Germans in America: A Guide to Finding Your Ancestor's Hometown

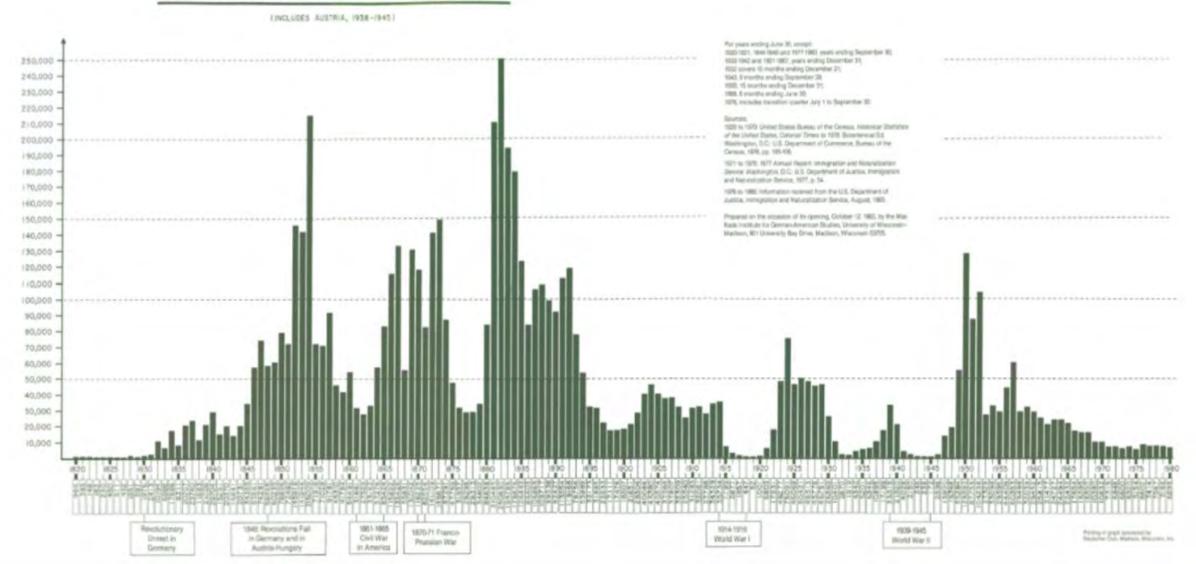
Emma Ruddy

The First Immigrants

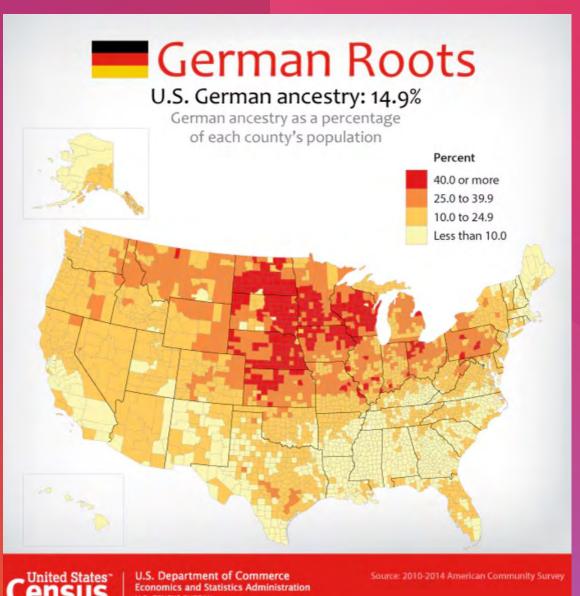


Immigration since 1820

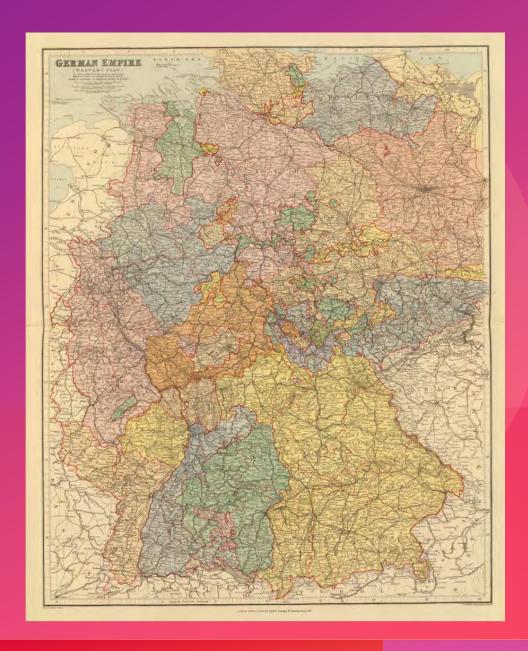
IMMIGRATION FROM GERMANY, 1820-1980



Germans in America





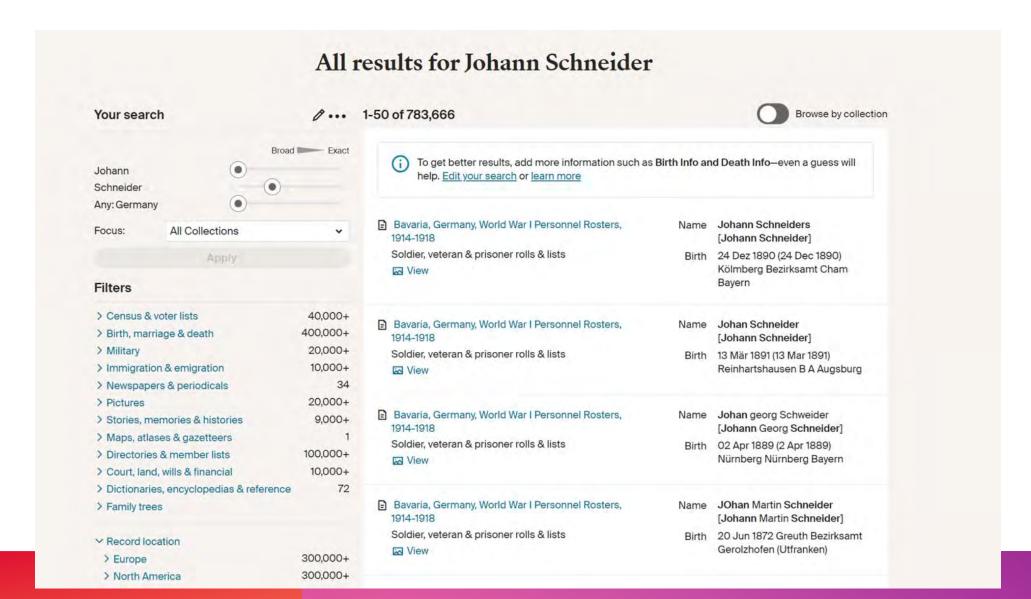


German Unification of 1871

Why does all of this history matter?

Why should I determine where my ancestor's hometown is?

Avoid common name confusion



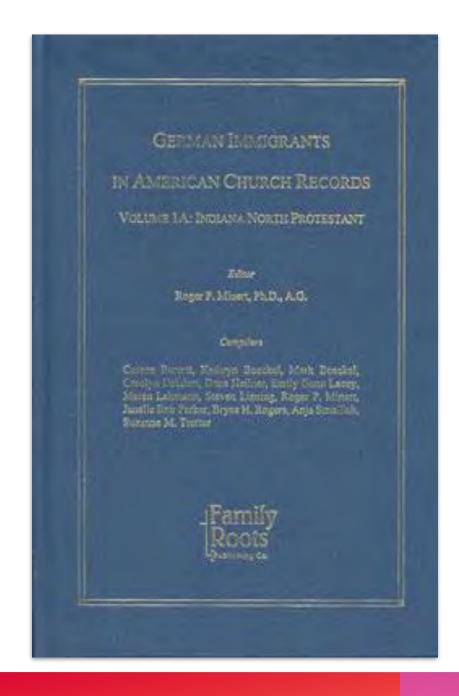
Access to Records

- There is no central archive or catalog where all of the necessary records are housed
- Local Records are often organized by town or parish
- Know which databases to use
- If there are no digitized records, you may need to contact local archives
- Geographical Boundaries

Historical Context and Cultural Heritage

- Provides context around your ancestor's life
- Migration Patterns
- Connecting with relatives
- Understand traditions,
 languages, and dialects





German Immigrants in American Church Records Project

9. Louise S. Winspoper gets 16 frai 1952 in Houston

+ S. Nor. 1972 frites Sentone Gen

14. Max Baumann get? in Deutochland

+ 13 Nov. 1902 an Islapoprip 56 f. act.

Evergreen len

28. Leondard Linsbutt gets? in Wiesbaden

