

FINDING PLACES OF ORIGIN
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FAMILY SOURCES

Family Bible & Family Letters
Emigration Papers & Occupational Papers
Church Certificates (christening & marriage etc.)

FAMILY HISTORIES

Personal Journals, Diaries, & Family Histories

L.D.S. CHURCH INDEXES

International Genealogical Index
Ancestral File
Social Security Death Index

VITAL RECORDS

State Vital Records (marriage & death)
County Vital Records (marriage & death)
Church Records (christening, confirmation, marriage, burial, membership).

NEWSPAPERS & PERIODICALS

German-American Newspapers and Periodicals 1732-1955 (film #0824091)

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

Application, Declaration of Intention & Petition

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

May provide date/place of birth & family info.

U.S. CENSUS RECORDS

1850 - 1880 = Country, kingdom, prov. or duchy.

1900 - 1920 = " Also year of arrival in U.S.

U.S. MILITARY RECORDS

Enlistment, Discharge & Pension Records

LOCALITY HISTORIES

City Histories - Origin of ancestor if prominent.
County Histories - Origin of German settlers.

PASSENGER LISTS

Hamburg Passenger Lists 1850-1934 (on film)
Direct Passenger List = Left Hamburg and went directly to their destination.
Indirect Passenger List = Left Hamburg, went to another port and then on to their destination.
Pennsylvania German Pioneers 1721-1771 (974.8 - B4pg vols. 42-44)

SURNAME BOOKS & INDEXES

Bahlow, Hans. *Deutsches Namenlexikon*, (943 - D4ba).
Brechenmacher, Josef Karlmann. *Deutsche Sippennamen*, (microfilm #0492908).
Familiengeschichtliche Quellen, (microfiche #6000817).
Quellenschau für Familienforscher, (microfilm #0924491 items 4-6)

OTHER AIDS

GAZETTEER: *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs Lexikon* (fiche #6000001-29)

MAPS: *Karte des deutschen Reiches*, (microfilm #0068814)

ADVANCED PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING PLACES OF ORIGIN

PASSENGER LISTS & US PORT RECORDS

German emigrants usually left in groups from the same area of Germany. The following steps explain the use of passenger lists and port records in determining places of origin:

1. After finding the ancestor on a port record or passenger register, make a list of all the passengers on the same list.
2. Determine which passengers became inhabitants in the same locality as your emigrant ancestor. Those from the same area of Germany will usually settle in the same area as the ancestor.
3. Check for place of origin information of the other passengers in local histories, biographies as well as church, county, state and federal records.
4. If the emigrant ancestor's surname is not unusual, look up unusual passenger list names in the German surname etymology books to determine where they originated.

DETERMINE PLACES OF ORIGIN USING MAPS AND GAZETTEERS

Frequently an immigrant will provide information about the area they were from without naming the exact place. They may describe a mountain, river, lake or valley etc. near their home. If you have the name of a topographical feature the gazetteer prepared by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names can help you find where these features are located. This set of gazetteer was prepared in the 1950's and 1960's after Germany was divided between the countries and areas of Russia, Poland, East German

GERMAN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

and West Germany. In each volume, after each locality and topographical feature name, the gazetteer gives the current latitude and longitude. General and detailed maps can then be used to find these coordinates and the closest localities to them. The following are the film numbers for each set of gazetteer:

West Germany

Vol. 1. A-K = film #0874458

Vol. 2. L-Z = film #0874459

East Germany

Vol. 1. A-J = film #1181601, item 1

Vol. 2. K-Z = film #1181601, item 1

Denmark

Vol. 1. A-Z = film #0874461, item 3

Poland

Vol. 1. A-M = film #1184075

Vol. 2. N-Z = film #1184076, items 1-2

Russia

Volumes 1-7 A-Z = fiche #6053504

USING SPECIAL INDEXES TO DETERMINE ORIGINS OF SURNAMES

Special surname indexes have been created from thousands of different German printed and written sources. Instructions on using these have been published in the German Genealogical Digest. The following are two of these special registers, the volume, issue and page number of the German Genealogical Digest that they appear in and the microfilm numbers they are found on:

1. Familiengeschichtliche Quellen (Family History Sources), GGD volume 6, No. 4, p.140, fiche #6000817.
2. Die Quellenschau für Familienforscher (Sources for Family Researchers) GGD 5, No. 4, p. 142, film #0924491 items 4-6.

