because surname and place name changes existed, the risk increases of tracing the wrong pedigree line in the wrong place. Researchers must constantly ask themselves whether they have the correct person in the correct place or not. They should not stop here either but should do all that they can to verify this information. A thorough researcher, in tracing an ancestor to another locality, would not be content if he indeed found an individual by that name being born at the approximate time period that he needed. He would also search the surrounding parishes to determine if there was another one by the same name being born about the same time. Whether he found another one or not, he would go through the process of verifying if this individual could in fact be his ancestor. This he would do by checking the death and marriage records, if they were available. The questions that he would ask himself are: Did this individual die before or after my ancestor died? Did this individual marry someone other than the one my ancestor married? Did he marry before or after my ancestor married? Are there probate records for the ancestor's father which identify the ancestor as the son, his wife as the daughter-in-law, or his children as grandchildren?

Exactness in research cannot be overemphasized. There have been too many who have wasted time and money in tracing the wrong lines in the wrong areas because someone was careless in making assumptions and did not take the time to be exact in his research or to verify his findings.

Chapter 8 – Locating the Parish

There are three things that you, as a researcher, must know before you should begin doing research:

- A. You must know the name of the ancestor you are looking for. Trying to locate the surname in Germany before knowing who the immigrant ancestor was can be very costly financially and time wise
- B. You must know at least the approximate date of the event (birth, marriage and death). Many wrong lines have been traced because researchers have not been careful enough about matching dates with ancestors.
- C. You must also know the exact name of the event place (Location of residence, parish, and civil registry). Because there is no central repository of records in Germany, it is mandatory that a researcher knows the exact place where an ancestor was from to be sure he has the right ancestor.

In Germany, the place of residence often was not the same as the place where the parish or civil registry was kept. This is especially true the further east in Germany you go. In the Eastern areas, the parish and civil registry districts covered larger areas and included more towns than in the west. This was determined usually by the population of an area. At this point, you must decide whether you need to use the civil register or the parish register. If civil registers were being kept in the area and during the time you are doing research, they should be used in preference to parish registers. The reason for this is that most parish registers will give you a christening date not the birth date and a burial date instead of a death date. The civil registers will always give you the birth and death dates. The marriage date will be given by both.

In Germany, the civil registry did not begin at any one particular time. Fig. 6A shows the general breakdown as far as areas and dates when civil registry began.

In most areas of Germany it is usually not too difficult to determine where the parish and civil registry for each place are located. After you know the exact place where your ancestor is from, then you must determine the name of the kingdom, province, or duchy to which the town belonged. This may be done by checking the following German gazetteer:

Uetrecht, E. (Comp.) Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs- Lexikon
des Deutschen Reichs. Leipzig: Bibliographisches
Institut, 1912. (Ref 943 E5mo)(Film No. 496,640 - for places A-K)
(Film No. 496,641 - for places L-Z)

A copy of this gazetteer is available at the main Genealogical Library in book form or at any of the branch libraries on microfilm. This gazetteer will always provide the name of the kingdom, province, or duchy to which each town belonged. In Appendix B instructions are given for using this gazetteer.

The *Meyers* gazetteer will indicate if a place had its own civil registry office or Standesamt. If it didn't, it will give the name of the place where the civil registry for that place was located (Fig. 8B illustrates this). If the abbreviation for Standesamt (stdA.) is followed by either a comma

stdA., or a **stdA.;** semicolon then the place had its own civil registry. If the abbreviation has neither the comma nor the semicolon after it **stdA.** Then the next town following this abbreviation which does have the comma or semicolon after it will be the place where the civil registry for that particular town was located.

In the examples given in Fig. 8B, the cities of Kahmen and Dembiohammer had their own civil registries. For the city of Kahlholz, the civil registry was in the town of Balga and for the city of Kahlhorst, the civil registry was in the town of Slachcin.

Once this is determined, you would next turn to Chapter 9 to determine the modern name of the town, county, and country to which the civil registry now belongs. This must be done before you can determine whether the genealogical library has microfilmed the records for this places and, if not, then to determine where you would need to correspond to obtain copies of the records.

For parish registers, the *Meyers* gazetteer will show if the town itself had one. If the town did not have a parish, unlike the civil registry, the place where the parish was located will not be given in the gazetteer.

If a town had a parish, then the abbreviation for parish **Pfr.** will always appear after the civil registry abbreviation. **Stb.**

The two major religions in Germany were the Lutheran, abbreviated **ev.** (ev.) and Catholic, abbreviated **kath.** (Kath.). There were other religions as well, such as the Reform **reform.** (Reform.) for reformed or Calvinist church. Others, such as the Baptisten or Methodisten, will usually be written out and **Syn.** (Syn.) for Jewish synagog will also be given. Note the following examples of a Lutheran and a Catholic church as given in Fig 8c:

If your ancestors were Catholic in America, then they were almost assuredly Catholic before they emigrated. This was usually true if they were Protestant also. If they were Protestant, you should first check the Lutheran church records before checking any other. Because it was the state religion, even if they belonged to another protestant church, their christenings, marriages, and deaths may have been recorded in the Lutheran church.

Once the kingdom, province, or duchy is known, and if it is determined from the *Meyers* gazetteer that the place where the ancestor was from did not have a parish, then one of the following references based on the kingdom, duchy, or province to which the town belonged must be checked to locate the parish:

Anhalt

Starke, Mor. Statistisches handbuch der Landwirthschaft Und Geographisches Ortslexikon vom Herzogthum Anhalt. Leipzig: Verlag von E. M. Starke, 1879. (943.2 E5a) (Film No. 496,846 - Item 4)

This gazetteer is written in the old gothic print (see Appendix B for help with this alphabet). On pages 254-256 of this gazetteer there is a place index giving the page number on which the place may be found. Fig. 8D is an example of two entries. The town of Buko on the left had a parish (Pfarrdorf), and the town of Goritz on the right was a church village (Kirchdorf) but this was not a parish where records were kept.

If the town does not have a parish, then the town must be located on a detailed map (see Chapter 10 on area searches) and then each surrounding town must be checked in this gazetteer to locate the closest one that is a Pfarrdorf.

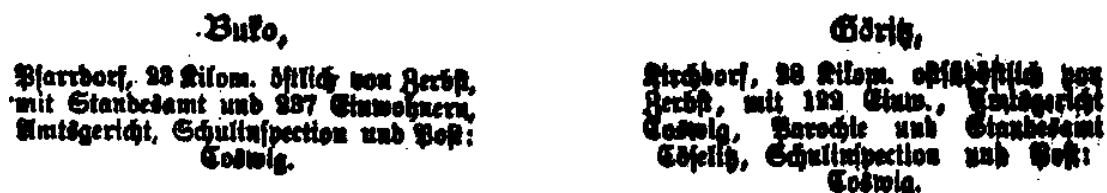


Fig. 8D

Baden

Franz, Hermann. *Die Kirchenbücher in Baden*. Karlsruhe: Verlag G. Braun, 1957. (943.46 B4ns no. 4) (Film no. 492,889)

Between pages 52 and 278 is an alphabetical list of all the places in Baden. Fig. 8E is an example of how the parishes are listed. It shows that Arlen had a Catholic parish (k Pf), Asbach had a Lutheran parish (e Pf), and that the parish for Arnoldsloch was at Urberg (z Pf).

Arlen Dorf z Gem Rielasingen (s dies).

k Pf err 1870, bis 1820 Fil d. schweiz. Pf Ramsen, dann v Rielasingen.
KB 1777 T E To (bis 1820 Auszüge aus KB v Ramsen).
e z Singen.

Arnoldsloch Teil d Gem Wittenschwand z Pf Urberg.

Asbach

e Pf alt, 1527 bzw. 1555 luth, dann ref. Die luth bis 1705 Fil v Neunkirchen. 1705 auch luth Pf err, die aber 1777—1821 v Daudenzell
FIG. 8E

Bayern (BAVARIA)

Ortschaften-Verzeichnis Fur den Freistaat Bayern. Munich: J. Lindauersche Universitäts Buchhandlung (Schopping), 1928. (Ref 943.3 B4fr No. 109) (Film No. 924,721)

The gazetteer for Bayern covers also the area of the Pfalz (Palatinate) which belonged to Bayern. In the back of the gazetteer there is a complete index to each place. Fig. 8F shows the entries for the places of Neubau and Ransweiler. Ransweiler had its own parish as indicated by the "Pfd" (Pfarrdorf) after its name. On the third line of that entry it gives "z. k. Pf. Bayerfeld" indicating that the Catholic parish was at Bayerfeld. The town of Neubau did not have a parish, but the abbreviation "z. k. Pf" meant the Catholic parish was at Bayerfeld and the abbreviation "z.pr. Pf." indicated that the Protestant parish was at Ransweiler.

Neubau, W., z. k. Pf. Bayerfeld 2,5 km, z. pr. Pf. u. Schule Ransweiler 1,5 km, z. Post Dielkirchen, 8 Einw., 1 Wgb.
Ransweiler, Pfd., v. Amt 9,5 km — z. n. E Stat. Dielkirchen 5,5 km, Post-A. — pr. Pfarrei, Dek. Rockenhausen, z. k. Pf. Bayerfeld 2,5 km, pr. Schule, 364 Einw., 79 Wgb.

Fig. 8F

Brandenburg- See Preussen

Braunschweig (Brunswick)

The genealogical library does not have any references that list the parishes for the duchy of Braunschweig. The only thing that it presently has are references to the parishes for the city of Braunschweig. Probably the quickest way to locate the parish for a town that did not have one would be through an area search as described in Chapter 10, p.92 "B"

Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine)

Koch, Herbert. "Die kirchenbucher von Elsass-Lothringen." Vol. 9, pp, 14-61; "Die Kirchenbucher des Reichslandes Elsass Lothringen." Vol. 10, pp. 8-52. *Mitteilungen Der Zentralstelle fur Deutsche Personen- und Familien- Geschichte.* Leipzig; H. A. Ludwig Degener, 1911, 1912. 943 B4m 8-14) Film Nos. Vol. 9 492,890; Vol. 10 492,892

Volume 9, pages 14-61, contains a list of all the Lutheran Parishes; Volume 10, pages 8-15 contains a list of all the Reformed or Calvinist parishes; and Volume 10, pages 16-52, contains a list of all the Catholic parishes. Fig. 8G is an example from the Lutheran parish of Lembach and the Catholic parish of Bettingen. All of the Catholic parishes belonged to the diocese of Metz and are broken down into 16 divisions making it necessary to check each one to find the parish. It should be noted that these are lists of *parishes* and not complete lists of all places in Elsass-Lothringen. Not every place had a parish.

If the Meyers gazetteer does not indicate that the town had a parish, then the steps outlined in Chapter 10 should be followed.

The place where your ancestor was from should be located on a detailed map and then the surrounding towns should be checked against the list of parishes in this reference to determine which parish or parishes were closest.

Pembach: An die Zivilgemeinde sind 9 Bücher abgegeben worden, die 1603 beginnen; im Pfarrarchiv werden aufbewahrt: 3 Tauf-, je 2 Trau- und Todenbücher, 2 Konfirmandenregister und 4 Konfirmandenlisten, 25 Kirchenrechnungen und 3 Protokollbücher des Kirchenrates. Zustand gut, die historischen Notizen zu einer Art Ortschronik verwendet. Eine alte series pastorum ist bis auf die Neuzeit fortgeführt. (Altorffer).

VI. Volchen.

Bettingen: Außer Geburts- und Trauscheinen aus dem Jahre 1795 liegen die Bücher erst seit 1808 vor, es sind 103 Bände, die alle Realien ungetrennt umfassen. (J. Poncelet.)

FIG. 8G

Hanover- See Preussen

Hessen

Praetorius, Otfried. *Kirchenbücher und Standesregister für Alle Wohnplätze im Land Hessen*. Darmstadt: Selbstverlag der Historischen Kommission für das Land Hessen, 1939. (943.1 B4ks) (Film No. 496,714 item 2)

This gazetteer has a place index in the back. For those places having parishes it gives the types of records and their time periods. Fig. 8H is a copy of two entries from this book. The place of Seckmauern had its own "E" Lutheran and "K" Catholic parishes. The Catholic church prior to 1876 was at Neustadt. The Lutheran church prior to 1806 was at Breuberg. For the town of Seidenbuch, which did not have a parish, the Lutheran parish was at Schlierbach and the Catholic parish was at Lindenfels.

Seckmauern (vor 1806 Breuberg; 5) StA
e I. Tj Tr Et 1742 Nj 1822 Nm 1819 Bj 1748;
vor 1742 bei Vielbrunn
I (Tj Tr Et 1876; vorher:) bei Neustadt
Seidenbuch 5. (vor 1803 Kurpfalz) StA Kolmbach
e bei Schlierbach
I bei Lindenfels

Fig. 8H

Hessen Nassau- See Preussen

Hohenzollern - See Preussen

Lippe - Die Bestände des Staatsarchivs und Personenstandarchives Detmold.
Selbstverlag des Staatsarchivs Detmold, 1970. (943.55 B4nw Ser. B No. 3)

On pages 10-13 of this book appears an alphabetical list of parishes in Lippe. Again, you would need to locate the town on the map and then determine which of the parishes that are listed in the above book is closest to that place.

Mecklenburg

Mecklenburgs Familiengeschichtliche Quellen. Hamburg: Richard Hermes Verlag, 1936.
(943.2 A5e) (Film No. 496,473 - Item 8)

This gazetteer has a complete place index in the back of the book. If the place had its own parish, then it would be listed without a dash and another place name after it. Those places not having a parish will have the dash and then the name of the parish for that place is given. In the body of the book the parishes are listed alphabetically and under each parish the record types are listed showing the time periods that they cover.

Oldenburg

Ortschaftsverzeichnis des Grossherzogtums Oldenburg. Oldenburg: Druck und Verlag von Ad. Littmann, Hoflieferant, 1911. (Ref 943.1 E5L) (Film 806,633)

This gazetteer has a complete place name index in the back on pages 198 - 293. The index lists all of the places in Oldenburg, including those parts of Oldenburg in Rheinland and Schleswig-Holstein, in the left-hand column. The second column under the title "Gemeinde" is the name of the parish to which the town belonged.

Ostpreussen (East Prussia) - see Preussen (for areas that went to Lithuania, see Appendix E).

Pfalz- see Bayern

Pommern (Pomerania) - see Preussen

Preussen (Prussia)

Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preussen. 10 vols. Berlin: Verlag des Königlichen Statistischen Landesamts, 1908. (Ref 943 E5kp).
Gemeindelexikon für den Freistaat Preussen. 14 vols. Berlin: Verlag des Preussischen Statistischen Landesamts, 1931-32. (Ref 943 E5fp).

For Preussen there are two sets of gazetteers that are available. The first one listed above was printed around 1908. Along with a general index there is a separate volume for the following provinces:

Brandenburg - Vol. 3 (806,635 item 1)
Hannover - Vol. 9 (806,634 item 2)
Hessen-Nassau - Vol. 11 (1,186,702 item 1)
Hohenzollern - Vol. 8 (806,635 item 2)
Ostpreussen (East Prussia) - (1,186,701 item 1)
Pommern (Pomerania) - Vol. 4 (806,634 item 4)
Posen - Vol 5 (806,634 item 5)
Rheinland - Vol. 12 (1,186,702 item 2)
Sachsen (Saxony) - Vol. 7 (806,634 item 3)
Schlesien (Silesia) - Vol. 6 (806,633 item 2)
Schleswig-Holstein - Vol. 8 (806,635 item 3)
Westfalen (Westphalia) - Vol. 10 (491.042)
Westpreussen (West Prussia)- (1,186,701 item 4)

Each volume has its own index which is usually easier to search than the general index. In the index after each place name, there are two numbers given. The first number is assigned to the "Kreis" (District) to which the town belonged. These numbers can be found at the top of the page in the body of the book. The second number is assigned to the town and is listed under column 1 on the page. See Fig. 81. Under column 1, the towns are listed. Columns 3 through 24 deal with population, language, etc. column 25 is the name of the Lutheran parish and column 26 is the name of the Catholic parish to which the town belonged.

110	23. Kreis Chernitz				111
Versteck Nummer	Namen der Gemeindebeirathen nach Zahl der Wohnstätt.		Kirchspiel		Versteck Nummer
			evangelisch	katholisch	
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Nach: 23. Kreis Chernitz. Nach: a) Gutsbezirk.				
117	Baruth	1	Baruth	Baruth	117
118	Chruditz	2	Chruditz	Chruditz	118
119	Chruditz	3	Chruditz	Chruditz	119

Fig. 81

The second set of gazetteers for Preussen was printed in the early 1930s. This set includes the following provinces:

- Brandenburg and Berlin - Vols. 2, 3 (806,636 item 2)
- Grenzmark, Posen, and Westpreussen- Vol. 5 (806,636 item 4)
- Hannover - Vol. 10 (806,637 item 4)
- Hessen-Nassau - Vol. 12 (806,637 item 6)
- Hohenzollern - Vol. 14 (475,862 item 1)
- Niederschlesien (Lower Silesia) - Vol. 6 (806,636 item 5)
- Oberschlesien (Upper Silesia) - Vol. 7 (806,637 item 1)
- Ostpreussen (East Prussia) - Vol. 1- (806,636 item 1)
- Pommern (Pomerania) - Vol. 4 (806,636 item 3)
- Rheinland (Rhineland) - Vol. 13 (475,862 item 2)
- Sachsen (Saxony) - Vol. 8 (806,637 item 2)
- Schleswig-Holstein- Vol. 9 (806,637 item 3)
- Westfalen (Westphalia) - Vol. 11 (806,637) item 5

This set has the same type of index in the back of each volume as the first set has. Again, the first number pertain to the "Kreis" and the second number pertains to the town. The number of the town is listed under column 1 and the name of the town is given in column 2. In this set, however, the Lutheran parishes are listed under Column 14 and the Catholic parishes are listed under Column 15. The 1908 set should be searched first if the province is listed there.

Reuss- Greiz (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Reuss - Schleiz Gera (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Rheinland (Rhineland) - see Preussen

Sachsen (Saxony) Province - see Preussen

Sachsen (Saxony) Kingdom

Schumann, August (comp.) *Vollständiges Staats- Post- und Zeitungs Lexikon von Sachsen*. 13 vols. Zwickau: Im Verlag der Gebrüder Schumann, 1825. (ES 943.2 E5v)

- Vol.1 A-Drebach (824,319 Item 1)
- Vol.2 Drebach-Friderichsthal (824,319 Item 2)
- Vol.3 Friderichwalde-Herlachsgrun (824,320 Item 1)
- Vol.4 Herlegrun-Konigstein (824,320 Item 2)
- Vol.5 Konigstein-Lohman (824,321 Item 1)
- Vol.6 Lohmen-Neudorfschen (824,321 Item 2)

- Vol.7 Neudorfel-Ortelsdorf (824,322 Item 1)
- Vol.8 Ortmandorf-Rathsfeld (824,322 Item 2)
- Vol.9 Rehbocksberg-Sachsen (824,323 Item 1)
- Vol.10 Sachsen-Schweinsdorf (824,324 Item 1)
- Vol.11 Schweitz-Trebeschayn (824,324 Item 2)
- Vol.12 Trebitz-Wiesenbrunn (824,325 Item 1)
- Vol.13 Wiesenburg-Zwutzsch (824,325 Item 2)

This gazetteer includes also the area of Thüringen (Thuringia). Fig. 8J is an extract from this book. At the end of the last sentence of this entry it states that the town belonged to the parish of Ringethal (1st in Dorf Ringethal Eingepfarrt).

Falkenhain, Dorf in dem Erzgebirgschen Kreis, im Kreisamte Freiberg, 2 stunden nordl., von Mitweuda am rechten Ufer der Zschopau gelegen, an welcher es eine muhle hat. Es gehort schriftsässig zum Rittergute Ringethal und ist in dorf Ringethal eingepfarrt.

Fig. 8J

Sachsen Altenburg (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Sachsen Coburg - Gotha (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Sachsen Meiningen (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Sachsen Weimar -Eisenach (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Schaumburg-Lippe

"Das Land Schaumburg-Lippe." *Familiengeschichtlicher Wegweiser Durch Stadt und Land*. No. 12, pp. 4-5. Verlag Degener and Co., Inh. Oswald Spohr, 1939. (943 B4fw Nos. 12-16)

This is a list of parishes in Schaumburg-Lippe. To determine the correct parish for a place in this area you would need to locate the place on a map and determine which of the Parishes that are listed is closest. (See chapter 10).

Schlesien (Silesia) - see Preussen

Schleswig- Holstein - see Preussen

Schwarzburg - Rudolstadt (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Schwarzburg - Sonderhausen. (Thüringen) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Thüringen (Thuringia) - see Sachsen Kingdom

Waldeck - see Preussen (Westfalen)

Westfalen (Westphalia) - see Preussen

Westpreussen (West Prussia) - see Preussen

Wurttemberg

Ortschaftsverzeichni des Konigreichs Wurttemberg Stuttgart: Druck von W. Kohlhammer, 1912. (Ref 943.46 E5w) (Film No. 806,633 Item 3)

The place index in the back of this gazetteer gives the page number on which the place can be found. In the body of the book the following items are given:

Column 1	The name of the place
Column 2-6	These numbers pertain to a census count
Column 7	A number is given indicating the Lutheran parish
Column 8	A number is given indicating the Catholic parish
Column 9-10	Refers to the Lutheran and Catholic schools

Fig. 8K shows the city of Asch. The abbreviation "Pfd" (Pfarrdorf) indicates that it had its own parish. In column 7 the number 3 is given which corresponds with the number 3 in front of the place name Asch. This tells you that the place of Asch had a Lutheran parish. In column 8 the number 1 is given. The number 1 refers to the city of Blaubeuren which is where the Catholic parish is located.

Nr.	Wohnplatz	Bevölkerungszahl					Ein- pfarrung	Schule		Verkehrs- anstalten	
		im gan- zen	davon								
			ev.	kath.	fr.	son- stige Be- merkun- gen					
											(siehe die Vorbemerkungen)
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Blaubeuren, D. St.	3394	2774	567	1	52	1 12	1 7	1	1	89/28, 928
	2. Blaubeurer Heffenhöfe, D. u. M.	21	21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	3. Bleiche, M.	10	9	1	.	.	"	"	"	"	.
	1. (II. 18)	3425	2804	568	1	52	.	.	.	.	.
2.	Arnegg, D. (III. 7) . . .	393	43	350	.	.	32	17,2(7)	15	2	28 (89/14)
3.	Asch, Pfd. (III. 7) . . .	651	648	2	.	1	37	1	3	.	89/28 (89/14)

Fig. 8K

Chapter 9 - Determining the Present Name of Localities

Boundary changes have occurred in many countries but very few as extensive as in Germany. After World War II, Germany lost nearly one third of its area to Poland alone. Other major areas of Germany went to Russia, France, and Denmark. Still other minor areas went to Belgium, Czechoslovakia and Lithuania. The remainder of Germany was divided up between the East and the West. The former kingdoms, provinces, and duchies were done away with and new German states established in their place.

These boundary changes have affected genealogical research in many ways but only the following two ways will be discussed:

1. Knowing the modern place name to determine what records have been microfilmed by the genealogical library.
2. Knowing the modern place name to determine where to correspond for records that have not yet been microfilmed.

If the records for an area in Germany have been microfilmed, they will be available at the main genealogical library in Salt Lake City, Utah, or at any one of its branch libraries throughout the world. The location of the branch libraries can be determined by writing to the Genealogical Library, 50 East North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150, a copy of the main library's card catalog is available on microfilm at each branch library.

That part of the card catalog that deals with locality will be based on modern boundaries. Modern boundaries were used because gazetteers representing boundary changes from various time periods do not exist. Because of this, it would be impossible to catalog each record according to the locality that it belonged to when the record was made. Usually, you will know your ancestor's place of origin as it existed in former times. This must be converted to the modern boundaries in order to locate the availability of record in the card catalog.

If the records have not been microfilmed, you still need to know the modern names of the city and country to know where to write to obtain birth, marriage, and death certificates. Before you go through the process of determining the modern name of a place, you must first determine where the parish or civil records of the place were kept (see Chapter 8 for instructions on civil and parish registers). Once the name of the parish is known, the following procedure can be used to find the modern names of the town, county and country.

Step One:

Refer first to the *Myers Orts Und Verkehrs Lexikon* (see Appendix B for an explanation on how to use this gazetteer). Using this gazetteer, obtain the following information:

1. Check to see if the parish you are interested in is listed alphabetically.
2. Note the kingdom, province, or duchy to which the place belonged.

Step Two:

Use the list on the following page to find the gazetteer that is likely to show the present place name, county, and country of the parish you are interested in. (Look for the kingdom, province, or duchy, note the present country or countries, and then select the code letter for the gazetteer you should use). Once the code letter has been selected, proceed to step three and match the code letter with the gazetteer that has a corresponding letter.

Step Three:

Having determined the code letters for the kingdom, province, or duchy that you need, you are now ready to check the appropriate gazetteer(s). Fig. 9A shows the division between West and East Germany as well as those areas of Germany that went to Denmark, Belgium, and France. Concerning Poland, or those areas of Germany now in Poland, you should note that the reason why two different gazetteers are given is because "B" covers that area of Germany that went to Poland after World War II and "C" covers that area of Germany that went to Poland after World War I. Gazetteer "D" covers all of Poland as it exists today and gives the modern county name for all of the places in Poland. Fig. 9B graphically shows the difference between these two areas. It also shows those areas that went to Czechoslovakia, Lithuania, and Russia. The Grenzmark area was that area of Westpreussen and Posen which remained with Germany after World War I. Note also that part of the eastern area of Westpreussen stayed with Westpreussen and the southern tip of Westpreussen went to Poland after World War I.

Now, locate the code letter from the following list and obtain the gazetteer which is listed after the letter then follow the instructions which are given after the reference.

Former Kingdom, etc.	Present Country or Countries	Gazetteers
Anhalt	East Germany	A
Baden	West Germany	A
Bayern	West Germany	A
Brandenburg	East Germany & Poland	A or B & D
Braunschweig (Brunswick)	East & West Germany	A
Elass-Lothringen (Alsace-Lorraine)	France	C
Hannover	West Germany	A
Hessen	West Germany	A
Hessen Nassau	West & East Germany	A
Hohenzollern	West Germany	A
Lippe	West Germany	A
Mecklenburg	East Germany	A
Oldenburg	West Germany	A
Ostpreussen (East Prussia)	Poland, Russia, & Lithuania	B & D, E or C
Pfalz (Palatine)	West Germany	A
Pommern (Pomerania)	East Germany & Poland	A or B & D
Posen	Poland	B & D or C & D
Reuss-Greiz	East Germany	A
Reuss-Schleiz-Gera	East Germany	A
Rheinland (Rhineland)	West Germany & Belgium	A or C
Sachsen, Kingdom (Saxony)	East Germany	A
Sachsen, Province (Saxony)	East Germany	A
Sachsen Altenburg	East Germany	A
Sachsen Coburg Gotha	East & West Germany	A

Sachsen Meiningen	East Germany	A
Sachsen Weimar- Eisenach	East & West Germany	A
Schaumberg-Lippe	West Germany	A
Schelsien (Silesia)	East Germany, Poland & Czechoslovakia	A, B & D or C
Schleswig-Holstein	West Germany & Denmark	A or C
Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt	East Germany	A
Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen	East GermanyA	A
Thüringen (Thuringia)	West & East Germany	A
Waldeck	West Germany	A
Westfalen (Westphalia)	West Germany	A
Westpreussen (West Prussia)	Poland	B & D or C & D
Wurttemberg	West Germany	A

A

Muller, Fritz. *Mullers Grosses Deutsches Ortsbuch*, Part I Wuppertal-Barmen: Post- und Ortsbuchverlag Postmeister A.D. Friedrich Muller, 1958. (Ref 943 E5m 1958) (Film No. 1,045,448)

1. Locate the town you are interested in. The places are listed alphabetically in the left-hand column.
2. For towns presently located in East Germany, "Bz" appears at the end of the entry and then the abbreviation of the present county is given as shown in Fig. 9C for the city of Eulendorf.
3. For towns presently located in West Germany, a dash appears at the end of the entry and then the abbreviation of the present county is given as indicated in Fig. 9C for the city of Eulengrund.
4. A list of abbreviations used is found at the front of the book on pages III and IV.

B

Amtliches Gemeinde- und Ortsnamenverzeichnis der Deutschen *Ostgebiete Unter Fremder Verwaltung*. Remagen: Selbstverlag Der Bundesanstalt fur Landeskunde, 1955. (Ref 943.8 E5b) (Film No. 824,243 Item 2)

1. Find the old German name of the town in the first column titled "Amtlicher Deutscher Ortsname" as indicated in Fig. 9D under the town of Tingen.
2. If more than one town is given under the same spelling look for the one with the same "Kreis" or district as found in *Meyers Orts und Verkehrs Lexikon*. (see Step one)
3. Look in the next to the last column titled "Fremdsprachiger Ortsname" for the present name of the town.
4. To determine the present Polish county see gazetteer "D." See Fig. 9D
5. If the name of the German place is not listed in gazetteer "B" check *Mullers Grosses Deutsches Ortsbuch*, part II, beginning on page 1139. This gazetteer covers the same geographical area as *Amtliches Gemeinde-und Ortsnamenverzeichnis der Deutschen Ostgebiete unter Fremder Verwaltung*. There may be places listed in this gazetteer that are not mentioned in the other and vice-versa. When the German place is located in *Mullers Part II*, the present polish name will appear directly under the German spelling as indicated in Fig. 9E for the town of Posilge. A "pV" will appear in the entry indicating it is under Polish rule. For those towns in that part of Ostpreussen (East Prussia) that are now under the Soviet rule a "sV" will appear in the entry as shown in Fig. 9E for the town of Posmahlen.

Posilge Gm 935 - Kr Stuhm - Ostpr - pV
Zulawka gm - pow Szum - PomM
Posmahlen Gm 395 - Kr Preußisch Eylau -
Ostpr - sV

Fig. 9E

C

Kredel, Otto and Thierfelder, Franz. *Deutsch-Fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis*. 3 Vols. Berlin: Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1931. (Ref Q 940 E5kt) (Film No. 583,457)

1. The following areas pertain to those parts of Germany that were taken over by other countries after World War I. After each area the volume and the page numbers are given where they can be found.

	Vol.	Page
Elsass-Lothringen and the rest of France	1	139
Eupen-Malmedy and the rest of Belgium	1	251
Northern Schleswig and the rest of Denmark	2	265
Memelland and the rest of Lithuania	2	293
The ceded areas of Ostpreussen, Westpreussen, Posen, Oberschlesien and the rest of Poland	2	453

2. Find the old German name of the town in the first column as shown in Fig. 9F for the city of Kunau.
3. The present name of the town is given immediately after the old German name.
4. If more than one town is given under the same spelling, look for the one with the same "Kreis" or district as found in Meyers.

Rulm — Kolno — Birnbaum, P
Runau — Kunowo — Wirsitz, P
Runit — Chojnik — Neutomischel, P

German	Foreign	Kreis
Name	Name	

Fig. 9F

5. For places now in Poland disregard the capital letters following the entry and see Gazetteer D to determine the present Polish counties.
6. The capital letters following each entry for places in France and Denmark represent the province to which each place presently belongs.
7. For places now listed in France, the present French departments are also listed:
NR = Bas Rhin
OR = Haut Rhin
MOS = Moselle
8. For places now in Denmark, the present Danish counties are listed as:
A & S = Aabenraa-Sonderborg
H = Haderslev
T = Tonder
9. For places now in Belgium, the former German places are all in the Belgium county of Liege.
10. For places now in Lithuania it is necessary to determine if the place was a parish and if not, to determine where the parish was. To determine if the town had a parish, refer to Appendix E which lists all of the parishes in that area of Germany that went to Lithuania.

If it is listed, then the name of the present county will be given after it. If it is not listed, then locate the town on a detailed map as explained in Chapter 10. After the town is located on the map check the surrounding towns against the list of parishes in Appendix E to locate the closest ones to your town.

D

Spis Miejscowosci Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej, 2 vols. Warsaw: Wydawnictwa Komunikacji i Łączności, 1967. (Ref 943.8 e5s) (Film No. 844,922)

1. Find the present Polish name of the town in the first column titled "Nazwa i Rodzaj Miejscowosci" as shown in Fig. 9G for the city of Tynga.
2. Find the present Polish name of the county in the fourth column titled "Wojewodztwo." See Fig. 9G
3. The name of the place in the third column under the heading "Siedziba PRN" should also be written down. This is the name of the "powiat" which is a smaller district within the "Wojewodztwo." when the records were being microfilmed in Poland, they would usually be brought to the powiat centers. When they were cataloged by the genealogical library, many of these records were cataloged under the name of the powiat instead of the parish or town name. Care needs to be taken in looking up these district records in the genealogical library card file. Fig. 9H show taken in looking up these district records in the Genealogical Library card file. Fig. 9H shows samples of cards taken from the card file. The top card concerns vital records for the city of Stuhm taken in looking up these district records in the genealogical library card file. Fig. 9H shows samples of cards taken from the card file. The top card concerns vital records for the city of Stuhm, Germany, now Sztum, Poland. The lower card concerns vital records for the powiat or district of Sztum and in the contents portion of the card it indicates that it is the parish register of the Mennonite church of Tragheimerweide. The contents on the (Powiat) cards must be checked to determine the name of the parish or town that the record pertains to.

E

U.S. Office of Geography. *U.S.S.R. and Certain Neighboring Areas; Official Standard Names Approved by the U.S. Board On Geographic Names*. Washington, D.C., 1959-1970. (Ref 947 E5u) (Film Nos. - See below)

Vol. 1 (A-B) 928,609 item 1
 Vol. 2 (C-J) 928,610 item 1
 Vol. 3 (K) 928,610 item 2
 Vol. 4 (L-N) 874,455 item 1
 Vol. 5 (O-R) 874,455 item 2
 Vol. 6 (S-T) 874,456 item 1
 Vol. 7 (U-Z) 874,456 item 2

1. Find the former German place name in the left-hand part of the columns. (See Fig. 9I and the town of Tilsit for an example.
2. The Russian name is given next after the word "see."
3. The second column contains descriptive designations or abbreviations of designations which tell what the place is. The following are some examples:
 BAY
 CST = coast
 ISL = island
 POPL = populated area (city or town)
 STRM = stream
4. The third column gives the latitude and longitude of the place. Fig. 9I

5. All towns that are now in Russia but were formerly in East Prussia belong to the county of Kaliningrad.
6. If it is not possible to locate the present Russian name, you must look in the card catalog under the old German spelling.
7. A valuable feature of this gazetteer is that it gives the latitude and longitude for geographical features as well. When the name of the place of birth of the emigrant ancestor is not given, sometimes the name of a mountain, stream or lake will be given. By obtaining the latitude and longitude from this gazetteer, it is just a matter of locating the coordinates on a detailed map and searching the surrounding parishes.

Step Four:

Check the card catalog at the main genealogical library or at one of its branches, using what you have found in the gazetteers.

1. Look first for the country, then the county, and finally the city.
2. Under the country the counties are filed alphabetically. After locating the respective county, look up the desired town or parish which will be filed alphabetically under the county.
3. Obtain films and begin search.

Chapter 10 – Conducting an Area Search

An area search is the process of locating the specific place of your ancestors on a map and then systematically searching the surrounding towns for further information concerning them.

There are various reasons for using this research procedure. The following are a few of these:

A parish may not exist in the town where an ancestor was from, so the surrounding towns must be searched to find the closest parish that he went to.

A dead-ended line may indicate that the family may have moved in from another area.

A missing christening or marriage record may indicate that it was performed in another parish, perhaps in that of a close relative. Also, the minister may have been away on a trip or even sick, requiring a family to travel to a neighboring parish.

The first step in conducting an area search is that of locating the place on a map where your ancestors are from. The area search itself is relatively easy, although sometimes time consuming. More difficult, usually, is the process of locating the place on a map.

The following procedure on locating a place on a detailed map is based on two assumptions:

That you do not have access at a public library to a detailed map of the area where your ancestors are from (by detailed, is meant maps that are at least 1:100,000 in scale, a map like this will usually show even the farming communities of an area.)

That you are close enough to either the main Genealogical Library or one of its branches, so you can use either the printed or filmed copies of the gazetteer and maps that will be referred to.

The following are the sources to be used in locating a place on a detailed map:

Myers Orts= und Verkehrs= Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs (see Appendix B, p. 185, for an explanation on how to use it).

General maps of the German Kingdoms etc, Prior to 1918. A complete set of these are found in *Meyers Konversations Lexikon*. Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut, 1885-1892. (030.43 M575) see Appendix F, p. 205 for a list of the kingdoms found in this German Encyclopedia. This appendix gives the volumes, pages, and film numbers where these general maps are found.

A separate collection of all of the maps from this encyclopedia are found on film no. 1,181,575 - Item 1.

Karte des deutschen Reiches. Scale 1:100,000 (Film 068,814) the following is an illustration of the steps that must be followed. This will be done using the town of Stegmannsdorf.

Step One

Using the Meyers gazetteer, turn to Stegmannsdorf, see Fig. 10a:

Stegmannsdorf, D., Pr., Ostpr., Rv. Königsberg, Kr. Bldo. Braunsberg, AG. Wormditt, Sidl. P. Wusen, N. Bafien, E 11 km/ Wurmikau; 251 E.

The first thing that must be determined from this entry is the kingdom, province, or duchy to which the town belonged. For Stegmannsdorf this was the kingdom of Preussen and the province of Ostpreussen.

Step Two

With this information you should turn next to part F in Appendix B, in which all of the kingdoms, etc., are listed followed by eight columns of abbreviations. These columns represent the order in which the designations for each Kingdom, etc., are found in the Meyers Gazetteer. These designations go from the largest territorial jurisdiction to the smallest. In part e of this appendix an alphabetical list of these designations is given along with a translation of each. The order in which the designations are given in the columns for the kingdom of Preussen are:

RB. KR. AG. BKDO. STDA. PFK.

Returning to Fig. 10A, it shows that the largest territorial district for Stegmannsdorf is the "RB" located at Königsberg, the next largest is the "KR." located at Braunsberg, and the next is the "AG." at Wormditt. The "BKDO." can be disregarded in as much as it serves no purpose in helping to locate a place on a map. Since it indicates the place where the military command was, it may be helpful in locating military records. The next designation is the "STDA." located at Wusen, if Stegmannsdorf had had a parish then the "PFK" would have also been given.

Step Three

Next turn to a general map of Ostpreussen as found in Meyers encyclopedia, see Fig. 10B. On this map you must locate the largest district first. This will always be one of the largest cities on the map. The next district will also be a large city but usually smaller than the previous one. Each place continues to get smaller as it zeros in closer to the place you wish to find. See the example in Fig. 10B in which the following information is found:

I.	RB.	KONIGSBERG
II.	KR.	BRAUNSBURG
III	AG.	WORMDITT
IV.	STDA.	WUSEN

Step Four

Usually, the point is eventually reached when it is not possible to find the smaller towns on the general map and you must turn to the detailed maps. On the microfilm with the detailed maps you must turn to the first frame, which is an overview map of 1871 Germany, covered by a grid, see Fig. 10C.