+ 27. Non 1902 an Jughi Am in over un 45 fufu

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Pan 13. Louis Villarett get 24 Dea. 1843 in Transpeid

+ 16 Dec. 1902 an Typolus

Borignen as

Vol 40: Texas II

19

Max Baumann b. Germany 1846 (calculated); d. 13 Nov 1902, age 56; bur. Houston, TX 14 Nov 1902, Ref: p. 52.

Leonhard Limberth b. Wiesbaden, Hessen-Nassau 1862 (calculated); d. 27 Nov 1902, age 40; bur. Houston, TX 28 Nov 1902. Ref. p. 52.

E. B. H. Schneider b. Mainz, Hessen 31 Jul 1827; d. 1 Jan 1903, age 75-5-0; bur. Houston, TX 2 Jan 1903. Ref. p. 53.

Jennie Koch b. Scheibenberg, Sachsen (kingdom) 5 Apr 1868; m. - - Schilling; d. 26 Jan 1903, age 34-9-11; bur. Houston, TX 27 Jan 1903. Ref: p. 53.

Joseph Braun b. Württemberg 27 Sep 1854; d. 26 Jan 1903, age 48-3-0; bur. Houston, TX 28 Jan 1903, Ref: p. 53.

Katharina Quering b. Elsaß-Lothringen 18 Oct 1838; m. -- Reinicke; d. 7 Feb 1903, age 64-3-21; bur. Houston, TX 8 Feb 1903. Ref: p. 53.

Friedericke -- b. Holzhausen, Germany 9 Sep 1821; m. -- Lippstreu; d. 24 Feb 1903, age 81-4-2; bur. Houston, TX 25 Feb 1903. Ref: p. 53.

Julius Platte b. Germany 23 Sep 1823; d. 28 Mar 1903, age 80; bur. Houston, TX 30 Mar 1903. Ref: p. 53. Information from German church records is extracted and recorded in a simple format