Many of the German emigration records and published family genealogies have been extracted and published in German books and periodicals articles. The difficulty lies in determining in which of the hundreds of periodicals that exist, an article or book review was written and in which issue of that periodical it was published. In volume 2, issue numbers 1 and 2 of the German Genealogical Digest a list of many of the published articles in German genealogical periodicals is given. Many more can be found using a nine volume work called "Der Schlüssel" (the Key) which provides a surname, locality, and subject index to most of the German periodicals. The German Genealogical Digest, volume 9, number 2, beginning on page 38, provides instruction on using "the Key". This article provides a list of German periodicals and their use.

EMIGRATION RECORDS ON MICROFILM

Frequently a U.S. source such as a census or naturalization record will indicate which area of Germany an immigrant ancestor was from, such as Bavaria, Hessen or Prussia. In the case of Prussia, you would also need to know whether they were Rheinlander, Westphalian or Saxon etc., depending on the province they were from. German emigration records from different areas of Germany have been microfilmed by the Family History Department in Salt Lake City, Utah. These records were usually kept by one of the higher governmental offices in a kingdom, province or duchy. The records in Württemberg, for example, were kept at the "Oberamt" (county office) of which there were over 60 in that kingdom. To know exactly which one to search you would need to know the name of the place the emigrant was from and look that locality up in the gazetteer MEYERS ORTS- UND VERKEHRSLEXIKON, which would give that information (a detailed explanation on how

to use this gazetteer is given in A GENEALOGICAL HANDBOOK OF GERMAN RESEARCH, vol. 1 pp.185-91), (but if you knew the town the emigrant was from you wouldn't need to search the emigration records). If the only information you have is the name of the kingdom, province or duchy then your only alternative may be to search all of these district emigration records until you find your ancestor. The following is a list of Kingdoms and duchies and the type of governmental office you would search for emigration records:

- Baden - "Kreis" (county)
- Bayern - "Bezirksamt" (district office)
- Hessen - "Kreis" (county)
- Mecklenburg -
"Ritteramt" (estate office)
- "Domäneamt" (estate office)
- Oldenburg - "Amt" (district office)
- Prussia - "Regierungsbezirk" (provincial district)
- Sachsen (kingdom) -
"Kreishauptmanschaft"
(county office)
- Württemberg - "Oberamt" (county office)

To use the Family History Library catalog you must:

1. Use the gazetteer for your kingdom, province or duchy, to determine the place names for the high governmental districts.
2. Look in the Library catalog under:
 - A. Germany
 - B. the name of the kingdom or duchy
 - C. the name(s) of the province and/or district
 - D. the subject heading "emigration"

German Genealogical Internet Sites

General/Miscellaneous

<http://www2.genealogy.net/gene/misc/emig> (German emigration to America)

<http://www.germanmigration.com/default.asp> (German migration queries)

Braunschweig

<http://www.staatsarchive.niedersachsen.de/Auswanderer/englisch.htm>.

Bremen

<http://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de/enframeset.htm>

<http://www.feefhs.org/frl/spl/bremenmf.html>

Ellis Island

<http://www.ellisland.org/>

Hamburg Passenger List

<http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm>

Hannover

<http://www.staatsarchive.niedersachsen.de/Auswanderer/englisch.htm>.

Hessen

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/German_Genealogy/sfemigr.htm

Mecklenburg (1844-1915)

<http://pages.prodigy.net/jhbowen/emig.htm>

Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony)

<http://www.staatsarchive.niedersachsen.de/Auswanderer/englisch.htm>.

Oldenburg

<http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/nausa/nausae.htm>

Pfalz (Palatinate) - 1700's

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/palalist.htm>

<http://embers.aol.com/shipSamuel/>