This grid has both large and small squares as well as large and small numbers. It is the small number and square that should be turned to on the film. In this case you would locate the area of Ostpreussen on the first frame and locate the large town listed on the grid which would be closest to the area that you need. In this case it would be the place of Wormditt on map number 102.

Step Five

In turning to map 102, you would first of all locate the town of Wormditt, see Fig. 10D. In the general area of Wormditt you would next find the place of Wusen and then finally the town of Stegmannsdorf.

Step Six

A. If you still have a problem finding the place, return again to the entry in Meyers and locate the Roman capital letter "E" which represents the Eisenbahn or train station. If this letter is followed by any type of punctuation, then the place itself had a train station. If not, then it will give the name and distance to the closest place that had one. The railroad tracks appear on these maps as black and white striped lines. By following the tracks, once you have determined the general area on the map, you will eventually locate the place that had the train station. By using the scale found at the bottom of most of these maps, you can easily determine the distance from the train station to the place you are looking for.

Once the place is found then the area search can begin.

B. When the town is located on the detailed maps, you must check the surrounding towns in Meyers to determine those places that had parishes.

Chapter 11 - Record Repositories

A knowledge of the various types of repositories that exist in your area of research is vital in determining what records exist for that area. Far too many researchers rely solely on parish registers in doing research. There is no question as to the importance of parish registers but suppose these records were destroyed by fire, as often happened, or lost, or damaged to such an extent that they were no longer legible. Too often when this happens, the majority of researchers stop and move on to another line thinking that no more can be done on that particular line.

What most researchers like this do not realize is that a number of records probably exist in their area that could help them extend their line back two or more generations. These other sources can be used to bridge gaps in the parish records and help substantiate or verify the parish or other records in determining a correct ancestor.

The following are some of the different types of records that exist throughout Germany in one form or another:

- Addressbucher – Address books
- Armenregister – Poor records
- Auswanderungslisten – Emigration records
- Bürgerbucher – Citizen records
- Einnahmsregister – Receipt books
- Familiengeschichten – Family histories
- Gerichtsbucher – Court records
- Grundbucher – Land records
- Kirchenbucher – Parish records
- Musterungslisten – Military records
- Standesamtregister – Civil records
- Steuerbucher – Tax records
- Volkzählungslisten – Census records
- Zunftbucher – Guild records

In Germany there is no clear determination as to which records are kept in which type of repository. For example, in one area the land records may be kept in the state archives and in the area nearby the land records may be in the city archives. There are also many kinds of record repositories in both East and West Germany. The following are some of the different ones that can be found:

Adelsarchive – Heraldry archives
 Kirchenarchive – Church archives
 Parlamentsarchive – Governmental archives
 Staats -und Landesarchive – State and land archives
 Stadt -und Kreisarchive – City and district archives
 Universitätsarchive – University archives
 Werks-und Wirtschaftsarchive – Occupation archives

Other places where records could be located are libraries, museums, the city hall, and even in the homes of the civil authorities.

The following are examples of the different record types that may be found in the various types of repositories. Again, it should not be assumed from these examples that the records that are listed here will always be found in these types of repositories.

Land Archives - Baden

Addressbuche (Address books)	1813-1973
Auswanderungsakten (Emigration records)	1800-1900s
Gerichtsprotokolle (Court records)	1400s-1800s
Hof Kirchenbuche (Estate church register)	1672-1888
Lagerbuche (Military levying rolls)	1200s-1800
Leichenpredigten (Funeral sermons)	1600s-1800s
Ranglisten (Military records)	1800s-1918
Stadtchroniken (City chronicles)	1500s-1900s
Testamentakten (Probate records)	1700s-1800s
Zeitungen (Newspapers)	1800s-1900s

City Archives- Ansbach

Addressbuche (Address books)	1550-1965
Aufgeboten (Marriage banns)	1727-1955
Auswanderungsakten (Emigration records)	1526-1934
Bürgerbuche (Citizen registers)	1250-1874
Familienregister (Family registers)	1808-1875
Gerichtsprotokolle (Court records)	770-1940
Glockenbluche (Bell toll registers)	1439-1517
Grundbuche (Land records)	783-1902
Kirchen zweitschriften (Parish transcripts)	1761-1874
Kirchenbuche (Parish registers)	1280-1968
Lehrlingsbuche (Apprentice records)	1530-1887
Leichenpredigten (Funeral sermons)	1500-
Polizeiregister (Police registers)	1826-1890
Stadtchroniken (City chronicles)	552-1962
Steuerboche (Tax records)	1367-1840
Testamentakten (Probate records)	1334-1932
Zeitungen (Newspapers)	1730-1795

Land Church Archives-Braunshweig	
Abendmahlgastelisten (Sacramental lists)	1510-1872
Konfirmationsregister (Confirmation record)	1658-1811
Sterberegister (Death record)	1509-1875
Taufregister (Christening record)	1509-1875
Trauregister (Marriage record)	1509-1875

Two useful publications which provide addresses to many archives in Germany are:

Verzeichnisse. der Archivare. Neustadt/Aisch, Germany :Verlagsdruckerei, Ph. C. W. Schmidt, 1975. (943 E4v)

Minerva-Handbuecher Archive Archive im Deutschsprachigen Raum. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1974. (943 A5m Vols. 1-2)

Another source that should be mentioned is the German periodical (Zeitschrift). These publications make reference to different types of records and where they are housed. Because of this, they are valuable research tools. The following is an abstract taken from the table of contents from the periodical *Zeitschrift fur Niedersachsische Familienkunde* (periodical for Lower Saxony Family Research). This table of contents is indicative of the type of information that is found in periodicals.

Bauernsippen aus der Sudheide. Nach dem Schatzregister Der Grossvogtei Celle von 1438 und dem Celler Viehschatzregister von 1589. (Research of farmers in South Heide, from tax records of Celle in 1438 and the Celle cattle tax register of 1589)
 Familienkundliche Quellen in Pfarrarchiven (family research sources in parish archives)
 Verschwxgerung einiger Hamelner Burgerfamilien um 1600 (In-law relationships of some citizen families of Hameln about 1600)
 Goslarer Echte und Geburtsbriefen 1653 - 1773 (Goslarer original and letters of birth (1653 - 1773)
 Namensverzeichnisse zur Kopfsteuerliste der Stadt Bodenwerder 1689 (name index to the head tax for the city of Bodenwerder in 1689)
 Die Familiengeschichtlichen Quellen des Landschaftlichen u. Ritterschaftlichen Archives in Stade (Family History sources of the provincial and knighthood archives in Stade)
 Familienforschung zur See (Family research at sea)
 Die bedeutung von ehezerten und testamenten fur die familienkunde (the importance of marriage contracts and wills in family research)
 Soldatenehen aus dem siebenjahrigen Kriege (soldier marriages during the time of the Seven Years' War.)
 Goslarer Burgerlisten vor 1600 - 1590-1599 (Goslar citizen lists prior to 1600 - 1590-1599)

As can be seen just from the titles alone, these books provide information about records that could be very valuable to the researcher who has lines in these areas. Some of the titles even indicate the repository where the records are housed and the articles themselves will usually give this information if the title doesn't. Many of these articles include complete extracts of the records and some are abstracts only. Many of the articles concern research problems, and they explain the procedures to follow and the records to use for solving these problems.

These periodicals will also show that records from one particular area may be housed in a repository completely remote from where it was made. In the state archive at Gottingen in West Germany there are records from Mecklenburg, East Prussia, West Prussia, Posen, Pommerania and even Estonia. Just because a particular record does not exist in the area where it was made, does not mean that it does not exist somewhere else. Because of the many wars, many of the records have been moved to different areas. The periodicals can aid a researcher in locating such misplaced records. The genealogical library has a large collection of these periodicals.

Chapter 12 - Naming Practices (Patronymics and Occupational)

Family names evolved from four areas or sources. These are:

1. Christening names that were handed down as surnames
2. Special or unusual physical features of an individual
3. Locality or area that a person was from
4. Occupations

Patronymics and occupations account for the derivation of many of the German surnames that exist today. As you trace your family back to when they were being used, you will become involved in many different types of research problems.

Patronymics

Webster's definition- "a name derived from that of the father or a paternal ancestor usually by the addition of an affix." Patronymics are found primarily in the Northwestern areas of Germany; however, the earlier in research you get the greater the chance of encountering it in other parts of Germany as well. Only two areas dealing with patronymics will be covered here. They are the Schleswig-Holstein and Ostfriesland areas.

Schleswig-Holstein

This was a Prussian province bordering on the south of Denmark. Through the centuries the rule of this area has fluctuated between Denmark and Germany. The patronymical system used here naturally resembles the Danish form. The formation of names for sons and daughters was usually in the following manner:

Peter Jensen son of Jens Nissen	Bertha Jens daughter of Jens Nissen
Jens Nissen son of Nis Ericksen	Elizabeth Nis daughter of Nis Ericksen
Nis Ericksen son of Erick Carlsen	Christina Ericks daughter of Erick Carlsen

For daughters, often the genitive or possessive form was used as in the following:

Erika Peters
Barbara Hendricks

There are two major problems that often result from the patronymical naming system. These are:

1. The changing of surnames with each generation makes it difficult to locate the christening record of a person and to establish the names of the parents.
2. The constant repetition of given names can result in two or more Jens Nissens, for example, being born to different Nis Petersens in the same parish and in the same time period.

To resolve this type of research problem, you must use the process of verification in order to determine and verify your own ancestor and eliminate the others. The following records could be used to accomplish this:

Christening records of the brothers and sisters to determine the name of the mother.
Death records to eliminate those with the same name that died before or after your ancestor died.
Marriage records to eliminate those with the same name that married earlier or later and who married someone other than the person your ancestor did.
Move-in and move-out records to determine those that moved in or out before your ancestor did.

Additional problems occurred when decrees were issued to discontinue the patronymical naming system. In Schleswig-Holstein the first decree was issued on November 8, 1771. The following

are some of the points covered in this decree:

1. Parents had to determine a permanent surname for their child at the time of the christening.
2. Each child in the family could receive a different surname than that given to the other children.
3. Ministers had to announce the name of the child at the time of the christening and see that it was recorded properly.
4. Once the name was given, it was against the law to change it. This aspect of the law shows that there was little thought put into it when it was made, because when a woman married and took her husband's name she was in violation of the law.
5. Surnames could not be given that would elevate one's social standing or position.

There were three major problems which resulted from this decree. These problems were:

1. Children born just prior to this decree received the patronymical form and had the right to give their children permanent surnames after they married. This extended the time period when new surnames were being given to as late as the 1820s.
2. Children, who were given permanent surnames at christening, reverted back to the patronymical form when they were confirmed, married and raising their families.
3. With parents and some children having patronymical surnames and others having permanent surnames, it makes it very difficult to put families together.

Because the people were reverting back to the patronymical form, a second decree was issued on July 25, 1812, and a third decree was issued on May 14, 1822. Still, for many years after this the people went by the patronymical name and not their permanent surname.

To trace an ancestor who was christened with a permanent surname but who went by his patronymical name in life, you must first determine the ancestor's date of birth or at least the year of birth. This may be possible by using any type of record that would give the individual's age, such as confirmation, marriage, death, census and sometimes military records. Once the date or year of birth is known, then the records for that time period can be checked to find a child by that given name being born at that time. If more than one child has the same name and was born about the same time period, you will have to follow the process of verification mentioned earlier in order to determine the correct one.

Ostfriesland

The Ostfriesland area was somewhat different than Schleswig-Holstein. It was located in the western part of the Prussian province of Hannover, which borders the country of Holland. For this reason, the patronymical system used in this area resembled the Dutch form, which was primarily genitive and which added the "S" after the father's name. The following are some examples of this:

Harm Peters	Aje Hinrichs
Klass Behrens	Eva Friedrichs
Jan Gerds	Krijnte Dirks

In 1811 a decree was issued which required the patriarch of each family (father, grandfather, etc.) to register a permanent surname for his whole family. Unlike Schleswig-Holstein, the people here for the most part complied with the decree.

The main research problem that occurs is that a researcher will be tracing a family name back and then suddenly about 1811 the name will disappear. Lack of knowledge on the part of some researchers concerning this decree may lead them to think that the family moved in from another parish at this time, and they would lose valuable time and money searching the surrounding parishes when the family was actually in the same parish only under a different name.

To determine the former patronymical name, two records could be checked in conjunction with

the birth or christening records. These are the confirmation and death records. One, or both of these, will usually give an individual's age and perhaps the actual birth date. The main procedure to follow would be to look up the birth date or year and find a child with the same name being born on that date. To verify and to eliminate others by that same name being born during the same time period, you would need to go through the process of verification which was mentioned earlier.

Occupations

From the way in which a person's name is spelled, you can sometimes tell the general area he was from. For example, the occupation of Smithy: Schmitz is from Rheinland and Schmedding was from the Westfalen area. For Butcher: the name Fleischer comes from the east German area and Knochenhauer comes from the Hannover area. For Baker: In south and central Germany is Beck or Back. The "ing" added to an occupational name indicates he was from the Niedersachsen area. The ending "en" indicates that he was from the Rheinland area.

It is difficult to trace a name back to its original spelling because when family names were being formed, there were not many official recorders that could write the names as they actually were. Most of the names back then were recorded according to the way they sounded. Because of the dialect of an area, the same name was written differently in different areas. Family names did not really begin until after the 1100s. They came about as towns and villages began to grow, as people began to move from one place to another especially from the farms to the cities, as the craftsmen became more self-sufficient, and as the farmers and citizens became freer.

Chapter 13 - Naming Practices (Farm and Locality)

Two additional naming practices that you may encounter while doing research in Germany are farm names and locality names.

Locality Names

Locality names are names of places which individuals used as surnames. Often when an individual moved from one place to another, he found that there were others having the same name as his. In order to distinguish him from the others, the name of his former locality was attached to his actual surname. Therefore, a Jacob Muller who moved from Bremen became Jacob Muller von Bremen. The name was later shortened to Jacob von Bremen and finally to just Jacob Bremer. This could result in the following records being made:

- His children being born under his name, Jacob Bremer
- His marriage record giving his name as Jacob von Bremen
- His birth record under his actual name, Jacob Muller, in the city of Bremen.

Many amateur genealogists often confuse a locality surname such as "von Bremen" with one of nobility, thinking that their ancestor was of the nobility because of the "von" in front of it.

Others, not realizing that it is a locality name, will not understand why the name stops in the parish record of that particular place and may even waste valuable time in searching all of the surrounding parishes, not realizing that the clue to his place of origin was in the surname.

Once a researcher determines that he is dealing with a locality name he is still faced with the problem of determining the real surname of the ancestor before he can look it up in the vital records. There are a number of records that could give his former name. One of the best records is the christening record of a child of the individual. Christening records usually give the names of other family members who acted as godparents or witnesses. Along with their names it will usually give the name of the place that they were from.

Other records could be guild records, residence or citizenship records and possibly court or even land records. (See also Chapter 18 on finding a birth record.)

Farm Names

Farm names were somewhat different than locality names. Farms usually received their names from one of their earlier owners. Once the name was established, however, it usually remained regardless of whether the farm changed owners. The problem resulting from this was that when a person moved onto a farm, he would change his name to that of the farm. Also, if a man was married and if his wife inherited a farm, he would change his name to her maiden name. This often resulted in some of their children being born under his surname and some under her maiden name or even some under the name of a farm that they were living on. Fig. 13A is an example where the child, Johann Friedrich Konrad, was born under his mother's name "Adolf (Herm)" and not his father's name which was "Brand."

Fig. 13B is a death entry for Catharina Maria Elsabein, who at the time of her death was going by her mother's name "Borgmann" and not her father's name "Schromeyer."

If a researcher does not understand the problems associated with farm names, he may end up searching neighboring parishes for his ancestor when his ancestor is actually in the same parish but has a different name.

There are several types of church records that could be used to bridge the gap between the different surnames in a family. One of these is the confirmation record. If a child was born under one surname and then prior to his confirmation the family name changed, the confirmation record may give both names as shown in Fig. 13C.

Sept 15, 19	Johann Friedrich Konrad	Adolfs (Herm) Johann Konrad Franz Nr. 24. geb. Brand, Besitzer des Böck Nr. 18 in Varenholz, und An- na Katharine Elisabet, geb. Herm- Adolfs Nr. 24 zu Bentorf. verm. (allegedly) zu Varenholz 2 Oct. 1828. 5 ^{te} Kind. 4 ^{te} geb. 13 Dec. 1837.
Sept 15, 19	Johann Friedrich Konrad	Adols (Herm) Johann Konrad Franz Nr. 24 born Brand, owner of the place Nr. 18 in Varenholz and An- na Katharine Elisabet. born Herm- Adolfs Nr. 24 at Bentorf. married (allegedly) at Varenholz 2 Oct. 1828 5th Child 4th born 13 Dec. 1837.

Fig. 13A

Catharina Maria Elsabein Borgmann	Enkelin des verstorbenen Herrn Johann Hein- rich Borgmann, geb. Schromeyer und Anna Margaretha Borgmann, Eigenthümer zu Osterbeck.
Catharina Maria Elsabein Borgmann	Daughter of the deceased parents Johann Hein- rich Borgmann born Schromeyer and Anna Margaretha Borgmann, farm owner at Osterbeck.

Fig. 13 B

Brand (Adolfs) Johann Friedrich Conrad, - Braunschweig 1840 13. Sept.

Fig. 13C

Further problems may result when the farm is inherited from a grandmother's side of the family. This is illustrated in the pedigree chart in Fig. 13D.

In this situation the son, Johann Friedrich Conrad Adolfs (Herm), whose birth appears in Fig. 13A, was the son of Johann Franz Konrad Brand and Anna Katherine Elisabeth Herm Adolfs. Fig. 13E is a copy of Anna's birth record showing her mother's name as Marie Adolfs. In situations like this it is necessary to extend the line back several generations before it can be determined where the farm name originated.

7.18. in Braunschweig von Konrad Adolfs 7.22. Anna Katharina Elisabeth Adolfs.

Fig. 13E

Farm names should not be confused with double surnames. They may resemble each other in form and appearance, but they are completely different. Double surnames were often created when a particular male line died out, in order to preserve the name, the male marrying into this line would either use both his surname and the maiden name of his wife or he would go by his wife's maiden name only, thus preserving the one name. This was not usually a sacrifice at all to the young man who usually gained by the arrangement. Due to the law of "Primogeniture," (where the eldest son received the inheritance) other sons in the family sometimes married into families not having any male heirs and by legally changing their names they were able to receive the inheritance, which they could never have done under their own surname.

Chapter 14 – Handwriting and Terminology Beginning

The German script began in Europe around the 1500s and did not change to the Latin script until the early 1900s. For those who are serious about doing German research, the ability to read the German script is not only important but an absolute necessity.

Fig. 14A is a copy of the upper-case alphabet in the Germanic script with Roman letters underneath; and in like manner Fig. 14B is a copy of the lower-case alphabet in the Germanic script with Roman letters.

This chapter is meant only to familiarize you with what these letters look like as they are written separately as well as in combinations as shown in Fig. 14C.

You should remember that these letters are written as they were when they were taught in German schools. Because no one has the same style of writing, you can expect to find these letters written every way possible. For this reason many words and letters may appear very difficult to read or decipher. A knowledge of the German language is also valuable in helping you read the German script. The more of the terminology you can learn the easier it will be to recognize these terms as they are written in the script.

As you begin to read the script, you will usually start by reading one letter at a time. As you become more and more proficient, you will start reading whole words and groups of words at a time.

Two things which you can do in beginning to learn this script are:

1. Take time to learn how to make each letter. A book which goes into detail and gives excellent instruction on learning the German script is:

Storrer, Norman J. *A Genealogical and Demographic Handbook of German Handwriting. Vol. 1.* (Ref 943 A8F)

This first volume deals with reading various types of birth and christening records, and at the beginning of this book detailed instructions are given on forming each letter. Once you have learned to form the letters, take 30 minutes each day and using a book written in Roman print, rewrite the words using the German script.


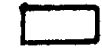
2. Force yourself as soon as possible to read word by word instead of letter by letter. An excellent terminology book that has been written is:

Walker, Ronald D. *A Genealogical Handbook of German Terminology. Vol. 1.* 9465 Electra Drive, Sandy, Utah: Walker, 1977.

This book was written to go along with the book by Storrer on German script; it deals with the terminology found in birth and christening records.

In this chapter, as well as in the following two chapters, a list of genealogical vocabulary terms will be given that should provide a basis for beginning your research.

Symbols used in Germany genealogy:

* (Asterisk)	Born
(*)	Born (Illegitimate)
+*	Born Dead
	Christened
o	Engaged
oo	Married
X	Married
o|o	Divorced
0-0	Illegitimate Marriage
+	Died
	Buried
+ X	Died of Wounds (Battle)
X	Died in Battle
++	Line Extinct

Times of the Day (o'clock)

1 ein Uhr (o'clock)	fruh - early (a.m.)
2 zwei, zwo	spat - late (p.m.)
3 drei, drey	um - at about
4 vier	halb eins - 12.30
5 funf	halb zwei - 1:30
6 sechs	halb (etc.) :30
7 sieben	vormittags - forenoon
8 acht	abends - evening
9 neun	morgen (s) - morning
10 zehn, zeyn	nachmittag (s) - afternoon
11 elf, eilf	mittag (s) - noon
12 zwolf (mittags, mitternachts)	mitternachts - midnight

Verbs

German	English	German	English
absterben	to die	heiraten	to marry
adoptiert	adopted	kaufen	to buy
am altar getraut	married at altar	sollen	should
aufbieten	public banns	sterben	to die
bedingt getauft	conditionally baptized	talifen	to baptize
beerdigt	buried	verehelichr	married
begraben	buried	verheiratet	married
geboren	born	sich verloben	to become engaged
geheiratet	married	verwitete	widowed
genannt	alias, called	verstorben	deceased, defunct
geschieden	divorced	von	of
gestorben	died	werden	to become
getauft	baptized	wohnen	to live
getraijt	married	wollen	to want
haben	to have	wurde geboren	was born
		wurde getauft	was baptized

Word List

Abend (der) - evening	Erbschaft (die) - inheritance
Abends - in the evening	Errechnet - approximated
Allhier - in this place	Familie (die) - family
Alt - old	Familienregister (das) - family register
Alter (das) - age	Familienforschung (die) - genealogy research
Am folgenden tag - on the following day	Findling (der) - orphan
Ammerkungen - remarks	Firmung (die) - confirmation
Aufenthaltort (der) - residence	Frau (die) - wife, woman
Ausser dienst - formerly employed	Gatte (der) - husband
Band (der) - volume	Gattin (die) - wife
Bauer (der) - peasant, farmer	Gebuhren - fees
Beerdigung - interment, burial	Geburt (die) - birth
Beichtvater (der)) - father confessor	Geburten (die) - births
Bemerkungen (die) - remarks	Geburtsbrief (der) - birth certificate
Berg (der) - hill, mountain	Gedenktage (der) - anniversary
Bezirk (der) - district	Geistliche (der) - minister
Braut (die) - bride	Geschlecht (das) - sex
Brautigam - bridegroom	Geschlechtsname (der) - surname
Bruder (der) - brother	Geschwister (die) - siblings
Burg (die) - castle, fortress	Gestern - yesterday
Burger (der) - male citizen	Getrauten (die) - married couple
Burgerin (die) - female citizen	Gevatter (per) - godfather
Burger (die) - citizens	Gevatterin (die) - godmother
Burgerregister (das) - citizen register	Gewerbe (das)) - trade
Datum (das) - the date	Grosseltern (die) - grandparents
Dirndel (das) - girl, maid	Grossmutter (die) - grandmother
Ebenda - at the same place	Grossvater (der) - grandfather
Ehe (die) - marriage	Grundbuch (das) - land register
Ehebrecher (per) - adulterer	Hause (zu) -at home
Ehefrau (die) - wife	Hebamme (die) - midwife
Ehelich - legitimate	Heirat (die) - marriage
Ehelute (die) - married couple	Hiesiger ort - of this place
Ehemann (der) - husband	Hinterbliebenen (die) - survivors

Einwilligung (die) - permission	Hinterlassen - left behind
Eltern (die) - parents	Hochzeit (die) - wedding
Enkel (der) - grandson	Hurenkind (das) - illegitimate child

Chapter 15 - Handwriting and Terminology Intermediate

Now that the basics of how each letter is written are learned, you are ready to go into some of the concepts that will help you to decipher difficult to read writing styles. We will bypass a discussion on upper-case letters simply because the concepts that we talk about with the lower-case letters will apply to the upper-case letters as well.

1. Rule number one is that whenever you encounter words you can't decipher, look for those letters that are most similar to their Latin script counterparts. These, as shown in Fig. 15A, are usually the B, F, I, J, L, O, and Z.

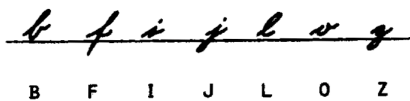


Fig. 15A

2. Rule number two concerns five letters. They are the only five letters that extend high above the line. These are the B, D, K, L, and T (see Fig. 15R). Two of these letters, the B and the L, are usually easy to recognize because of their Latin similarity. This narrows it down to just three letters, the D, K, and the T. Among these three it is not too difficult to determine the correct one.

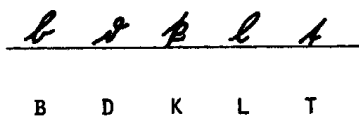


Fig. 15B

3. This has to do with seven letters which begin on the line and then extend below it (see Fig. 15C). These letters are the G, J, P, Q, X, Y, and Z. two of these, the J and the Z, are similar to Latin. The G, Q, and Y are very similar, especially the G and the Q. of these three the G is probably used the most and then the y since it is often used interchangeably with the letter I. the P and the X are also very similar. Between the two of them, the P, of course, will be used more often.

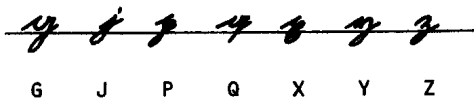


Fig. 15C

4. Three letters that you must be careful of are the F, H, and S. All three of these (as shown in Fig. 15D) extend both high above and far below the line. They are also written using the same type of strokes. The F, as we have already mentioned, is written much like our Latin F and it may be easier to identify. All three of them are used extensively in German writings.

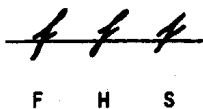




Fig. 15D

5. The next eleven letters can be broken down into four groups due to their similarities with each other, see Fig. 15E. All of these letters are written on the line. The O and the I are the only two that are similar to the Latin script. The letter U is placed with two groups because of its similarity with the A and O, and the M and N. Most German writers will put either a slash or a dot over the u to distinguish it from the letter N. If a dot is used, then the letter u can be mistaken for an ei or maybe a ci. The use of the dot is not too common.
6. Special mention needs to be made concerning the letter S. The Germans have two forms of this letter. The one S  has been already referred to under number 4. This form of the letter S will be found written within a word, whereas the other s  will be found written at the end of the word and sometimes at the end of a syllable. Again, there will always be exceptions depending on the writer.
7. The last rule is just a reminder to be aware of the various combinations of letters which were listed in chapter 14. Become familiar with them so that you can spot them when they occur. Often they will give you clues to deciphering less legible forms of the same letters.

Vocabulary

Abbreviations used in German genealogy:

Ev. (Evangelisch)- evangelical	Menn. (Mennonitisch)- Mennonite
Geb. (Geboren)- born	Ref. (Reformiert)- reformed
Gesch. (Geschieden)- divorced	S. v. (sohnvon)- son of
Gest. (Gestorben)- died	U. d. (Und der)- and of
Get. (Getauft)- christened	Verh. (Verheiratet)- married
Kath. (Katholi sch)- Catholic	Wwe. (witwe)- widow
Luth. (Lutherisch)- Lutheran	Wwer. (Witwer)- widower

Days of the Week

Montag – Monday	Freitag, Freytag – Friday
Dienstag – Tuesday	Samstag, Sonnabend – Saturday
Mittwoch – Wednesday	Sonntag - Sunday
Donnerstag – Thursday	

Centuries

Funfzehnhundert – 1500	Achtzehnhundert – 1800
Sechzehnhundert – 1600	Neunzehnhundert – 1900
Siebzehnhundert - 1700	Zwanzighundert - 2000

Ordinal Numbers

1. - erste
2. - zweite
3. - dritte

Word List

Im Gleicien Monat - in the same month	Lebendig - living
Jahr (das) - year	Ledig - single
Jarestag (der) - anniversary	Legitimiert - legitimate
Jahreszeit (die) - season	Letzter Wille - last will
Jungfer (die) - virgin	Madchen (das) - girl.
Jungfrau (die) - virgin	Magd (die) - maid, maiden, girl

Junge (der) - boy	Mann (der) - husband, man
Junggeselle (der) - bachelor	Männlich - male, masculine
Jüngling (der) - bachelor	Matrikel. - register
Katholisch - catholic	Morgen - tomorrow
Kaufmann (der) - merchant	Morgen (der) - morning
Kind (das) - child	Mutter (die) - mother
Kinder (die) - children	Nachgelassene (der or die) survivor
Kirche (die) - church	Nachmittag (der) - afternoon
Kirchenbuch (das) - parish register	Nacht (die) - night
Kirchgemeinde (die) - parish	Name (der) - name
Kirchenspiel (das) - parish	Nebenfrau (die) - concubine
Kirchensprengel (das) - parish	Neffe (per) - nephew
Kirchenvorsteher (der) church warden	Nichte (die) - niece
Kirchspiel (das) - parish	N. N. (Nomen nescio) - unknown name
Knabe - boy	Nottaufe (die) - emergency baptism
Konfirmation (die) - confirmation	Onkel (der) - uncle
Kopulation (die) - marriage	Ort (der) - place
Krankheit (die) - disease	Pate (der) - witness (male)
Kreis (per) - district	Patin (die) - witnesses (female)
Kusine (die) - cousin (female)	Paten (die) - witnesses
Kuster (der) - sexton	Pfarramt (das) - parish

Chapter 16 – Handwriting and Terminology Advanced

This chapter discusses some advanced methods of deciphering the more difficult German scripts. To become proficient at reading this type of script requires practice and the development of a good German vocabulary.

In each type of record there are certain words that occur frequently and which can be easily recognized. Being aware of these words and how they are written is very important, for they can aid in the deciphering of more difficult words. Fig. 16A is a list of a few of these.

A method used by professionals when they are deciphering a large document or record written by one person, is to construct an alphabet using letters as they are written by the writer. A sheet of paper is set up so that in the left-hand margin, going from the top to the bottom of the page, is printed all of the upper-case letters. In the center of the same sheet in like manner is printed all of the lower-case letters, see Fig. 16B.

By going through the document, finding those letters that can be identified and copying them onto the sheet next to the corresponding printed letter exactly the way the writer made them, you will create a complete alphabet based on the writer's style. In some cases the writer may use two, or even more, different styles of the same letters. Each of these variations should be copied onto the sheet. When a word cannot be easily determined, each letter of the word is compared with the constructed alphabet until the word is deciphered.

With long words, sometimes the best thing to do is to break them down into smaller units, usually into syllables. By working on each part separately, starting at the beginning of a word, at the end of a word, or at the center of the word and working towards the ends, it will make it easier to determine what the whole word is.

An understanding of German sentence structure, word order, and grammar would also be valuable in helping to decipher words. It would be helpful to know what the subordinating conjunctions are and that when they are used the verb goes to the end of the sentence. Knowing also what the common verbs are and how to spell them would be useful. You should not assume that every word within a sentence which begins with a capital letter is the name of a person or a place. All nouns are capitalized in German. Note in Fig. 16C the capitalized words that are given, and yet there is not one proper noun listed.

One of the quickest ways to discern names, words, or letters that are hard to read is to find the same name, word, or letter written elsewhere in the record, more often than not by finding it written somewhere else it will be much clearer and easier to read. This is especially true of names. If you can't read the names of parents in one entry, then check the christenings of their other children. If a child's name cannot be easily discerned in the christening record, then check the confirmation, marriage, or death records to determine the spelling, one final word about special markings of some letters. Sometimes the M and the N will have a bar above them. This is done to indicate that the letters are doubled, as in the surname Hardtman for Hardtmann. The only problem is that the N may look like a U when written in the script.

There are also certain letters that can be used interchangeably due to their similarity in sound. The writer may use one in one instance and another in the next. The following are the 12 most common letters that can be used interchangeably:

I and Y	D and T	B and P
C and K	F and V	EI and AI

One other thing that you should be aware of is the problem with dialects in various areas of Germany. You may encounter some records where a person wrote the way he spoke, and in many areas it was anything but high German.

Vocabulary

Abbreviations in German Genealogy

a. D.	(Ausser Dienst)	- formerly employed
Bd.	(Band)	- volume
Bez.	(Bezirk)	- district
d . A.	(Der altere)	- the older
d. J.	(Der jungere)	- the younger
ebd.	(Ebenda)	- at the same place
err.	(Err echnet)	- approximated
heir.	(Heiraten)	- marry
i.R.	(Im ruhestand)	- in retirement
Kb.	(Ki rchenbuch)	- parssh registers
Kr.	(Kreis)	- county
mannl.	(Mannlich)	- male
s.	(Siehe)	- see
v.	(Von)	- of or signifying nobility
weibl.	(Weiblich)	- female

Days of the Month

1 Erste	12 Zwolfte	23 Dreiundzwanzigste
2 Zweite, Zweyte	13 Dreizehnte	24 Vierundzwanzigste
3 Dritte	14 Vierzehnte	25 Funfundzwanzigste
4 Vierte	15 Funfzehnte	26 Sechundzwanzigste
5 Funfte	16 Sechzehnte	27 Siebenundzwanzigste
6 Sechste	17 Siebzehnte	28 Achtundzwanzigste
7 Siebte, Siebente	18 Achtzehnte	29 Neunundzwanzigste
8 Achte	19 Neunzehnte	30 Dreissigste
9 Aeunte	20 Zwanzigste	31 Einunddreissigste
10 Zehnte	21 Einundzwanzigste	
11 Elfte	22 Zweiundzwanzigste	

Word List

Pfarrbuch (das) – parish book	Unehelich – illegitimate
Pfarrer (der) – minister, pastor	Ungefahr – about, circa

Platz (der) – place	Urgrosmutter (die) – great grandmother
Priester (der) – priest	Urgrossvater (der) – great grandfather
Reformiert – reformed	Urkunde (die) – document
Rfntner (der) – retired person	Vater (der) – father
Rodel (das) – register	Verehelichung (die) – marriage
Ruhestand (im) – retirement	Verehelicht – married
Schenkungen (die) - donations	Verheiratet – married
Schloss (das) – castle	Verlobte (der) – bridegroom
Schmied (per) – smith	Verlobte (die) – bride
Schwanger – pregnant	Verlobung (die) – engagement
Schwester (die) – sister	Verrichtet – performed
Schwigersohn (der) – son-in-law	Verstorbene (der) – the deceased
Seite (die) – page	Verzeichnis (das) – register, index
Sohn (der) – son	Vetter (der) – male cousin
Sohnchen (das) – son	Volkszajilung – census
Sohnlein (das) – son	Vormund (der) - guardian
Staat (der) – state	Vorname – given name
Stadt (die) – city	Vollzogen – performed
Stand (per) – occupation	Waise (die) – orphan
Standesamt (das) – civil registry	Wappen (das) – coat of arms
Stiefkind (das) – stepchild	Wemmutter (die) – midwife
Stiefmutter (die) – stepmother	Weib (das) – wife, woman
Stiefvater (per) – stepfather	Weiblich – female, feminine
Stunde (die) - hour	Weiland - deceased
Tag (der) – day	Welchem (An) Tag – on which day
Tag der taufe – day of baptism	Witwe (die) – widow
Tal (das) – valley	Witwer (der) – widower
Tante (die) – aunt	Wohnung (die) – residence
Taufe (die) – baptism	Wohnort (der) – residence
Taufpaten (die) – godparents	Wohnplatz (der) – residence
Testnvent (das) – will	Zehnten (der) – tithing
Tochter (die) – daughter	Zehntenbuch (das) – tithing book
Tochterchen (das) – little	Zehntbuch (das) – tithing book
Tochterlein (das) – little	Zeit (die) – time
Tod (der) – death	Seit (die) der Geburt – time of birth
Tot - dead	Zeuge (der) - witness
Totgeborenes Kind – stillborn child	Zivilstandsamt (das) – civil registry
Traung (die) – marriage	Zuname (der) - surname
Und das – and of	Zwilling - twins
Und der - and of	

Chapter 17 - Feast Days and Calendars

Determining accurate dates is an important aspect of genealogical research, but confusion can result if you do not understand the various dating systems that were used in Germany.

Depending on the area of research and on the time period, you can encounter several different methods of dating.

The earliest one used in Germany that we need to be concerned about was the Julian calendar, established by the Roman emperor, Julius Caesar, in 46 B.C. it was this calendar that established 12 months in the year, with three years of 365 days and a leap year with 366 days. The problem was that the calendar year was longer than the solar year. By the year 1500 this had resulted in 10 days too many.

In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII established the Gregorian calendar. This calendar dropped the 10 extra days, retained every fourth year as a leap year and in the case of century years (1700, 1800, etc.), he made each of them leap years except those that were divisible by 400, and these were just regular years. In this way the extra days were prevented from accumulating as they had in the Julian calendar.

The Catholics were about the only ones that accepted the Gregorian calendar when it was first established. The majority of the Protestants did not accept it until the 1600s and 1700s. Because of this, there were two different dating systems throughout Germany at that time. In some areas you may find double dates being recorded or find one system being used in one type of record and another system being used in a different type of record in doing research, you should try to determine when the change from the Julian to the Gregorian took place. This should be done according to the geographical area and whether they were Catholics or Protestants.

Fig. 17A shows the time periods in the individual German lands when the Gregorian calendar was established.

Augsburg	13-24 February 1583
Baden	16-27 November 1583
Bayern	5-16 October 1582
Cleve (Duchy)	17-28 November 1582
Danzig	1582
Eichstatt	5 - 16 October 1583
Freiburg	11 - 22 January 1584
Friesland	31 December 1700 - 12 January 1701
Hildesheim	15 - 26 March 1631
Koln	3 - 14 November 1583
Lausitz	12 - 23 November 1584
Lothringen	9 - 20 December 1582
Mainz	11 - 22 November 1583
Minden	1630
Munster	17 - 28 November 1583
Osnabruck	1624
Paderborn	16- 27 June 1585
Pfalz-Neuburg	13 - 24 December 1615
Preussen	22 August - 2 September 1612
Regensburg	5 - 16 October 1583
Strassburg (Diocese)	16 - 27 November 1583
Strassburg (City)	5 - 16 February 1632
Trier	4- 15 October 1583
Westfalen (Duchy)	1 - 12 July 1584
Worzburg	4 - 15 November 1583

Fig. 17A

First of the Year

One problem associated with determining exact dates had to do with what was regarded as the first of the year. In some areas December 25 or Christmas was used. Many areas used January 1 or the circumcision of Jesus, but most areas used March 25 or the annunciation as the first of the year. Some problems that you may encounter are dates such as the following:

23 7bris or 14 viiibris

These two dates are not in July or August but rather September and October. September means seventh and when March was considered the first month, the seventh month was September. In like manner Octo means eighth, Novem means ninth, and Decem means tenth. The last two months of the year were January and February. Eventually, however, the areas changed and January was made the first month.