EVERY NAME INDEX

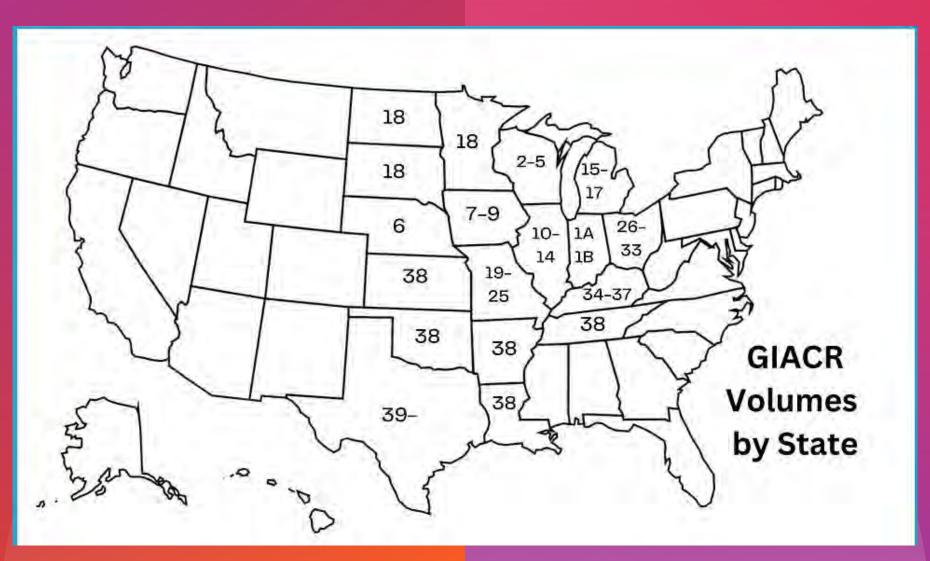
The following Every Name Index contains a total of 15,871 entries. Women have been indexed whenever possible under both their maiden and married name(s). Maiden names are shown in parentheses, such as Jane (Smith) Allen. When the maiden name is unknown, it is shown as Mary (–) Allen. Readers are advised to check all possible spelling variations of the surnames listed here. No surnames have been standardized in this volume; all are presented precisely as they appear in the original record. For example, Schmidt may appear as Schmitt, Schmid, Schmidd, Schmied, Schmiedt, etc.

[UNKNOWN] Anna, 356 Heinrich, 410 Henriette Louise Maria (Boecker), 410 J H, 79 Ottilie, 246 —SCHULA Anna (Halmkuch), 369 Gottfried, 369 ABBE Dora, 310 ARFI.

ACORD Heinrich, 430 Charlotte (Rotenbeck). Katharina (Junker), 428 Sophie, 418 Wilhelm, 199 AHBE ADAM Elise, 294 Henriette (Dolle), 322 AHLBORN Jacob, 322 Mathilde, 285 Katharina, 244 AHLEMEIER ADICKS Wilhelmine, 396 John C. 75 AHLERS ADIX Elise, 396 Adolph Eduard, 88 AHLFENGER Henriette Auguste Emilie (Reinke), 395 (Langa) 88

Every book contains an index of the names listed in that book

Volumes Organized by State



Online Church Indexes













WISCONSIN: Volumes 2-5

- 2 Alma: St Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church
- 3 Angelica: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Augusta: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Beargrass Creek: St. Peter's Lutheran Church
- 4 Beaver Dam: First St. John's Lutheran Church
- 4 Beloit: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 2 Bloomer: St. John's Lutheran Church
- 5 Brookfield: German Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 5 Burlington: Cross Lutheran Church
- 3 Butternut: Evangelical Mission
- 3 Caroline: Zion's Lutheran Church
- 5 Cedarburg: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Advent
- 4 Center: Center Mission
- 3 Chase Twp.: Zion's Lutheran Church
- 2 Chippewa Falls: Zion's Evangelical Church
- 2 Chippewa Falls: St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Chippewa Falls: Zion's Lutheran Church
- 2 Clear Creek Twp.: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Clear Creek Twp.: St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 4 Clinton: Christ Lutheran Church
- 4 Clinton: Methodist Episcopal Church
- 5 Colgate: St. Paul's United Evangelical Protestant Church
- 2 Comstock: Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Cross Twp.: Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church
- 2 Curtiss: Peace Reformed Church
- 2 Dallas: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Deer Park: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Deer Park: St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 2 Dorchester: Peace Evangelical Church
- 2 Dorchester: St. Peter's Lutheran Church
- 2 Downsville: St. Jams Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 2 Dunn County: Trinity Evangelical Church

https://rpmgrtpublications.wixsite.com



How do I access these books?

- BYU Library
- FamilySearch Library
- Check Local Libraries
- Order a copy of the volume you need

Sources to help you find your German Ancestors hometown

- Preliminary Survey
- Church Records
- Vital Records
- Census Records

- Naturalization or Immigration Records
- Ships Passenger Lists
- Newspapers and Obituaries



PRELIMINARY SURVEY

- Search Home and Family Sources
- Interview Relatives
- Search Electronic Databases
- Find Family Surname Histories and Biographies

Home and Family Resources



Interview Relatives

Emigration Questions to Ask Relatives [edit | edit | source]

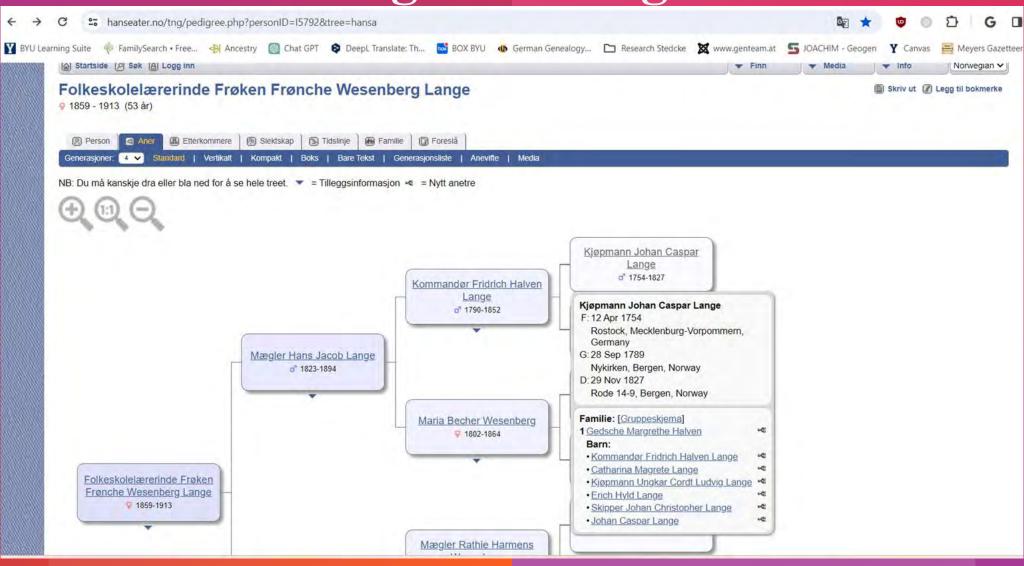
Find the oldest living relatives that you can and ask them:

