

# **RESEARCH PROCEDURES**

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## **Resolving Naming Practice Problems**

- A. Knowledge of the Naming Practice
  - 1. Know and understand the characteristics of the naming practice as to how it occurs.
  - 2. Know when and in what area of Germany it is found.
  - 3. Know what governmental decrees exist and their affect on the naming practice.
  
- B. Knowledge of Available Resources to Solve the Research Problem
  - 1. Know what has been written and published on the naming practice.
  - 2. Know what records to use to resolve the specific problem.
  - 3. Know how to use the Records to solve the problem, identify the ancestor and or extend the pedigree.

### **Patronymic Names**

Definition: The given name of the father is used for the surname of the child.  
Form: sen (Ericksen), s (Gerds), ing (Carling)

### **Farm Names**

Definition: Farms and estates received the permanent names of their original owners. Those who later lived on the farms became known by the name of the farm.  
Form: name = Brachs hof (Brach's farm), occupation = Schmieds hof (blacksmith's farm), locality = moormans hof (farm on the moor),

### **Locality Names**

Definition: Names of places which individuals became identified by instead of their surname. The locality name was the place from which the individual originated.  
Form: er (Johann Müller von Bremen, changed to Johann von Bremen, changed to Johann Bremer)

### **Latin Names**

Definition: At different times and in different places in Germany, it was popular to Latinize surnames.  
Form: "us" i.e. Boverus (Bauer), "or" i.e. Calceator (Schumacher), "ex" i.e. Latrifex (Ziegler).

### **Foreign/Language influences**

Definition: Areas of Germany that bordered or were occupied by foreign countries, sometimes affected how the name was entered into the records.  
Form: Woods (English), Wald (German), DuBois (French), Leśny (Polish), Skov (Danish), Bos (Dutch)

### **Occupational Names**

**Definition:** Often the record keeper will identify a person in the records by just their surname. Sometimes he identifies a person by their surname and occupation and other times he identifies them by just the occupation.

**Form:** Schäferknechts Frau (shepherd's wife), Schmidts Tochter (blacksmith's daughter), Müllers Sohn (miller's son)

### **Maiden Name as Husband's Surname**

**Definition:** When a man marries a woman who owns property or inherits property while they are married, he will frequently change his name to hers or to the name of the property if it is different. This often results in both names being given in the record.

**Form:** Schroeder oder Frevert; Schroeder vulgo Frevert; Schroeder genannt Frevert; or Frevert geboren Schroeder.

### **Miscellaneous Naming Practices**

- When a woman marries a second time, the first male child by her second husband is given the first and last names of her first husband.
- When children were abandoned at birth, the minister of the orphanage created a given and surname for them.
- When an apprentice completed his training he could request a second christening by the guild master and receive a new surname.

### **Tracing Ancestral Movements**

1. **Tracing a Railroad worker/or Workers on waterways:** Identify parishes all along the railroad or water ways and check for birth, marriage and death records.
2. **Tracing a Shepherd:** Use Melderegisters after 1830, use confirmation for children born in another parish, witnesses in birth records and area searches.
3. **Basic Movement Problems (after confirmation):** Melderegisters after 1830, witnesses in children's birth records, area search and marriage record.
4. **Tracing Movement During the Industrial Revolution:** Melderegisters.