Names for Months

The Romans established the names for the months as we have them today, but in the 800s Charlemagne established Germanic names for the months. In many areas of Germany, these names were used throughout the 1600s and 1700s. Fig. 17B is a list of these names.

January - Hartung	July - Heuert
February - Hornung	August - Ernting
March - Lenzing	September - Scheidling
April - Ostermond	October - Gilbhard
May - Maien	November - Nnebelung
June - Brachet	December - Chrjstmond
May - Maien	

Fig. 17B

Charlemagne was not the only one to change names of months. During the French revolution, Napoleon established the French calendar, which not only changed the names of the months but changed the whole year also, at the end of 1805 Napoleon abolished this calendar. Fig. 17C is a copy of the French calendar. This calendar was divided up into 12 months of 30 days each. The remaining 5 or 6 days were called complimentary days and were added to the end of the year.

Year of Republic Calendar

Converting from French to Gregorian	
French Republic date	= 19 Nivose An (YEAR) VI
1 Nivose	= 21 December 1797
Counting the 21 As 1 add	+ 18
	39
Less days in December	- 31
Gregorian date	= 8 January 1798

Fig. 17C

Ostfriesland (western part of Hannover) was under Dutch rule at the time of Napoleon. During the time of the French calendar, the Dutch would not use the French names for the months. Instead, they established their own names as given in Fig. 17D. Because of the Dutch rule over the Ostfriesland area of Germany, it is possible to find records in which this dating system was used.

Dutch Calendar Months

Louwmaand	- January	Hooimaand	- July
Sprockelmaand	- February	Oogstmaand	- August
Lentemaand	- March	Herfstmaand	- September
Grasmaand	- April	Wijnmaand	- October
Bloeimaand	- May	Slachtmaand	- November
Zomermaand	- June	Wintermaand	- December

Fig. 17D

Feast Days

There were two types of feast days:

1. Fixed Feast Days = those that occurred on the same date each year
2. Movable Feast Days = those that occurred on the same day of the week, usually Sunday, so that each year the date changed.

Figures 17E and 17F show some examples of the different types of feast days. A complete listing of fixed and movable feast days is the following book:

Bennett, Archibald F. *A Guide For Genealogical Research*. 2nd ed. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- Day Saints, 1956. (929.1 B439g) (Film no. 599,650 Item 2)

This book has tables on pages 326 to 334 which can be used to convert dates from the Julian to the Gregorian calendars and for converting feast dates into calendar dates.

Fixed Feast Days

Circumcision of Jesus	1 January
Annunciation of Mary	25 March
Transfiguration of Jesus	6 August
Assumption of Mary	15 August
All Saints	1 November
Christmas	25 December

Fig. 17E

Movable Feast Days

Ash Wednesday	seventh Wednesday before Easter
Easter Sunday	first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21.
Pentecost	seventh Sunday after Easter
Trinity	first Sunday after Pentecost

Fig. 17F

Chapter 18 - Finding A Birth Record

At any given time in genealogical research, a researcher will be looking for one of three things: a birth, a marriage, or a death date of an ancestor. If available, civil and parish registers should be searched first, when they don't exist or when they are incomplete, it will be necessary to determine what other records exist, what they contain, the time periods they cover, where they are housed, and how to use them in doing research.

The important thing about using any type of record is being sure to obtain all of the information that is given in it. Often parish ministers and other recorders included additional information in the margin or within the body of the document. You may find the marriage and death dates given in a christening record or the birth date being given in the marriage or death record.

This, and the following two chapters, will show how civil, parish, and other record types can be used to obtain, if not an exact date, then at least a calculated or approximate date. Not every record type will be covered in these chapters, as that is not the purpose of them. The purpose of these three chapters is to show that records other than civil and parish can be used just as effectively in doing research as vital records can when the vital records are not available. They may also be used to verify or substantiate existing vital records when it is necessary.

Civil Registers

Of all the records you may have to use, the civil registers will probably be one of the easiest to use. It began later than most records, it is often on printed forms, and it is sometimes indexed, thus making it easier to search. Fig. 18A is a copy of a civil birth record from Neuss, Rheinland, Prussia, in 1870. This, like most civil registers, gives the name of the parents and the child along with the date and place of the birth.

If the civil birth records are not available but the civil marriages are, it may be still possible to get a copy of the birth certificate. In many areas the civil registrar required the bride and bridegroom to furnish a copy of their birth certificates before they could get married. Many of these certificates were filed with the marriage records and contained the same information found on the regular birth certificate.

Civil death records also included information on the individual's date of birth. Sometimes it gave the complete date, other times just the individual's age at death; but even with the age it can make searching for the birth entry much easier.

Church Records

The parish registers will give much the same information as the civil registry. The main difference is that the christening date will be given instead of the birth date; however, in many of the christening records, the birth date will also be given.

The parish marriage record may also contain information on the birth of the bride and the birth of the bridegroom. Fig. 18B is a copy and translation of a marriage entry from the parish of Varrenholz, Westphalia, Prussia.

Also, the parish burial record may give a birth date; and if not, it will usually give at least the age at death. In some parishes the death records will show how many years, months and days old a person was when he died. With this information it is possible to compute the actual birth date. The following are examples of how this is done:

Died 21 October 1879, age 69 years, 8 months, 14 days

21	10	1879
-14	8	69
7	2	1810 = Birth date 7 February 1810

Died 17 February 1842, age 55 years, 11 months, 6 days

17	2	1842
-6	11	55
equals		
17	14	1841
-6	11	55
11	3	1786 = Birth date 11 Mar 1786

It should not be assumed that these would be correct dates. You should always verify it with the birth or christening record.

1846

Tag der Eheschließung	Bräutigam	Braut
1. Nov.	Friedrich Philipp Detmers, Tischler, Sohn d. C. des Tischlers Ludwig Detmers, geb. 23. Sept. 1818.	Sophie Justine Wilhelmina Dammler geb. Wattenberg, Papiermachergesellen Ehef. Wilh. D. Farmer No. 23. Born 13 Febr. 1812.
N. 23.		

1846		
Day of Marriage	Bridegroom	Bride
Erder 1 Nov. No. 23	Friedrich Philipp Detmers, Carpenter Legitimate Son of the Carpenter Friedrich Wilh. D. from Barntruz Born Single Son from Barntruz 23 Sept. 1818 + 1870 No. 39	Sophie Justine Wilhelmina Dammler born Wattenberg, Widow of the (8+ Apr 1846) papermaker journeyman Christian Wilh. D. Farmer No. 23 Born 13 Febr. 1812 + 7. 6. 1848

If the parish has family registers, then you should search them even before the christening records are searched. The reason for this is that most family registers will list the complete family, and some of them will include grandparents, parents, and children. These records usually give the birth, marriage, and death dates for each family member. You should never accept the information given in the family register at face value because most of the information was recorded some time after the event had taken place. These records should be used in conjunction with the actual christening, marriage, and burial records making it quicker to search because you know who you are looking for and the time period to search.

Another record that may give either the birth date or the age of an individual is the church confirmation record. See Fig. 19B in the following chapter for an example. Most children were between the ages of 13 and 20 when they were confirmed. This was usually true of the catholic as well as most Protestant churches.

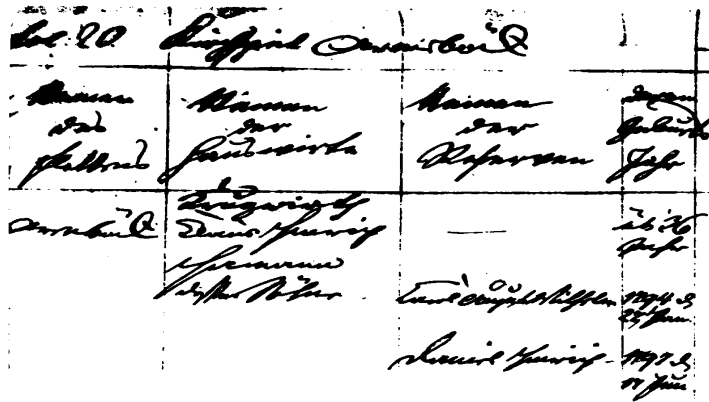
Another very important document that is found throughout Germany is the Geburtsbrief (letter of birth). This is also called the Geburtszeugnis (certificate of birth) or Herkunftszeugnis (certificate of origin). When an individual wanted to establish citizenship in a city or town, when he tried to join a guild, and even when he wanted to get married, he would usually have to furnish one of these documents to do so. These were not issued by the church, but the information was obtained from church records and issued by the civil authorities.

Guild records (Zunft, Innungs, and Gilderbücher) can also provide valuable information. Some of these were more detailed than modern day employment records. Fig. 19E in the next chapter is taken from the records of the brewers and bakers guild in Magdeburg, Saxony, Prussia. The record gives the name of the guild member, the name of his wife, and the names of all of their children. It gives their marriage date and the birth date of each child. These guilds were much stronger than their union counterparts today. Not only did they control where the guild member lived, but they played a major part in determining who the family members married as well as other things.

Census records (Volkzählungen), resident lists (Einwohnerlisten), and citizen books (Bürgerbücher) are just as diversified as any record type could be. They can be as complete as the Mecklenburg 1819 census which lists the complete family, giving date and place of birth and christening, occupation, length of stay, marital status, and religion; or they can be as brief as those giving only the names of the family heads.

German military records have not always proven to be a good genealogical source for doing research. The main reason is their inaccessibility as compared with other record types. There is one area in Germany where this is not the case. This is in the northern area in the Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein. In this area the military records are similar to those in Denmark. Fig. 18C is a copy from these records. In parts of Schleswig-Holstein, as in Denmark, a male child was entered into the military levying rolls when he was born. These records kept track of the father and his sons regardless of where they moved in that province it lists their names, residence, date of birth, and sometimes even the place of birth.

Police registration (Einwohnermelderegister) began about the 1840s. Before moving to another place, residents had to go to the police station and notify them where they were moving. Within three days after arriving at a new place, they had to go to the new police station and notify them where they had moved in from and where they were residing in that place. These records included the type of occupation that a person had, and sometimes it gave their age or date of birth.



Folio 20	Parish Arensböck		
Name of the Place	Name of the Head of the House	Name of the Reserves	Birth Year
Arensböck	<i>Innkeeper</i>		
	<i>Claus Henrich Hamann</i>		<i>36 years</i>
	<i>His sons</i>	<i>Carl August Wilhelm</i>	<i>1794 27 Jan</i>
		<i>Daniel Henrich</i>	<i>1797 17 Jun</i>

Fig. 18C

The following are some research problems that have been found in birth and christening records. In some christening records the sex of the child may be given and no name, or a child may have been given a female name and the minister has stated that it was a boy or vice versa. In solving problems such as these, you would need to check the confirmation, marriage, and death records to determine the child's name or to determine the actual sex of the child.

Records of Ostfriesland were affected by the laws in Holland. One of the laws that existed in both areas pertained to children that lived less than three days after birth. The law stated that such children were to be considered stillborn and no death certificates or records were to be made for them. Because of this, you should be aware that any reference to a child being stillborn in this area could actually mean that the child may have lived up to three days.

Another problem relating to stillborns was found in the Schleswig-Holstein area and may pertain to other areas of Germany well. In the parish record it listed a child as being stillborn to an unwed mother. In the court records for this area it indicated that the child had not been stillborn but had been killed by the mother and that she had been sentenced to imprisonment for this act. In checking further in these court records a number of similar cases were found.

Concerning illegitimate children, it was not permissible for any such child to obtain citizenship in a town or gain entrance to a guild. Because of the importance of being of legitimate birth, families often paid court expenses to have the child legitimized. A good example of the importance of this is found a case mentioned in the German periodical, *Zeitschrift Der Zentralstelle für Niedersächsische Familiengeschichte*. The case involved a young man who had declared his intention to marry a young lady. After she had become pregnant he decided not to marry her. She took him to court not to force him to marry her but to have him legitimize the child after it was born, which he did. Afterwards the young man ended up marrying the young lady anyway.

There are many other things that could be mentioned concerning birth and birth records, again the important thing is to be aware of the existing records in the area of your research and also of the special types of problems that exist there.

Chapter 19 - Finding A Marriage Record

Often the process of locating a marriage record is not as difficult as that of locating birth or death records. One reason for this is that you have usually located the birth or christening records of a couple's children before you begin looking for the couple's marriage record. After locating the date of the first child's birth, you can then start looking for the marriage date of the parents, usually about a year before.

Again, the civil or parish marriage records should be searched first, if available. The following are additional records that may provide information relative to marriage records, to begin with, as birth or christening records of the children are being searched, you should be especially aware of any reference to the marriage of the parents. Fig. 19A is a copy taken from a parish birth record that gives the marriage date of the parents.

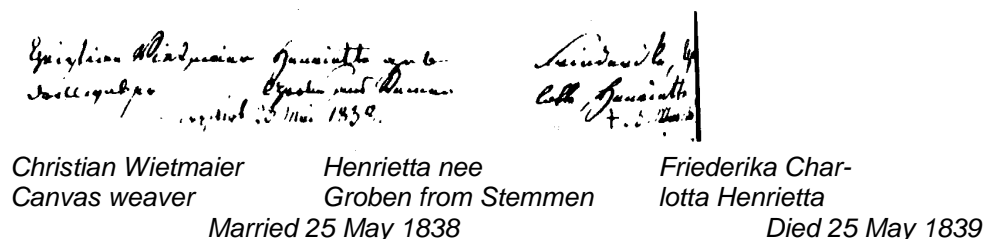


Fig. 19A

Another parish record seldom used is the confirmation record. Fig. 19B is an excellent example of how these records provide marriage information.

Printed sources also contain genealogies and give birth, marriage, and death information. Such sources are compiled primarily from the parish records but other secondary sources such as land, guild, census and tax records are also used. Two major printed sources are the *Dorfsippenbücher* (village lineage books), see Fig. 19C for an example, and the *Deutsche Geschlechterbücher* (German lineage books), see Fig. 19D for an extract of one.

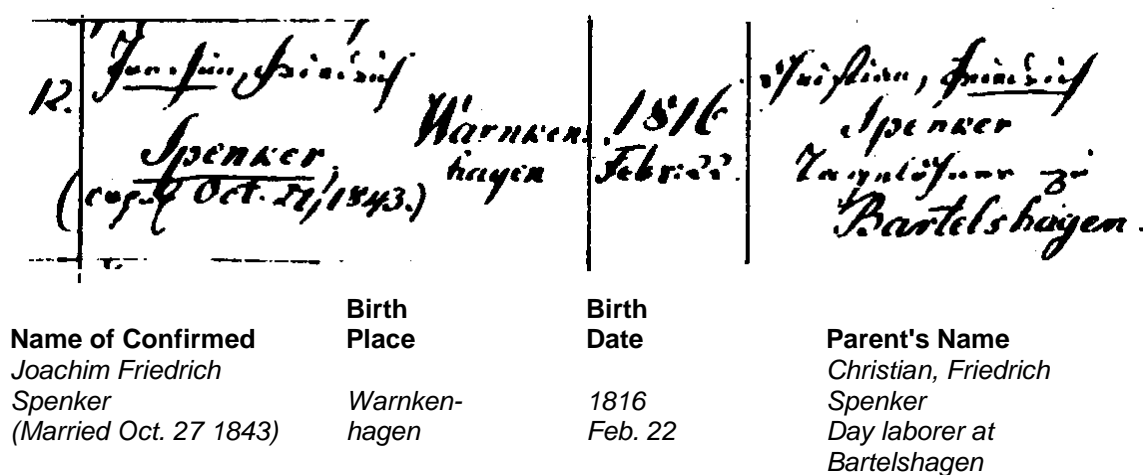


Fig. 19B

Guild records, if available and applicable, are another excellent source. Usually, the christening or birth and death records will indicate the ancestor's occupation. Fig. 19E is a copy from the brewer's and baker's build in Magdeburg, Saxony, Prussia, the first part of the record gives the marriage date of the parents followed by the names and birth dates of the children.

Abreder

1 ∞ 24.11.1814: Lorenz Abreder (S.d. Fidel A., Zimmermann in Sauldorf, u. d. Emerentina geb. Lipp), Zimmermeister, * um 1783, † 27.3.1856, u. Maria Anna Haasur (aus 844), * 4.8.1795, † 9.6.1862.

11 Kdr: Nikolaus 5.12.1814, ∞ im Elsaß. - Xaver 22.11.1817, † 22.1.1841. - Anton (2). - Joseph 15.2.1823, † 11.7.1824. - Johannes 22.5.1825, † 8.7.1825. - Salomea 8.10.1826, † 19.5.1827. - Agatha 24.1.1829, † 24.4.1829. - Johannes (4). - Michael (3). - Ambros 29.3.1835, † 2.4.1837. - Stephanus 26.12.1837, † 27.6.1860, ledig.

* = Birth ∞ = Marriage + = Death

Fig. 19C

* = Birth

X = Marriage

+ = Death

VIII a. + Karl Friedrich Eisenberg 17) *Nesselröden 25. 5. 1816,
+ Arnsbach 18. 5. 1886, Hauslehrer ebd., Pfarrer zu Landershausen
und Hesserode, Kr. Melsungen; X Hesserode 16. 10. 1850 mit
+ Adelheid Oeste, * Fulda 1. 12. 1823, + Hersfelde 11/ 11/
1887, T. d. + Johannes Oeste, Kurhess, Leutnant und Steuer=
Kontrolleur zu Kassel, U.S. G. + Therese Thösser.

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Fig. 19D

The following are research problems and procedures relating to marriage records.

A problem which occurs frequently is where the christenings of the children take place in one parish and the marriage of the parents occurs in another parish. There are several possible reasons for this. Between the time a child is confirmed and the time he gets married, he is usually farmed or apprenticed out, often to farms or cities some distance from his own. In this way he learns a trade, earns his own upkeep and is not a burden on his family, the person that he ultimately marries will usually be someone from the place where he was farmed out, or someone who was also apprenticed out to that place but from somewhere entirely different. After getting married the couple will settle wherever they can either acquire land or practice a trade.

When looking for the marriage place, you should know that more often than not a couple was married in the parish where the bride was from. This parish should always be searched first when it is known that it is not the same parish as the husband's.

In searching for a marriage record you may come across an entry for an ancestor in which there will be three different dates given in the margin of the record and no date given in the column marked "date of marriage." Such a situation will occur usually when searching the husband's parish and not the wife's. In both parishes the marriage banns or proclamations are published, usually for three consecutive Sundays; the marriage date, however, will probably only be given in the wife's parish. The marriage in the husband's parish may, however, indicate the place of marriage.

A researcher should also be aware of second marriages. In locating these, a husband's second marriage will always be easier to find because in most christening records, the child is listed under the surname of the father. An exception to this is mentioned in Chapter 13 under farm names. Any time there is a gap of three or more years in the birth or christening records, you should consider several things:

1. If the same parents have additional children after this time, then it is possible that another child was born and christened in another parish,
2. It is possible, too, for another child to have been stillborn and not entered in the christening records.
3. It is also possible for the parents to have stopped having children.
4. If after this amount of time the husband's name appears but the wife's name is different, then most assuredly the first wife has died, and he has remarried.

If it is the husband that has died, it will be much harder to determine because the children born to the wife and her second will all be listed under the new husband's surname. When there are no other children under the first husband's surname, then the death records should be searched beginning at least nine months before the birth of the last child.

In Southern Germany between the mid-1600s and the early 1700s you may encounter an unusual problem. In the parish you may find what appears to be more than one man by the same name. The parish records list each with his wife and the children born to them, in attempting to find the birth or death record of each of these men, you would probably only find reason is there is only one man and he has more than one wife. During this time period, polygamy was allowed.

On February 14, 1650, the parliament at Nurnberg decreed that because so many men were killed during the Thirty Years' War, the churches for the following ten years could not admit any man under the age of 60 into a monastery. Priests and ministers not bound by any monastery were allowed to marry. Lastly, the decree stated that every man was allowed to marry up to ten women. The men were admonished to behave honorably, provide for their wives properly, and prevent animosity among them.

In northern Germany a person could get married in a home instead of the parish. To do this he had to receive what was called a *Konigsbrief* (king's letter) from the civil authorities. Such marriages were exempt from the three-week waiting period in which the marriage banns were published.

A type of marriage contract found in the central part of Germany was also a kind of land record. This record was made up of two parts. The first part was a contract between the young man getting married and the land owner that he was going to rent from after his marriage. In it he agreed to pay so much in cash, so much in goods produced, and to provide so much time in labor to the land owner. The second part was a contract between the young man and his intended wife so that if he should die, she would be able to retain the land, provided of course she remarried within a certain time period.

In addition to the above mentioned records, there would also be court records, probate records and newspapers. Again, it should always be remembered that each area will be different both in the type of records it may have and the type of research problems that exist.

Chapter 20 - Finding A Death Record

Death records are some of the most underestimated record types as far as their value and importance are concerned. Before covering the various types of records that give information on death and burial, some of the important reasons for using them are given.

The main reason for using these records, of course, is to determine when a person died. Knowing a person's date of birth and date of death tells you the time period that you can possibly expect to find him in the records that existed where he resided. For example, knowing that an ancestor, who had lived in a village in Mecklenburg, had died in 1815 would save you from wasting time looking for him in the 1819 census of that duchy.

The second reason for using these records is because of the information that they give in addition to the date of death or burial. The most important additional information that is almost always given is the person's age at death. By knowing this it becomes possible to determine the person's approximate year of birth. There are many death records that give the exact birth date of the deceased, or as has already been mentioned in Chapter 18, it may give the age in years, months, and days, making it possible to compute the actual birth date. Often, because of existing records, it is easier and quicker to locate a person's death record than it is his birth record. In doing research you normally locate your direct line ancestor's birth record and then those of the brothers and sisters. Once you have determined when the first child was born, you can then begin looking for the parent's marriage record. After the marriage record has been found you then start looking for the births of the parents and then the process is repeated. If at any time you find

a death date of an individual in another type of record, then before trying to find that person's marriage or birth record you should go to the death records first. If the death records give you the person's age, you would probably be able to locate the birth record much quicker than if you had disregarded the death date and went through the birth records year by year until you found it. The death entry may even make reference to when the person was married, whether the spouse was still living, the names of surviving children and the place of birth if it was a different parish than where he died. The following example may help clarify this. That an assume that an immigrant by the name of Gerhard Wemeler from Recke, Westphalia, Prussia, was listed on the 1850 census as 33 years of age. This would place his birth date around 1817. You next determine what records exist and find that there are christening, marriage, burial, and family registers for this whenever they are available, family registers should always be searched first. This is because the complete family is listed, often with their dates of birth, marriage and death. Fig. 20A is a copy from the family register showing the Wemeler family. The entry gives the birth dates of the children, the marriage date of the parents and the year of death of the father. With this information you would then go to the christening and marriage records to verify the dates. Compiled information such as this should never be accepted at face value because it is not known when the minister made the family register and there is always the possibility for error when he copied it. Normally you would next try to locate the christening dates for the parents; but because the father's year of death is given, you go to the death records first. The death records for this area give the individual's name and the name of the spouse. It gives the age in years, months, and days; and it gives the place of birth of the deceased, thus making it possible to go right to the birth record.

Most of the people doing research in Germany do not realize that there are other church vital records pertaining to death or the following are a few of the more common ones. Fig. 20B is a copy of a parish Grabregister (grave register). It is interesting to note that in the entries for December 29 and 30 to conserve space, the children were buried together. Other records showed that they buried small children with adults as well.

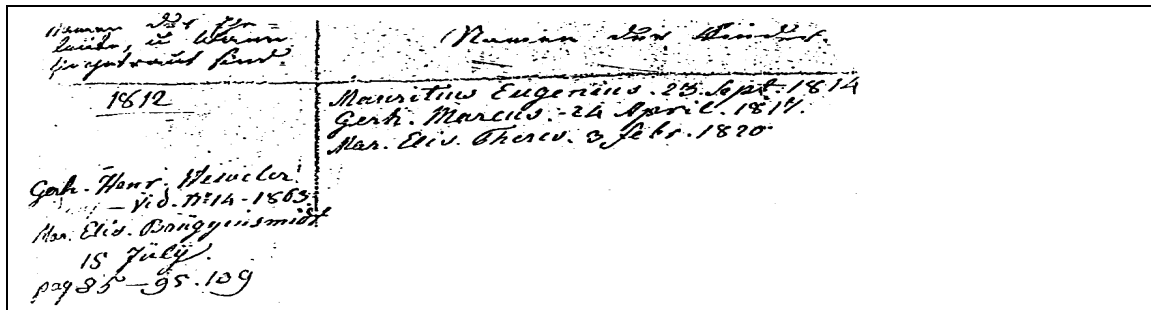
	
Family Register	
Name of the Parents and when married	Name of the children
1812	
Gerhard Henrich Wemeler vid No. 24 1863 Maria Elisabeth Brüggensmidt 15 July page 85-95. 109	Mauritius Eugenius 23 Sept. 1814 Gerhard Marcus 24 april 1817 Maria Elisabeth Theresia 3 Feb. 1820

Fig. 20A

Another less commonly used record was the church Einnahme registers (church receipt books). Fig. 20C is a copy from the receipt book found in the parish of Bad Schwartau, Lobeck, Germany, this entry shows the receipt of money for the tolling of the bell for the wife of Hans Peter Bottgers. What this date represents is the burial date for his wife. Also included in these receipt books are entries regarding money received for burial plots and for the funeral cloth.

1788. Decbr. 22	Augf. Wilh. Hattenbuech. a. 9. Tag
" Dito. 1	Altm. Asmus Siewert alt 38. Jyr.
" Dito. 23	J. Aug. Marc. Wittorff. a. 2 J.
" Dito. 29	Anna Cath. Dor. Klopp. a. 1 1/4 J. begri. mit Eng. Christ Laage alt 8 Tg.
" Dito. 30	Hinr. Christ. Schmusser von Neydorf mit seinen Kindern Maria Margar alt 4 J. Joh. Friederich Schmusser 2 J.
Grave Register	
17 Decbr. 22	Augs. Wilh. Hattenbach age 9 days from Fissau
17 Decbr. 22	Farmer Asmus Siewert age 38 years
17 Decbr. 23	J. Aug. Mac. Wittorff age 2 years
17 Decbr. 29	Anna Cath. Dor. Klopp age 1 1/4 yr. buried with Eng. christ Laage age 8 days
17 Decbr. 30	Hinr. Christ. Schmusser from Neydorf his two children, Maria Margar age 4 yr. Joh. Friederich Schmusser 2 yr.

Fig. 20 B

One other vital record which will give death dates is the Leichenpredigten (funeral sermons). Some funeral sermons were very brief and gave very little information while other took up a whole page or more. The size and detail of a sermon depended largely on how prominent a person was and how much money was paid for the sermon. Fig. 20D is an extract from a printed funeral sermon found in Regensburg, Bavaria.

Einmalige Glocken - Geld.		
1767 8 Jan.	Der Fingst. Paul Sohn Luthger/Stein.	2
Receipt Bell Toll - Money		
1767		
8 Jan	The local Hans Peter Böttgers his wife	2 shillings

Fig. 20D

FUNERAL SERMON
Brunner, Michael Christoph, B U. Eisenhandler in R, * 30. 5. 1727, + R 3fl. 7. 1732 Brunner, Michael Christoph, citizen and ironworker in Regensburg, born 30 May 1727, died Regensburg 30 July 1732.

Fig. 20D

There are many other records that could be used in addition to the vital records just mentioned. The following are just a few of these:

City chronicles are sometimes very similar to village lineage books or German lineage books. Fig. 20E is an extract from a city chronicle from Dushorn, Hannover, Prussia.

City Chronicle
<i>Hermann Bohme, *28. 12. 1872 in Alsleben oo mit Eva Brautigam, *20. 7. 1871 In Dushorn abgemeldet am 14. 4. 1936 nach Buchten Ihre beiden sohne Hermann und Henry sind in Hoboken In USA. Geboren. Hermann, *19. 1. 1903, wurde Lehrer; Henry, * 4. 10. 1905, ging am 20. 3. 1928 wieder nach USA zuruck, nach Broklin.</i>

Fig. 20E

If a person was a member of a brotherhood such as the Bruderschaft der butter und Kasekaufer (brotherhood of the butter and cheese merchants) you could find vital information from their records of which Fig. 20F is an extract.

Brotherhood Records
<i>Knupper, Harmen: Bruder 28 Nov 1706, Schaffer 1715, Besitzer 1731, Alter 1738, oo Bruders Tochter, ergraben 17 Feb 1739, witwe begr. Jakobi 29 Apr 1768 Sone begr. Michaelis 23 Sep 1711 u. 14 Mar 1724. Tochter Begr. Michaelis 10 May 1712 u. 29 Nov 1719. Knupper, Harm Phillipp Sohn des vorigen: Bruder 23 Oct 1734, begr. Jakobi Sep 1783 Knupper, Johann Christian, Bruder des Vorigen: Bruder 18 May 1740, begr. 21 Apr 1772 + 15 Apr Frau begr Jakobi 2 Mar 1755 Knupper, Conrad Nicolaes, Bruder des vorigen: Bruder 26 Mar 1750, begr. 19 Feb 1758</i>

Fig. 20F

One other type of record that should be mentioned is the land record. Land records will vary as much as the other German records, depending on where they were made and how they were kept. In many areas, however, there were complete farm histories kept giving vital information concerning the land owners themselves. Fig. 20G is a copy of a farm history in Schleswig-Holstein. To read it you would need to know the following symbols:

* = birth	oo = marriage	+ = death	s = son
t = daughter	geb = maiden name	Wwe = widow	

Farm History
<p>429—446. Giel (Gehlenfiel).</p> <p>429.</p> <p>Landstelle, am Kleinen Weg, 1781 zu 428. 7½ Mg. Haus 1781 abgebrochen. Michel Jarde (Jarten) I oo Anke. — 1661 S. Michel Jarde II. — 1709 S. Simon Jarde + 1754. — 1737 S. Michel Jarde III * 1711 oo Abel Start 1715— 66, T. des Lütje 386. R. a) Simon. b) Lütje. c) Johann oo Wwe. Margaretha Habeler, geb. Both, Wwe. des Johann 431. d) Irina. e) Metta. f) Abel. g) Hin- rich. — 1781 Johann Engelbrecht II 428.</p>

Fig. 20G

The major problem with death records is finding the death date for your ancestors, this is because there is no way of knowing just when a person was going to die. There are some ways, however, of finding it quicker, if certain records exist. It doesn't always matter what types of records are used as long as they were kept on a yearly basis or can be used with other records. Some of the annual church records such as pew registers and confession or prayer rolls are excellent for this if they are available, assuming that you are trying to locate the death date of a Claus Joachim Propp in Bad Schwartau, Lubeck, Germany, whose last child was born in 1803, you first check the confession records for the year 1310 and find him listed, then you check these records ten

years later in 1820 and cannot find him. You come back five years to 1815 and find him listed again. You check 1818 and again he is missing. In 1817 he is again listed, see Fig. 20H.

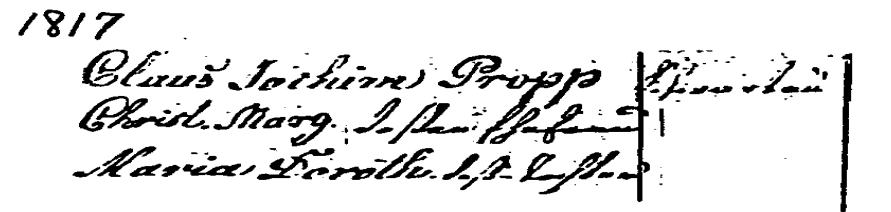
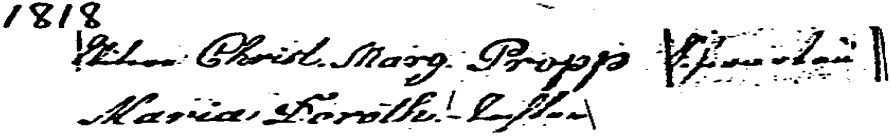
Confession Record	
1817	
1818	
1817	Claus Jochim Propp from Schwartau Christ. Marg. his wife Maria Doroth. her daughter
1818	Widow Christ. Marg. Propp from Schwartau Maria Doroth. her daughter

Fig. 20H

By this method you have only searched 5 years instead of the 15 you would have had to had you searched the death records from the time the last child was born. If the confession records were not made every year, you could have used the pew registers, census records, or tax records for those years that might have been missing.

When searching the marriage or confirmation records of the children or even the death entry of a spouse, you may come across an entry such as "Jurgen Brandt, son of the deceased (Weiland) Phillip Brandt." This indicates that the father had passed away sometime between when the son was born and when he was either confirmed or married. Coupled with other records, it will help narrow down the time period so that you do not have to search as many years.

There are a few problems concerning unusual death records that probably should be mentioned, among them are deaths as a result of the various wars in Germany, for example, in the district of Winsen, Hannover, Prussia, a record was kept of those soldiers who were missing in action in the war of 1812 against Russia. This list of 157 men from this one district was published in 1967 in the German periodical "Zeitschrift für Niederdeutsche Familienkunde," pages 100-105.

After the Thirty Years' War and because of the total destruction of records, an attempt in southern Germany was made to reconstruct some of these records in order to prove ownership of land and property. These records were called "Renovations Protokolle."

Many Germans went to sea both for a living and for military duty. The seaman's office in Hamburg, Germany, has a great number of records including deaths at sea, enlistment and pensions.

As can be seen from this chapter, death records are important and play a major role in German research procedures.

Chapter 21 - Corresponding for Records

Correspondence is a very important part of genealogical research, especially so in Germany. In Germany there is no central repository of any record, not even for the civil registry. To do successful research, you must know what records exist, what they contain, where they are

housed, how to use them in doing research, and what to expect by corresponding (see also Chapter 11 on record repositories).

The first thing you must do before beginning your research is to determine what vital records exist for the particular time period and area that you are working in. If vital records do not exist, then you must determine what other records exist that could give you the same information (see also Chapters 18, 19, and 20 on locating birth, marriage, and death records).

When faced with the responsibility of corresponding for records, many people discontinue research on a line rather than attempting it. Others turn it over to a researcher to handle the correspondence or hire a researcher in Germany to do it for them. There is never really any reason to discontinue research just because it must be handled by correspondence.

The following are important aspects of letter writing that should become a part of your correspondence procedures:

1. If at all possible, the letters should be written in German. If you are not willing to gain a knowledge of the German language sufficient enough to correspond, there are form letters you may use prepared by the Genealogical Library (see Appendix D for a copy of these). With these you can write to the civil registrar, or parish minister and obtain birth, marriage, or death certificates. Even though many officials and parish ministers have had some English in school, there are several reasons why you should correspond in as good a German as possible. Mainly, by writing in German there is less chance of your request being misunderstood or misinterpreted. Even in your native tongue, it is not always easy to explain exactly what is wanted, with correspondence it becomes even more difficult because there is no way to know whether the recipient of your request understands what is being asked for until he writes back. Then you have either paid for what you requested or paid for something you didn't want and additional correspondence is necessary. If you wrote in English, you could only hope that the person you were writing to would get someone who understood English if he couldn't.
2. Official titles should be used if they are known. This is not meant to be done as flattery. It is common courtesy to recognize an individual for who and what they are.
3. Letters and request should be both specific and easy to answer, this means giving enough information for the receiver to know exactly what you want without having to read the whole family history to determine it. At the same time you should not be so brief that the receiver has to be a mind reader to determine what is wanted.
4. A comparable amount of money in relationship to the request being made should accompany the request. (Money should be in the currency of the country, usually by bank draft or American Express money order). If you do not desire to send money with your request but wish to wait to see what the costs would be, you should at least indicate a willingness to pay whatever costs there might be.
5. Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes. Instead, enclose International Reply Coupons obtainable from any Post Office. (At least two for a return letter, more if request is for more information). About the only thing that United States stamps can be used for in Germany is for a stamp collection.
6. Above all else you should be courteous. Whether you receive information or not, it never hurts to send a thank you note for whatever service you receive.
7. If it is necessary to write and have someone search the records, then it is very important that control is maintained on whatever research is done. Control means that you are the one who determines what is to be searched, how it is to be searched, and in what form the information should be sent. An archivist, minister, or researcher should never be allowed to determine what you should receive. You have every right to determine and

require the type of information you want and the form that you want it in. You must make record searchers out of the researchers and not allow them to be anything else. This may seem somewhat strong but there is good reason for it. Too often individuals will write for information leaving it up to the researcher to determine whether or not the information is correct. Often the information a person receives is in an abstract form instead of being a photocopy or an extract of the record. Photocopies are best. If it is not possible to have photocopies made, you should require that the information be sent in extract form rather than in abstract form. The difference between the two is that an extract is a word for word copy of the document and an abstract is where only certain information from the document is copied, if the searcher feels that he needs to insert a comment or explanation in the document, he should set off his own comments by either underlining them or by putting them in brackets. By making a record searcher of a researcher, it keeps him from making conclusions, it is good to get suggestions and evaluations from the researcher but you are the only one that should be determining what conclusions should be drawn. For example, say that your ancestor, Heinrich Schulze, came from Lunburg, Hannover, Prussia, and the researcher finds a birth entry for a Heinrich Schulze in that parish and sends it to you. In this situation there is no way to know whether there were other Heinrich Schulze in that or in other surrounding parishes or not. If there were others, how could it be known that the one your researcher sent the information on was the correct one? The best and surest procedure to follow, outside of traveling to Germany and doing it yourself, is to require the researcher to extract out all of the Schulzes from that and the neighboring parishes and then you can determine for yourself which are and which are not yours. This procedure may seem more expensive, but it is not nearly as expensive as paying a large sum of money out only to discover later that the researcher has followed the wrong line and you have to start over again, it would be advisable also, when hiring a researcher, to have him do a limited search first to see if he will be willing to do it the way you want it done. This too may save you a great deal of money right from the start.

8. Retain copies of all outgoing correspondence. File these with the answers to the letters that are received. Most important, when information is received through correspondence, it should be filed immediately into your note keeping system. Failure to do this may result in the information being lost and time may be wasted and money may have to be sent to obtain it again.

Chapter 22 - German Genealogical and Family Organizations

There are many genealogical, family, and local history societies throughout Germany. Some of these organizations have compiled genealogies, extracted and indexed parish registers, compiled local histories, completed inventories of existing records, and written countless articles which give pertinent instructions for doing genealogical research in various types of records for various localities.