- 1. What do you know about our first ancestor to come from Germany? (open-ended)
- 2. Have you ever heard mention of towns in Germany where the family lived?
- 3. Do you have contact with any relatives in Germany?
- 4. . Do you have contact with other branches of the family in the U.S.?
- 5. . When _____ came from Germany, did he travel with other family members?
- 6. . Do you know when _____ arrived and which port city?
- 7. Did _____ever become a citizen?
- 8. Did______fight in World War I or II?
- 9. When they first came, were there already family members here who they joined?
- 10. Did_____ever mention their parents in Germany?
- 11. Were they Catholic or Lutheran?
- 12. Do you have any old letters or postcards from Germany family?
- 13. Do you have any pictures of family members in Germany?

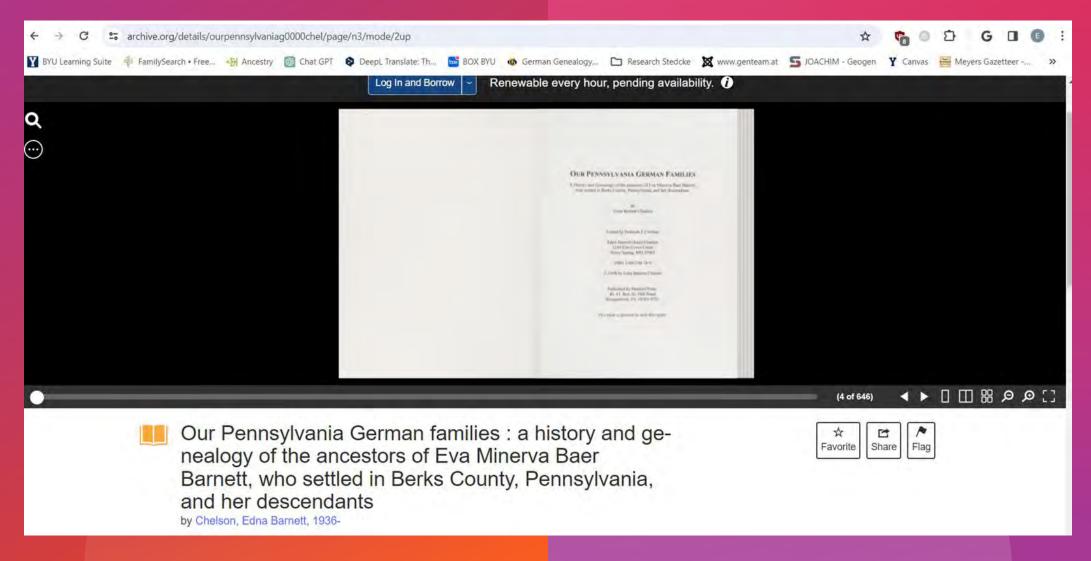


Search Electronic Databases

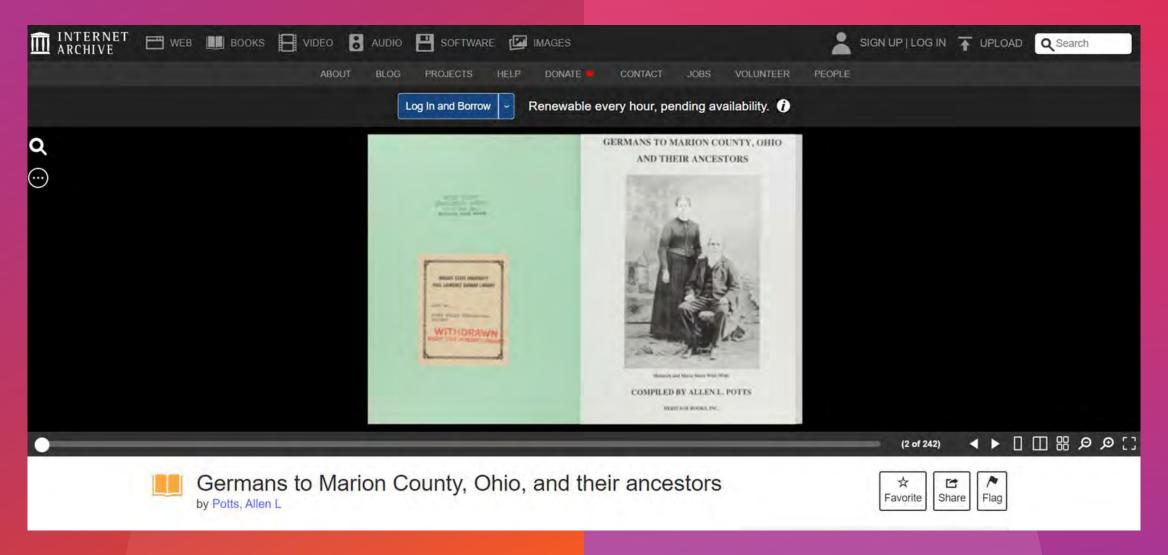
Genealogy of Members of the Hanseatic League in Bergen



Family Surname Histories and Biographies



County Histories



Church Records

- Begin Much Earlier than Vital Records
- Often Written in German
- Often List the Name of the Persons Hometown
- Marriage and Children's Birth Records



Milwaukee Church Baptism Record

Jartung, Ama Auguste Maria

M. Carl Monitz Garting, and Munichny, Inffra, fr.

M. Barth Ganha Cfarbotts of Manick and Small brigonifulny
in Somma. fo drindnig Rafn 2. Affra Efr, man u. felenne junsnu.



Vital Records

- Birth Records May List Parent's Information
- Death Records May List the Deceased's and Parent's Information
- Marriage Records May List the Bride and Grooms Birthplaces

Wisconsin Marriage Registration

1.	Full name of husband, Karl Wilhelm Beller	
2.	Full name of the father of husband, Johan Geller	
8.	Full name of the mother of husband, (a) Rossine Geller Occupation of husband, Riding master	
5.	Residence of husband, Bily of Enclevantee	
	Birthplace of husband, bily of Stullgart, Wurllemberg, Germany	
	Full name of wife previous to marriage, Emma Becklel	
	Full name of the father of wife, (a) In and Beckleb	

Census Records

- Often One of the First Records that Are Found in American Research
- The 1850 Census Began Listing the Birthplace of Each Member of the Household
- Often Just Lists the Country
- Sometimes, Enumerators Would Be More Specific



1920 US Census

NAME	RELATION.	TEMURE.		NE. PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				CITIZENSHIP.		EDUCATION.					
of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family.	Relationably of the person to the bend of the family.	Rone owned or rented.	10.00		12	9 1	ordi.	Unite-	4 or	Hard,	chool place	le to	te to	Place of birth of each perso	
Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any,			unne	Stage		20.00	in der	day.	tothe tates	Pallas		307	ther ab	her ab	PERSON
Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.			If ow	Sex.	Color Age a	Color Age at	Age a Single with von	Your Chan	Natur allea	1	Atten	Whet	Whether wille.	Piace of birth.	
5	đ	7	7 5	5	5 9	0 10	0 11	12	10	14	15	10	17	15	19
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Decemon Stilda	Maia			F.	W.	24	5.	1415	al	,		Oko	les	sweden !	
Manche . augusta	Maid			E	W.	51	19.	14/14	Pal	Pa.		lles	Uso	Breeden Safer	
Entry Mary	Head 1	0	E	F	W.	76	N-	L		1		Qes	Ues	the Uprle	
- Margherite	Wäughter		1	F	W	39	5					Us	Nes	U Jork	



Naturalization and Immigration Records

Naturalization Records:

 Filed when a person wants
 to become a citizen

 Passports: Created for Travel

Declaration of Intention 1921

and a second	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	original 4
No. 10863		Sievi
	red Stried of A	MED.
OLEN!	DECLARATION OF INTEN	ITION TON
[æ Inv	valid for all purposes seven years after	r the date hereof
United States	Dn:	r the date hereof

United States of America	In the United States District Court
Mastern District of Washington	of Wantern District of Washington
9. marie Laine Weil	Le , aged 28 years,
occupation Domistic	그 그 사람들은 아이를 하고 있는데 아이들이 하는데 하는데 아이들이 가는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하는데 하
weight	once, color of eyes blue
I was born in Betzingen gen	nany
on the 7 day of sletem at 6/2 Summer ave Sp	ber anno Domini 1895; I now reside
I emigrated to the United States of America fro	m Rotterdam Holland
	of conveyance or name of transportation company, should be given) my last
foreign residence was Bets engun ger	; I am > married; the name

Passport Application

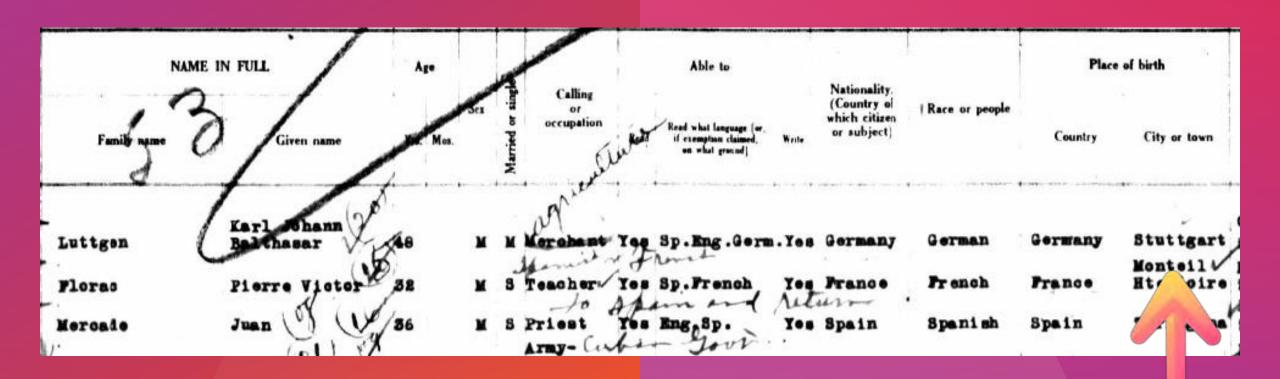
Department of State, Division of Passport Control, Washington, D. C.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
STATE OF Maryland
200 20
COUNTY OF Baltinsvie City 88:
I, Chella Radulovich, a Naturalized and Loyal Citizen of
THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.
averal event 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
I solemnly swear that I was born at Burgstadt Germany
on or about the 29 January day of 1867,
that my [father], Ihristofor Radulovich was born in Austria (Country.)
that he emigrated to the United States, sailing on board the
from Unstrum on or about 1828; i ;
that he resided 44 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1878 to 1925
at Baltimon 3nd; that he was naturalized as a citizen
of the United States before the WallimonColy Court of many hand
at Daltimon, me on Deplember 24, 1891
as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am the work of the person
described in said Certificate; that I have resided in the United States, uninterruptedly, for
years, from 1981 to 1927, at Dallimon 3nd; that I am domiciled in the
United States, my permanent residence being at, in the State
of maryland, where I follow the occupation of House wife
My last passport was obtained from Acres Ladone on