To obtain access to the above-mentioned material you need do the following:

- A. Learn to read the German language.
- B. Determine the locality of origin of your German Ancestors. (This will usually pertain to Germany as it existed prior to 1919, see Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8 and Appendix B for help in determining places of origin and the name of the kingdom, province or duchy to which it belonged.)
- C. Determine the largest genealogical and/or historical society for the geographic area of your interest. For example, if your family was from the Palatinate area of Western Germany, you would want to join the West German Society of Family History. This

organization produces a quarterly periodical entitled, "Mitteilungen Der Westdeutsche Gesellschaft Fur Familienkunde." It contains excellent articles on genealogical research in Western Germany, along with inventories of records and many other helpful aids. To join this organization, write to:

Westdeutsche Gesellschaft Fur Familienkunde E.V.
Rotdornstr. 6
5000 Koln 50
Germany

For current membership fee costs you will need to write to the individual society.

- D. Next you should see if there is an organization which covers the kingdom, province, or principality of the place of origin where you are doing research, for the Palatinate area it would be the following:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Fur Pfalzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde
Rottstr. 17
6700 Ludwigshafen
Germany

Along with your membership you will receive an excellent periodical entitled "Pfalzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde." For help in doing research in East and Southeast Europe order the following: "Wegweiser fur die Forschung Nach Vorfahren aus den Ostdeutschen und Sudetendeutschen Gebieten Sowie aus den Deutschen Siedlungsgebieten in Ost- und Sudosteuropa (AGoFF-Wegweiser)" from Verlag Degener & Co., Nurnberger Strasse 27, 8530 Neustadt (Aisch), Germany. There are also organizations for all other areas of Germany as well. A list of these is found at the back of this chapter.

Finally, once you belong to the organization of the area of your interest you should determine if there is a family organization for the surname of your interest. This may be determined by corresponding with the area organizations or by running an ad in one or more of the above-mentioned periodicals. You will find such organizations very happy to accept membership requests from their American cousins, and very worthwhile in helping you to extend your pedigrees. You, on the other hand, should be prepared to participate with financial assistance in furthering the family organization's projects. You will find such organizations very interested in obtaining the names and family connections of their American family members. Be sure and contribute all that you can from the American side. Wonderful friendships can be developed with perhaps visits from or to your German cousins. This can be one of the most rewarding of genealogical experiences.

- E. The following is a sample letter that you can use to inquire about membership in the appropriate organization. Just fill in the name of the organization and other pertinent information in the appropriate space. Included with your letter should be at least two (2) International Reply Coupons. These are obtainable from any post office and can be used in Germany for return postage. Do not send U.S. postage.

GERMAN

Sehr Geehrte Herren!

Ich habe festgestellt, dass meine Ahnen ursprunglich aus _____ stammen. Deshalb mochte ich gerne ein Mitglied ihrer Gesellschaft werden. Konnen sie mir sagen wie viel es kosten wird? Die Familiennamen an welche ich ein besonderes Interesse habe, sind folgende: _____

Ich wurde auch gerne wissen, ob schon Familienvereine fur die obengennannten Familiennamen bestehen. Wurden Sie bitte so freundlich sein, wenn solche vorhanden sind, mir bescheid zu geben wie ich mich mit den Familienvereinen in Verbindung setzen kann. Zur Deckung Ihrer Gebuehren lege ich zwei Coupons bei, die Sie auf Ihrem Postamt gegen Luftpostmarken eintauschen koennen.

Mit vorzuglicher Hochachtung verbleibe ich,

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Dear Sir:

I have determined that my ancestors originally came from _____. For this reason I would like to become a member of your organization. Could you tell me how much it will cost? The family names for which I have the greatest interest are as follows: _____. I would also like to know if there are any family organizations organized around any of the above mentioned surnames. If there are, would you be so kind as to instruct me as to how I can get in touch with them. To cover your fees I am enclosing two coupons that you can exchange for airmail postage.

With kindest regards.

If you are unfamiliar with the various provinces of Germany, the map in Fig. 22A should be of help. Just locate the general area of origin of your ancestor, for instance Bayern (Bavaria). Note the number on the map next to the name of the area, in this case number 8. Now go to the organization number 8 on the list and you have the correct organization for Bayern. Note you will not find organization numbers 7, 9, 13, or 21 on the map. The reason is that these organizations cover all of western Germany.

See Fig. 22A

1. Arbeitskreis für Familienforschung e.V. Lubeck
Erich Gercken
Moltkestrasse 20
2400 Lubeck 1
Germany
Periodical: *Lubecker Beiträge zur Familien und Wappenkunde*
2. Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Familienkundlichen Gesellschaften in Hessen
Loreleistr. 28
6230 Frankfurt/Main
Germany
Periodicals: *Hessische Familienkunde*; *Hessische Ahnenlisten*
3. Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Mitteldeutsche Familienforschung e.V.
Emilienstr. 1
3500 Kassel
Germany
Periodical: *Mitteldeutsche Familienkunde*
Publisher: Verlag Degener, Nuruenger Strasse 27, 8530 Neustadt (Aisch)
4. Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde
Rottstr. 17
6700 Ludwigshafen
Germany
Periodical: *Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde*
5. Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Saarlandische Familienkunde
Hans Greuling
Neunkircher Str. 98
6600 Saarbrücken 2
Germany
Periodical: *Saarlandische Familienkunde*

6. Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ostdeutscher Familienforsch e.V.
Ernst Moritz- Arndt- Strasse 25
5300 Bonn 3
Germany
Periodical: *Ostdeutscher Familienkwide*
Publisher: Verlag Degener, Nurnberger Str. 27, 8530 Neustadt (Aisch)
7. Archiv fur Sippenforschung
C.A. Starke Verlag
6250 Limburg/Lahn Germany
8. Bayerischer Landesverein fur Familienkunde e.V.
Winzererstr. 68
8000 Munchen, Germany
Periodical: *Blatter des Bayerischen Landesvereins fur Familienkunde*
9. Deutschen Hugenotten-Vereins e.V.
Schoneberger Str. 15
3400 Gottingen
Germany
Periodical: Der Deutsche Hugenott
10. Dusseldorfer Verein fur Familienkunde e.V.
Karl-Heinz Hermes
Erich-Klausener Str. 42
4000 Dusseldorf 30
Germany
Periodical: *Dusseldorfer Familienkunde*
11. Familienkundliche Konmiission fur Niedersachsen und Bremen sowie angrenzende
Osttalishe Gebiete e.V.
Appelstr. 9
3000 Hannover
Germany
Periodical: Norddeutsche Faniilienkunde
Publisher: Verlag Degener, Nurnberger Str. 27, 8530 Neustadt (Aisch)
12. Genealogie
Verlag Degener & Co.
Nurnberger Str. 27
8530 Neustadt/Aisch
Germany
Periodical: Genealogie
13. Genealogische Gesellschaft
Postfach 239
2000 Hamburg
Germany
Periodical: Zeitschrift fur Neiderdeutsche Familienkunde
14. Lippe Heimatbundes
Bismarchstr. 8
4930 Detmold
Germany
Periodical: Heinmatland Lippe

15. Oldenburgische Gesellschaft für Familienkunde
Lerigauweg 14
2900 Oldenburg
Germany
Periodical: *Oldenburgische Familienkunde*
16. Ostfriesische Landschaft, Arbeitsgruppe Familienkunde
Verlag Ostfriesische Landschaft
2960 Aurich
Germany
Periodical: *Quellen und Forschungen zur Ostfriesischen Familien- und Wappenkunde*
17. Schleswig-Holsteinische Gesellschaft für Familienforschung und
Wappenkunde e.V. Kiel
Gartenstr. 12
2300 Kiel
Germany
Periodical: *Familienkliches Jahrbuch Schleswig-Holstein*
18. Verein für Familienforschung in Ost und Westpreussen e.V. Hamburg
Alversloweg 15
2000 Hamburg 67
Germany
Periodical: *Altpreussische Geschlechterkunde*
19. Verein für Familien- und Wappenkunde in Württemberg und Baden e.V.
Postfach 769
7000 Stuttgart 1
Germany
Periodical: *Südwestdeutsche Blätter für Familien- und Wappenkunde*
20. Vereins zur Förderung der Zentralstelle für Personen- und Familiengeschichtliche
Archivstr. 12-14
1000 Berlin-Dahlem 33
West Berlin
Germany
Periodical: *Familiengeschichtliche Blätter: und Mitteilungen*
21. Westdeutsche Gesellschaft für Familienkunde e.V.
Rotdornstr. 6
5000 Köln 50
Germany
Periodical: *Mitteilungen der Westdeutschen Gesellschaft für Familienkunde*

Appendix A

GERMAN EMIGRATION – IMMIGRATION BIBLIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES - GENERAL

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MASSACHUSETTS

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MICHIGAN

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NEW JERSEY

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NEW YORK

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NORTH CAROLINA

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PENNSYLVANIA

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Appendix B

USING THE MEYERS QRTS UND VERKEHRS LEXIKON

A. There are three things with which you must deal when using this gazetteer:

1. The German language
2. The following Gothic print:

A —		N —		a —		n —	
B —		O —		b —		o —	
C —		P —		c —		p —	
D —		Q —		ch —		q —	
E —		R —		ck —		r —	
F —		S —		d —		s —	
G —		T —		e —		ss —	
H —		U —		f —		t —	
I —		V —		g —		tz —	
J —		W —		h —		u —	
K —		X —		i —		v —	
L —		Y —		j —		w —	
M —		Z —		k —		x —	
				l —		y —	
				m —		z —	

3. Abbreviations

At first glance this gazetteer may appear to be a little confusing, but it has actually been prepared in a very orderly manner. The following is the order in which you will usually find each part listed.

B. The name of each place is given first, in alphabetical order. Using the Gothic alphabet given on the first page of this Appendix, determine from the Roman print what the Gothic print equivalent would be for each letter. Then, beginning with the first letter of the place name, locate that letter in the gazetteer. Continue on to the second and third letters doing the same thing until you have actually located the exact place in the gazetteer. The following example shows how this is done:

SCHABENAU

S - S	S	Schaarhof, D., f. Sandhofen N. Mannheim.
CH - ch	ch	Schaarreihe, Hrg., f. Rüstingen.
A - a	a	Schaarteich, Hufe, Kr. Plön, f. Helmstorf 4).
B - b	b	Schaban, Ein., Btl. Wasserburg, f. Schlacht.
E - e	e	Schabelhof, G., N. Willingen, f. Dürheim.
		Schabelhöhe, Wtr., N. Donauessingen, f. Niedöschingen. [Hofw.]
		Schabelnia, Pol., Kr. Mattowik, f. Ryg.
N - n	n	Schaben, G., Kr. Bunzlau, f. Strauß.
AU - au	au	Schabengau, D.-u. Hg. (mit Neuborwerk), a/d Partsch; Kr., Schles., Ntl. Breslau, Kr. AG. Gubrau, Wtdo. Wohlau, Stbtl. N. Wendstedt, E 3,6 km Nchlau; 163 bz. 37 G., T, kath. Pfl.; SpDrl. [Nirchsen 3].

Most of the places listed in this gazetteer are very small and for that reason complete entries are not given for them. Instead, you are referred to the nearest larger place. This is done by the use

of the Gothic letter "f" (s), which is the abbreviation for the German word "Siehe" meaning see. After this abbreviation, the name of the next larger place is given.

[dorf.]

Hebersreuth, D., Btl. Eichenbach, f. Rauen-
Heberthal, Ein., Btl. Wasserburg, f. Uttel.
Heberting, Ein., Btl. Eggenfelden, f. Stau-
badh).

As can be seen by the examples given, the next larger place for Hebersreuth is continued on the line above; the next larger place for Heberthal is given on the same line, and the next larger place for Heberting is continued on the line below. By looking the next larger place name up in the Gazetteer, a complete entry will be given and the information on the larger place will usually pertain to the smaller place as well. There will be times, however, when this will not be true. There may be times when the smaller place will have a different parish or civil registry than the larger place. When trying to locate the parish, it is advisable to use the complete entry of the larger place to determine the name of the kingdom, province, or duchy and then go to the reference for that kingdom in Chapter 8 to determine the parish.

C. Listed after each place name is one of following descriptive abbreviations: name is one of the following descriptive abbreviations:

Ab.	(Ab.)	Abbau	(surface mine)
AllGut.	(AllGut.)	Allodialgut	(allodial estate)
D.	(D.)	Dorf	(village)
Dom.	(Dom.)	Domäne	(State-owned estate)
Ein.	(Ein.)	Einöde	(wilderness)
Fl.	(Fl.)	Flecken	(Hamlet)
Fürstt.	(Fürstt.)	Fürentum	(principality)
Gem.	(Gem.)	Gemeinde	(community)

H.	(H.)	Häus	(house)
Hr.	(Hr.)	Häuser	(houses)
Hrgr.	(Hrgr.)	Häusergruppe	(group of houses)
Hzt.	(Hzt.)	Herzogtum	(duchy)
Kol.	(Kol.)	Kolonie	(colony)
LGem.	(LGem.)	Landgemeinde	(rural community)
Ml.	(Ml.)	Mühle	(mill)
Rg.	(Rg.)	Rittergut	(landed estate)
St.	(St.)	Stadt	(city)
Vw.	(Vw.)	Vorwerk	(residence or farm)
Wlr.	(Wlr.)	Weiler	(farm or small village)
Zk.	(Zk.)	Zinken	(outlying farm)

These are just an example of those that are given in the gazetteer. These designations will usually come right after name of the place, as shown in the following example:

Spenglerhütte, H., H. Billingen, f. Stuch.
Spennath, D., Kr. Grevenbroich, f. Hoch-
neulich. [Kirchpösterholz.]
Spenting, Hrgr., Kr. Schleswig, f. Rohr-
Sperber, Vin., Hl. Schougan, f. Strfland.
Sperberbühl, Wlr., Edgml., Kr. Schlett-
stadt, f. Schwab. [f. f. Wandthal.]

The abbreviation for the kingdom or duchy to which the town is given next. For the kingdom of Preussen (Prussia) the abbreviation for the provinces are also given. For the area of Thüringen the abbreviations for the Duchies are following is a list of the kingdoms, provinces and duchies:

Anh.	(Anh.)	Anhalt
Baden		Baden
Bay.	(Bay.)	Bayern
Braunsch.	(Braunsch.)	Braunschweig
Els.-Loth.	(Els.-Loth.)	Elsass-Lothringen
Hessen		Hessen
Lippe		Lippe
Meckl.-Schw.	(Meckl.-Schw.)	Mecklenburg-Schwerin
Meckl.-Str.	(Meckl.-Str.)	Mecklenburg-Strelitz
Oldenb.	(Oldenb.)	Oldenburg
Pr.	(Pr.)	Preussen
Brandbg.	(Brandbg.)	Brandenburg
Hann.	(Hann.)	Hannover

Hessen-N.	(Hessen-N.)	Hessen-Nassau
Hohenzollern		Hohenzollern
Ostpr.	(ostpr.)	Ostpreussen
Pomm.	(Pomm.)	Pommern
Posen		Posen
Rheinl.	(Rheinl.)	Rheinland
Sa.	(Sa.)	Sachsen (Province)
Schlesj.	(Schles.)	Schlesien
Schlesw.-Holst.	(Schlesw.-Holst.)	Schaumburg-Holstein
Westf.	(Westf.)	Westfalen
Westpr.	(Westpr.)	Westpreussen
Sa.	(Sa.)	Sachsen (Kingdom)
Schaumb.-L.	(Schaumb.-L.)	Schaumburg-Lippe
Thür.	(Thür.)	Thüringen
Reuß-ä.-L.	(Reuss Ä. L.)	Reuss - Greiz
Reuß-j.-L.	(Reuss J. L.)	Reuss - Schleiz - Gera
Sa.-A.	(Sa.-A.)	Sachsen Altenburg
Sa.-C.-G.	(Sa.-C.-G.)	Sachsen Coburg Gotha
Sa.-M.	(Sa.-M.)	Sachsen Meiningen
Sa.-W.-E.	(Sa.-W.-E.)	Sachsen Weimar-Eisenach
Schwarzb.-Rud.	(Schwarzb.-Rud.)	Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
Schwarzb.-Sond.	(Schwarzb.-Sond.)	Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen
Waldeck		Waldeck
Württ.	(Württ.)	Württemberg

D. The order in which the remainder of the information in the gazetteer is given depends on the kingdom or duchy. The following is a list of the remaining major designations used in the gazetteer, along with their translation:

A.	(A.)	Amt	(district office)
AG.	(AG.)	Amtsgericht	(district court)
AH.	(AH.)	Amtshauptmannschaft	(administrative office)
BA.	(BA.)	Bezirksamt	(district office)
BKdo.	(BKdo.)	Bezirkskommando	(district military command)
DomA.	(DomA.)	Domäneamt	(estate office)
K.	(K.)	Kirche	(church - not a parish)
Kr.	(Kr.)	Kreis	(county)
KrH.	(KrH.)	Kreishauptmannschaft	(county office)
Kt.	(Kt.)	Kanton	(county)
LG.	(LG.)	Landgericht	(county court)
LrA.	(LrA.)	Landratsamt	(county comission)

OA.	(OA.)	Oberamt	(county office)
OLG.	(OLG.)	Oberlandesgericht	(provincial court)
Pfk.	(Pfk.)	Pfarrkirche	(parish)
RB.	(RB.)	Regierungsbezirk	(provincial district)
RittA.	(RittA.)	Ritteramt	(estate office)
StdA.	(StdA.)	Standesamt	(civil registry office)
VerwA.	(VerwA.)	Verwaltungsamt	(administration office)

E. The next part is a list of the former kingdoms and duchies of Germany. After each kingdom and duchy are the same abbreviations as found under E. These abbreviations are listed in the order which you can usually expect to find them depending on the kingdom or duchy. This order may vary within each kingdom depending on the size of the town.

Anhalt	Kr.	LG.	Bkdo.	AG	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Baden	Kr.	LG.	BKdo.	A.	AG.	StdA.	K., Pfk.	
Bayern	RB.	BA.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Braunschweig	Kr.	LG.	BKdo.	AG.	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Elsass-Lothringen	Kt.	AG.	Bkdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.			
Hessen	Kr.	LG.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Lippe	OLG.	VerwA.	AG.	LG.	BKdo.	A.	StdA.	K., Pfk.
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	RittA.	LG.	BKdo.	AG.	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Mecklenburg-Strelitz	DomA.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.			
Oldenburg	A.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.			
Preussen	RB.	Kr.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	A.	K., Pfk.	
Sachsen	KrH.	AH.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Schaumburg-Lippe	OLG.	LG.	BKdo.	LrA.	Ag.	StdA.	Kl, Pfk.	
Thüringen	VerwB.	LrA.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	K., Pfk.		
Waldeck	Kr.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	Kl, Pfk.			
Württemberg	OA.	LG.	AG.	BKdo.	StdA.	Kl, Pfk.		

As you become more acquainted with this gazetteer, you will find it an invaluable tool for locating places on maps; determining whether or not a place had a parish; locating the civil, court, and military records; and knowing what other sources were available and where they were kept.

Appendix C

PLACE NAME ENDINGS

A	Posen, Sachsen, Schlemiel
ACH	Baden, Bayern, Elsass-Lothringen
ATH	Rheinland
AU	Hessen Nassau, Ostpreussen, Westpreussen, Posen, Sachsen (prov), Sachsen, Schlemiel
BACH	Baden, Bayern, Elsass-Lothringen, Hessen-Nassau, Hessen, Rheinland, Württemberg
BECK	Hannover, Westfalen
BEK	Schleswig-Holstein
BERG	Baden Bayern, Pfalz, Brandenburg, Braunschweig, Elsass-Lothringen, Hannover, Hessen-Nassau, Hessen Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Ostpreussen, Westpreussen, Pommern, Rheinland, Sachsen (prov), Sachsen, Schlemiel, Westfalen, Württemberg
BROK	Oldenburg
BRUCK	Hannover

BRUCKEN	Pfalz
BULL	Schleswig-Holstein
BURG	Baden, Bayern, Pfalz, Brandenburg, Braunschweig, Elsass-Lothringen, Hannover, Hessen-Nassau, Hessen, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Ostpreussen, Westpreussen, Pommern, Rheinland, Sachsen (prov), Sachsen, Schlemiel, Westfalen, Württemberg
BY	Schleswig-Holstein
CHEN	Elsass-Lothringen
DORF	Brandenburg, Braunschweig, Elsass-Lothringen, Hannover, Hessen-Nassau, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Ostpreussen, Rheinland, Sachsen (prov), Schlemiel, Schleswig-Holstein
E	Sachsen (prov)
EN	Ostpreussen, Rheinland, Sachsen (prov), Sachsen, Schlemiel, Westfalen, Württemberg
ERK	Rheinland
FELD	Sachsen, Württemberg
FELDE	Braunschweig, Westpreussen
GARD	Pommern
GEN	Baden, Elsass-Lothringen, Westfalen, Wurttemberg
HAGEN	Baden, Mecklenburg, Pommern
HAIN	Hessen-Nassau
HAUSEN	Bayern, Brandenburg, Braunschweig, Hannover, Hessen- Nassau, Sachsen (prov), Westfalen
HAVEN	Hannover
HELM	Bayern, Pfalz, Elsass-Lothringen, Hessen, Württemberg
HOFEN	Elsass-Lothringen
HORN	Oldenburg
ICH	Rheinland
IG	Sachsen
IN	Bradenburg, Mecklenburg, Pommern, Posen
ING	Bayern, Schleswig-Holstein
INGEN	Braunschweig
ITZ	Mecklenburg, Westpreussen, Pommern, Posen, Sachsen (prov), Sachsen, Schlemiel
KEHMEN	Ostpreussen
KEN	Ostpreussen
KIRCHEN	Hessen-Nassau, Oldenburg, Rheinland
LAU	Brandenburg
LIN	Brandenburg
LITZ	Brandenburg
LOW	Brandenburg
LUND	Schleswig-Holstein
MAR	Hessen-Nassau
MARK	Brandenburg
NAU	Baen
NITZ	Bradenburg
NOW	Bradenburg
O	Posen
OW	Mecklenburg, Pommern
PITZ	Bradenburg
REUTH	Bayern
RODE	Braunschweig, Hannover
RUM	Braunschweig
RUP	Schleswig-Holstein
SCHEID	Rheinland
SCHIH	Posen
SEE	Westpreussen, Pommern
STADT	Bayern, Pfalz, Hessen, Sachsen (prov), Württemberg

STEDE	Oldenburg
STEDT	Braunschweig, Hannover, Sachsen (prov), Schleswig-Holstein
STEIN	Bayern, Hessen-Nassau, Hessen, Westfalen
STETT	Baden
SUM	Hannover
THAL	Brandenburg
WALDEN	Brandenburg, Westpreussen
WELLER	Elass-Lothringen
WITZ	Brandenburg, Schlemiel
WO	Posen
ZIG	Brandenburg, Westpreussen, Posen

Appendix D

LETTER TO SEND TO GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA FOR GENEALOGICAL DATA

INSTRUCTIONS TO FILL OUT FORM LETTER

1. Fill in the date, your name and address in the upper left-hand margin.
2. In the first paragraph, after the word "ueber" fill in the name of your ancestor after "geboren" his birth date, and after "in" his place of birth.
3. Enclose \$3.00 in bank draft or money order such as American Express and two International Reply Coupons (IRC) which are available at the Post Office.
4. Address the envelope to:

For West Germany:

An das Pfarramt
(zip code) (town)
Germany

For East Germany:

An das Pfarramt
(zip code) (town)
DDR Germany

Sehr geehrter Herr Pfarrer:

Zur Vervollstaendigung der Familiengeschichte meiner Vorfahren benoetige ich

naehere Angaben ueber _____ geboren _____ in _____.

Ich bitte Sie daher hoeftichst urn die Uebersendung eines vollstaendigen Auszuges aus Ihrem Geburtsregister fuer den Vorgenannten.

Soilte es Ihnen moeglich sein, mir gleichzeitig Auszuege fuer Geburt, Heirat oder Tod seiner Eltern zu beschaffen, die am selben Ort gewohnt haben sollen, so waere ich Ihnen fuer diese Hilfe sehr dankbar.

Zur Deckung Ihrer Gebuehren lege ich drei Dollars, sowie zwei Coupons bei, die Sie auf Ihrem Postamt gegen Luftpostmarken eintauschen koennen. Ich danke Ihnen im Voraus fuer Ihre Hilfe.

Mit vorzueglicher Hochachtung,

Translation

Dear Pastor

To complete my family history I would like to have information about my ancestor

_____, born _____ in _____

May I please ask that you send me a complete extract from the birth record for the above named.

Should it be possible to send me extracts of the birth, marriage, or death records for his parents, who lived in the same town, I would be very thankful for this aid.

To cover your fees I am enclosing three dollars as well as two coupons that you can exchange for airmail postage.

Thank you in advance for your aid.

Respectfully,

SAMPLE LETTER TO SEND TO GERMAN AND SWISS REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Recopy and send only the German portion of the letter.
2. In the first paragraph, after the words "Familie des" fill in the name of your ancestor, after "geboren am" his birth date, and after "in" his place of birth.
3. Enclose \$4.00 in bank draft or money order such as American Express.

Address the envelope to:

East Germany:

An das Standesamt
(Zip Code)(town)
DDR -Germany

West Germany:

An das Standesamt
(Zip Code)(town)
Germany

To Switzerland:

An das Zivilstandsamt in
(Zip Code)(town)
Switzerland

An das Standesamt in
(zip code) (town)
Germany

Sehr geehrte Herren:

Zur Vervollstaendigung der Familiengeschichte meiner Vorfahren benoetige ich naehere,
amtliche Angaben ueber die Familie des
geboren am _____ in _____.

Ich bitte Sie daher hoeflichst urn Uebersendung eines vollstaendigen kizuges aus Ihrem Geburts- / Heirats- / Sterberegister fuer den Vorgenannten.

Sollte es Ihnen moeglich sein, mir gleichzeitig Auszuege fuer Geburt, Heirat oder Tod seiner Eltern zu beschaffen, die am selben Ort gewohnt haben sollen, so waere ich Ihnen flier diese Hilfe sehr dankbar.

Zur Deckung Threr Gebuehren lege ich \$4.00. Ich danke Ihnen im Voraus fuer Ihre Hilfe.

Hochachtungsvoll

(Your complete name and address)

Translation

To the Civil Registrar's Office
In (zip code) (town)
Germany

Gentlemen:

In order to complete the Family History of my ancestors, I am in need of detailed official data on the family of _____ born in _____.

Therefore, I would like to ask you to please send me a complete excerpt from your birth-marriage- death registers for the person mentioned above.

Should you be able to let me have, at the same time, excerpts from the birth-, marriage-, or death records of his parents who are said to have lived at the same place, I would indeed be very grateful for your assistance in this matter.

To cover your fees I am enclosing \$4.00. Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,

(complete name and address)

Appendix E

PARISHES OF MEMEL (EAST PRUSSIAN AREA) WITH PRESENT LITUANIAN CITY AND COUNTY NAMES

PARISH	LUTH.	CATH.	OTHER	MODERN NAME	MODERN COUNTY
Coadjuthen	X			Katyciai	Silute
Dawillen	X			Dovilai	Klaipeda
Deutsch Crottingen	X			Kretingale	Klaipeda
Deutsch Krottingen	X			Kretingale	Klaipeda

Heydedrug	X			Silute	Silute
Kairinn	X			Kairiai	Klaipeda
Karkelbeck	X			Karklininkai	Klaipeda
Kinten	X			Kintai	Silute
Koadjuthen	X			Katyciai	Silute
Laugszargen	X			Lauksargiai	Taurage
Memel	X	1	3 Syn	Klaipeda	Klaipeda
Nattkischken	X			Natkiskiai	Silute
Nidden	X			Nida	Klaipeda
Paleiten	X			Paleiciai	Silute
Paszieszen	X			Pasysiai	Silute
Piktuponen	X			Piktupenai	Silute
Pincken	X			Plikiai	Klaipeda
Plaschken	X			Plaskiai	Silute
Plicken	X			Plikiai	Klaipeda
Prokuls	X			Priekule	Klaipeda
Ramutten	X			Ramuciai	Silute
Robkojen		X		Ropkojai	Silute
Ruken (Kr. Tilsit)	X			Rukai	Silute
Russ	X			Rusne	Silute
Saugen	X			Saugai	Silute
Schmalleningken -	X			Smalininkai	Jurbarkas
Augstogallen					
Szugken	X			Zukai	Silute
Schwarzort	X			Juodkrante	Klaipeda
Wannaggen	X			Vanagai	Klaipeda
Wieszen	X			Vyziai	Silute
Wischwill	X			Viesvile	Jurbarkas

Appendix

This encyclopedia, printed in Germany in the late 19th century, provides historical, geographical, biographical, and cultural information for European countries. The following is a breakdown according to volume:

Vol.	Contents	Film No.
1	A - Atlantiden	599,534
2	Atlantis - Blatthornkäfer	599,535
3	Blattkafer - Chimbote	599,536 (2nd Item)
4	China - Distanz	599,537
5	Distanzgeschäft - Faidherbe	599,538
6	Faidit - Fehilfe	599,539
7	Gehirn - Hainichen	599,540
8	Hainleite - Iriarte	599,541
9	Irideen - Königgrün	599,542
10	Königshofen - Luzon	599,543
11	Luzula - Nathanael	599,544
12	Nathusius - Phlegmone	599,545
13	Phlegon - Rubinstein	599,546
14	Rüböl - Sodawasser	599,547
15	Sodbrennen - Uralit	599,548
16	Uralsk - Zz	547,503 (2nd Item)

Listed on the following page 15 is a breakdown of the various German kingdoms etc., indicating the encyclopedia volume and page number where maps for each of these various kingdoms may be found:

Former Kingdom, etc.	Included With Map of	Film no.	Vol.	Between Pages
Anhalt	Sachsen (Prov.)	599,547	14	140 - 141
Baden		599,535	2	226 - 227
Bayern		599,535	2	532 - 533
Brandenburg		599,536 (2nd Item)	3	316 - 317
Braunschweig		599,536 (2nd Item)	3	358 - 359
Elsass-Lothringen		599,538	5	570 - 571
Hannover		599,541	8	130 - 131
Hessen		599,541	8	466 - 467
Hessen Nassau		599,541	8	484 - 485
Hohenzollern	Württemberg	547,503 (2nd Item)	16	772 - 773
Lippe	Braunschweig	599,536 (2nd Item)	3	358 - 359
Mecklenburg		599,544	11	684 - 385
Oldenburg		599,545	12	362 - 363
Ostpreussen		599,545	12	540 - 541
Pfalz	Bayern	599,535	2	532 - 533
Pommern		599,546	13	214 - 215
Posen		599,546	13	268 - 269
Reuss - Greiz	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Reuss - Schleiz - Gera	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Rheinland		599,546	13	780 - 781
Sachsen (King.)		599,547	14	126 - 127
Sachsen (Prov.)		599,547	14	140 - 141
Sachsen Altenburg	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Sachsen Coburg Gotha	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Sachsen Meiningen	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Sachsen Weimar - Eisenach	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Schaumburg-Lippe	Braunschweig	599,536 (2nd Item)	3	358 - 359
Schlesien		599,547	14	512 - 513
Schleswig-Holstein	(Missing)	See 1,181,575 (1st item)		
Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen	Thüringen	599,548	15	682 - 683
Thüringen		599,548	15	682 - 683
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Brenner collection of genealogical records of Mittelfranken, Bayern, Germany: including description, list of card-indexed parishes, etc., and list of abbreviations used for given names.

A collection of family group sheets and other miscellaneous material representing parish registers of Kreis Ansbach and other places in Mittelfranken, Bavaria for the period of about 1650-1969. The index to all parishes is on film no. 054801.

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- I. Brenner collection

German-Interest Genealogy

German Interest Genealogy can be problematic because Germany's borders have changed frequently. Before 1871, there was no single geographical location known as Germany. Certainly the current borders of Germany do not adequately define the Germany of our German ancestors.

A more logical approach is to focus on those who spoke German. This is especially true for eighteenth century emigration. These Germans are more often referred to as "Palatines." By focusing on a common language, German-interest genealogy includes the Germans who migrated to Russia, German-speaking people in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, etc. For a good overview of who was a German, refer to chapter 6, "The Geography and History of a German-Speaking People in Europe," in *Research Guide to German-American Genealogy*. This 1991 book, published by the Minnesota German Interest Group (now the German Genealogy Society-GGS), P.O. Box 16312, St. Paul, MN 55116, has been supplanted by the 1995 book, *German Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns*. Both books provide a fine overview.

Germanic Genealogy Society

The *Newsletter of the German Genealogy Society* is a useful tool. Material published by the society details the many diverse aspects of German genealogy. The *Newsletter* is published five times per year. The GGS is a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society, but you do not have to belong to the MGS to participate in the GGS. Membership in the GGS is \$5 per year which includes the newsletter. For more information, send a SASE to Germanic Genealogy Society, P.O. Box 16069, St. Paul, MN 55116.

Lutheran Germans

If your ancestors were members of Lutheran churches affiliated with the Missouri Synod, several bulletins published by Concordia Historical Institute will provide information about the resources of the institute and how to conduct long-distance research. The Institute serves as an archives for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; however, it is not the sole archive. The Church also operates regional repositories, one of which is the Northern Illinois District Archives at 2301 Wolf Road, Hillside, Illinois. If you find that a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been closed, write the Institute (SASE), asking which repository holds the records for the closed church. To receive information about the preceding bulletins, send a SASE to the Concordia Historical Institute, 801 De Mun Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105.

Resource Series

Since 1988, Scholarly Resources, of Wilmington, Delaware, has published a series of volumes which include extracts of the Port of New York arrival lists for individuals and

families leaving Germany. The series is titled *Germans in America*; more than forty volumes have been issued to date, from 1855 to the 1880s. For example, volume forty-two covers March 1882 to May 1882. The lists are arranged chronologically by each ship's date of arrival. Many large regional genealogical libraries have complete sets, as does the Family History Library of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) in Salt Lake City. Check with the nearest local library, LDS family history center, or reference librarian for possible interlibrary loan.

The focus of the series is to publish the names and information about individuals and families who left from a location in Germany and arrived only at the Port of New York. I have discovered a Korst family who arrived at New York on a specific ship on a specific date in 1855 but are not listed. The family probably departed from Antwerp, Belgium, not Germany, according to the New York arrival lists. It is likely that they resided in Antwerp before departing for America. Each volume has an every-name alphabetical index. The immigrant must have been recognized by the extractors as coming from Germany. The indexes are also useful for browsing the arrivals at New York of all individuals with surnames of interest. When you find an individual in these volumes, photocopy the entire passenger list. Other passengers may be neighbors or relatives.

Sending Money to Germany

The September 1995 *Newsletter of the German Genealogy Society* recommended that an economical way to get checks in German marks is to obtain them from Ruesch International, 700 11th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001-4507 (telephone 1-800-424-2923). The service charge is \$2 per check. Another person indicated that he has used money orders in Deutschmarks issued by the U.S. Postal Service. He applies at his local post office for money orders, which are sent from St. Louis. I have not used either service, but I have written personal checks in U.S. dollars, including about \$5 above the amount due (which was less than \$100). Also see "What You Should Know About Sending Money Abroad" by Reiner, published in *Der Blumenbaum* (vol. 10, no. 4, A/M/J 1993), the periodical of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society.

Research Tip

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) of the LDS Family History Library is available at LDS family history centers, and at some libraries with genealogical collections. The IGI extracts include the first two given names for Germans. Nineteenth century German church records often include three or four given names. If you know your ancestor by a third or fourth name, you could miss him or her in the IGI. Unless you are researching many IGI entries, research the entire surname and focus on the date of the event you seek. Different given names may account for problems in locating Germans in census, court, church, and other records.

Ronald Otto is an attorney in the Chicago area. He has served on the governing boards of several genealogical societies and is the author of numerous articles on German research.

German Genealogical Associations

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

<http://www.ahsgr.org/>

Die Pommerschen Leute (People of Pomerania)

<http://pomeranianews.com/>

German Genealogical Society of America

<http://feefhs.org/ggsa/frg-ggsa.html>

German Palatine Heritage

<http://members.aol.com/ntgen/taylor/palatine.html>

German Research Association Inc.

<http://feefhs.org/gra/frg-gra.html>

Germans from Russia Heritage Society

<http://www.grhs.com/>

German-Texas Heritage Society

<http://www.germantexans.org/>

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

<http://www.lmhs.org/>

German Genealogy Society-Palatines to America

<http://www.palam.org/>

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

<http://www.genpa.org/>

German Society of Maryland

<http://www.germansociety-md.com/index.htm>

CALCULATING BIRTHDATES FROM GERMAN DEATH RECORDS

Often German death records do not only give the age of the deceased person in years, but in addition to the years they indicate the age of the deceased in months and days. When this is the case the birthdate of the deceased can be calculated quite accurately by deducting the age at death from the date of death. When birthdates are calculated from the information found in death records certain rules should be followed. These rules are explained below.

When the figures of the days and months of the age at death are smaller than the figures for the days and months of the date of death there is no problem in deducting. However, if the figure for the days of the age at death is as big as the figure for the days of the death date or bigger, the figure 30 has to be added to the days of the death date, and the number of the months of the death date has to be reduced by 1. If the figure for the months of the death date is as big as the figure of the months of the age at death or smaller (no matter if it is smaller to begin with or after the conversion), the figure 12 has to be added to the months of the death date, and the number of the years of the death date has to be reduced by 1.

The following four examples show how to calculate birthdates from death records.

EXAMPLE #1 - Figures of days and months of age at death smaller than at death date.

Johannes Schmidt died on 25 June 1749 at the age of 72 years, 2 months and 19 days. When was he born?

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	25	6 (June)	1749
Age at Death	19	2	72 To be deducted from death date
Birthdate	6	4 (Apr)	1677

PROOF: On 6 April 1749, Johannes Schmidt was exactly 72 years old; plus 2 months, on 6 June 1749 he was 72 years and 2 months old; plus 19 days, on 25 June 1749 (his death date) he was 72 years, 2 months and 19 days old.

EXAMPLE #2 - Figure of days of age at death bigger than at death date.

Elisabeth Schulz died on 3 Sep 1859 at the age of 57 years, 5 months and 11 days. When was she born?

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	3	9 (Sep)	1859
Age at Death	11	5	57 To be deducted from death date

Eleven days cannot be deducted from 3 days. Therefore 1 month has to be converted into days. This will give us 33 days (3 + 30) and leave us 8 months.

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	33	8 (Aug)	1859
Age at Death	11	5	57 To be deducted from death date
Birthdate	<u>22</u>	<u>3 (Mar)</u>	<u>1802</u>

PROOF: On 22 March 1859 Elisabeth Schulz was exactly 57 years old; plus 5 months, on 22 Aug 1859 she was 57 years and 5 months old; plus 11 days, on 33 August 1859 she was 57 years, 5 months and 11 days old. Since the month of August has 31 days, there are 2 more days left for the month of September, which would make her death date 2 Sep 1859, a difference of 1 day.