Ship's Passenger Lists

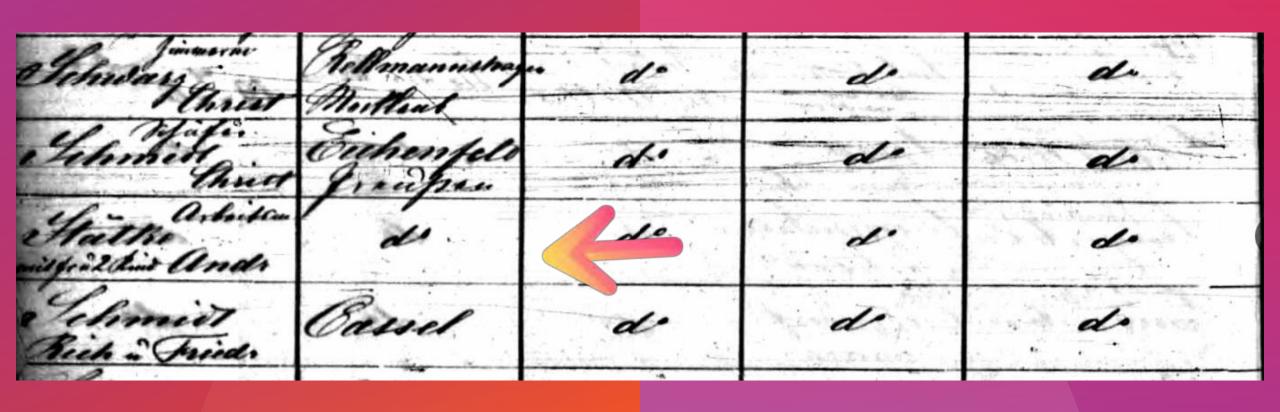
- Lists of Ship Passengers
- May include the nationality, destination, and place of origin of a passenger
- Not many before 1820
- Extremely Valuable
- May be kept in the US, but also in many other countries as well



New Orleans Passenger List 1925



Hamburg Passenger List 1851





Newspapers

(Wenty-nve Gays.

Death was due to consumption of the throat, and the disease was contracted in March last, when the priest in the exercise of his pastoral duties was caught in a shower at Sheldon and received a severe wetting. The throat trouble soon developed and despite the efforts of skilled physicians the patient sank slowly until the end. He had been a patient at the hospital since early in April.

Regensburg, Bavaria, March 6, 1568, and his education for the priesthood began at Landshut and Munich, where he studied the classics, later taking the theological branches in St. Vincent's, in Pennsylvania. His studies were com-

Obituary Fort Wayne Evening Sentinel in Indiana January 7, 1901

Mrs. Carl Dotseth

Mrs. Carl Dotseth, 45, of Knapp, died Saturday at her home.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m today at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Menomonie, with the Rev. Charles Blecha officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Survivors include her husband; her mother, Mrs. Rosalia Pregler, Regensburg, Germany; four sisters, Mrs. Gordon Eddy, St. Paul; Mrs. Albert Suppmann, Regansburg, Germany; Mrs. Joseph Berry, Red Wing, Minn.; and Mrs. Gerald Nelson, also of Red Wing; and one brother, Joseph Pregler, Regenseburg.

She was born in Regensburg in 1925 and came to the United States in 1951. She married Carl Dotseth in 1951 in Stillwater, Minn. She and her husband had lived in Knapp on a farm since their marriage.

Fri sethfrom Wedr churc

> Mr. 1708 eveni

day Luthe Rev. ating

Fall ident She her c Saint was

thera

one

two

Mr

Obituary
Eau Claire Leader in
Wisconsin
June 2, 1970

I found the town name, but now I can't even figure out where it is!

Meyersgaz.org

GAZETTEER HELP About

Search the Meyers Gazetteer

Don't worry about diacritics when searching. Just use the simple vowel.

You can search the gazetteer using * as a wildcard. This wildcard will match any number of characters. For example:

- To find all places that start with Kai, enter Kai* for your search.
- To find all places that end in mühle, enter *muhle for your search.
- To find all places that start with K and end in mühle, enter K*muhle for your search.

You can use multiple wildcards in a search.

For more information on how to use this site, please visit the help guide



Search results for [emmerichenhain]

Emmerichenhain Westerwald

D. (Village)

Emmerichenhain Westerwald, Westerburg, Wiesbaden, Hessen-Nassau, Preussen

Can't find what you're looking for? Try viewing "sounds like" search results.

GAZETTEER

HELP

9

Search results for [Emmerichen*]

Emmerichenhain Westerwald

D. (Village)

Emmerichenhain Westerwald, Westerburg, Wiesbaden, Hessen-Nassau, Preussen

GAZETTEER

HELP

Emmerichenhain Westerwald

Emmerichenhain Westerwald, Westerburg, Wiesbaden, Hessen-Nassau, Preussen

Entry Map Ecclesiastical Related Feedback

Emmerichenhain Westerwald, D. (506 m), Pr., Hessen-N., RB. Wiesbaden, Kr. Westerburg, US. E 1,5 km Rennerod, BKdo. Limburg Lahn; 352 E., P, ev. Pst.; Ml., Sägew.

> Show previous and next entry View entry on PDF of the original page



Volume

Page 435

Type D.

Lvl I Pr.

Prov Hess. -N.

RB Wiesbaden

9

Kr Westerburg

AG Rennerod

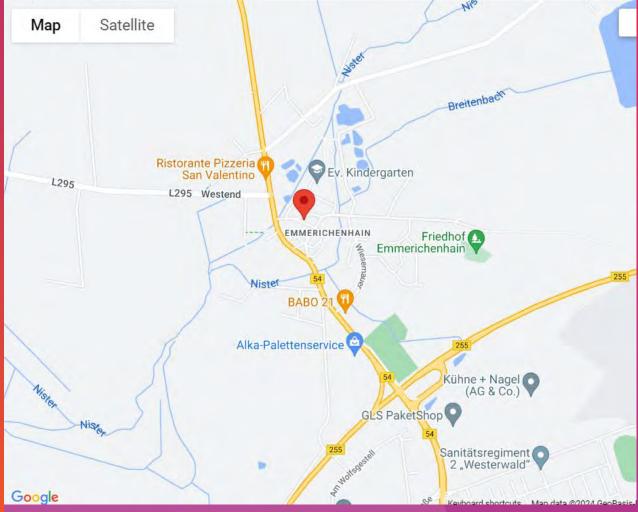
BKdo Limburg Lahn

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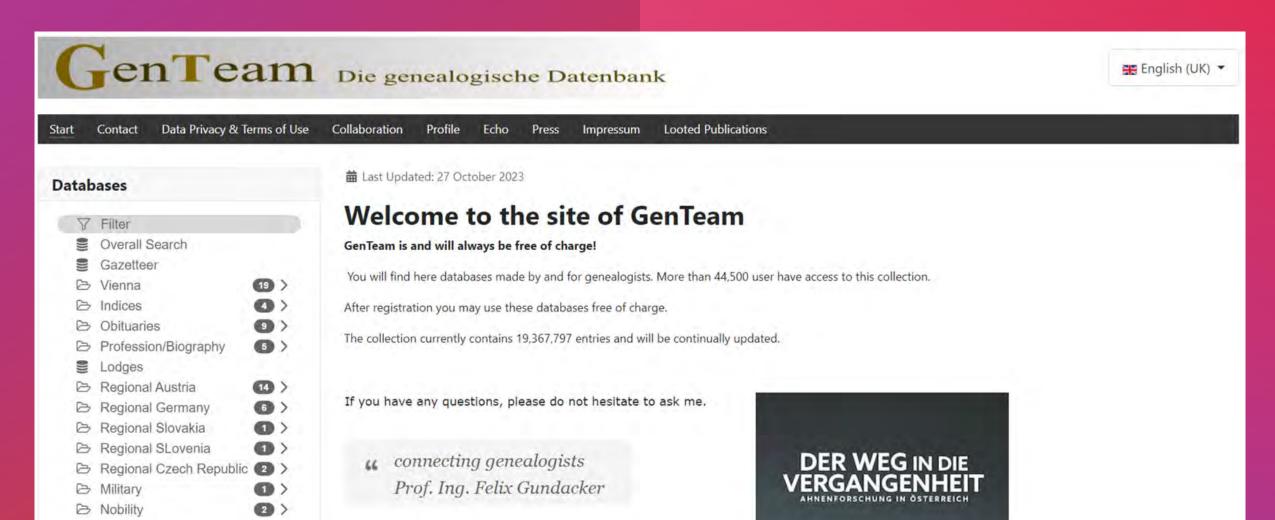
Population 352

Detail



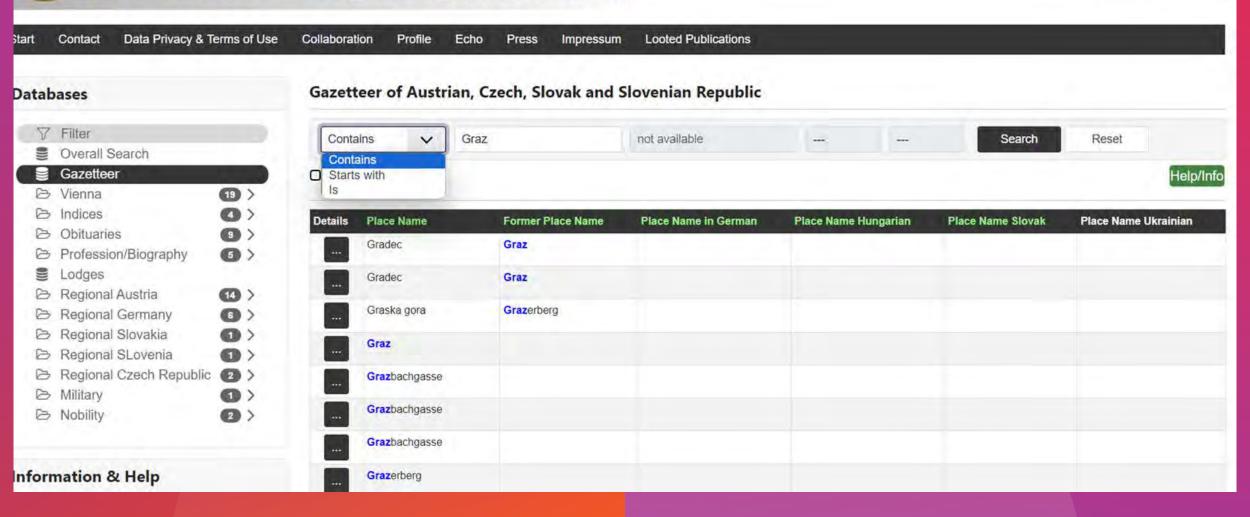


Austria: Genteam.at



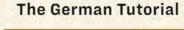
GenTeam Die genealogische Datenbank

English (UK) ▼



Parish(es)	Former Parish - Roman Catholic:		1631/1650/1650	Diözese Koper
	Tomporone and troman outlions.	Pivka	1838/1885/1838	Diözese Koper
	Competent Parish - Roman Catholic:	Name	Begin of Vital Statistics	Respective Archives
District				
Crownland	Krain			
Place Name Ukrainian				
Place Name Slovak				
Place Name Hungarian				
Place Name in German				
Former Place Name	Graz			
Place Name	Gradec			
Nr	17197			

Reading Records



Introduction
Paleography Introduction

Techniques & Tools

Alphabet

Documents

Interactive Exercises

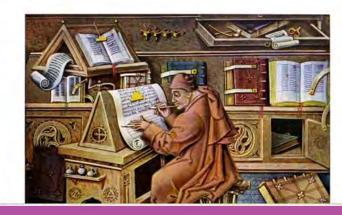
Additional Resources



What is "Old German Script?"