In calculating birthdates from given ages at death when a month has to be converted into days, the month is always converted into 30 days. However, since a number of months have 31 days, a difference of 1 day in the calculated birthdate can be expected in many cases.

EXAMPLE #3 - Figure of the months of the death date smaller than at age of death.

Friedrich Müller died on 17 March 1902 at the age of 86 years, 10 months and 4 days. When was he born?

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	17	3 (Mar)	1902
Age at Death	4	10	86 To be deducted from death date

Ten months cannot be deducted from 3 months. Therefore 1 year has to be converted into months. This will give us 15 months (3 + 12) and leave us with the year 1901.

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	17	15	1901
Age at Death	4	10	86 To be deducted from death date
Birthdate	<u>13</u>	<u>5 (May)</u>	<u>1815</u>

PROOF: On 13 May 1901 Friedrich Müller was exactly 86 years old; plus 10 months, on 13 March 1902 he was 86 years and 10 months old; plus 4 days, on 17 March 1902 (his death date) he was 86 years, 10 months and 4 days old.

EXAMPLE #4 - Figure of the days and months of age at death bigger than at death date.

Maria Schwarz died on 1 March 1712 at the age of 62 years, 7 months and 10 days. When was she born?

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	1	3 (Mar)	1712
Age at Death	10	7	62 To be deducted from death date

Ten days cannot be deducted from 1 day. Therefore 1 month has to be converted into days. This will give us 31 days (1 + 30) and leave us 2 months.

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	31	2 (Feb)	1712
Age at Death	10	7	62 To be deducted from death date

Seven months cannot be deducted from 2 months. Therefore 1 year has to be converted into months. This will give us 14 months (2 + 12) and leave us with the year 1711.

	(Days)	(Months)	(Years)
Death Date	31	14	1711
Age at Death	10	7	62 To be deducted from death date
Birthdate	21	7 (July)	1649

PROOF: On 21 July 1711 Maria Schwarz was exactly 62 years old; plus 7 months, on 21 Feb 1712 she was 62 years and 7 months old; plus 10 days, on 31 Feb 1712 she was 62 years, 7 months and 10 days old. Usually the month of February has only 28 days. However, the year 1712 was a leap year with 29 days in February. This leaves 2 more days for the month of March, which would make her death date 2 March 1712, a difference of 1 day. If 1712 would not have been a leap year, there would be a difference of 2 days.

The method used in our examples to calculate birthdates from death records which indicate the ages of deceased persons in years, months and days is quite sufficient. However, from these examples it is evident that the calculated birthdates are not completely accurate, and that they may be one or two days off, because of the fact that 7 months in a year have 31 days each, 4 months have 30 days each, and 1 month (February) has only 28 or 29 days.

Inasmuch as leap years make a difference in calculating birthdates, following is a list of the leap years from the year 1500 to the year 2000.

1500	1600			
1504	1604	1704	1804	1904
1508	1608	1708	1808	1908
1512	1612	1712	1812	1912
1516	1616	1716	1816	1916
1520	1620	1720	1820	1920
1524	1624	1724	1824	1924
1528	1628	1728	1828	1928
1532	1632	1732	1832	1932
1536	1636	1736	1836	1936
1540	1640	1740	1840	1940
1544	1644	1744	1844	1944
1548	1648	1748	1848	1948
1552	1652	1752	1852	1952
1556	1656	1756	1856	1956
1560	1660	1760	1860	1960
1564	1664	1764	1864	1964
1568	1668	1768	1868	1968
1572	1672	1772	1872	1972
1576	1676	1776	1876	1976
1580	1680	1780	1880	1980
1584	1684	1784	1884	1984
1588	1688	1788	1888	1988
1592	1692	1792	1892	1992
1596	1696	1796	1896	1996
				2000

Notes on Death Records
in Germany

German death and burial records sometimes give the age at death of an individual in the following manner:

Age at Death

60 $\frac{3}{6}$
3 $\frac{2}{3}$
25 $\frac{5}{6}$
6 $\frac{7}{12}$
40 $\frac{1}{6}$

(Examples are found in the Catholic Parish Registers of Radziuna, Silesia, Prussia, now Radziadz, Wroclaw, Poland, film # 887,188

The question arises, what the real age at death is for these individuals.

The following table shows what these fractions are:

$\frac{1}{12}$	= 1 month
$\frac{2}{12}$ or $\frac{1}{6}$	= 2 months
$\frac{3}{12}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$	= 3 months
$\frac{4}{12}$ or $\frac{2}{6}$ or $\frac{1}{3}$	= 4 months
$\frac{5}{12}$	= 5 months
$\frac{6}{12}$ or $\frac{3}{6}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$	= 6 months
$\frac{7}{12}$	= 7 months
$\frac{8}{12}$ or $\frac{4}{6}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$	= 8 months
$\frac{9}{12}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$	= 9 months
$\frac{10}{12}$ or $\frac{5}{6}$	= 10 months
$\frac{11}{12}$	= 11 months

Thus:

60 $\frac{3}{6}$ years are 60 years and 6 months
3 $\frac{2}{3}$ years are 3 years and 8 months
25 $\frac{5}{6}$ years are 25 years and 10 months
6 $\frac{7}{12}$ years are 6 years and 7 months
40 $\frac{1}{6}$ years are 40 years and 2 months

TERMS FOUND IN GERMAN DEATH RECORDS

<u>German</u>	<u>English</u>
Kind	child
totgeboren	stillborn
stunden	hours
Tage	days
Wochen	weeks
Monate	months
Jahre	years

Determining a Place of Origin in Germany

Guide

Introduction

The first permanent German settlement in America was Germantown, Pennsylvania, which was settled in 1683. Since that time Germany has been one of the leading countries in providing emigrants to the United States. To trace your ancestor in the German records, you must know his or her town of birth. If you do not know the location, several sources can help you discover it.

For more information on German immigrants to America, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

Records and sources that list a town of birth for your ancestor.

Steps

These 3 steps will guide you in finding your ancestor's place of birth in Germany.

Step 1. Select a record to search for the name of your ancestor.

Family Sources	Check with local libraries and historical societies. Many family records were donated to their collections. Family sources include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Bibles and Letters.• Emigration Papers and Occupational Papers.• Church Certificates (christening, marriage, death, etc.).
Family Histories	Your family records may provide an ancestor's place of birth. It may be in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Journals.• Diaries.• Family Histories
L.D.S. Church Indexes	The L.D.S. Church has indexes that may be helpful. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• International Genealogical Index.• Ancestral File.• Pedigree Ordinance Index.
Social Security Death Index	The Social Security Death Index may provide the birth place of your ancestor.
Vital Records	Vital Records may include a birth place. You should search: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Vital Records (marriage & death)• County Vital Records (marriage & death)• Church Records (christening, confirmation, marriage, burial, membership).

Newspapers and Periodicals	The <i>German-American Newspapers and Periodicals 1732-1955</i> lists many helpful sources for locating newspapers and periodicals that might list your ancestor's name.
Naturalization Records	Naturalization records were kept by counties before 1906. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application. • Declaration of Intention. • Petition.
Biographical Sketches	Biographical Sketches may provide date or place of birth and family information.
U.S. Census Records	The census may provide a place of origin but usually it gives only the name of the country, kingdom, province or duchy. After 1900, it also provides the year of arrival in the U.S.
U.S. Military Records	The place of origin may be listed in the following military records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlistment. • Discharge. • Pension Records.
Locality Histories	Local histories sometimes provide a place of origin. City histories give the origin of prominent citizens, and county histories show where German settlers came from.
Hamburg Passenger Lists	The Hamburg Passenger Lists include the last foreign residence of people leaving from Hamburg. There are two lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Direct Passenger List</i> (1850 to 1934) lists those who left Hamburg and went directly to their destination. • The <i>Indirect Passenger List</i> (1850 to 1910) shows those who left Hamburg, went to another port, and then on to their destination. After 1910 the indirect list is included with the Direct Passenger List.

Step 2. Check surname books and name indexes.

If the ancestor's surname is uncommon, it may be possible to find it listed in a German surname book. These books identify the earliest date, place, and person by that surname. The following are German surname books:

- Brechenmacher, Josef Karlmann. *Deutsche Sippennamen*.
- *Familiengeschichtliche Quellen*.
- *Quellenschau für Familienforscher*.

Step 3. Check passenger lists or port records.

German emigrants usually left in groups from the same area of Germany. Be aware of the following information when searching your ancestor's passenger list or port record:

- After finding your ancestor on a port record or passenger register, write down all the people on the same list.
- Check local census and other records to determine which people settled in the same area as your ancestor.
- Check for place of origin information on those who were on the same list.
- If your ancestor's surname is not unusual, but some of the others on the same list are, look those names up in the German surname books to determine where they originated.

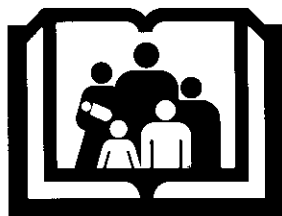
Background

Germany is made up of different kingdoms, duchies, and Prussian provinces. Within these areas, emigration records were usually kept on a county seat or district level of government. To find your ancestor's emigration record you must first know the town he was from. Then the Meyers gazetteer will tell you the county seat or district the town was in. Usually, if you already know this, you don't need to search the emigration records.

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Mothers, Fathers,
Aunts, and Uncles:
Learning
about German Families
and
Kinship Ties from
Genealogical Sources

Arthur E. Imhof

Series 501

MOTHERS, FATHERS, AUNTS AND UNCLES: LEARNING ABOUT GERMAN FAMILIES
AND KINSHIP TIES FROM GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

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On its very first page, the preliminary program for this World Conference on Records announces that "noted authorities will offer instruction on a wide range of topics such as family history, personal history, genealogical research, and demographic studies." With this task for the speakers in mind, I asked myself what I—as a social historian with German historical demography and family history as specialities—could offer in a two-hour seminar, "Mothers, Fathers, Aunts, and Uncles: Learning about German Families and Kinship ties from Genealogical Sources." I decided to treat a few topics which usually interest my own German students most, and I shall concentrate on them: first, typical German genealogical sources, as well as some really unique genealogical sources; second, how to treat this source material in an appropriate methodological way with modern questions about today's family history and historical demography in mind. (Here, for instance, I shall explain how computer technology may help us); and third, what these modern questions are, or at least what some of the questions are that we can answer on the basis of our German source material.

Let me begin then with the unique sources for family history and historical demography.

The author would like to thank Rudolf Lenz from the Research Group on Funeral Sermons, University of Marburg, who made available hundreds of computer printouts; Sune Akerman and Jan Sundin from the Demographic Data Base in Umea and the Family History Project in Uppsala, Sweden, for their most valuable inspiration on family reconstitution by computer; and the Volkswagen Foundation, Hannover, for its generous support of my research project at the Free University of Berlin.

You may have heard, or you will hear in other sessions or seminars of this conference, that the pioneers of these two historical subdisciplines, at least during the last three decades, were French, English, Scandinavian, and American scholars, but certainly not German. This is understandable, since "population, family, and kinship history" had been brought into such disrepute by the racist excesses under National Socialism that these sciences were practically taboo in Germany after the Second World War. Even today there are still very few professional historians at German universities who deal with these branches of history. It is, however, quite possible that family history and historical demography will in the next few years in Germany, too, experience a new upswing among younger historians born after the war—a boom similar to that which has occurred in the recent past in almost all European countries as well as in the United States and Canada. In any case, the great success we had in Berlin with a four-week summer school course, "Introduction to historical demography, family history, and historicosocial anthropology," points in this direction. We thought that perhaps twenty, at most thirty, interested graduate students would respond. In fact we had more than a hundred and fifty applications, and

ninety-three of them finally participated in the intensive course.

If one were to forget this historical background, that is the extensive taboo on population and family historical topics in Germany after the war, it would seem remarkable that the great advances in historical demography and family history during the past two or three decades did not start in Germany, with its exceptionally good sources, but rather to the greatest extent took place in France or England. For in these countries modern research in these sub-disciplines is very time-consuming and requires much labor. There, the first step in such analyses is the tiresome reconstitution of families on the basis of various sources—primarily, of course, entries in parish registers. In Germany, on the other hand, this tiresome work is very often unnecessary, for here many diligent genealogists in the last decades have already done the work. The modern historian-demographer and family historian has then to make a good selection from the dozens, even hundreds, of parishes for which all families have already been reconstituted. Using this material, he can then proceed directly to his further questions, and thus he comes more quickly to results than his French or English colleagues.

To settle right from the start the question which is often asked of whether this work of German genealogists is really reliable for the broader and more thorough-going analyses of historian-demographers, I would like to quote the conclusion of a study which two American specialists carried out to just this purpose using statistical relevance tests:

This paper set out to answer the question: is the OSB [Ortssippenbuch—this is the technical term for these genealogical works; it means literally "local clan book"] a valid source of data for family-reconstitution analysis? The answer is unquestionably yes. In comparative terms the German parish

registers on which the OSB's rest are probably superior to the French, on which so much work has been done to date. They permit a higher degree of confidence in making links, and they allow the reconstitution of a higher proportion of families. We have also shown that in absolute terms the standards of accuracy of these local genealogists meet the generally established standards of scientific research. Indeed the genealogists appear to have been conscientious in the extreme, and industrious beyond what most professional historical demographers can manage. It goes without saying that the OSB's one selects for analysis must be for communities whose records are substantially intact and whose compiler worked according to the customary practices of local genealogy. But there are many such OSB's.

Let's take a closer look at this genealogical work and at its history in the twentieth century. We shall first consider the work of Otto Konrad Roller from the year 1907. The rather long-winded title of his book is Die Einwohnerschaft der Stadt Durlach im 18. Jahrhundert in ihren wirtschaftlichen und kultur-geschichtlichen Verhältnissen dargestellt aus ihren Stammtafeln ("The population of the city of Durlach in the eighteenth century with its economic and cultural-historical relations as shown in its lineage tables"). This is the first economic and social history of a German city and its entire population based on genealogical material. Roller believed that lineage tables "provide more precise insights into the relations of strata of the population in earlier times" than does the mere study of other archival records. He therefore cataloged on file cards the parish registers of Durlach for the time from 1701 to 1800 and compiled lineage tables for the entire population of this small Residenzstadt (seat of the local prince or baron) in Baden.

What Roller was interested in--what especially interests us social historians today--is thus not single studies of the history of particular families, not the genealogies for instance of famous families, of princes, scholars, officers, or burghesses, but rather the reconstitution of all families in one or in several parishes. This can only be achieved by card-cataloging all entries of baptisms, marriages, and deaths from all existing registers of a parish and by subsequently grouping these data into nuclear families (husband, wife, children). Roller's work, however, did not have a great impact in Germany. Genealogists and professional historians had other concerns at the time, such as political history or the histories of important persons. Everyday history, the history of all people, the history of all births, marriages, and deaths--these were at that time not the major themes for research. Thus, Roller's work was quickly forgotten.

Not until two decades later did the history of everyday people again capture the interest of researchers. In Germany in the late 1920s and in the 1930s a number of methods were developed to record the vital statistics of all people who had ever lived in a particular parish or community. All of these methods have two things in common: the first step for each method was to write entries for each person, which were given in the baptismal, marriage, and death registers, on a separate card; the second step was to arrange the individual baptismal, marriage, and death cards for each person in alphabetical order. The further processing of the cards was then different for each of the different methods.

Using the Scheidt method, developed in the later 1920s, genealogists constructed so-called Stammtafeln, that is, lineage charts or tables, from these cards. Walter Scheidt was a physical anthropologist who worked intensively with genealogists--especially with Willy Klenck. With their lineage table method Scheidt and Klenck first laid out the birth cards of all the children of a

married couple next to each other on the table. Above his row they placed the marriage cards of the parents. Then they added the cards for the brothers and sisters of the father and then his parents. In this manner they were able to subsume the many nuclear families into larger lineages or clans such as the family Muller or the family Meier. After arranging all these baptismal and marriage cards for the entire lineage, they then adjoined the death cards for each individual. All members of the parish were then given a consecutive code number, which was marked on each card. The last and most important step was then to construct the lineage tables for each clan. We shall take a closer and more detailed look at the structure of such a lineage table a bit later on, when we come to consider methodological questions.

The second method which I would like to mention is the so-called Familienblatt-Methode or family-page method. It was developed in the 1930s by Josef Demleitner, Adolf Roth, and Ernst Kopf. All three were officials in the Stabsamt des Reichsbauernfuhrers (literally, "Staff office of the Peasants'/Farmers' Leader of the Reich"--part of the office in charge of agriculture). They also placed all entries for each person given in the baptismal, marriage, and death registers of a parish on separate cards. But they arranged nuclear families. For this purpose they used prepriated family pages. Each page listed the data for a single married couple and their children. If a man or woman had been married two or three times, he or she thus received two or three family pages. All these pages were then arranged alphabetically according to the last name of the father. If a man had married more than once, his various marriages were ordered chronologically. If the year of marriage was not given, because the family had moved into the parish after marriage, the year of birth for the first child born in the new parish was used. Thus, a book with all families in the entire parish was finally produced. A register was usually included at the end of the book listing

all family names and indicating their genealogical connections; a second register listed the names of all localities mentioned.

If a modern genealogist or historian-demographer and family historian wants to work with sources collected according to either of these two methods, he has one very big problem. They are manuscripts with only one copy. They are thus available only to a limited number of users and are bound to a particular place. This disadvantage does not occur when we turn to the third method. This is the method of Ortssippenbücher, which were mentioned earlier in the quotation from Knodel and Shorter. It is easy to understand why internationally prominent researchers like Knodel from Ann Arbor and Edward Shorter from Toronto have been using this third kind of Germany source instead of lineage tables or family books, for the Ortssippenbücher were printed and are easily available to every researcher, in the United States or Canada or wherever.

Why were Ortssippenbücher printed? One might think they were of interest to only a few people and that a few handwritten copies or a few photocopies would have been enough. We will however quickly see why these Ortssippenbücher were published if we consider the historical context in which they arose. In the second half of the 1930s in Germany the interest of genealogists coincided with those of National Socialist ideology and race policy. Their cooperation led to the founding in 1937 of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Sippenforschung und sippenpflege (literally, "Association for the study and cultivation of lineage"). This was a cooperative enterprise of the Reichsnährstand (the corporative organization for farmers and farm workers), as well as of the National Socialist teachers association and of the racial-political office of the Nazi party (NSDAP, Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei). One of the most important goals of this project was the systematic production of so-called Dorfsippenbücher ("village clan books")

or, as they were later called, Ortssippenbücher ("local clan books"). All completed volumes were published by the Verein für bürgerliche Sippenkunde und bäuerliches Wappenwesen ("Association for civil/Bourgeois genealogy and peasant heraldry"). This association was not at all a private project, as one might perhaps think; rather it was a branch of the Reichsnährstand.

These Ortssippenbücher used the same method that I have described for the family books using the Demleitner-Roth-Kopf method. The cards for the baptism, marriage, and death of each person in the parish registers were arranged into nuclear families. However, since the books were going to be published, one tried to abbreviate as much as possible to save printing costs. For instance, each family name was written out only once. If a person's name was needed again, for instance if a man married a second or third time, he was listed only by his code number. The cause of death was also not listed, since the purpose of the Sippenbücher was to take a "genealogical inventory of the entire German People using all genealogical sources and to apply them systematically to the tasks of race policy and the cultivation of lineage." On the other hand, these Sippenbücher often contain extensive introductions with dozens of pages about the local history of a particular community: reports on the size of the population at different times, the size and number of farms, the size of harvests, the socioeconomic situation, innovations in agriculture, protoindustrialization, etc. These descriptions sometimes take up half of the entire book. For us they are often very interesting, since many of these local genealogists were outstanding in their knowledge of local history. The careful study of these introductions often makes the interpretation of statistical analyses much easier. Thus for example, an especially high average age at marriage in a particular parish can be explained by the fact that in that community young people had a very hard time making themselves independent

because the economic opportunities for establishing a new farm had been exhausted.

In the 1930s some thirty thousand Ortssippenbücher were planned. They were supposed to be based on card catalogs of all entries in the baptismal, marriage, and death books of all parishes and, for the time after 1875, also on the registers of the registrars, offices. Thus varying from parish to parish, these Sippenbücher were to cover the period from the sixteenth, seventeenth, or eighteenth century up to the present—that is, up to the 1930s.

A number of goals were pursued in producing and publishing these Sippenbücher. From a purely practical standpoint, these publications were supposed to help thousands of Germans, such as civil servants and farmers. After 1933 these persons were required to provide a so-called Ahnennachweis, that is, a certificate demonstrating their Aryan descent. This was of course much easier once the records of all ancestors were available in print. This also relieved the parish archives and the registrars' offices and protected the original documents. Every civil servant or farmer was supposed to take a completed Ortssippenbuch and provide his own documentation.

It is also clear that there were ideological and racial-political reasons for compiling and publishing these Sippenbücher. Fundamental was the concept of a "blood-related New Order" under National Socialism. The compilation of a Sippenbuch in itself and especially the subsequent publication of thousands of such books were to help to create a feeling of national unity among all German ethnic groups. They were above all supposed to emphasize the key position of the "blood and ethnic community" of all Germans. German men and women of all strata and classes were to feel themselves bound together by a common genealogical inheritance.

In many parishes the work was taken up

according to plan. By 1940 thirty volumes had been published, before the war interrupted the work. After the war the compilation and publication of the Deutsche Ortssippenbücher were continued to a limited extent by the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände ("Work group of German genealogical associations"). Today the group is called the Zentralstelle für Personen - und Familiengeschichte in Frankfurt am Main ("Central office for personal and family history"). The series of books—begun before the war—on north German regions with patronymic name giving is also being continued by a group called the Ostfriesische Landschaft. The ideological grounds have of course been given up. Today, the genealogists stress above all the value of such publications as rich sources for local and social history.

From 1937 to the present more than one hundred such books have been published. They appear in different places with many different publishers. Sometimes they bear other names but, nonetheless, have the same content as Ortssippenbücher. They are by no means evenly distributed throughout Germany. Many volumes are concentrated in those regions in which especially active genealogists were at work. Thus, almost one-third of the parishes worked on are in southwestern Baden. One quarter are parishes in Hesse-Nassau, especially in Waldeck. Another concentration of Ortssippenbücher can be found in the county of Aurich in north Germany.

It is not easy to ascertain which communities have an Ortssippenbuch and which do not. It is especially difficult to answer this question, because a very great number of Sippenbücher were completed for communities but never published. These Ortssippenbücher in manuscript form are of course seldom listed anywhere. If one wants to find his ancestors in this or that parish on the basis of such a book, he must systematically inquire in the various parishes whether such an Ortssippenbuch exists in manuscript. Usually one writes to the

local minister or mayor. Perhaps too an older schoolteacher can provide information. However, one must proceed rather diplomatically, since not everyone likes to be reminded of his activities during the 1930s and '40s.

Besides this large number of completed but unpublished Sippenbücher, there are an even larger number of partly finished books, the completion of which was interrupted by the war or by the death of the genealogist working on them. Even less is known about the existence and whereabouts of these truncated volumes. However, it is worthwhile to look for them, since often a great deal of genealogical work has been invested in them. For instance, the card catalog of all baptisms, marriages, and deaths—with a card for each person's baptism, marriage, and death—might already be completed. Sometimes only the register at the end, in which all families are listed alphabetically, is missing.

There can be no doubt that genealogical research in Germany made great advances in the 1930s and '40s by using the three methods described here (Stammtafeln, Familienblätter, and Ortssippenbücher). What is especially important for us historian-demographers and family historians today, when we use this material to answer modern questions, is the fact that all three methods encompassed the entire population and arranged the data according to families. In this manner the genealogists have in hundreds of cases already prepared the source materials for historian-demographers and family historians—and their work has in general been dependable. Thus, they have saved us the most laborious and burdensome, also the least scientific, part of our work. However, so far the German historian-demographers and family historians have unfortunately given too little attention to this great preliminary work of the genealogists.

Many German genealogists today are still working with the research methods that were new and exemplary in the 1930s and '40s, but the best researchers among them

have for a number of years been working intensively to rejuvenate both methods and goals. They have especially tried to rationalize the time-consuming process of family reconstitution. These leading genealogists today believe that an "enlargement of the objects of research and the expansion of research will bring more meaningful results in regard to social, economic, and population history and thus also in regard to family history."⁶ Therefore, they are striving to handle larger areas with larger populations, that is, larger parishes, whole regions, and above all larger towns which have several parishes. They have also begun to consider whether the computer can help them in this prodigious task. Without knowing about similar attempts by French, English, Scandinavian, American, and Canadian historian-demographers, a German researcher, Hans Hermann Russ, reported in 1970 a successful attempt at electronic family reconstitution. He had successfully carried out the first such project in Germany for the community of Rickenbach.

With regard to the desired macroregional family reconstitution by computer, the social genealogists (as they call themselves) have already developed an extensive catalog of questions. These include such problems as regional social and geographical mobility; regional fertility, mortality, and marital patterns, and occupation-, group-, and class-specific diseases and causes of death. It seems to me in light of the opportunities of modern computer data processing and also on account of the originality and importance of the questions, that a closer cooperation is called for between these modern genealogists on the one hand and historian-demographers and family historians on the other. "But that presupposes," as one of these social genealogists has remarked, "that social and economic history as well as national history and demography have become convinced of the importance and necessity of compiling genealogical materials and of taking it into consideration in research."⁸

Cooperation among these fields seems by the way, to have been initiated in recent years in Germany. In any case the Arbeitskreis für moderne Sozialgeschichte ("Work group on modern social history") invited one of the prominent representatives of this modern conception of social genealogy, Walter Schaub, to its spring meeting of April 1975 to lecture on "Urban Family Forms and Kinships on the Basis of Social Genealogical Research for Oldenburg in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries." Another paper of his on "Social Genealogy: Problems and Methods" appeared in the respected historical (not genealogical) journal Blätter für deutsche Landesgeschichte (1974).

The problems which Schaub touches on in both his lecture and his paper go much further than those which many compilers of Ortssippenbücher, with their diligent and thorough—albeit somewhat technical and preparatory rather than scientific—work, have attempted or are now attempting. For the modern social genealogists, the cataloging of parish registers and the reconstitution of families is not an end in itself. The family reconstitutions are for them merely the point of departure for scientific questions that reach much further. And here—in my opinion—their intentions concur with those of family historians, historian-demographers, and social historians when they deal with parish registers and family reconstitution.

After this tour d'horizon of the unique genealogical sources in Germany, I would like to move on to a consideration of some methodological questions. The central question of course is, How can I use the material to answer current questions in family history and historical demography?

First of all, I would like to deal with the material from the Ortssippenbücher. Let's take a look at a page of one of these books. In figure 1 you can see page 415 of the Ortssippenbuch for Ichenheim, a parish west of Offenburg on the upper Rhine. The book was compiled by Albert Kobele and Hans Scheer and

published in 1978 as volume 78 of the Series A of the Deutsche Ortssippenbücher. At the same time it also bears the number 41 of the series of Badische Ortssippenbücher. I have already mentioned that for Baden in particular there are many Ortssippenbücher; therefore, there is a specially numbered series for Baden.

I would like to discuss with you the family number 3017. This family—as you can easily see—belongs to the Schäffer clan.

On 12 January 1767, the wage-laborer Nicolaus Schäffer married Maria Magdalena Wurth. (With dates one should remember that Europeans write the day first and the month second.) The wedding was held according to Protestant rite. Nicolaus came from family number 292, in which he was the second son. His elder brother, Johann Adam, had married in 1760 and had apparently taken over the family farm, since his occupation is listed as "peasant," just like his father's. Thus, socially the second-born son was downwardly mobile and had to support his family as a "wage-laborer." The wife of Nicolaus Schäffer came from a neighboring village to the north called Dundenheim. She was the daughter of Michael Wurth and his wife Catharina, born Walter. Magdalena Wurth's father, whose social position in Dundenheim is listed as that of a burgess, was already dead at the time of her marriage.

The data on baptism and burial of Nicolaus Schäffer are known exactly. He lived from 27 January 1737 until 16 September 1822. As for his wife, we know only that she was born "around 1744," that is, that she was seven years younger than her husband. She died on 13 January 1794, that is, at the age of about fifty years. It is to be assumed that the death register of Ichenheim reads, "Died at the age of fifty years." As all genealogists know, one must be very careful with such round figures when a person's age is given. The two compilers of the Ortssippenbuch for Ichenheim have therefore also given no exact date of

birth for Maria Magdalena Wurth; they just say, "Born about 1744."

This couple had ten children all told. The first child a daughter whom they named Catharina, came on 22 January 1768. A comparison of the date of this birth and the date of marriage shows us that the protogenetic interval—the historian demographer's technical term for the period of time between marriage and the birth of the first child—amounted to twelve full months. Thus, the child was conceived after the couple had married, a fact that at the time was certainly not a matter-of-course. Catharina, however, died as an infant, in the same year. She lived to be only five months old. I should point out that in international historical demography such figures always refer to full—that is, completed—months or years. From 22 January 1768 to 20 July 1768 is five completed months. Had she died on 22 July 1768, it would have been six completed months.

The second child was also a daughter, Maria Ursula. She was born on 3 September 1769. The length of time between the birth of one child and the birth of the next child—the so-called intergenetic interval—thus amounted to nineteen full months (from 22 January 1768 to 3 September 1769). This second child survived. She married on 8 June 1789, that is, at the age nineteen full years. The marriage took place in the neighboring village of Dundenheim. Maria Ursula's bridegroom was named Jacob Krämer. If we wanted to, we could pursue further the fate of this couple by looking them up in the Ortsippenbuch for Dundenheim. The two compilers of the book for Ichenheim have taken only Maria Ursula's date of death from the book for Dundenheim: 29 December 1847. Since Maria Ursula was not buried in Ichenheim, her death is of course not registered there. Without taking a look at the Ortssippenbuch for Dundenheim, we would not have known that her age at death was seventy-eight full years.

The third child was the first son, Jacob. However, he lived only from 21 November

to 25 December, 1770. He thus died at an age of only one month. The fourth child, Maria Magdalena, followed on 14 March 1772. This girl, too, died as an infant, at the age of one year and five months. The fifth child was again a daughter, Anna Maria. She came into the world on 29 June 1773; but she, too, did not survive infancy, dying at the age of one year and one month.

The next five children were all sons. Four of them survived. Only Johann Michael died when he was still an infant, at the age of only six months (14 February to 16 August, 1779). For Nicolaus, Jacob, Michael, and Daniel we find no exact entries; there are only references in pointed brackets. Inside these brackets the numbers are given for the families which these sons later founded when they married. If we want to know the exact dates of birth, marriage, and death of these children, we must look them up under their own family numbers. In this manner double entries of data have been avoided. Here we can recognize the principle which I referred to earlier: by avoiding double entries, the Ortssippenbucher could be condensed and thus save space at publication. For instance, for Nicolaus we find the family number 3035 in pointed brackets. If we consult the entry there, we find his birth date to be 7 November 1774 and his death date 11 March 1851. Jacob (family number 3040) lived from 15 February 1777 to 6 June 1862. Michael, who founded families numbers 3043 and 3052 (he married twice), lived from 2 January 1781 to 17 November 1826. And finally, Daniel (family number 3042) sojourned on earth from 4 July 1783 till 24 August 1854.

Next, I would like to explain the much more complicated structure of a lineage table. As I mentioned earlier, this kind of source arose mainly in the late 1920s and 1930 and early '40s. This material was compiled neither by nor for historians, nor was it collected by genealogists like the Ortssippenbücher. The authors were mainly physicians, especially geneticists, and physical anthropologists. These scientists were above

all concerned with questions of heredity. To this purpose they tended especially to study populations in so-called closed marriage circles (isolates). Such circles consisted generally of a number of neighboring communities in which practically no spouses were taken from outside the region. The concrete research questions were, for example: what are the pathological consequences of such inbreeding? Were inherited illnesses especially common? Was fertility lower, life expectancy shorter than for other populations? To give precise answers to these questions, the scientists needed the exact data on birth, marriage, and death for as many of the families as possible over many generations. Just as the French, English, Canadian, or American Historian-demographers do today, they cataloged in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s all the registers of entire parishes, in fact, generally of several neighboring parishes which constituted together such a closed marriage circle.

In figure 2, I have illustrated this procedure in detail. As the first step, each individual who had lived in such a closed circle was cataloged. On the basis of the original entries in the baptismal, marriage, and burial registers in the parish archives, each individual was given a baptismal, a marriage, and a burial slip, on which a number of data were entered: family name and baptismal name; name of father and mother; exact date of baptism, marriage, and burial, the parish in which each took place; cause of death; age at death; and other information.

Our concrete example has to do with Hans-Heinrich Corell. He was the illegitimate son of the maid Maria Elisabeth Corell and the soldier Johannes Riebling. He was born on 3 February 1685 in "Me" (Me is the abbreviation for Merzhausen in the so-called Schwalm region in northern Hesse). On 6 September 1718 he married Katharina Schmidt. The wedding took place in the community "Wa" (Wa is the abbreviation for Wasenberg, which also lies in the Schwalm).

Finally, Hans-Heinrich Corell died at the age of seventy-two of pneumonia. He was buried on 19 February 1757 in "Ze" (that is, Zella, likewise in the Schwalm).

Just the fact that we needed the parish registers from three different communities for this short biography of Hans-Heinrich Corell should give us a hint of the role played at the time by so-called micromobility, that is, migration over very short distances. This micromobility was mainly the result of people leaving an area to find work or to marry. Already here, we can see one of the major advantages of lineage tables, which encompass several communities at once, as opposed to the Ortssippenbuecher, which as the name indicates list only the inhabitants of one place. Many people appear in such an Ortssippenbuch only for their baptism or only for their marriage or only for their burial; the other entries are missing. Whether in our example Hans-Heinrich Corell's micromobility was conditioned by his illegitimate origin, we do not know. It would however be quite easy to imagine that as a grown man he would no longer want to live where he had grown up as an illegitimate child and where perhaps he had had to bear the scorn of the other villagers.

The next step in constructing the lineage table was to arrange cards for individual persons in their genealogical relationship. However, they were not satisfied with simple family reconstitution, that is, the reorganization of the baptismal, marriage, and burial slips into nuclear families; rather they went a big step further in the direction of so-called clan reconstitution. It is easy to understand that, to analyze problems of inheritance, one wants to consider large genealogical interconnections, that is, several generations of the same family. In figure 2 we can see in the bottom half a section of one such reconstituted clan. This lineage table shows the Corell clan. If we look more closely we can discover our Hans-Heinrich. (I have marked his place within this clan with an arrow.) However, we no longer have his name

that is, the number 3577, which we also see above in the left-hand corner of the baptismal, marriage, and burial slips. After the parish registers had been cataloged on cards, all persons who appeared in the catalog were simply

numbered consecutively. Hans-Heinrich Corell thus received the number 3577.

The other numbers and symbols on the chart (aside from the code numbers of each person have the following meanings:

1. Year of marriage
2. Husband's age at first marriage
All age data in decimals:

1 month = 0.08 years	5 months = 0.42 years	9 months = 0.75 years
2 months = 0.17 years	6 months = 0.50 years	10 months = 0.83 years
3 months = 0.25 years	7 months = 0.58 years	11 months = 0.92 years
4 months = 0.33 years	8 months = 0.67 years	12 months = 1.00 year
3. Wife's age at marriage is unknown since date of birth is not known
4. Husband's age at second marriage
5. Second wife's age at marriage with husband number 3561
6. Widow of husband number 32101. Indicated by oo
7. Year of birth/age at death in years (decimals)/year of death
8. Question mark before and inside brackets: date of birth and hence also age at death are unknown. Square brackets mean that wife died from an epidemic (plague)
9. -11.88 means that the husband was 11.88 years younger than this second wife
10. Question mark inside and behind brackets: Nothing is known except birth and marriage. The couple probably migrated
11. +4.92 means that the husband was 4 years and 11 months older than his wife
12. Nothing is known about his wife.
13. The numbers above the line show the interval between the marriage and the birth of the child
14. The numbers underneath the line show the intergenetic intervals
15. Age at death in square brackets: died from an epidemic (most likely the plague)
16. This daughter married husband number 22391. Her marriage and the children that came from it are recorded in the Stammtafel where the husband is registered
17. Marriage between relations: connected by a double line
18. Rhombus indicates sex unknown
19. Stillbirth
20. Twin birth
21. Triplet birth
22. Illegitimate connection with a woman who married a different husband afterwards
23. After her illegitimate connection the woman married husband number 18500
24. Illegitimate birth; marked by a broken line
25. T means lived for a few days. No stillbirth
26. Illegitimate children. The son married; the daughter had an illegitimate daughter who again gave birth to an illegitimate child before she got married
27. Age at death in round brackets: died as the result of an accident
28. This illegitimate daughter married husband number 18571, after giving birth to an illegitimate daughter
29. Widow of husband number 4103

A few years ago, as I began with a research group in Berlin to evaluate this lineage table material for the Schwalm according to modern historical-demographic and family-historical criteria, we quickly saw on the basis of the consecutive code numbers that we were

dealing with approximately thirty thousand different individuals. They had all lived in one of eight different but neighboring parishes in this Schwalm region, namely, in Merzhausen, Wasenberg, or Zella--which we have already mentioned--or in Loshausen, Gungelshausen,

Ransbach, Leimbach, or Willingshausen. The earliest data on baptisms, marriages, and burials originate in the sixteenth century, for in some of the parishes the parish registers went back that far. The most recent data are from the time of the Second World War.

Considering the order of magnitude of the data, on which we wanted to base a thoroughgoing analysis in order to follow up modern questions, it was clear that it would be worthwhile to consider using computers. We went to work in two steps. First we brought all entries which we could find for a particular person into a machine-readable form. We generally used a teleprint machine in our research room, which was directly connected by telephone lines to the university's computer center. In the second step we recorded in the same way all male and female partners in fertile liaisons--whether marital or extramarital liaisons--as well as all children born of these associations. All of this information was already recorded either in the baptismal, marriage, and burial slips or in the lineage table themselves. Then we programmed the computer to print out for us the materials on each individual family in the form that is required for modern historical demography and family history. The printout which the computer then delivered consisted of about seven thousand individual fertile liaisons, that is seven thousand family reconstitutions. Let's take a closer look at one such reconstitution (see fig. 3).

Each family printout consists of three parts. It begins with a row of entries at the top, which contains a number of family-specific data. Then follows a graph, which illustrates the family; and finally, the computer prints the corresponding Family Events Table, in which preliminary calculations have already been made.

In our concrete example in figure 3, the top row informs us that we are dealing with the family number 03495. The computer has of course printed out a concordance so that, if we wish, we can

always look up what family name is connected to what family number. Next comes the personal code number of the husband--here, the number 17234. Then comes the code number for the entire clan from which the husband originated--here, the lineage code number 0197. If we look in the concordance of all lineage code numbers, we learn that we are dealing with a family of the Höbel clan. The next figure is the personal code number of the wife (36893). Then comes her lineage code number, 0582, which is the code number of the Chril clan. Besides the exact date and place of marriage--that is 26 March 1680 (the order is year-month-day) in "Wa" (that is, Wasenberg)--we are also told the number of children born and finally the number of surviving children. Under the heading "Surviving Children" the computer has included all children who were still alive on the forty-fifth birthday of their mother. Demographers tell us that a woman's fertile years are generally over at the age of forty-five. If a child died after that date, it could no longer be "replaced" even if the parents wanted. The family was--in the language of demographers--completed.