The term Old German Script, as used throughout this tutorial, refers to the typefaces and handwriting styles of German-speaking countries during the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries.

Although these scripts are based on the Latin alphabet, many of the individual letters may appear to the untrained eye as unique as the letters of the Russian or Arabic alphabets. Old



Use the FamilySearch Research Wiki

Germany Jurisdictions

Germany → **Jurisdictions**

Contents [hide]

- 1 Historical Jurisdictions in Germany
 - 1.1 Modern Germany
 - 1.2 Weimar Republic
 - 1.3 German Empire
 - 1.4 German Confederation
 - 1.5 Holy Roman Empire
- 2 Identifying Historical Jurisdictions

German Jurisdictions

Member state	Level one (largest)	Level two	Level three (if applicable)
Duchy of Anhalt	Kreis		
Grand Duchy of Baden	Kreis	Amtsbezirk	
Kingdom of Bayern (Bavaria)	Regierungsbezirk	Bezirksamt	
Duchy of Braunschweig (Brunswick)	Kreis		
Free City of Bremen			
Imperial territory of Elsass-Lothringen (Alsace- Lorraine)	Bezirk	Kreis	
Free City of Hamburg			
Grand Duchy of Hessen (Hesse)	Provinz	Kreis	
Principality of Lippe	Verwaltungsamt	Amt	
Free City of Lübeck			
Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin	Ritteramt	Amt	
Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz	Domänenamt	Amt	
Grand Duchy of Oldenburg	Amt		
Kingdom of Preussen (Prussia)	Provinz	Regierungsbezirk	Kreis
Principality of Reuss-ältere-Linie (Reuss-Greiz)	Verwaltungsamt	Landratsamt	
Principality of Reuss-jüngere-Linie (Reuss-Gera)	Verwaltungsamt	Landratsamt	
Kingdom of Sachsen (Saxony)	Kreishauptmannschaft	Amtshauptmannschaft	
Duchy of Sachsen-Altenburg (Saxe-Altenburg)	Verwaltungsamt	Landratsamt	
Duchy of Sachsen-Coburg und Gotha (Saxe-Coburg and Gotha)	Verwaltungsamt	Landratsamt	
Duchy of Sachsen-Meiningen (Saxe-Meiningen)	Verwaltungsamt	Landratsamt	
Grand Duchy of Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach (Saxe-	Verwaltungsamt	Landratsamt	

Brandenburg, Prussia, German Empire Genealogy

(Redirected from Brandenburg, German Empire Genealogy)

Germany - Prussia - Brandenburg

Guide to Brandenburg, German Empire ancestry, family history, and genealogy before 1945: birth records, marriage records, death records, both church and civil registration, compiled family history, and finding aids.

In this region, part of Germany which was lost to other countries after World War II, many records, both church/parish registers and civil registration records, were damaged, destroyed, or misplaced.

Historical Background [edit | edit | source]

- . Brandenburg was established in 1815 from the Kingdom of Prussia's core territory, and comprised the bulk of the historic Margraviate of Brandenburg and the Lower Lusatia region.
- · It became part of the German Empire in 1871.
- · From 1918, Brandenburg was a province of the Free State of Prussia.
- . It was dissolved in 1945 after World War II, and replaced, with reduced territory, as the State of Brandenburg in East Germany, which was later dissolved in 1952.
- · Following the reunification of Germany in 1990, Brandenburg was re-established as a federal "state of Germany, becoming one of the new states. Wikipedia &

The Neumark [edit | edit source]

The Neumark, also known as the New March or East Brandenburg, was a region of the Prussian province of Brandenburg, Germany, located east of the Oder River. The Neumark became part of the Kingdom of Prussia in 1701 and part of the German Empire in 1871. The majority of the Neumark was placed under Polish administration in 1945 after World War II; its expelled German population was replaced largely with Poles. Most of the Polish territory is part of Lubusz Voivodeship, while the northern towns Choszczno (Arnswalde), Myślibórz (Soldin), and Chojna (Königsberg in der Neumark) are in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. Some territory near Cottbus remains in Germany. Wikipedia 🖸

For help with research, see The Neumark (region), Brandenburg, German Empire Genealogy

Arnswald Friedeberg Conigsberg/Nm

Brandenburg German Empire Wiki Topics



Beginning Research

- · Finding Town of Origin
- · Finding Aids For German Records
- Research Strategies
- Record Finder

Brandenburg Major Record Types

 Church Records Civil Registration

Reading the Records

- German Word
 Handwriting ☑ List
 - Languages
- Latin Word List
- Script
- · French Word List
- Tutorial 2

Feast Days ☑

Additional Brandenburg Record Types

Kreise of the Neumark in 1873

1. For the 1871 Meyers Gazetteer and the FamilySearch Catalog, these counties will

What are the next steps?

Rootstech **BYU Library Family History Center** The Family History Guide FamilySearch Wiki **Take Courses Attend Conferences**

THANK YOU!