The second part of a family printout, the graph, always begins with a time axis. Each dash in this time axis stands for one year. After each decade a space is left empty. The time axis always begins with the decade in which the eldest member of the family was born. In our example, the husband was born before the wife, in 1653; therefore, the time axis begins with the decade 1650-59. At the other end, the time axis extends at least far enough to record the death of the last member of the family. Our time axis contains thirteen decades all told and thus has room for 130 years of family history. However, our family did not last that long. The last member of the family died in 1751. From the birth of the father (1653) to the death of the last son, this family lasted not even 100 years. But this doesn't mean that it died out. The computer has already told us in the printout that three children

married and themselves had nine children altogether (six, zero, and three children respectively).

For each individual member of the family, a one-line resume is given underneath the time axis. First the husband and wife are listed. A small space is left, and then come the children. The line for each child begins in the year of his or her birth with an M (for "male") or an F (for "female"). Thus we can see immediately whether the child is a son or a daughter. Each member of the family who married has a R printed in the year of death. If a child died in the same year in which it was born, it is represented with an X. If someone was married two or three times, he receives a second or third R in the respective year or years of remarriage. And of course the computer makes a separate printout for each of these new families.

In the third section—the bottom half of the printout, labeled "Family Event Table"—the members of the family are listed again in the same order as in the graph: first, husband; then, wife; then child 1, child 2, child 3, etc. Here the exact dates for birth, marriage, and death are entered. Furthermore, the parishes in which each of these events occurred are recorded. The computer has already done some of the elementary calculations which are important for the historian-demographer and family historian: the ages of the husband and wife at marriage, the age of the wife at the birth of each child, the length of time between marriage and the birth of the first child as well as between the births of the subsequent children, and the age at death of each member of the family. Finally, the code numbers of the families which the married children founded are given, as well as the lineage code numbers of their spouses and the number of children born to these marriages. There are also important entries on causes of death and occupation.

This figure, especially the graph in the middle, allows us in an impressive manner to grasp at one glance the family cycle

in its various phases. The origin, growth, and contraction of each of the seven thousand families can be surveyed immediately. We can take a temporal section of each family and ascertain how far the family had progressed up to a particular event—for instance, the death of the father. One can easily read whether the wife or the husband was older and by how much; how long one spouse outlived the other; how many children outlived each other; how long the so-called preparental companionship lasted, that is, how long there was between marriage and the birth of the first child; and how long the postparental companionship—the period of time between the marriage of the last child and the death of one of the spouses—lasted. We can see whether or not a surviving spouse remarried, how many children, if any, were conceived before marriage and how many in the marriage, whether more boys than girls were born, and which of the children married first and which did not marry at all. We can determine the age differences among surviving children—that is, among the children who grew up together in a family—and whether or not the eldest surviving child was old enough to help the mother when the youngest was born. Finally, we can see how often growing children encountered death in their own home.

When you have a number of such family printouts spread out in front of you on a table, it doesn't take much imagination to see the fates of dozens of everyday people from the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries arising in front of you, to picture graphically the cares, needs, and hopes of mothers and fathers, widows and orphans, of "leftover" old people with no relatives. Let's take just one example. I shall never forget the printout of the family number 00033 (see fig. 4). The first time I saw it, I found even the first row of figures saddening. It reads: "Number of children born: 9; Number of surviving children: 0." The mother of these nine children was born in 1669. She had married relatively late, at the age of thirty-one. Her husband, a

peasant, was five years younger than she was. They were married in 1700. The first child was born in 1701. It died two months later. The second child followed in 1702 but lived only seven months. In 1704 came the third; it died at the age of two months. The fourth child came in 1706, the fifth in 1708, the sixth in 1709, the seventh in 1710, and finally the eighth and ninth came as twins in 1713. But not one of them lived longer than three months. The graph for the children consists almost entirely of X's. How must this poor woman have felt when she brought her eighth child to burial on 9 June 1713 and then only nine days later, on 18 June, her ninth? At the time she was already forty-three years old, and it was unlikely that she could become pregnant again. In fact, there were no more births. Her husband, however, lived till 1729, so both parents, although childless, could grow old together and relieve each other's cares. Then the husband, too, died—at the age of only fifty-five. And now this woman, who had brought nine children into the world and had lived with her husband for twenty-nine years, lived on for another thirteen years. She was the only one in the family to grow old, at least compared with the average age at death for adults at the time. At her death in 1742 she was seventy-two years old, thirteen years a widow, alone without children. She had not been born in the area and therefore probably had no relatives.

Naturally, I don't by any means want to maintain that this skeleton of hard facts, which is based only on data for birth, marriage, and death, constitutes the entire "historical truth." But this procedure, reconstituting families using computer printout, seems to me to be one good method, among others, of approaching it. Undoubtedly, the sight of the many individual fates in the context of entire families and clans can encourage the historical imagination, give it wings. And it is precisely this point that is important, at least for me in my classes with students. The historian is suddenly surprised that the every-day people of

past years are no longer silent. He suddenly notices that he had, so to speak, begun to talk with them. And it is a conversation about very intimate and personal subjects. It is a conversation of life and death, on growing old in the family or alone, on widows and orphans, on life expectancy and remarriage, on the length of time between births, and thus on family planning and birth control. We are dealing with an intermediate area between the biological and the mental, with fascinating questions which are of particular interest to the social historian. What is biologically conditioned in the history of individuals, of families, of generations? How did our ancestors react to it? Where did they have a chance to react and since what time? What were their intentions?

But before we digress too far, let's come back to our concrete example, the family number 03495. We want to ask what problems are touched on in this family printout, the solutions of which would help us better understand the behavior, actions, and way of life of our ancestors, our fathers, mothers, aunts, and uncles.

Let's begin with the date of marriage of the parents. As we have already seen, the marriage took place on 26 March 1680. This is an unusual date, for even if we examine only a few dozen family printouts, we will immediately notice that a day in March for a marriage is something extraordinary. The inhabitants of our eight villages in the Schwalm were mainly peasants. For our family, number 03495, the occupation listed is also that of peasant. In agrarian societies of the European ancien regime, marriages usually took place after the completion of the harvest labor, that is, in the late fall. This rule applies to the dates of marriage of child 4 and child 5, the one marrying on 6 November 1714, the other on 15 October 1709. If we then ask why the parents got married in the month of March, we shall discover in the Family Events Table of the printout, that the bride was in her eighth or ninth month of pregnancy at the time of the marriage.

The first child was born on 22 April 1680, that is, not even a full month after the wedding. In order that the child could come into the world as a legitimate child, the wedding was even held in the middle of Lent. Lent, which lasted from 6 March to 20 April in 1680, normally was not considered a time for wedding festivities because of the church's prohibition.

The eldest son also got married outside the fall months, namely on 14 January 1710. But in this case the unusual date for the marriage is probably connected with the death of the father. The father had died on the previous 8 November (1709). He left behind him on the farm a fifty-three year-old widow, who was thus not very attractive for a second marriage, and two marriageable bachelors of twenty-six and twenty-four years respectively. The only daughter who survived childhood in this family had moved to the neighboring village of Wasenberg a few weeks before the death of her father and had married on 15 October 1709. Thus, a young woman was needed on this farm with an elderly widow and two young bachelors. The eldest son waited only till the end of Advent, which was also to be avoided on religious grounds, and set a date for marriage in the middle of January.

This question of the date of marriage can easily sensitize our historical imagination for problems of modern so-called history of mentalite. For instance, one concrete question could be, How long was the church able to exercise enough influence on its members to keep them from marrying during Lent and Advent? Or the other way around: When does the so-called de-Christianization begin in the Schwalm? In which social strata, classes, or occupational groups did it occur first? Which groups followed at what intervals? A further question could be, Can one ascertain a certain restraint also in sexual matters during such periods of fasting as Advent and Lent in this Protestant region, a restraint similar to that which a number of researchers suppose for Catholic areas

such as France? Concretely, were significantly fewer children conceived during Lent and Advent than at other times of the year? Naturally we can't give a definitive answer on the basis of the seven dates of birth in our example in figure 3. Nonetheless, it is remarkable that only the conception of the last child, reckoned as nine months before his birth, occurred during Lent. In 1695 Lent dated from 16 February to 2 April. The birth of the last child came on 29 November; thus, the conception must have occurred towards the end of February 1695.

Likewise aimed in the direction of the history of mentalite is the question as to the day of the week of the marriage. Even though in our example we have data on only four marriages, it is surely no accident that they all fall on a Tuesday. Here, the social historian naturally wants to know when and why such preferences developed. And the next question is always, How long could such customs maintain themselves in a particular community? Which groups were the first to deviate from the tradition, and which followed at what intervals? Occasionally, a question of this kind is surprisingly easy to answer. Thus, we discovered in one place that the marriage office where this civil ceremony⁹ was conducted was only open on Tuesdays.

We come now to a question which is posed especially by representatives of modern historicosocial anthropology. These researchers have for some time now been especially interested in the geographical micromobility of our ancestors, which occurred for the purpose of marriage. The thought that they have in mind is that two or three hundred years ago, when there was no kind of social insurance, our ancestors looked upon marriage also as a means of establishing a familially organized network of socioeconomic security. When someone fell in need, it was good to have a rich uncle with a large farm or a brother-in-law with few children to inherit his farm. These historicosocial anthropologists are therefore investigating not only the

genealogical connections shown in the parish registers but also, for instance, the land registers, which list exactly how many acres of fields and meadows, woods and pastures were held by this or that peasant and also list the tax value of each peasant's movable and immovable goods.

With this historicosocial-anthropological background in mind, let's take a closer look at the micromobility of our family, number 03495. The husband, according to the entries in the baptismal register, came from the community of Ransbach. There, he belonged to the lineage 0197, that is, the Höbel lineage, as we have already seen. The wife, on the other hand, was born in the neighboring village of Wasenberg. She belonged to lineage 0582, the Chrill clan. The marriage took place in the wife's home community, in Wasenberg. Here too, the first two children were born, on 22 April 1680 and on 27 March 1681. Since this second child was buried in August 1682 in Ransbach and the baptisms of the next five children also took place there, we must assume that the husband returned with his family to his community of birth, Ransbach, sometime between April 1681 and August 1682. It is also very interesting to note that the only surviving daughter married in Wasenberg in 1709, into the same lineage 0582 (Chrill) from which her mother came. Since the mother was also buried in Wasenberg in April 1721, we must again assume that she returned in her old age to her place of birth sometime after the death of her husband in 1709 and after both sons had married, one in 1710 and the other in 1714. There, her daughter had died in July 1719 at the birth of her third child and had left three small children. In case we want more exact information, we need only look up the family printouts numbers 03511, 03512, and 07493. In any case, the network of social security through intermarriage between the lineages Höbel and Chrill seems to have functioned quite well.

Here it becomes easy to understand that for questions of micromobility one cannot

rely merely on the registers of a single parish or on the entries in a single Ortssippenbuch. Had we done this with our example and looked only at the parish register of Ransbach or Wasenberg, we would have obtained a completely distorted picture of our family number 03495. The parish register for Wasenberg alone would have shown that the woman 36893 had been born there, that she had married there, that she brought two children into the world, one of whom lived only seven days, and finally that she died and was buried in this community. We would have learned nothing about her husband and the five other children.

On the other hand, if we had evaluated only the parish registers for Ransbach, we would have learned only that the family 03495 must have had a large number of children. We would assume that at least six children had been born in this family, since five births are listed in the baptismal register and another child had already been buried here before the first baptism was recorded. We would also know who the father was. We would, however, learn nothing about the mother. We would know neither her age at marriage nor at each birth. We wouldn't even know how many children all told she brought into the world, nor the age at which she died and was buried.

Here arises an important question for the historian-demographer, for the family historian, and for the historicosocial anthropologist. It is decisive for his research strategy: How many neighboring communities do we have to investigate in order to be able to reconstitute completely 50, 60, 70, or 80 percent of all families? The question behind the question is of course: To what extent did such marriage circles conform with geographic regions, with political administrative units, with economic spheres of influence of a central marketplace, with zones of similar human behavioral patterns, especially with the boundaries of different religious confessions? Can marital bonds be found more often than on the average between

particular lineages? In what periods? Over what distances? To what purposes?

This last—and in my opinion very important—question can only be touched on and only partially answered on the basis of our lineage table material. For a more thorough analysis and answer, we must draw on other kinds of sources as well. I have already mentioned the land registers and tax registers, which can provide information on the economic situation of the individual families. Further sources are marriage contracts, testaments, household lists, court records, diaries, etc. Here is not the place to go into more detail. I would, however, like to point out, that there is a new and very useful handbook in which these questions are treated very concretely. The author is an English social anthropologist and historian named Alan Macfarlane; the title of the book, Reconstructing Historical Communities (Cambridge University Press, 1977). Another historian and social anthropologist, the American Andrejs Plakans, published in the same year (1977) a very stimulating and illustrative paper on the same subject in the Journal of Family History (vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 3-27). The article is called "Identifying Kinfolk beyond the Household."

But let's get back to the questions that we can actually answer on the basis of our material. Here we should mention above all the questions of modern historical demography and family history: How many children were born per marriage and at what intervals? How many of these children survived to the age of one year? of ten years? How many reached adulthood and founded families of their own? That is, how many births were necessary to replace an adult? Were there particular normative notions on the number of children parents should have at the end of their reproductive phase? Was it supposed to be four, or six, or simply as many as possible? Did they differentiate between sons and daughters, that is, did they want at least two or three sons among the surviving children? Did the heirs to farms display a different gener-

ative behavior than their brothers and sisters? Did they, for example, marry earlier and have more children, especially male children, to make sure that their possessions could be passed on in the family?

Some further questions are: How large was the number of half and full orphans among nonadults? At what age did one generally become grandfather or grandmother? How many children had at least one grandparent, and how long did three generations live together? Such questions are important in regard to the so-called socialization of the children, for the relation between the first and the third generation that is between grandparents and grandchildren, is—as is well known—quite different from the relation between the second and the third, that is between parents and children. Much knowledge and information were transmitted directly from the grandparents, who generally had more time for the children than did the parents.

In the past few years we have been putting all of these historical-demographic questions to our computer, which has given detailed and extensive answers on the basis of our data bank. However, I don't want to read off long rows of statistics here. The results of our research have already been published elsewhere or will soon be published. Rather, I promised you at the beginning to report on some of the newer research questions in historical demography and family history. These newer questions very often take an interdisciplinary direction. As an example of this, I would like to touch on some problems which we have been discussing for some time now in Berlin with biologists and physicians.

Let's take a look at the intervals between births as shown in the Family Event Table for the family 03495: eleven months, twenty-five months, thirty months, twenty-eight months, forty-two months, and forty-nine months. The intervals thus are quite different in length. They vary from less than one

year to more than four years. The first question one poses is of course, What are the biologically natural birth intervals and which intervals are intentionally lengthened? Or in other words: Where does birth control and family planning begin? This problem has been much discussed in recent years—and not just in Berlin. There is even a rather extensive specialized literature on the question of family planning in the course of history. It is understandable that in such questions a historian needs to cooperate with biologists and physicians. For instance, it is important to know about the so-called amenorrhea of lactation. As long as mothers nurse their children, a large number of them are temporarily infertile. Thus the social historian must investigate the habits of mothers with regard to breast-feeding. In which strata of the population did mothers nurse their children themselves? For how long? Where was it customary to give the children to a wet nurse? In such cases the mothers naturally became fertile again earlier, since there was then no amenorrhea of lactation. Thus the families of these women must have been more fertile. When one discovers families where this was in fact not the case, such as among many families of the urban upper classes who were financially able to afford a nurse, then one must pose the question about birth control.

About the technical possibilities, we also have rather good information. For instance, the so-called Beichtspiegel ("guide for confession") of the Catholic church have been investigated. With regard to the sixth commandment ("thou shalt not commit adultery"), there is a whole series of penances which pertain to unnatural and thus naturally infertile corporal unions between spouses. Furthermore, the so-called Krauterbücher ("herb books") have been analyzed; these books have existed, in great numbers ever since the invention of the printing press and circulated widely among the population. The Krauterbücher contain detailed descriptions of the local flora, and the possible use of each herb is noted

exactly. One can find there precise references to the contraceptive or abortive effects of this or that herb, this or that fruit, or this or that shrub. Especially well-known among the population was, for instance, the extract of juniper.

Now let's take another look at the birth intervals in our family. We can now explain the short interval between the first and second births, which amounted to only eleven months, by the fact that the first child died only seven days after birth. Thus, the mother's amenorrhea of lactation ended, and she was fertile again much more quickly than would have been the case if the child had survived. On the other hand, we can see that the last two intervals especially are unusually long: forty-two and forty-nine months. Unusual means, by the way, more than thirty months. A rule of thumb of historian-demographers says that intervals up to two and a half years, that is, thirty months, are to be looked upon as biologically normal, so birth control probably plays no role. But isn't it imaginable that our family tried to limit the size of the family after the birth of the fifth child, that is, to extend the interval before the next birth as long as possible? An additional motive for this restrictive attitude could be seen in the fact that the last three children had survived. And furthermore, the two elder children were male. It thus seemed certain that there would be an heir to take over the farm. If something happened to the elder son, the younger son was still there, as a reserve so to speak.

The next example that I would like to discuss is also a case of interdisciplinary cooperation with physicians, this time with andrologists, specialists in diseases of the male population. As we can see in the Family Event Table, the two youngest children both died of smallpox only a few days apart, at the beginning of November 1696. Since this infectious disease is very contagious but also with recovery confers a practically permanent immunity, we can assume that

the other children in the family—the children numbers 3, 4, and 5—either likewise contracted smallpox or were immune because they had already had the disease earlier and survived. Now, smallpox, like spotted fever, Leprosy, malaria, tuberculosis, or—the best known of all—mumps, is one of those general infections that can be complicated by a so-called orchitis. As andrologists tell us, such an orchitis, that is, an inflammation of the testicles, can often lead to a serious reduction in fertility or even to absolute sterility. If we look again at the Family Event Table in figure 3 (at the bottom on the right), we will note that the marriage of the fourth child, which was contracted on 6 November 1714, remained childless. Our cooperation with andrologists suggests the conclusion that the childlessness of this son's marriage might be due to such an orchitis, which he contracted in connection with a smallpox infection in his younger years, for example in 1696.

All these various examples, which I have discussed in connection with a single family printout, should have made it clear in what ways the computer can be used with great benefit, even at this lowest level of the mere reorganization of the extensive lineage table material. Even if we had pursued manually all the questions touched on here in our work group in Berlin, the use of computers would have been worthwhile just for the reorganization of the source material. For most of my coworkers the first contact with computers in the subdisciplines historical demography and family history was effective and stimulating, that is, all in all very positive.

Let's take leave of the Sippenbücher and lineage tables, which have been the focus of our attention so far, and turn to two other kinds of German genealogical sources. In contrast to Sippenbücher and lineage tables, which always cover the entire population of a parish or larger region, the remaining sources are selective. They contain entries only for particular persons, or families or lineages.

First I would like to mention the so-called Deutsches Geschlechterbuch ("German lineage book"). This is not a single volume but rather a very large collection of books. The first volume in this collection appeared as early as 1889. At present there are more than 180. The subtitle is more precise; it reads, Genealogisches Handbuch bürgerlicher Familien, that is, "Genealogical handbook of bourgeois families." The individual volumes of this collection each contain a number of selected family trees of German burghesses of the middle and parts of the upper classes, as well as the family trees of larger scale farmers. This handbook is divided according to the regions where the families dealt with originated or spent most of their history. Thus, for instance, volume 171 of the Deutsches Geschlechterbuch is at the same time the twelfth volume of the Hamburger Geschlechterbuch; volume 174 is at the same time the ninth volume of the Pommersches Geschlechterbuch. A few sections of this volume 124 are reproduced in figure 5. It was compiled by a retired minister, Hermann Knodt, in Bad Nauheim in Hesse and was published in 1960.

The family trees of the selected individual families in such a Geschlechterbuch are constructed according to the so-called Nachfahrentafel or "table of descendants." That means one starts with a purported founding father, who is then followed by all descendants—or at least the male descendants—who bear his name. In detail, such a table of descendants is composed of completely reconstituted nuclear families. As an example I have chosen in figure 5 the branch of the family Clotz in the town of Solms. I don't want to discuss these genealogical data in detail. Anyone can easily study them himself, since figure 5 also contains (bottom left) the explanation of all abbreviations and symbols which are used in such a Geschlechterbuch. I shall merely summarize the major points which are generally given for each family:

1. Demographic data: date of birth,

marriage, and death of the parents and the children

2. Sociological data: the father's profession, his title and honorary offices; the profession of the wife's father; the professions of the sons-in-law; and the religious confession of the family
3. Geographic data: the place of birth of husband, wife, and children; the place of birth of the wife's parents and of the sons-in-law; the place of marriage of the parents, of the daughters, and of the parents of the wife; the main place of residence of the parents, the unmarried children, and the sons-in-law; the place of death of the husband, the wife, the unmarried children, the married daughters, and the sons-in-law.

Thus, the structure of a Geschlechterbuch is quite comparable to that of a Sippenbuch. The most important difference (I repeat) consists in the fact that a Sippenbuch in principle covers all inhabitants of a community, whereas the Geschlechterbuch selects only a few families. As a Geschlechterbuch goes further back in time, the data tend to be more and more incomplete. With few exceptions, the parish registers are also the basis of these works. Therefore one cannot expect dependable information for the time before the end of the sixteenth century. In the other direction, that is, going forward to the present, data are usually given almost up to the date of publication.

Although they are selective, these Geschlechterbücher can nonetheless be of great interest to modern historical demography. The social historian will indeed note that the greater part of the population is missing from these books. But it is still worthwhile for him to examine to what extent lineages with different religious beliefs or with different professions or who lived in different regions of Germany displayed a differing generation behavior; whether, for instance, Catholic lineages as a rule

were more fertile than Calvinist; whether family planning is demonstrable earlier among rich merchant families in the town than among affluent peasant lineages in Bavaria or Hesse.

Besides this large collection of the Deutsches Geschlechterbuch, there are numerous other published genealogies in Germany, for example, genealogies of the nobility or of individual famous families. I don't want to list them all here. Whoever is interested can easily find the bibliographical references in any genealogical handbook, for instance, the Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung founded by Friedrich Wecken, which was republished in 1975 in an eighth and completely revised edition by Wolfgang Ribbe and Eckart Henning. There is also the somewhat older (1972) Handbuch der Genealogie, also edited by Eckart Henning and Wolfgang Ribbe.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to another kind of source, which is normally not mentioned in our context. Here too, as far as I can see, we are dealing with a typically German source. In any case, I have never heard that it existed anywhere else in such quantity. And since this kind of source has been systematically collected and processed in the past few years—in accordance with our modern times, naturally with the help of computers—I think it is justified and worthwhile to examine it more closely here. I am talking about funeral sermons.

Funeral sermons are also a selective source, even more selective than the Geschlechterbücher. We have funeral sermons neither for an entire population—that is, for all people who ever lived in a particular parish—nor for all members of this or that lineage. But they are available in such great numbers—at least in Germany—that historical-demographic and family historical studies can be based on them. And funeral sermons also have the advantage that they already existed at times for which the parish registers, and thus naturally also the Ortssippenbücher, the

lineage tables, and the Geschlechter-bücher, generally provide no data, namely the sixteenth century.

To what extent can these funeral sermons be of interest to us? This type of source originated shortly after the introduction of the Reformation into Germany, that is, during the first half of the sixteenth century. The Reformation had abolished many liturgical ceremonies, and among them was the often pompous Catholic funeral mass. But it soon became clear that something had to take its place to console the mourning relatives and dependents. The custom then arose of holding a memorial for the deceased at the open grave or in the church or at his home or at some other appropriate place, in which he was eulogized. These speeches or sermons could be biblical or secular in content. Sometimes a poem was written by the deceased himself shortly before his death. It is understandable that unpleasant events in the life of the deceased are often left out—for instance, illegitimate births. However, it is clear that not too much fantasizing could go into the biography, since the deceased's contemporaries at the funeral generally knew him quite well. They would thus have seen through obvious fabrications and declared them to be lies.

The funeral sermons, which I have just described, exist almost exclusively for members of Protestant confessions: for Lutherans, for Calvinists, and for Zwinglians—but not of course for all of them. Those funeral sermons, which we are using today as sources for historical studies, were not merely held as memorial speeches; they were subsequently printed. Since they often consist of several dozen pages (sometimes even two or three hundred pages), the cost of publication was correspondingly high. Only well-to-do families could afford to print such eulogies about deceased members of the family, especially of course about prominent members, and subsequently to distribute them as "paper monuments" to friends and acquaintances.

These sources are thus selective, not only as to religious confession, but also as to socioeconomic position. Such sermons were generally printed by rich families—for example, the families of wealthy merchants and higher officials such as mayors—and above all, in prosperous cities. The professions listed generally show immediately that we are dealing with influential personages: university professors, physicians, ministers, ranking military officers, and civilian officials. We can also understand why men who reached high positions in life are over represented in this kind of source. They make up two-thirds of the entire material, with women and children sharing the remainder.

As for the temporal distribution, most of the sermons came from the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, particularly between about 1550 and 1750.

For the past several years, a research group at the University of Marburg in West Germany, directed by Rudolf Lenz, has been systematically evaluating this kind of source. Since these sources were not very well known before, the first step was to take an inventory. To this purpose, they searched the catalogs of university, state, city, and community libraries and archives, and they found that there are printed funeral sermons for more than one hundred thousand persons in Germany. It is naturally impossible for the relatively small research group in Marburg to evaluate all these documents in the same detail. The scientific analyses are therefore being carried out according to a sampling procedure; that is, the researchers select every sixteenth funeral sermon for analysis. Statisticians assure us that this procedure will give us a representative sample of the entire stock.

In order to achieve a well-founded interpretation of these selected sources, the team in Marburg has been working in interdisciplinary and international cooperation with numerous other research groups, as well as with individual scholars—for instance, with theologians

to analyze the biblical sermon texts, or with historians of literature to judge the varying literary quality. Two large international interdisciplinary symposia have already been held in Marburg—in 1974 and 1977. For those who are interested, the papers and discussions at each of these conferences have been published.¹⁰

Our research group in Berlin has also been involved in this international and interdisciplinary teamwork—as specialist for historical demography and family history. The cooperation proceeds in the following manner: Using a complicated coding scheme, the main group in Marburg transfers the funeral sermons which it has selected onto magnetic tape. All external coworkers then receive a printout of this tape and choose the code-numbers of the information that is relevant for them. Our group in Berlin has been especially interested in the data which are significant for historical demography and family history.

One would think that the members of such an urban middle or upper stratum would display demographic characteristics and behavior patterns that are in many respects different from those of peasant groups in the country. Even the first sample studies which our group in Berlin carried out using this material, made it clear that there are great differences, for example in the age of women at the time of their first marriage. In the country, this age was rather high. There, most women married in their later twenties. Before that, they worked as maidservants on farms and earned the dowry and trousseau for their own marriage and future household. For the daughters of wealthier families in the towns, such a long wage-earning phase was not necessary. They could therefore marry much earlier—in their early twenties or even earlier. Thus, they spent a much greater part of their fertile years in a conjugal association and consequently had a longer reproductive phase than did women in the country. Did they therefore—as one would think—have more children? Here we have the

same questions that we touched on earlier, namely the questions about the historical beginning of birth control and family planning. And in studies based on funeral sermons, we have before us precisely those strata of the population that we looked for earlier. Did we not consider that family planning was probably first practiced among the affluent urban middle and upper classes? The members of these classes were probably particularly motivated to limit the number of births and thus, by dividing up the family inheritance among as few children as possible, to consolidate and maintain the family's economic power in the following generations.

Our own investigations on these problems are not yet completed. But the consideration which I have mentioned should show how greatly historian-demographers and family historians are interested in this type of source.

Let's take a close look at one of the printouts of a funeral sermon, which we have received from Marburg. These printouts are generally several pages long and have dozens of code numbers. As an illustration, I have selected a few code-numbers which are particularly relevant in our context (see fig. 6).

This is the printout for the funeral sermon of Friedrich Wilhelm Gans. The family name and both given names can be found in the title as well as under code number 30. Friedrich Wilhelm Gans lived from 6 January 1585 (code number 100) to the early afternoon—between one and two o'clock—of 11 February 1648 (code numbers 160 and 150). He thus lived to be sixty-three years and five weeks old (code number 1580). He was born in Weimar (120) and probably died in Wolfenbüttel (190). His last and highest position was that of a lieutenant colonel and counselor to the prince of Braunschweig-Lüneburg (90) stationed in Braunschweig (250). He had received his scientific and military training mainly in Flanders, where he had also—as was required at the time—learned conversational and diplomatic French (1280, 1310, 1340).

So much for the personal characterization of Friedrich Wilhelm Gans. We now come to the demographic data. If we wanted to make a historical-demographic study of the fertility of married women in the urban middle and upper strata, we would select only those printouts which have under code number 40 an f for "female" and under 45 verheiratet for "married." But Friedrich Wilhelm Gans—as his first name makes clear—was a male (40) and was at the time of his death a widower (45). He had been married only once; his wife's name was Hedwig von Rehden (1150). She was of genteel origin, her father being a marshal to the court of the prince of Braunschweig (1160). The wedding was held in a manner befitting their ranks—namely, in the chateau of the prince in Wolfenbüttel (1360). The groom was already thirty-five at the time. Such a relatively high age at marriage was, however, not at all unusual for men in the high social circles, since most of them completed a so-called Kavalierstour before their marriage, that is, they spent a number of years educating themselves at foreign universities and courts. Friedrich Wilhelm Gans had spent these years in Flanders. The marriage lasted nineteen years; Hedwig von Rehden died on 10 June 1639 (1150). Her husband was fifty-four years old at the time and did not remarry but remained a widower for his last decade. We also know that he was by no means alone. Friedrich Wilhelm Gans and Hedwig von Rehden had nine children together, four sons and five daughters (1215). Two of the daughters died before their father (1220), but the other children all survived him: Joachim Friedrich, Wilhelm Siegmund, Philipp Ernst, Ulrich Eckard, Elisabeth-Sophie, Hedwig-Marie, and Dorothea (1220).

These selected historical-demographic basic data are normally sufficient to carry out a number of standard evaluations on the demographic behavior of the population group in question: average age at marriage, average length of marriage, average number of children, proportion of sons to daughters in the families, infant mortality, average life

span, average length of widowhood, percentage of remarriage, and so on.

In the illustration, figure 6, we could see how fruitful a cooperation with the Marburg research team can be for us as historian-demographers and family historians. Of course, we accepted the invitation from Marburg even more gladly and gratefully, since the basic material was presented to us on a silver platter in the form of finished and well-structured printouts.

However, as you have seen yourselves, figure 6 has a second part (on the right-hand side). I have reproduced there a few additional code numbers. I would like to conclude with an example that makes it clear that modern historical demography and family history do no at all merely analyze and interpret data as an end in itself—that is, concern themselves only with ages at marriage, fertility rates, and average life expectancies—while forgetting that there are real people behind the data. Just the opposite! For me and for my students, all these vital statistics constitute merely a scaffolding with which we try better to understand and to focus on the real human being, his actions and behavior.

Of course, it is interesting to us to know, for example, that Friedrich Wilhelm Gans lived to be sixty-three years old and that he was a widower with seven surviving children at his death. But we immediately ask the next question: What was the attitude of such a person in the middle of the seventeenth century towards life, death, and old age? Did he wait piously for his end to come? Or did he try to struggle against death? How did he react to the illnesses of his old age? Did he regard them as sent by God, so that therapy would above all consist in prayer and penitence? Or did he already regard them rationally, for instance, as biologically determined reductions in the performance of particular organs? If this were the case, he would more likely call a doctor and procure medicines.

In the past years, especially in France, a new historical subdiscipline has developed, which has such questions as the focus of its investigations. This direction of research—which I mentioned briefly a bit earlier—is called the history of mentalite or history of mentality. It investigates the attitudes of people to sickness, life, death, and the various phases of life from childhood to growing old. As historical discipline, it investigates above all the changes in these attitudes in the course of centuries. To mention only one of the more prominent examples of recent years, I can recommend a short but fundamental book by Philippe Aries, Western Attitudes towards Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974).

In the context, the code numbers 1490, 1500, 1530, and 1550 are of great interest to us. The remarks there are quite different in length. Numbers 1500 and 1530 consist of only a few words; 1490 and 1550, on the other hand, are each several lines long. Even this mere difference in quantity can give us a first preliminary answer to our last question. The numbers 1500 and 1530 are the code numbers for rational therapy, giving data on care by a physician and on the use of medicaments. Friedrich Wilhelm Gans had in fact resorted to both; he had called more than one doctor and took medicines. But apparently neither of them were very important to him. The entries are very terse and without details. It appears that he expected decisive help neither from physicians nor from medicines. However, it seems at the time already to have been customary in these classes of the population to call a doctor and take medicine in case of illness. One could afford it. But the remarks under the code numbers 1490 and 1550 are more important. They refer to the illness itself (1490) and to the course of death (1550).

Interestingly, in spite of the relative lengthiness of code number 1490, we receive very little concrete information about the sickness itself. It merely

speaks rather generally about "weakness," or "great pains." Doesn't the biological and medical impreciseness indicate—to us—that the scientific and rational aspects of illness were not very important to Friedrich Wilhelm Gans? Rather, the "great pains" and "weakness" led him to occupy himself "continually with the thought of death" and "mentally to prepare for death." "In the past year he went twice to confession and received communion." "He did not let himself be deceived by various improvements in his condition." He submitted the development of his illness to "God's will"; that is, he did not rely on the will or ability or success of physician or medicine. Finally he persevered in "continual prayer" and awaited "with longing" his last hour. He had thus visibly come to terms with his life and died very peacefully. "On the day of his death he bade his children and all those present farewell, gave thanks 'for all faithful care' and passed away 'in full possession of his understanding and without any fear of death'" (1550).

I don't need to make any long commentaries here. I'm sure none of you will find it difficult to agree that attitudes towards death have changed fundamentally since 1648, the year Friedrich Wilhelm Gans died. How many of us today prepare ourselves for death intensively and composedly for a full year or let sickness be sickness and concentrate on dying? Who among us for that matter even has the opportunity to preside over his death in such a sovereign manner, to bid farewell to "his children and all those present" in peace and composure or even to die in his own bed at home surrounded by the family? Approximately three-fourths of us will spend our last hours in a hospital somewhere, in a strange bed and in strange and sterile surroundings. There, it is no longer the dying who presides over events; there, the physician in charge makes the decisions with the greatest rationality and scientific competence.

Problems such as these, which are just as topical as they are essential for each of

us, are much more often the subjects discussed at the end of my lectures and seminars on historical demography and family history in Berlin than are the purely demographic aspects, with which each hour begins. It seems to me very important to build this bridge to current problems again and again; that is, not to pursue historical demography and family history in a vacuum or as an end in itself, but rather to demonstrate the fundamental changes that have occurred in the course of the past centuries and which affect all of us alike—mothers, fathers, aunts, and uncles, from earlier generations as well as in our own time.

Allow me now to summarize my remarks. I had set myself the task of discussing three topics: (1) to explain the special source situation in Germany for modern studies in historical demography and family history; (2) to deal with methodological questions of how best to treat these sources, in particular how the computer can be of help to us; and (3) to touch on some of the current substantial problems of the two subdisciplines, historical demography and family history.

In the course of these records we have ascertained the following:

1. With regard to sources, the situation in Germany is excellent. There is already a great deal of completely prepared material on which to base further scientific analyses. These are the Ortssippenbücher, the lineage tables, the Geschlechterbücher, and the funeral sermons. The Ortssippenbücher and the lineage tables cover the entire populations of particular communities or microregions, whereas the Geschlechterbücher and funeral sermons are selective. The latter deal only with particular lineages or mainly with prominent members of the

Protestant urban middle and upper classes.

2. In processing this source material, the computer proves to be a great help. We have especially had success in using the computer to reorganize completely the data material from lineage tables. In accordance with the demands of modern historical demography and family history, it provided us with printouts of reconstituted nuclear families. Each of these families is displayed in a graph and documented with a Family Event Table containing all exact dates and the first important calculations. These family printouts have proved to stimulate many questions. At the same time, they serve as data-bank material for all kinds of statistical analyses. The printouts of funeral sermons are likewise well suited for further processing according to historical-demographic and family-historical criteria. Such further work on the funeral sermons can be taken up all the more easily, since all printouts are structured according to the same system of code numbers.
3. In the interpretation of substantial questions we have noticed again and again that modern historical demography and family history cannot be pursued without interdisciplinary cooperation. Cooperation is needed in particular among genealogists, historians of all specialties (social historians, legal historians, historians of religion and of mentalite, doctors, biologists, ethnologists, and sociologists. Such teamwork can not only be very fruitful, especially as far as historical aspects are concerned, but above all—and this seems to me very important—such teamwork can be fruitful with regard to the present and to a better, deeper understanding of our problems today.

Fig. 1. Page from an Ortssippenbuch.

Albert Köbele und Hans Scheer, Ortssippenbuch Ichenheim, Gemeinde Neuried, Ortenaukreis in Baden. (Zugleich Deutsche Ortssippenbücher, hrsg.v.d. Zentralstelle für Personen- und Familiengeschichte, Reihe A - Band 78; zugleich Band 41 der Badischen Ortssippenbücher, hrsg.v. Albert Köbele, Grafenhausen bei Lahr / Baden), Frankfurt am Main 1978 und Selbstverlag des Herausgebers, Grafenhausen bei Lahr 1978.

- 3012 ∞ im April 1762 in Kehl: Georg Schäffer <aus 2987>, Bauer, * um 1727, † 30.1.1787, u. Brigitta Rieß, aus Kehl. Ev.
1 Kd: Nicolaus 14.8.1765.
- 3013 ∞ 23.1.1764: Johannes Schäffer <aus 2995; ∞II s. 3032>, Bauer, * 16.5.1740, † 26.7.1816, u. Maria Ursula Schäffer <aus 2990>, * 3.1.1745, † 9.1.1795. Ev.
4 Kdr: Johannes <3029.3034.3046>. - Maria Ursula <2727>. - Anna Maria <1444>. - Johann Georg 15.10.1773, † 18.7.1774.
- 3014 ∞ 9.7.1764: Johann Jacob Schäffer <aus 2988>, Bauer, * um 1743, † 4.7.1814, u. Barbara Bieckert <aus 162>, * 6.8.1747, † 13.4.1803. Ev.
5 Kdr: Maria Ursula 13.2.1766, † Dundenheim 19.5.1810, <∞I Dundenheim 30.4.1787 mit Nicolaus Schäfer, Bauer, s. OSB Dundenheim 1529; ∞II Dundenheim 22.4.1805 mit Nicolaus Schäfer, Bauer, s. OSB Dundenheim 1533>. - Johann Jacob <3037>. - Catharina 7.10.1770, † 9.10.1853. - Magdalena 9.10.1773. - Barbara <3268>.
- 3015 ...: Johann Georg Nußbaum <∞I, II s. 2438.2440>. u. Ursula Schäffer <aus 2989; ∞ s. 173>. * 3.1.1740, † 6.9.1809, ev.
1 Kd: Maria Catharina 11.7.1765.
- 3016 ∞ 3.11.1766: Wendelin Schäffer <aus 2989>, Bauer, vieljähriger Gerichtsmann, * um 1746, † 4.2.1819, u. Catharina Bieckert <aus 168>, * um 1745, † 3.1.1832. Ev.
3 Kdr: Wendelin <3031>. - Johann Jacob 24.7.1771, † 16.1.1772. - Johann Georg 12.11.1772, † 18.5.1775.
- 3017 ∞ 12.1.1767: Nicolaus Schäffer <aus 2992>, Tagelöhner, * 27.1.1737, † 16.9.1822, u. Maria Magdalena Wurth <aus Dundenheim, T. d. † Michael W., Bürger in Dundenheim, u.d. Catharina geb. Walter>, * um 1744, † 13.1.1794. Ev.
10 Kdr: Catharina 22.1.1768, † 20.7.1768. - Maria Ursula 3.9.1769, † Dundenheim 29.12.1847, <∞ Dundenheim 8.6.1789 mit Jacob Krämer, Öler, s. OSB Dundenheim 761>. - Jacob 21.11.1770, † 25.12.1770. - Maria Magdalena 14.3.1772, † 19.8.1773. - Anna Maria 29.6.1773, † 7.8.1774. - Nicolaus <3035>. - Jacob <3040>. - Johann Michael 14.2.1779, † 16.8.1779. - Michael <3043, 3052>. - Daniel <3042>.
- 3018 ∞ 16.11.1767: Johann Adam Schäffer <aus 2993; ∞II s. 3019>, Bauer, * um 1744, † 14.3.1816, u. Maria Eva Dolch <aus 531>, * im April 1746, † 30.12.1767. Ev.
- 3019 ∞ 4.7.1768: Johann Adam Schäffer <∞I s. 3018>, Bauer, * um 1744, † 14.3.1816, u. Catharina Wagner <T.d. Johannes W., Bürger in Dundenheim, u.d. Magdalena geb. Wurth, s. OSB Dundenheim 1862 (dort zu ergänzen)>, * Dundenheim im September 1745, † Ichenheim 30.3.1810. Ev.
6 Kdr: Johannes <3033>. - Johann Georg 11.4.1772, † 22.7.1772. - Johann Adam 17.11.1773, † Dundenheim 2.12.1845, Bauer in Dundenheim, ∞ Dundenheim 12.9.1794 mit Anna Maria Biegert, s.OSB Dundenheim 1530>. - David 24.3.1776, † Dundenheim 14.7.1840.

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Explanation of signs:

* = geboren	(born)	kath. = katholisch	(catholic)
✕ = getauft	(christend)	ev. = evangelisch	(evangelic)
∞ = getraut	(married)	S.d. = Sohn des	(son of)
...: = unehelich	(illegitimate)	T.d. = Tochter des	(daughter of)
† = gestorben	(died)	geb. = geborene	(née)
†) = beerdigt	(buried)	(Zw) = Zwillinge	(twins)
o/o = geschieden	(divorced)		

Fig. 2. Example of A Stamntafel.

BAPTISM SLIP

No. 3577	Name	Corell	Year	1685
	Parish	Hans Heinrich	Date	03 II
	Husband, resp. Wife			
	*			
Father				
Riebling, Johannes, soldier				
Mother				
Corell, Maria Elisabeth				
Cause of Death			Age	
illegitimate				

120 mm

90 mm

MARRIAGE SLIP

No. 3577	Name	Corell	Year	1718
	Parish	Hans Heinrich	Date	06 IX
	Husband, resp. Wife			
	○			
Father				
Corell, Maria Elisabeth				
Mother				
Corell, Maria Elisabeth				
Cause of Death			Age	

BURIAL SLIP

No. 3577	Name	Corell	Year	1757
	Parish	Hans Heinrich	Date	19 II
	Husband, resp. Wife			
	†			
Father				
Corell, Maria Elisabeth				
Mother				
Corell, Maria Elisabeth				
Cause of Death			Age	
pneumonia			72 years, 16 days	

STAMMTAFEL

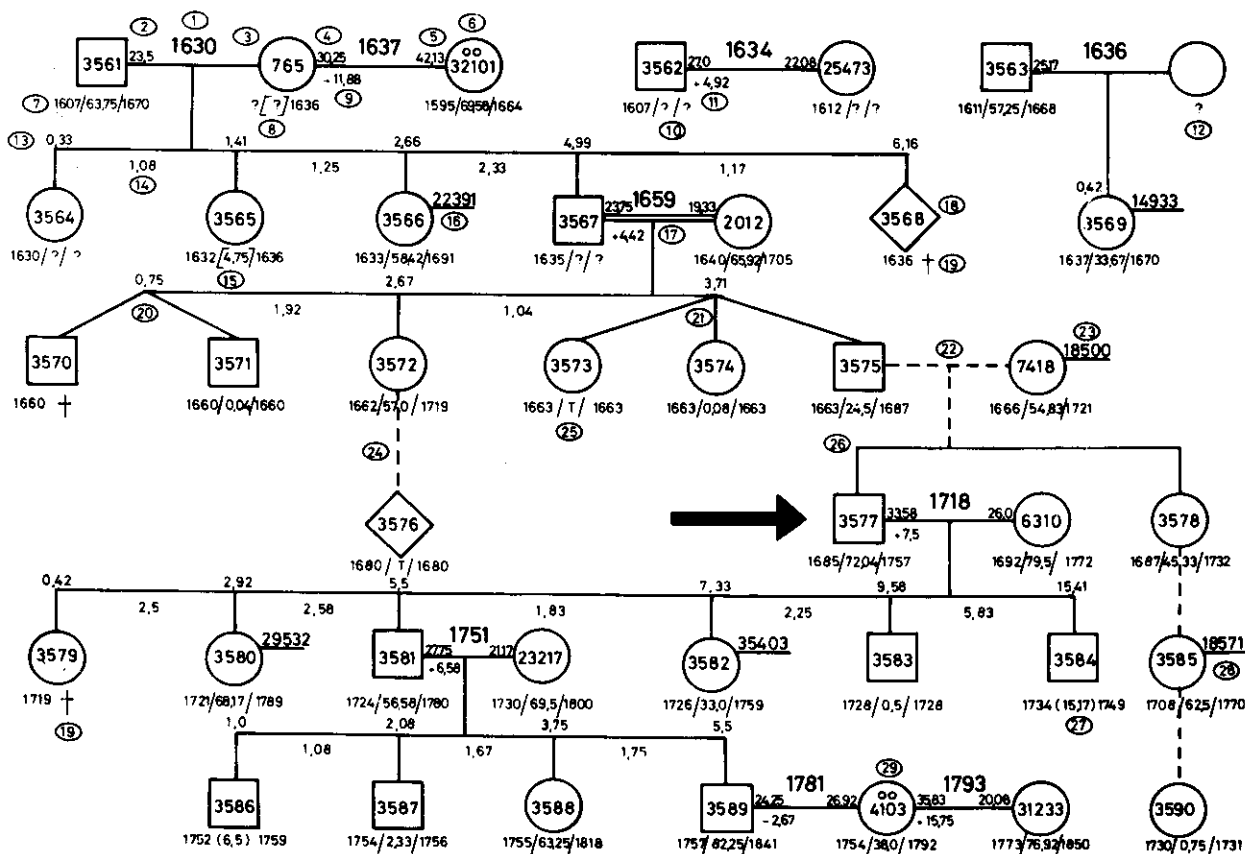


Fig. 3. Family reconstitution by computer (on the basis of a Stammtafel).

FAMILY	HUSBAND		WIFE		DATE OF MARRIAGE	PARISH	CHILDREN BORN	SURVIVING CHILDREN
CODE- NUMBER	CODE- NUMBER	LINEAGE CODE- NUMBER	CODE- NUMBER	LINEAGE CODE- NUMBER				
03495	17234	0197	36893	0582	1680-03-26	WA	7	3

YEAR	1650	1660	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1750	1760	1770
	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII	IIIIIIII
HUSB	M-----			R-----									
WIFE	F-----			R-----				-D					
CH 1				X									
CH 2				FD									
CH 3				M-----			R-----						-D
CH 4				M-----			-R-----						
CH 5				F-----			R-----						
CH 6				F-----			D						
CH 7				MD									

FAMILY EVENT TABLE													
	CODE- NUMBER	BIRTH-DATE	PARISH	AGE		DEATH-DATE	PARISH	AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH	OCCUPATION			
HUSB	17234	1653-10-24	RA	26		1709-11-08	RA	56Y		PEASANT			
WIFE	36893	1656-01-11	WA	24		1721-04-13	WA	65Y					
				MOTHERS AGE	INTERVAL						DATE OF MARRIAGE	PARISH	LINEAGE CODE- NUMBER
													FAMILY CODE- NUMBER
													BIRTHS
CH 1	17235	1680-04-22	WA	24	0 MON	1680-04-29	WA	7D					
CH 2	17236	1681-03-27	WA	25	11 MON	1682-08-15	RA	1Y	TEETH				
CH 3	17237	1683-05-02	RA	27	25 MON	1751-11-28	RA	68Y		PEASANT	1710-01-14	RA	0781 03511 6
CH 4	17238	1685-11-29	RA	29	30 MON	1742-03-14	RA	56Y		TEAMSTER	1714-11-06	RA	0056 03512 0
CH 5	17239	1688-04-18	RA	32	28 MON	1719-07-12	WA	31Y	CHILDBED		1709-10-15	WA	0582 07493 3
CH 6	17240	1691-10-25	RA	35	42 MON	1696-11-05	RA	5Y	SMALLPOX				
CH 7	17241	1695-11-29	RA	39	49 MON	1696-11-03	RA	11M	SMALLPOX				

LEGEND	M MALE	WA WASENBERG
	F FEMALE	RA RANSBACH
	R MARRIAGE	
	D DEATH	CH CHILD
	X BIRTH AND DEATH IN THE SAME YEAR	

Fig. 4. A family's tragedy, as shown by the family reconstitution by computer.

FAMILIEN NUMMER	PERS.-NR. MANN	AUS GESCHLECHT NUMMER	PERS.-NR. FRAU	AUS GESCHLECHT NUMMER	HEIRATSdatum	HEIRATSORT	ANZAHL GEBORENE KINDER	ANZAHL UEBERLEBENDE KINDER
00033	00 180	0006	70 010	UNBEKANNT	1700-07-06	ZELLA	9	0

Jahr	1660	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740
	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII	IIIIIIIIII
MANN		M-----	-----	-----	H-----	-----	-----T		
FRAU		F-----	-----	-----	H-----	-----	-----	-----	--T

KIND 1					X				
KIND 2					FT				
KIND 3					X	X			
KIND 4						X			
KIND 5						X			
KIND 6						X			
KIND 7							X		
KIND 8							X		
KIND 9							X		

PERSONAL-NUMMER	GEBURTSdatum	GEBURTSORT	ALTER	TODESdatum	STERBEORT	ALTER	TODESURSACHE	BERUF
MANN 00 180	1673-10-07	ZELLA	26	1729-02-27	ZELLA	55		BAUER
FRAU 70 010	1669-07-06	UNBEKANNT	31	1742-01-19	ZELLA	72		

				ALTER DER MUTTER	GEBURTEN- ABSTAND	HEIRATSdatum	HEIRATSORT	IN GESCHL.	FAM. NR.
KIND 1	00 198	1701-07-11	ZELLA	32	12 MON	1701-09-18	ZELLA	2M	
KIND 2	00 199	1702-10-28	ZELLA	33	15 MON	1703-05-30	ZELLA	7M	
KIND 3	00 200	1704-03-25	ZELLA	34	16 MON	1704-06-10	ZELLA	2M	
KIND 4	00 201	1706-08-21	ZELLA	37	28 MON	1706-11-22	ZELLA	3M	
KIND 5	00 202	1708-02-12	ZELLA	38	17 MON	1708-05-11	ZELLA	2M	
KIND 6	00 203	1709-04-13	ZELLA	39	14 MON	1709-05-03	ZELLA	20T	
KIND 7	00 204	1710-10-06	ZELLA	41	17 MON	1710-10-26	ZELLA	20T	
KIND 8	00 205	1713-03-09	ZELLA	43	29 MON	1713-06-09	ZELLA	3M	
KIND 9	00 206	1713-03-09	ZELLA	43	0 MON	1713-06-18	ZELLA	3M	

LEGENDE M MAENNLICHE GEBURT W WEIBLICHE GEBURT X GEBURT UND TOD IM GLEICHEN JAHR H HEIRAT T TOD

NOTES

¹John Knodel and Edward Shorter, "The Reliability of Family Reconstitution Data in German Village Genealogies (Ortssippenbücher)," Annales de démographie historique, 1976, pp. 152-53.

²Otto Konrad Roller, Die Einwohnerschaft der Stadt Durlach im 18. Jahrhundert in ihren wirtschaftlichen und kultur-geschichtlichen Verhältnissen dargestellt aus ihren Stammtafeln (Karlsruhe: Verlag der G. Braunschen Hofdruckerei, 1907), pp. ix-xxii.

³Arthur E. Imhof, "Généalogie et démographie historique en Allemagne," Annales de démographie historique, 1976, pp. 77-108.

⁴Karl Wülfrath, "Das Dorfsippenbuch," Heimat und Reich: Monatshefte für westfälisches Volkstum (1938), pp. 361-65.

⁵Walter Schaub, "Dorfsippenbücher-Ortssippenbücher," in Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung, begründet von Friedrich Wecken, 8. vollständig neu bearbeitete Auflage, ed. Wolfgang Ribbe and Eckart Henning (Neustadt an der Aisch: Verlag Degener, 1975), pp. 127-33.

⁶Walter Schaub, "Sozialgenealogie--Probleme und Methoden," Blätter für deutsche Landesgeschichte 110 (1974):8.

⁷Hans Hermann Russ, "Verkartung von Kirchenbüchern mit elektronischen Datenverarbeitungsanlagen," Der Archivar 23 (1970):213-26; M. Skolnick et al., Conference on Methods of Automatic Family Reconstitution, Florence, Italy, April 4-6, 1977, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population Papers, no. 12 (Liege: IUSSP, 1978).

⁸Schaub, "Sozialgenealogie," p. 24.

⁹Jean-Paul Sardon, "Mariage et révolution dans une petite ville de vigneron: Argenteuil (1780-1819)," Population 34 (1979):1162-67.

¹⁰Rudolf Lenz, ed., Leichenpredigten als Quelle Historischer Wissenschaften, Erstes Marburger Personalschriftensymposion--Forschungsschwerpunkt Leichenpredigten (Cologne and Vienna: Bohlau Verlag, 1975); Rudolf Lenz, ed., Leichenpredigten als Quelle Historischer Wissenschaften, vol. 2, Zweites Marburger Personalschriftensymposion--Forschungsgegenstand Leichenpredigten (Marburg an der Lahn: Schwarz-Verlag, 1979).

The following two questions have been asked regarding the German Lineage Books:

1. How reliable are the German Lineage Books?
2. Is it possible that certain individuals whose lines appear in the German Lineage Books have compiled inaccurate information to prove that they were not Jewish, because of the Jewish persecution by the Hitler regime?

To answer the first question, the sources which were used to compile the German Lineage Books should be considered. The information contained in these books comes from primary sources, parish registers and records of civil registration. In cases of gaps in the church records, as well as for information of early time periods prior to church records, available documents in different archives were used as sources. Among these sources may be such things as court records, probate records, land records, tax lists, burger rolls, guild records, feudal records and others.

Describing the value of the German Lineage Books, Dr. Ludwig Finckh made the following statement: "All nations of the earth envy us because of this work. In no other country of the world is there anything similar that can be compared with the German Lineage Books". (See volume 80 of "Deutsches Geschlechterbuch")

This statement, of course, is exaggerated. Nevertheless, it points out the fact that these books are excellent sources for those engaged in German genealogical research. The German Lineage books are among the best secondary genealogical research sources that exist.

In answering the second question regarding the possibility that certain individuals whose lines appear in the German Lineage Books may have compiled inaccurate information for fear of persecution by Hitler's government officials it should be noted that the first volume of the German Lineage Books was printed in 1889, forty-four years prior to the time when Hitler came into power in Germany. From 1889 till 1932, a period of 43 years, a total of 77 volumes of the German Lineage Books were published. During a ten year period of the Nazi regime, from 1933 till 1943 the number of volumes published were 42. For the next 12 years, from 1943 till 1955 no additional German Lineage Books were published. The work began again in 1955, and from 1955 till 1981 a total of 67 additional German Lineage Books were published. Of the 186 existing German Lineage Books only 42 volumes were published during the time of Hitler. Of the entire collection available in 1981, only 22.5% were published during the Nazi period.

In the National Genealogical Society Quarterly of June 1957 (Vol. 45, No. 2, page 63, Genealogical Department Library call number 973 B2ng) the following statement was made: "During the Nazi era every citizen was required to produce proof of his Aryan ancestry."

This statement is not true and misleading to the German researcher. Not every citizen, but only certain citizens, especially those holding or applying for civil or military government positions were required to prove their Aryan lineage. Individuals applying for German citizenship also needed proof that they were not of Jewish descent. The majority of the population, however, did not have to prove their lineage.

Others who were required to prove that they had no Jewish ancestry were officials of the national socialist party. In cases where it was known or suspected that an individual was married to a Jew, investigations and difficulties were made, and no permission was granted, if a person wanted to get married to a Jewish individual.

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Bad Schandau Leichenpredigt-Lebensläufe		1,045,463
Bautzen LDS Church	1923-1930	11148 Pt. 8
Bautzen (Löbau) Evg. Militärkirche		
Bapts., Confs., Burs.	1925-1944	492,540
Confs.	1919	
Bischofswerda LDS Branch	1931-1950	889,347 It. 8
Dresden LDS Church	1948	11148 Pt. 35
Dresden LDS Church Dresden and Distr.	1890-1927	11148 Pt. 13
Dresden LDS Church	1907-1921	068,776
Dresden LDS Church In: German Austrian	1923-1925	068,777 It. 1
Mission	1926	068,777 It. 2
	1927-1931	068,778 It. 1, 3, 5, 8, 10
	1932-1935	068,779 It. 1, 3, 5, 7
	1936-1937	068,780 It. 2, 3, 5
	1938	068,780 It. 7, 9
In: East German Mission records	1939-1949	068,781 It. 1, 4
	1950-1951	068,782 It. 13
Dresden British Chaplaincy parish register	1837-1848	883,705
printouts-births or christenings		576,997
Dresden All Saints English Church		
Bapts., Burs.	1843-1846	576,997
Dresden LDS In: Swiss German Mission	1907-1921	068,776
records	1923-1925	068,777 It. 1
In: Austrian Mission records	1926	068,777 It. 2
	1927-1931	068,778 It. 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10
	1932-1935	068,779 It. 1, 3, 5, 7
	1936-1937	068,780 It. 2, 3, 5
	1938	068,780 It. 7, 9
In: East German Mission records	1939-1949	068,781 It. 1, 4
	1950-1951	068,782 It. 1, 3
Dresden Jüdische Gemeinde Zivilstandsreg.		
Synagogenbuch birth	1786-1864	1,184,471
Synagogenbuch marriages	1835-1864	1,184,471
Synagogenbuch (Hebrew)	1790-1834	1,184,472
Births, marriages, deaths	1786-1835	1,184,473
Births, marriages, deaths	1786-1875	1,184,474
Births, marriages, deaths	1786-1890	1,184,474
Births	1891-1910	1,184,476
Marriages	1865-1910	1,184,476
Deaths	1865-1894	1,184,477
Deaths	1894-1910	1,184,478
Mitgliederlisten		1,184,479
Uebertritte und Austritte aus desm		
Judentum	ab 1899	1,184,480
cont.	ab 1899	1,184,481 It. 1

<u>Place</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Film Number</u>	
Görlitz LDS In: Austrian Mission records	1927-1931	068,777	It. 1, 3, 5 7, 8, 10
	1932-1935	068,779	It. 1, 3, 5, 7
	1927-1931	068,778	It. 1, 3, 5, 7 8, 10
	1932-1935	068,779	It. 1, 3, 5, 7
Görlitz vital records indexes		862,039	
Personestandsregister Schlesiens			
Kamenz civil records Bürgerbuch	1570-1744	1,045,463	It. 17
Leutenwitz parish registers			
Bapts., marrs., burs.	1653-1938	073,120	
Confirms.	1836-1939	073,120	
Löbau Evg. Militärgemeinde			
Bapts., confirms., burs.	1925-1944	492,540	
Confirms.	1919	492,540	
Meissen LDS Meissen, Dresden	1928-1930	11148	Pt. 25
Oberseifersdorf Evg. Kirchenbuch	1832-1847	887,119	
(Wignacice Zytawskie, Poland)			
Rammenau LDS records	1946-1947	889,347	It. 11

European Gazetteers

Record keeping in Europe was actually much better than in some areas of the world. If a patron has ancestors who emigrated from Europe, the patron should first look for a place of origin in records where the ancestors settled. (For more detailed information, see *Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestor*, 34111.) The patron then goes to a European gazetteer to try to identify the exact locality. (European records were kept on a local basis, so the patron must determine the exact parish or locality the ancestor came from.)

Two problems in doing Eastern European research include:

- Places are often misspelled in records where the immigrants settled. Ask your patron what record the spelling came from. Find the place in the gazetteer. If you cannot find the place, look for places that sound similar. Try one of the gazetteers in this article, or call the Family History Library International Reference Consultants for help (1-800-453-3860, extension 2-3433).

Language is a challenge, but you do not need to know the language in order to use the gazetteer.

Word lists may help with vocabulary. The Family History Library has produced many word lists and other helps. Order these helps from the distribution center (online at familysearch.org or call 1-800-537-5971).

The most significant genealogical sources for Eastern Europe are church records and civil registration. Many areas also kept civil transcripts of church records, so there are often two copies of the same record. Other useful records include census, land, and military records. Not all record types exist for all countries.

Often gazetteers will indicate where various records are kept. For example, the gazetteer may tell you the parish for your ancestor's birthplace and also which town kept the parish records.

Gazetteers vary in content. Before you look for a place in a gazetteer, make sure you understand what information is given and the order in which it is given. (Most gazetteers include a section describing information and organization.)

The following gazetteers may be helpful. Film numbers are listed for your convenience.

Gazetteer of Austria

Gemeindelexikon der in Reichsrath vertretenen Königreiche und Länder (Gazetteer of the Crownlands and Territories Represented in the Imperial Council). This gazetteer is based on the 1900 census. The volume for each province is arranged by district with an index to both German and local place names. If you do not find the town on the page listed in the index, check the footnotes. The parish or synagogue location is not listed in the main text but is given in an appendix, located between the main text and the index of each volume. The appendix is arranged alphabetically by district and subdistrict. The parish and synagogue are given in the last column labelled, Standort der röm.-kath., gr.-kath. und isr. Matrikelstellen.

Film Number	Volume	Place Name
1187925 item 2	1	Niederösterreich
1187925 item 3	2	Oberösterreich
1187925 item 4	3	Salzburg
1187926 item 1	4	Steiermark
1187926 item 2	5	Kärnten
1187926 item 3	6	Krain
1187926 item 4	7	Küstenland
1187926 item 5	8	Tirol und Vorarlberg
1187927 item 1	9	Böhmen
0924736 item 1	10	Mähren
1187927 item 2	11	Schlesien
1187928 item 1	12	Galizien
1187928 item 2	13	Bukowina
1187928 item 3	14	Dalmatien

Gazetteer of Austro-Hungarian Empire

Allgemeines geographisches statistisches Lexikon aller österreichischen Staaten [General Gazetteer of all Austro-Hungary]. Published from 1845 to 1853. Place names are listed alphabetically.

Film Number	Place Name
1186708	A-G
1186709	H-M
1186710	N-Serti
1186711	Serto-Z

Gazetteer of the German Empire

Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs [Meyer's gazetteer and directory of the German Empire]. Published in 1912.

Film Number	Place Name
496640	A-K
496641	L-Z

Also on microfiche 6000001-6000029.

Towns are listed alphabetically. This gazetteer is written in the old Gothic script. This gazetteer gives the 1871–1918 political jurisdictions and indicates whether the locality had its own parish or synagogue. The following abbreviations are used:

Evangelical parish: **EvPf.**
Catholic parish: **Kpf.**
Jewish synagogue: **En.**

Gazetteer of Prussia

Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preussen [Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia]. Published in 1907–1909.

Film Number	Volume	Place Name
1186701 item 3	1	<i>Ostpreussen</i>
1186701 item 4	2	<i>Westpreussen</i>
806635 item 1	3	<i>Brandenburg</i>
806634 item 4	4	<i>Pommern</i>
806635 item 3	5	<i>Posen</i>
806633 item 4	6	<i>Schlesien</i>

The end of each volume has an index of places in the province. In the index, there are two numbers given after each place. The first number refers to the “**reis**” (district) to which the locality belonged. Find these numbers at the top of the page. The second number refers to the town. Thus “**21 17**” refers to the 17th town listed in district 21. The parish is given in the columns marked as “**chipe.**” “**Evngelsh**” (Lutheran) in column 25 and “**kpfh**” (Catholic) in column 26. If the town in question is not listed in column two, refer to the footnotes in the gazetteer.

Gazetteer of Hungary

Magyarország Helységnévtára [Gazetteer of Hungary]. Published in 1877.

Film Number	Volume
599564	I
973041	II

Volume I is a 610-page index to Volume II. It lists all place names in alphabetical order. Entries in the index are followed by the name of the old Hungarian county and a set of numbers. These numbers refer to the gazetteer entry in Volume II. The first number is the sequential number of the county; the second is the consecutive number of the district; the last is the number of the locality.

Volume II is arranged by county and districts and provides more detail. Use the numbers from the index to find the entry for your town. Additional names for the town are listed in parentheses. Population figures are given according to religion. The following abbreviations are used:

ag. ágostai (Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran)
gk. Görög Katholikus (Greek Catholic)
izr. Izraelita (Jewish)
kg. Keleti Görög (Greek Orthodox)
ref. Reformatus (Reformed)
rk. Római Katholikus (Roman Catholic)
un. Unitarius (Unitarian)

If the village had its own parish church (or synagogue, for Jews), the abbreviation for the religion will be in bold capital letters. The diocese will follow, also in bold. If the people attended church elsewhere, the abbreviation of the religion will be in lower case. The name of the parish location follows the population figure. If a dash (—) follows the population figure, it means members of that religion belong to no particular parish.

MAJOR GAZETTEERS FOR EASTERN EUROPE

German Empire

Uetrecht, E., comp. Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs- Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs [Meyer's gazetteer and directory of the German Empire]. Leipzig: Bibliographisches Institut, 1912. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref. 943 E5mo; also on microfilm, Film 496640 - for places A-K, Film 496641 - for places L-Z; also on Fiche 6,000,001-6,000,029)).

Towns are listed alphabetically. This gazetteer is written in the old Gothic script. If the locality had its own parish or synagogue, it will be indicated in the Meyers gazetteer. The following abbreviations are used:

Evangelical parish: EvPfk.
Catholic parish: KPfk.
Jewish synagogue: Syn.

If the locality did not have its own parish, then the parish can be determined using the following gazetteer, which is based on the census of 1905:

Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preussen [Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia]. Berlin: Verlag des Königlichen statistischen Landesamts, 1907-1909. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943 E5kp; also on microfilm).

Vol 1 <u>Ostpreussen</u>	(Film 1186701 item 3) <i>Byh</i>
Vol 2 <u>Westpreussen</u>	(Film 1186701 item 4) "
Vol 3 <u>Brandenburg</u>	(Film 806635 item 1) "
Vol 4 <u>Pommern</u>	(Film 806634 item 4) "
Vol 5 <u>Posen</u>	(Film 806635 item 3) "
Vol 6 <u>Schlesien</u>	(Film 806633 item 4) "

Each volume has an index at the end listing in alphabetical order all localities in the province. In the index, there are two numbers given after each place-name. The first number refers to the "Kreis" (district) to which the locality belonged. These numbers can be found at the top of the page in the body of the book. The second number refers to the town. Thus "21 17" refers to the 17th town listed in district 21. The parish is given in the columns marked as "Kirchspiel"; "Evangelisch" (Lutheran) in column 25 and "Katolisch" (Catholic) in column 26. Note: If the town in question is not listed in column two, refer to the footnotes in the gazetteer.

Russian Empire

Sulimierski, Filip, ed. Słownik geograficzny królestwa polskiego i innych krajów słowiańskich [Geographical dictionary of the Kingdom of Poland and other Slavic countries]. 15 Vol. Warsaw: Sulimierski i Walewski, 1880-1902. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection 943.8 E5c; also on microfilm).

Film numbers are as follows:

<i>Byh</i> 920,957	vol. 1	Aa-Dereneczna	<i>Byh</i> 920,967	vol. 11	Sochaczew-Szlurbowska Wola
" 920,958	vol. 2	Derenek-Gżack	" 920,968	vol. 12	Szlurpkiszki-Warłyńka
" 920,959	vol. 3	Haag-Kepy	" 920,969	vol. 13	Warmbrunn-Worowo
" 920,960	vol. 4	Kęs-Kutno	" 920,970	vol. 14	Worowo-Żyżyn
" 920,961	vol. 5	Kutowa-Malczyce	" 920,971	vol. 15	Ababi-Januszowo
" 920,962	vol. 6	Malczyce-Netreba			(addendum)
" 920,963	vol. 7	Netreba-Perepiat	" 920,972	vol. 15	Januszpol-Sniatyn
" 920,964	vol. 8	Perepiatycha-Pożajście			(addendum)
" 920,965	vol. 9	Pożajście-Rukszenice			
" 920,966	vol. 10	Rukszenice-Sochaczew			

Arranged alphabetically with text in Polish.

Russisches Geographisches Namenbuch [Russian Geographic Name Book]. Wiesbaden: Otto Harrasowitz, 1964-1980. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 947 E5r, 10 volumes; not microfilmed).

Arranged alphabetically by the Russian alphabet. Most entries are in the Russian alphabet with some Polish and German entries. The non-Russian entries are still alphabetized by Russian alphabetical order. The descriptive information is in German.

Austro-Hungarian Empire

Allgemeines geographisches statistisches Lexikon aller österreichischen Staaten [General Gazetteer of all Austro-Hungary]. Vienna: Franz Raffelsperger, 1845-1853. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection 943.6 E5r; also on microfilm).

A-G -	1186708 <i>Byll</i>	N-Serti -	1186710 <i>Byll</i>
H-M -	1186709 <i>Byll</i>	Serto-Z -	1186711 "

Gazetteer of Austria

Gemeindelexikon der in Reichsrath vertretenen Königreiche und Länder [Gazetteer of the crownlands and territories represented in the imperial council]. Vienna: K.K. Statistisches Zentralkommission, 1903-1908. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref Q 943.6 E5g; also on microfilm).

1187925 item 2	Vol. 1	Niederösterreich <i>Byll</i>
1187925 item 3	Vol. 2	Oberösterreich
1187925 item 4	Vol. 3	Salzburg
1187926 item 1	Vol. 4	Steiermark
1187926 item 2	Vol. 5	Kärnten
1187926 item 3	Vol. 6	Krain
1187926 item 4	Vol. 7	Küstenland
1187926 item 5	Vol. 8	Tirol und Vorarlberg
1187927 item 1	Vol. 9	Böhmen
924736 item 1	Vol. 10	Mähren
1187927 item 2	Vol. 11	Schlesien
1187928 item 1	Vol. 12	Galizien <i>Byll</i>
1187928 item 2	Vol. 13	Bukowina "
1187928 item 3	Vol. 14	Dalmatien "

Based on the 1900 census. The volume for each province is arranged by district with an index to both German and local place names. If you do not find the town on the page listed in the index check the footnotes. The parish or synagogue location is not listed in the main text but is given in an appendix, located between the main text and the index of each volume. The appendix is arranged alphabetically by district and sub-district. The parish and synagogue are given in the last column: Standort der röm.-kath., gr.-kath. und isr. Matrikelstellen.

Gazetteer of Hungary

Magyarország Helységnevtára [Gazetteer of Hungary], János Dvorzák, comp. Budapest: "Havi Füzetek," 1877. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref. 943.9 E5d; also on microfilm, Vol. I on Film 599564 and Vol. II on Film 973041).

Volume I includes a 610 page index. It lists all place names in alphabetical order. Entries in the index are followed by the name of the old Hungarian county, and a set of numbers. These numbers refer to the gazetteer entry in Volume II. The first number is the sequential number of the county; the second is the consecutive number of the district; the last is the number of the locality.

Volume II has more details. Volume II is arranged by county and districts. Use the numbers from the index to find the entry for your town. Additional names the locality was known by are listed in parentheses. Population figures are given according to religion. The following abbreviations are used:

rk. - Római Katholikus - Roman Catholic	ref. - Reformatus - Reformed
gk. - Görög Katholikus - Greek Catholic	un. - Unitarius - Unitarian
kg. - Keleti Görög - Greek Orthodox	izr. - Izraelita - Jewish
ag. - Agostai - Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran	

If the village had its own parish church (or synagogue, for Jews), the abbreviation for the religion will be in boldface capital letters. The diocese will follow, also in boldface type. If the people attended church elsewhere, the abbreviation of the religion will be in lower case. The name of the parish location follows the population figure. If a dash (—) follows the population figure, it means members of that religion belong to no particular parish.

Modern Countries

Czechoslovakia

Administratives Gemeindelexikon der Čechoslovakischen Republik [Administrative Gazetteer of the Czechoslovak Republic]. Prague: Statistischen Staatsamte, 1927-1928. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943.7 E5a; also on microfilm, vol. I on Film 496719 and vol. II on Film 496720).

To use this gazetteer look up your place name in the main index in Volume II, pages 257-321. The index gives a volume and page number.

For areas of Hungary now in Czechoslovakia, use:

Majtán, Milan. Názvy obcí na Slovensku za ostatných dvesto rokov [Place names in Slovakia during the last 200 years]. Bratislava: Slovenská Akadémia Vied, 1972. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943.73 E2m; also on microfilm, Film 1181569 item 1).

Poland

Spis Miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej [Gazetteer of Polish People's Republic Localities]. Warsaw: Wydawnictwa komunikacji i łączności, 1968. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943.8 E5s; also on microfilm, Film 844922).

Localities are listed alphabetically down the page in the first column. Township, district, province (voivodship), post office, railway station and vital records office for the locality are listed in successive columns to the right.

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Volume II has more details. Volume II is arranged by county and districts. Use the numbers from the index to find the entry for your town. Additional names the locality was known by are listed in parentheses. Population figures are given according to religion. The following abbreviations are used:

rk. - Római Katholikus - Roman Catholic	ref. - Reformatus - Reformed
gk. - Görög Katholikus - Greek Catholic	un. - Unitarius - Unitarian
kg. - Keleti Görög - Greek Orthodox	izr. - Izraelita - Jewish
ag. - Ágostai - Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran	

If the village had its own parish church (or synagogue, for Jews), the abbreviation for the religion will be in boldface capital letters. The diocese will follow, also in boldface type. If the people attended church elsewhere, the abbreviation of the religion will be in lower case. The name of the parish location follows the population figure. If a dash (—) follows the population figure, it means members of that religion belong to no particular parish.

Modern Countries

Czechoslovakia

Administratives Gemeindelexikon der Čechoslovakischen Republik [Administrative Gazetteer of the Czechoslovak Republic]. Prague: Statistischen Staatsamte, 1927-1928. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943.7 E5a; also on microfilm, vol. I on Film 496719 and vol. II on Film 496720).

To use this gazetteer look up your place name in the main index in Volume II, pages 257-321. The index gives a volume and page number.

For areas of Hungary now in Czechoslovakia, use:

Majtán, Milan. Názvy obcí na Slovensku za ostatných dvesto rokov [Place names in Slovakia during the last 200 years]. Bratislava: Slovenská Akadémia Vied, 1972. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943.73 E2m; also on microfilm, Film 1181569 item 1).

Poland

Spis Miejscowości Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej [Gazetteer of Polish People's Republic Localities]. Warsaw: Wydawnictwa komunikacji i łączności, 1968. (Genealogical Library call number: European Collection Ref 943.8 E5s; also on microfilm, Film 844922).

Localities are listed alphabetically down the page in the first column. Township, district, province (voivodship), post office, railway station and vital records office for the locality are listed in successive columns to the right.

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Gazetteers for Austria

I. Gemeindelexikon der in Reichsräte vertretenen Königreiche und Länder /Gazetteer of the Crownlands and territories represented in the Imperial Council/ (Ref Q 943.6 E5g)

- Vol. I Gemeindelexikon von Niederösterreich /Lower Austria: now in Austria/
(Film no. 1187925 item 2)
- Vol. II Gemeindelexikon von Oberösterreich /Upper Austria: now in Austria/
(Film no. 1187925 item 3)
- Vol. III Gemeindelexikon von Salzburg /Salzburg: now in Austria/
(Film no. 1187925 item 4)
- Vol. IV Gemeindelexikon von Steiermark /Styria; now in Austria and
(Film no. 1187926 item 1) Yugoslavia/
- Vol. V Gemeindelexikon von Kärnten /Carinthia: now in Austria, Italy
(Film no. 1187926 item 2) and Yugoslavia/
- Vol. VI Gemeindelexikon von Krain /Carniola: now in Yugoslavia/
(Film no. 1187926 item 3)
- Vol. VII Gemeindelexikon von Küstenland /Istria, Görz and Trieste: now
(Film no. 1187926 item 4) in Italy and Yugoslavia/
- Vol. VIII Gemeindelexikon von Tirol und /Tyrolia: now in Austria and Italy/
Vorarlberg /Vorarlberg: now in Austria/
(Film no. 1187926 item 5)
- Vol. IX Gemeindelexikon von Böhmen /Bohemia: now in Czechoslovakia/
(Film no. 1187927 item 1)
- Vol. X Gemeindelexikon von Mähren /Moravia: now in Czechoslovakia/
(Film no. 924736 item 1)
- Vol. XI Gemeindelexikon von Schlesien /Silesia: now in Czechoslovakia
(Film no. 1187927 item 2) and Poland/
- Vol. XII Gemeindelexikon von Galizien /Galicia: now in Poland and Ukraine/
(Film no. 1187928 item 1)
- Vol. XIII Gemeindelexikon von Bukowina /Bukovina: now in Ukraine and
(Film no. 1187928 item 2) Romania/
- Vol. XIV Gemeindelexikon von Dalmatien /Dalmatia: now in Yugoslavia/
(Film no. 1187928 item 3)

This series of gazetteers is based on the Austrian census of 1900. The gazetteer for each province is organized by political district with an index to both German and Czech place-names according to standard alphabetical order. Vol. X, for Moravia, is a bilingual gazetteer with separate sections, each with its own index; the first section is in German, the second in Czech.

To use this gazetteer you must know in which province your locality was located. Use the index to find the locality you want. When you turn to the page indicated in the index, be aware that all localities are not listed in the second column. Some may be so small as to appear only in the footnotes as hamlets subordinate to larger villages or towns.

The gazetteer is arranged with information continuing across two pages. The left hand includes population and religion figures; the right hand page gives land and agricultural figures for tax purposes. Important headings are translated for the sample shown on back of this page.

The parish is not noted in the main text but is given in an appendix, located between the main gazetteer and index of each volume. The appendix has political districts in alphabetical order, each divided into court districts as in the main gazetteer. The parish is given in the last column. (See example).

Poděbrad: Nimburg, Poděbrad.

Reichshauptmannschaftsbezirk Gemeindelexikon (Gemeindelexikon)	Standorte der Schulen zu welchen die schulpflichtigen Ortsgemeinden gehören	Standorte der röm.-kath. Pfarrkirchen, zu welchen die schulpflichtigen Ortsgemeinden gehören	Standorte der röm.-kath. Pfarrkirchen, zu welchen die schulpflichtigen Ortsgemeinden gehören
II. OB. NIMBURG	School	Sanitation district	Parish
Poděbrad Nimburg Poděbrad Čáslav Poděbrad	Poděbrad Nimburg (im. Poděbrad) Nimburg Nimburg Nimburg Nimburg Nimburg	Nimburg (S-B) Nimburg Nimburg (B-B) Nimburg (B-B) Nimburg (B-B)	Čáslav Nimburg Nimburg Nimburg Nimburg



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How to Use the Meyers Gazetteer

Guide

Getting Started

This gazetteer will help you identify and verify German localities, based on the 1871 German Empire, as they are listed in the gazetteer Meyers Orts- und Verkehrslexikon des deutschen Reichs.

For more information on the Meyers gazetteer, see also Background.

What You Are Looking For

In the Meyers gazetteer, abbreviations are used to stand for different record jurisdictions. You can find the following information in a Meyers locality entry:

- The name of the kingdom, province, or duchy to which the town belonged.
- The name of the county seat to which the town belonged.
- The names of the places where district, court, military, and civil registry records were kept, if the town did not keep them.
- The denomination of the church if a parish was in the town.

Not all German localities are listed in the Meyers gazetteer. For additional information on German localities, see Tip 1.

What Information You Need

You need to know only the name of a place of birth or christening.

Steps

These 4 steps will guide you in finding your locality in the Meyers gazetteer and in identifying where the different records for your town were kept.

Step 1. Find how your locality will be written in the Meyers gazetteer.

Meyers is written in German in the old fracture or Gothic print and uses abbreviations extensively. To view the alphabet showing the Gothic upper and lower case letters with their Roman letter equivalents, see Tip 2.

Step 2. Determine which kingdom, province, or duchy your locality was in.

In every complete entry, the Meyers gazetteer identifies the kingdom, province, or duchy to which a locality belonged. This information follows the locality name.

For a list of kingdom, province, and duchy names in Gothic and Roman print, see Tip 3.
For localities that do not have a complete entry, see Tip 4.

Step 3. Record the information in your research notes.

- In the Meyers gazetteer, if an abbreviation or series of abbreviations is followed by a comma (,) or semicolon (;) then the town had the records which were associated with the abbreviation(s). For example, **StdA.** (StdA.) is the abbreviation for Standesamt (civil registry office). If it is followed by a comma or semicolon, then the town had its own civil registry office. If there is no comma or semicolon, then the abbreviation will be followed by the name of the town that had the civil registry office.
- The Meyers gazetteer will indicate if a town had its own parish and the denomination of the parish. It will not tell you where parish records were kept if the place did not have a parish or if the denomination that is given is not the one. The two main denominations were Catholic **kath. Pfk.** (kath. Pfk.) and Lutheran **ev. Pfk.** (ev. Pfk.). The Pfk. means Pfarrkirche (parish).
- Marriage contracts and probate records are often found in court records. The **AG.** (AG.) is the abbreviation for the court district in which these records were found. The above information for the civil registry office applies to the court district as well.

Step 4. Identify the governmental district and other districts to which your town belonged.

The German kingdoms and duchies used different names for their governmental districts. The Meyers gazetteer identifies the districts for each village.

- The abbreviation in Gothic print.
- The Roman equivalent.
- The German name for the district.
- The type of district (region, county seat, district).
- The name of the kingdom or duchy.

AH. (AH.)	Amtshauptmannschaft (county seat in Sachsen - kingdom)
BA. (BA.)	Bezirksamt (county seat in Bayern)
Bkdo. (Bkdo.)	Bezirkskommando (military command, in all areas)
DomA. (DomA.)	Domäneamt (county seat in Mecklenburg Strelitz)
Kr. (Kr.)	Kreis (district in Prussian provinces, county seat in Baden, Braunschweig, Hessen and Waldeck)
KrH. (KrH.)	Kreishauptmannschaft (county seat in Saxony - kingdom)
Kt. (Kt.)	Kanton (county seat in Alsace-Lorraine)
LrA. (LrA.)	Landratsamt (district in Thüringen)
OA. (OA.)	Oberamt (county seat in Württemberg)
OLG. (OLG.)	Oberlandesgericht (county seat in Schaumburg-Lippe)
RB. (RB.)	Regierungsbezirk (county seat in Prussian provinces and region in Bavaria)
RittA. (RittA.)	Ritteramt (county seat in Mecklenburg Schwerin)
VerwA. (VerwA.)	Verwaltungsamt (county seat in Thüringen)

To determine the districts for your locality, see Tip 5.

Background

Description





















































The Meyers gazetteer was published in 1912 as a guide to German localities. In the 1920's the Zentralstelle für Personen- und Familiengeschichte (Center for Personal and Family History) at Leipzig collected pedigrees and used Meyers to verify every locality on the pedigrees. These pedigrees then went into the "Ahnenstammkartei" (Ancestral Pedigree Index).

Tips

Tip 1. What if my locality is not listed in the Meyers gazetteer?

- Sometimes German town names were anglicized in U.S. records. This occurred when the town was pronounced in German and recorded based on how it was heard in English. By understanding German phonetics and using a German gazetteer, it is often possible to change the anglicized town name back into the correct German spelling. This is explained in *A Genealogical Handbook of German Research*, Chapter 7, pages 48-54.
- U.S. census and other records often give the name of the kingdom, province, or duchy as the place of birth of German immigrants. Researchers who are not familiar with these places may assume it is the name of the town itself. To further complicate things, a few cities have the same name as the province or duchy to which they belong, such as Braunschweig, Hannover, and Brandenburg. Researchers then mistakenly think the ancestor is from the city and spend time looking in the wrong place.
- The immigrant provided information about his or her birthplace in Germany. Frequently, however, the immigrant identified the cultural district, such as "Kurfürstentum" or "Nordfriesland" or a topographical area, such as the "Schwarzwald" (Black Forest) and "Erzgebirge" (Ore Mountains), instead of a town name.

Tip 2. How can I learn to read Gothic Print?

Upper Case				Lower Case			
A		N		a		n	
B		O		b		o	
C		P		c		p	
D		Q		d		q	
E		R		e		r	
F		S		f		s,s	
G		T		g		t	
H		U		h		u	
I		V		i		v	
J		W		j		w	
K		X		k		x	
L		Y		l		y	
M		Z		m		z	

Tip 3. How can I tell which kingdom, province, or duchy my town was in?

The following are how the kingdoms, provinces, and duchies appear in an entry in the Gothic script:

Anh. (Anh.)	Anhalt
Baden	Baden
Bay. (Bay.)	Bayern (Bavaria)
Braunſchw. (Braunſchw.)	Braunschweig (Brunswick)
Eſſ.-Loth. (Els.-Loth.)	Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace Lorraine)
Heſſen	Hessen (Hesse)
Lippe	Lippe
Meckl.=Schw. (Meckl.=Schw.)	Mecklenburg Schwerin
Meckl.=Str. (Meckl.=Str.)	Mecklenburg Strelitz
Oldenb. (Oldenb.)	Oldenburg
Pr. (Pr.)	Preussen (Prussia)
Brandbg. (Brandbg.)	Brandenburg
Hann. (Hann.)	Hannover
Heſſen-N. (Hessen=N.)	Hessen-Nassau
Hohenzollern	Hohenzollern
Oſtpr. (Oſtpr.)	Ostpreussen
Pomm. (Pomm.)	Pommern
Poſen	Posen
Rheinl. (Rheinl.)	Rheinland (Rhineland)
Sa. (Sa.)	Sachsen (Saxony)
Schleſ. (Schles.)	Schlesien (Silesia)
Schleſw.=Holſt. (Schlesw.=Holst.)	Schleswig-Holstein
Weſtſ. (Westf.)	Westfalen (Westphalia)
Weſtpr. (Westpr.)	Westpreussen
Sa. (Sa.)	Sachsen (Saxony) [kingdom]
Schaumb.=L. (Schaumb.=L.)	Schaumburg-Lippe
Thür. (Thür.)	Thüringen (Thuringia)
Reuſſ.-ä.-L. (Reuss=ä.=L.)	Reuss-Greiz
Reuſſ.-j.-L. (Reuss=j.=L.)	Reuss-Schleiz-Gera
Sa.=A. (Sa.=A.)	Sachsen-Altenburg
Sa.=C.=G. (Sa.=C.=G.)	Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha
Sa.=M. (Sa.=M.)	Sachsen-Meiningen
Sa.=W.=E. (Sa.=W.=E.)	Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach
Schwarzb.=Rud. (Schwarzb.=Rud.)	Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
Schwarzb.=Sond. (Schwarzb.=Sond.)	Schwarzburg-Sonderhausen
Waldeck	Waldeck
Württ. (Württ.)	Württemberg

Tip 4: What if my locality does not have a complete entry?

Incomplete localities will have the abbreviation "f" (s.) after it, to refer you to a town that has a complete entry. The information found under that locality will also pertain to your town.

Tip 5. How do I determine the districts for my town?

Compare the abbreviations in your town's entry with the abbreviations found under steps 3 and 4. The following example for the town of Riebrau shows how this is to be done:

Riebrau, D., Pr., Hann., RB. Bkdo.
Lüneburg, Kr. AG. Dannenberg, TP E 12 km
Göhrde Kr. Dannenberg; 47 E., StdA., ev. Pfk.

The above entry gives the following information about Riebrau:

- It is a village in (Pr.) Prussia, (Hann.) Hannover province.
- The (RB.) county seat and (BKdo.) Military record office are at Lüneburg.
- The (Kr.) district and (AG.) court records were at Dannenberg.
- Riebrau had its own (StdA.) civil registry office and (ev. Pfk.) Lutheran parish.

Where to Find It

At the Family History Library

The Family History Library has the Meyers gazetteer:

- In book form.
- On microfilm.
- On microfiche.

The gazetteer is available in all three forms on the first lower level of the Family History Library. There is no fee for using the library's resources in person.

You may also request photocopies of pages in the gazetteer from the library for a small fee. You will need to fill out a "Request for Photocopies - Census Records, Books, Microfilm, or Microfiche" form. Complete the form using the book, film, or fiche number you found in the *Family History Library Catalog*. Send the form and the fee to the Family History Library.

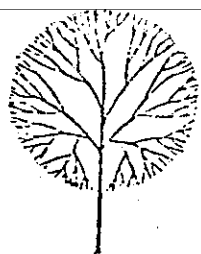
See *Family History Library Services and Resources* for more information about contacting or visiting the Library.

At a Family History Center

A Family History Center may have the Meyers gazetteer on film or fiche in its permanent collection. After obtaining the film or fiche numbers from the *Family History Library Catalog*, check with the center's volunteer staff to see if they have a copy of the gazetteer.

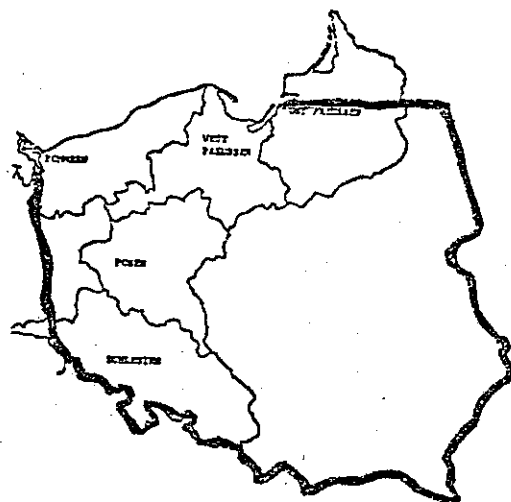
If the gazetteer is not available at the center, a film or fiche copy can be sent on loan. There is a small postal fee to have film or fiche sent to a Family History Center. The center's volunteer staff can help you order the film or fiche. Once received, a fiche copy will stay in the center's permanent collection while a film copy will be returned to the Area Service Center.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See the Family History Center Address List for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.



POLAND/PRUSSIA: Gazetteers and the Genealogical Library Catalogs

Genealogical research for German ancestors often involves parts of the modern Republic of Poland. Boundary changes at the end of the First and Second World Wars returned territory to Poland which had been administered by Prussia and the German Empire. Most of this territory had been occupied, colonized and administered by Prussia since the partitions of Poland, 1772 through 1795. Most of East Prussia had been under Germanic rule as early as 1370.



The International Genealogical Library has microfilmed many records throughout Poland; from Germanic areas as well as Slavic. These are predominantly vital records of birth, marriage and death; handwritten in German, Polish or Latin, depending on the area from which they originate.

The new ~~International~~ Genealogical Library Catalog (IGLC) is a computer system which provides access to these records by listing them with description and film numbers. The IGLC lists records from the Prussian/Polish area in both a Poland file and a Germany file. The Germany file lists records according to the old German place-names and jurisdictions; the Poland file lists the same localities according to modern Polish place-names and jurisdictions.

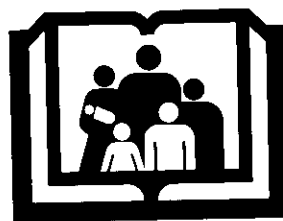
0 Prior to January of 1979 records were cataloged manually in the Dictionary Card Catalog (DCC). This system provided for the listing of Prussian/Polish records only according to the modern Polish place-names and jurisdictions. These previously cataloged records are being converted to the IGLC system but it will be several years before all records are filed by both German and Polish place-names.

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary. The effective use of the Library's two catalog systems often requires the usage of several gazetteers. The following is a step-by-step explanation of how to use the gazetteers and catalogs to locate the Prussian/Polish records you need.

WORLD
CONFERENCE
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August 12-15, 1980



Germany Is as
Close as Salt Lake City,
Utah:
Using the German
Microfilm
Collection of the
Genealogical
Society of Utah

Ronald M. Smelser

Series 506

GERMANY IS AS CLOSE AS SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH:
USING THE GERMAN MICROFILM COLLECTION OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF UTAH

Ronald M. Smelser

Born in Pennsylvania. Resides in Salt Lake City, Utah. Associate Professor of History, University of Utah. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin. Author, lecturer.

Many an investigator searching the archives for evidence bearing on people of German ancestry has encountered the frustrating problem of political jurisdiction. This problem reflects the fact that for the last three hundred years, the period for which most genealogical documentation is to be found, there was no such thing as Germany proper. Rather, depending on the time period, there were a varying number of Germanys: during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, no less than 1,789 of them; in the first half of the nineteenth, 34; in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, 1; and finally, today, 2. Indeed, during the last three centuries, only for a comparatively brief span of time has there existed one single political unit which we can call Germany—the forty-three years between 1871 and 1914. And even this political unit was highly unstable, with significant boundary changes taking place during the brief span of its existence.

Now, all of this might be of only passing interest to someone more interested in tracking down ancestors than in having a detailed historical knowledge of the country from which they came, but for the fact that there is a very direct and important link between the vagaries of Germany's history and geography and the process of finding vital and other records generated by the kaleidoscope of states and principalities which at one time or another have comprised "Germany." It can be, in other words, very helpful to the researcher to know, for example, that Frankfurt was a

free imperial city for many centuries before it was swallowed up by the largest German state, Prussia, in 1866; that East Prussia was an integral part of the modern German state, but was divided up between Poland and the Soviet Union after World War II.

The foregoing opening remarks point the direction of the two tasks I have set out for myself in this presentation. First, to give a brief overview of the politics and geography of that area in Central Europe that we call Germany, and secondly, to make you aware of some of the opportunities opened up through the extensive German collection of the Genealogical Society of Utah.

Unlike France and England, which achieved a close unity of population, territory, and government relatively early--beginning already in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries--Germany, for a variety of reasons, remained fractured over many centuries into a large number of political units. These ranged from tiny independent knightdoms, some scarcely larger than a modern university campus, to imperial free cities, to somewhat larger ecclesiastical states presided over by a prince-archbishop, to larger territorial units based on the settlement area of an earlier tribe such as the Bavarians and Saxons. And although there was at least the shadow of unity, provided by the overarching institution of the Holy Roman Empire, a ramshackle entity presided over much of the time by the Austrian Habsburg dynasty, in actuality the bulk of smaller states largely went their own way as

sovereign units. Thus, while the western powers were achieving ever more unity and centralization of power, Germany found itself going in the opposite direction to the point where, if we look at a map of eighteenth-century Europe, we can distinguish no less than 1,789 distinctive "Germanys," each a sovereign, independent state with its own army, civil service, customs barriers, and of course, its own records.

Lest the prospective investigator blanch at the prospect of mastering this geographic welter of political entities on a map that resembles nothing so much as one of grandmother's patchwork quilts, let me hasten to reassure you. Though you should be aware that much of the genealogical material appropriate for research in this period was not generated by these states themselves but rather by the one institution charged with keeping track of human beings for the sake of their immortal souls--the church. Indeed, before the rationalizing and secularizing impact of the French Revolution, toward the end of the eighteenth century, it was not customary for states to collect vital information systematically; that task was left up to the church, hence those indispensable parish registers with which many of you are so familiar. There are some important exceptions to what I have just said, and I'll discuss those when I deal with the German collection, but for the most part the generalization holds true.

I mentioned the French Revolution. This fundamental social, political, and ideological upheaval convulsed France during the decade after 1789 and then went on to reshape the modern world--including Germany itself--with the accompanying principles of liberty, equality, nationalism, and secularism. During the first decade of the nineteenth century the French Revolution came to Germany, carried on the bayonets of the conquering armies of Napoleon. Its impact on the Germans was formidable. It awakened among them a long-slumbering passion for national unity which would culminate not only in the ejection of the

French from German soil, but, more importantly, in the formation two generations later in 1871 of a united German nation state. In the meantime, the spirit of rationalism which accompanied the French Revolution, transformed the ancient map of Germany from one of many hundreds of states to one of thirty-four. This was largely the work of Napoleon, who not only destroyed the moribund Holy Roman Empire, but also most of those hundreds of independent knightdoms, ecclesiastical states, and free cities which had given the map of central Europe its patchwork quality. In their place Napoleon created a network of several dozen states, which not only made the map more coherent, but also laid the foundation for future German unity.

Moreover, the French Revolution also brought into Germany a secular spirit, which would permit these several German states, and the future unitary German state, to move into areas of life that were once the preserve of family and church. Indeed, among the first acts of the French occupiers, as early as 1798, was to demand that the government in the occupied zones of Germany begin to collect vital information systematically on individuals for purposes of taxation, census, and conscription. This practice took hold and continued in Germany even after the French were thrown out in 1813 and became the basis for that vast treasure of secular vital records which now came to exist alongside the more traditional, religious parish register.

It was during the early nineteenth century then that the number of political jurisdictions in Germany was reduced radically, while at the same time the state began its modern role of collector of vital statistics. Indeed, the very word statistics with its root word state, reflects the increasing role of government in modern times in generating the kind of information vital (in more than one sense) to the genealogical investigator. That secular information now joined religious information not only was extremely important, but often became crucial. For example, it is thanks to the

fact that in the wake of developments I just described various German states after about 1806 had to include vital information on their Jewish subjects, that today we have any information on Germany's Jews at all. For it was in November 1938 that the Nazis burned synagogues all over Germany, thus destroying the parallel religious source of records. Had the secular state not also collected vital records, all mention of hundreds of thousands of people might have disappeared forever from our scrutiny.

The creation of the modern German national state took place under the leadership of Otto von Bismark, Chief minister of the king of Prussia, after a series of short, successful wars during the late 1860s against Austria and Denmark, culminating in 1871 in a victory over France as well. With that, the long-cherished dream of the German people for national unity seemed to be a reality. In accordance with the nineteenth-century liberal spirit, the new Germany was a secular state in many respects. Most fundamentally, the move of the state into areas once the exclusive preserve of the church now reached its culmination. From 1875 on, Germans were married not only by their pastor or priest, but also by the state, usually in the Rathaus or city hall. Researchers could now depend on a systematic body of vital information generated on a nationwide basis to aid them in their work. Thus, German national unity comes to be a boon to the genealogist. But that very unity and the path which a united Germany took after 1871 raise several problems which the researcher should be aware of.

First of all, it is important to note what the modern German state did not include. It may have brought under one political room the Germans of central Europe (excluding, of course, the Austrians), but it left out millions of Germans scattered in settlements all over east-central and eastern Europe and deep into Russia. Since the Middle Ages the Germans had been a very mobile people,

and their diaspora had led them to settle in large numbers in what at that time were the Austrian, Russian, and Ottoman Empires. It is important to remember this, because many a person beginning research on his forebears may mistakenly assume that because these people were ethnically German, they had their geographic roots in that part of central Europe which became Germany in the nineteenth century. Actually, it is quite possible for a "German" to have his geographic roots in the Ukraine or along the Volga River in Russia or in the Hungarian Banat or in the Dobruja region of Rumania or elsewhere.

The second problem which the creation of the modern German nation state creates for us has to do with the short, violent history of that state. As I suggested, it came into being in 1871, then within a generation developed into the most powerful industrial nation on the European continent. From 1914 to 1918 it found itself involved in a great world war in the course of which it went down to defeat. One result of that defeat was that the boundaries of Germany were altered to her disadvantage, with approximately twenty-five thousand square miles of territory going to her neighbors. Out of that defeat arose Hitler and the Nazi movement, which by the 1930s had taken Germany to a new height of power, recovering much of her lost territory and adding new as well. There followed a second world war and an even more disastrous German defeat, which resulted in a redivided Germany whose borders were more truncated than ever. The impression then is that even after Germany evolved in modern times from fragmentation to unity, she still was sufficiently in flux that her boundaries moved in and out like an accordion.

This creates additional confusion for the researcher trying to link bits of information about an ancestor—the name of a village, for instance—with some political unit which might have generated additional information about that ancestor. It is perfectly possible, for instance, for a person to have been born

in Germany, gone to school in Lithuania, then done military service in Germany, then retired in the Soviet Union—without having left his native town (as a resident of the city of Memel could have done).

To best address ourselves to these problems it will be useful at this point to link our necessarily brief survey of Germany's political and geographical past to the German collection in the Genealogical Society of Utah and the way in which it is organized. The crucial fact to keep in mind here is that at the present time materials in the collection are organized according to the current political jurisdiction under which they fall. This is very important, because it puts the materials within the framework of the map of Europe as it currently appears. It reflects two German states and the administrative reorganizations that have taken place within them (for instance, Eingemeindung or urban consolidation); it also reflects the fact that provinces which were part of Germany during her brief period of national unity, are now part of other countries, ranging from France, Belgium, and Denmark to the west and north, to Poland and the Soviet Union to the east. To find the appropriate materials, then, it may not be sufficient to look under "Federal Republic of Germany" or the "German Democratic Republic" in the card catalog; one may instead have to consult the files under the name of one or another neighboring country. Fortunately for the researcher, there is a vehicle for making this transfer easier. If you have the name of the locality you are seeking, there is often a see card in the German section of the card catalog bearing the current name of that village, perhaps in another language such as French or Polish, and a reference to the location of the card carrying the information the researcher is seeking under the current political jurisdiction.

But changes are coming, changes which make at least a passing awareness of the geographical and political configuration of Germany in the past even more of a

necessity. Currently, the society is undertaking a massive computerization of its collection in order to facilitate more convenient use by researchers. That computerization process also entails reorganization of the catalog along perhaps more rational lines. As a result, when the reorganization is through a few years from now, the material will no longer be organized according to current jurisdiction (that is, two German states and their contemporary neighbors) but rather on the basis of Germany during her one period of unity (that is, the Kaiserreich between 1871 and 1914). This really does make much more sense, because, even though it still does not include all ethnic Germans in Europe, it does greatly lessen the number of political jurisdictions the researcher might conceivably have to consult in order to find the information he seeks. Thus, whereas today, in order to find ancestors who came from Strassburg, Eupen-Malmedy, Posen, Königsberg, or Hultschin one would have to look under the political jurisdictions of France, Belgium, Poland, the Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia respectively, under the reorganized catalog all those localities will fall under "Germany." This will be far more convenient for the researcher, but also demands some awareness of the vagaries of Germany's past, which I have tried to convey, very briefly, today.

Having looked at some problems of history and political jurisdiction, let me now turn to the German collection itself in order to acquaint you, in broad outline, with its content and possibilities.

I should say initially that the collection as it now stands, although enormous, is only a fraction of what it will be when it is completed. As of early 1979, when a preliminary survey of the German collection was completed, there were over 50,000 rolls of microfilm represented by over sixty thousand entries in seventy-eight catalog drawers. And this already considerable collection is being augmented currently at the rate of 150 to 250 rolls per month. And yet,

as far as the long-range goals of the society are concerned, this represents only 15 percent of the materials in Germany which still need to be filmed over the coming years. I mention this not only to make you aware of the extent of the collection, but also to alert you to the fact that an enormous amount of material is still in German archives awaiting filming.

As far as geographic representation is concerned, it is certainly true that areas currently in the German Federal Republic (West Germany) are best represented in the collection; particularly well represented are the Länder of Baden-Württemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, and Nordrhein-Westfalen. Not surprisingly, given the political polarization in the middle of Europe, the area least represented is the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). Surprisingly, particularly complete, especially in light of World War II and its aftermath, are records of those provinces which used to be part of the Prussian east (Silesia, Pomerania, East and West Prussia, and Brandenburg) but now are under Polish jurisdiction. This relative completeness we owe largely to Polish cooperation in allowing its archival materials to be filmed.

The bulk of the society's German collection, as you might expect, consists of parish registers and civil records. The parish registers (or in many cases copies submitted by local clergy) comprise both Catholic and Lutheran records, as well as those of dissenting churches and sects—including the Mennonites and the Dutch Reformed and Evangelical Reformed churches—and Mormon and Jewish records. The bulk of them cover the period since the mid-seventeenth century, many earlier records having been destroyed by the fierce religious wars that engulfed central Europe during the first half of the seventeenth century. The earliest records are generally in Latin with a transition period in the eighteenth century when both Latin and German were used. Since the early nineteenth century

the preponderant language in parish registers is German. One notices also that, with the advent of the nineteenth century, the variety of earlier registers, which often gave information on people in proportion to their importance in the community, gives way to a formalized standardization, reflecting again the rationalism of the French Revolution.

The civil registers, which form a bulk of material parallel to the parish registers, derive, of course, from a far later period, beginning in some parts of western Germany as early as 1798 (reflecting again the French influence) but becoming standard for all of Germany only after 1875 in the wake of national unification.

In addition to the parish and civil registers, which form the bulk of the collection, there is a variety of other materials which can be invaluable for the researcher who seeks to exhaust every means in tracking down his or her roots. Among the most valuable and useful are migration records. Their existence is mute testimony to the high level of mobility on the part of the German people over the years, a mobility which carried so many of them to these and other shores. The last century, in particular, witnessed the mass migration of many Germans seeking to escape oppression and to find opportunity away from their place of origin. Millions in particular found their way to this country and eventually formed one of the most numerous ethnic groups in the American melting pot.

One of the best chronicles of this movement, and a reflection of the vast scope of it, can be found listed in the society's German collection as the Hamburg passenger lists. Hamburg, along with Bremen, was one of the most important ports of embarkation during the nineteenth century, not only for Germany, but also for other European nationalities coming to the new world. Indeed, between 1859 and 1891 fully 30 percent of all European emigrants passed through Hamburg. The Hamburg passenger lists in

the German collection, well indexed, represent the record of all passengers to embark from Hamburg between 1850 and 1934.

This extraordinary exodus of Germans abroad during the nineteenth century should not blind us to the fact, however, that it was only part of a pattern of mass migration that included internal migration as well. Germans have traditionally been on the move. The late Middle Ages witnessed a migration of them eastward for purposes of resettlement and Christianization. Several centuries later, other Germans, Swabians in particular, responded to the invitations of various Russian monarchs to come and settle in that vast realm, in part to teach, by example, their hardworking and thrifty way of life. But the greatest movement came during the nineteenth century. For at the same time as many Germans were moving abroad, many others were moving within their own country from village and farm to new cities.

We need to keep in mind here that Germany was transformed during the nineteenth century in a remarkably short time from an agrarian nation to one of the most advanced industrial nations on earth, and that demanded a mass internal migration--from country to city, from east to west--and a social change as well from peasant or servant to factory worker or self-employed businessman. To find one's ancestors often means to make that great trek in reverse. It may not be as painful a process as it was for many a German who, having migrated to the United States in 1860, returned to visit his home village in 1890 only to find belching smokestacks and railroad sidings where his family cottage once stood beside a meandering stream; but the process can be difficult, as many of you may have found out retracing the steps. That is why various records of internal migration represented in the German collection can be of great value. These include the immigration records of various German states. Baden-Württemberg, again, is one of the best represented, with eight hundred rolls of material covering the

entire nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth. Along with this, of course, we also have the municipal police records housed in the city halls of countless German towns. These are very important, because new arrivals had to register their place of residence with the police, as indeed they still do, a practice which was never adopted in this country.

For earlier periods, we have lists of citizens and muster rolls for a number of German towns in earlier centuries, when many municipalities were independent entities, a fact which leads us to another type of record category closely related to the theme of internal migration, that of municipal records. The locality, of course, as we have seen, is the repository for civil records, especially those dealing with births, marriages, and deaths. This has been the case in Germany since 1875. But what of earlier periods? Here we are fortunate again, for the collection possesses municipal records that go far back in history, prior to the point when the modern state emerged and began to collect information on its citizens. This fact owes much to one of the glories of Germany in earlier centuries--the flowering of her cities.

One positive benefit of Germany's political fragmentation was that it permitted units which today are subsumed under the nation or region--cities--to be independent. Indeed, many German cities down to the sixteenth century and beyond enjoyed an independence, an autonomy, and (before changing trade routes and destructive wars destroyed it) a prosperity unsurpassed before or since. Proud towns like Augsburg, Speyer, Regensburg, Nuremberg, and the Hansa cities were able to defy prince and king alike to force recognition of their independent status. This independence is reflected in the fact that they kept their own records, several kinds of which are represented in the collection.

One of them is the guild record. Prior to the industrial revolution and the

advent of the free enterprise system, guilds were the main organizations representing the various trades and professions and fulfilled a variety of regulatory functions, including production, marketing, and quality control. Anyone who wanted to practice a trade or craft within the borders of a specific town had to belong to the appropriate guild, and those organizations kept careful records of the names of their members. The collection is fortunate in having a wealth of these guild records as far back as the fifteenth century. Unfortunately, they are not as comprehensive geographically as one might desire. Only those few German cities which were among the most important—I have mentioned several above—were able to preserve extensive guild records.

The municipal guild records are augmented though by several other kinds of records which are valuable to the researcher. They include citizenship rolls (as independent entities, cities awarded citizenship as countries do today), militia muster rolls (as independent units, cities had of course to see to their own defense), and tax rolls (independence has always meant above all fiscal independence). These records are also well represented in the society's collection. And finally, quite interestingly, there are also medical records. One focus of struggle in early modern times between the fiercely independent towns and the church was control over health care. This struggle is reflected in the records of German municipalities along with, and this is more important for the genealogist, rolls of both patients and contributors. All in all then, an important source of genealogical material for the period before the emergence of the modern state is municipal records.

When the modern state did emerge, one of its most important functions, of course, was military action, either for defense or for conquest. Military records, then are of some importance to the genealogist because, representing one of the earliest

functions of the state, they often predate other records, representing activities on the part of government which began much later, the best example being civil marriage. Every independent state in Germany during the long period of political fragmentation had its own military establishment. Unfortunately, very little remains of the records of these tiny principalities. Fortunately, however, the most important German state in the modern era, has produced good military records, and that is Prussia. From modest beginnings in the sandy soil of Brandenburg around Berlin, that state grew eventually to be the largest in Germany, comprising by the nineteenth century three-fifths of the entire population of Germany. Moreover, she reached this position of primacy owing largely to her proficient military establishment. Indeed, it was with the sword of the Prussian army that Bismarck successfully fought the wars of German unification in the 1860s, and the united country that emerged was infused with the spirit of Prussian militarism. It will be good news then to the researcher to know that the German collection has a considerable inventory of Prussian army records (over 150 rolls), most of them regimental parish registers dating from 1719 down to World War II but also including the records of various Hessian regiments which fought in the American Revolution, officer's diaries from various periods, and records of casualties in World War I.

Time permits me to mention briefly two other kinds of records represented in the German collection which may be of value to you. The first is legal records. Here the most rewarding are the documents arising from probated wills and guardianship records, which are well represented in the collection. The largest grouping here would be the records of the probate courts of Berlin and environs, which represent over seventeen hundred rolls covering the period from 1616 to 1932.

Secondly, one must also not neglect the complete genealogical records represented

in the collection. A very useful shortcut for the genealogist, although shameful in its ideological impetus, is the numerous genealogies which the Nazi regime compelled its citizens to compile in order to demonstrate a certain level of racial purity. During the brief period of the Third Reich, hundreds of thousands of Germans, with more or less enthusiasm, traced their ancestry back as far as they could to demonstrate a lack of tainted, Jewish blood. Often these genealogies did not go back prior to the the eighteenth century, since even the elite SS only demanded records back to 1750, but in many cases curiosity augmented ideology and families were traced back to a much earlier period. Many of these genealogies are available today, and one collection in particular has come into the hands of the society in the form of the Brenner collection, which involved hundreds of families in the area of Mittlefranken.

This necessarily brief overview offers exciting prospects for the genealogical researcher as well as for scholars in many fields. I have left much unmentioned. The materials I have discussed represent only the primary documentation available in the collection, that is, the raw materials for the researcher. Along with this, of course, as most of you know, there is also available a wealth of secondary published materials ranging from atlases and lexicons to family histories, from maps and published censuses to town chronicles.

As you approach the collection, however, several volumes will be of special importance to you, particularly in tracking down the political jurisdiction of various localities earlier in this century or in the past century. These are Meyer's Orts-und Verkehrslexikon des deutschen Reiches, and Müllers Grosses deutsches Ortsbuch, both of which are available in the library. Along with these may I, in all modesty, mention a volume which I and my associates compiled last year, entitled Preliminary Survey of the German Collection, published by the University of Utah Press. It will give you a somewhat more detailed overview of the collection than I have been able to today, as well as explaining some of the problems in using it. More importantly, the bulk of the volume consists of an alphabetical listing by province of the localities represented in the collection along with the information in each case conveying the nature of the material, the date span, the place where the material was originally filmed, and the number of rolls.

Finally, as you go about your work let me say one thing to you as a historian. Do consult in your leisure one good volume of modern German history (those by Ryder, Craig, Holborn, Carr, and Pinson are excellent). This will not only facilitate your research by giving you a better idea of the relationship between primary sources and the political jurisdictions that produced them, but also enrich your understanding of the society, culture, and time from which your people came.

Other Resources Germany

German Genealogical Word List

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=G1&Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Guide=WLGerman.ASP

Der Schlüssel : Gesamtinhaltsverzeichnisse mit Ortsquellennachweisen für genealogische, heraldische und historische Zeitschriftenreihen:

An index to German genealogical and heraldic periodicals.

8 volume set available in Salt Lake.

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&titleno=178206&disp=Der+Schl%C3%BCssel%20%20&columns=*,0,0

German Postal Codes Lookup (in English)

<http://www.bitboost.com/ref/international-address-formats/germany/plz-en.html>

Cyndi's List Germany Links

<http://www.cyndislist.com/germany.htm>

Glossary of Words found in German Records

<http://www2.adnc.com/~lynnd/vuword.html>

German Red Cross Tracing Service

GERMANY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Tracing and Service

GERMAN RED CROSS

Carstennstr.58

12205 Berlin

e-mail

Kirchlicher Suchdienst (Church Records Research Service)

Mostly contains records on individuals migrating from East Germany and former German areas after World War II.

<http://www.kirchlicher-suchdienst.de/>

The German researcher : how to get the most out of an L-D-S family history center / by Fay Dearden and Douglas Dearden.

HBLL Call Number **CS 613 .D427x 1995**

A genealogical handbook of German terminology and grammar / by Ronald D. Walker

HBLL Call Number **CS 45 .W35x 1977 vol.1**

Germanic texts and Latin models : medieval reconstructions / edited by K.E. Olsen, A. Harbus, and T. Hofstra. **PD 74 .G39 2001**

Microfilms available from Salt Lake (Some at UVRFHC)

Deutsches Geschlechterbuch

German families lineage book series. No circulation to family history centers.

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&titleno=312967&disp=Deutsches+Geschlechterbuch%20%20&columns=*,0,0

Reihe Band (Linear Volumes on German Lineages)

<http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&hitlist&columns=%2C0%2C0&keyword=Reihe+Band&prekeyword=Reihe+Band>

Mappenstücke

Collection of local family histories for Germany and former German areas of Europe and other countries. Includes some related materials that are not family histories.

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&details&titleno=706307&disp=Mappenst%C3%BCcke%20%20&columns=*,0,0

Gesamtregister zum Deutschen Familienarchiv

Surname indexes to the first 100 vols. of Deutsches Familienarchiv

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&details&titleno=41619&disp=Gesamtregister+zum+Deutschen+Familienarc%20%20&columns=*,0,0

Führende Persönlichkeiten

Collection of articles, manuscripts, pamphlets, pedigrees, and notes pertaining to the history and genealogy of individuals and families throughout Germany.

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&details&titleno=343103&disp=F%C3%BChrende+Pers%C3%B6nlichkeiten%20%20&columns=*,0,0

Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie

Biographies of prominent Germans from the earliest period of the end to the 19th century

http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=title&details&titleno=292360&disp=Allgemeine+Deutsche+Biographie%20%20&columns=*,0,0

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wiki.familysearch.org

Geschlechterbuchs Guide

<http://lib.byu.edu/fslab/pdf/GeschlechterbuchsGuide.pdf>