A GENEALOGICAL
HANDBOOK OF GERMAN RESEARCH

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 Wüerttemberg; 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: Keysersche 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.

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 Petitionand 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.

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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.
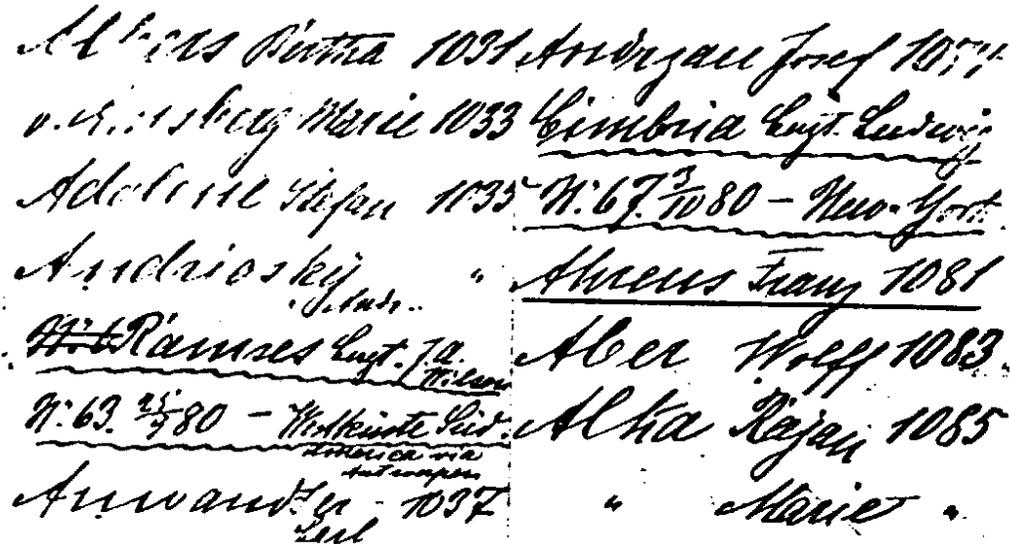
The Hamburg passenger list, on the other hand, was left intact. This list began in 1850 and copies of it are available at the genealogical library from this date up to 1934. There is a small gap from August 1914 through 1919 of the index and from September 1914 through 1919 of the passenger list because 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		

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
Geschlect, Mannlich, 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 Wüerttemberg 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 Wüerttemberg, 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_____
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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:

Beitrage zur Westfalischen 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 Geschlechterbucher* (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). Bocholz 99
> 44 (317). 89. Bochs 68. Bochsen 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 Burgerbuch der Stadt Munster 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 0 - as in bone	EI - I as in fine
Short 0 - 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. **StdA.**

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 Methodesten, 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.
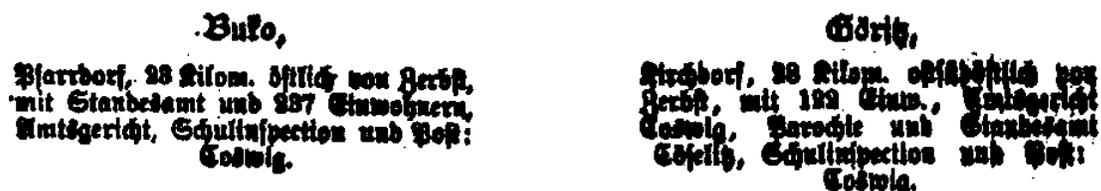

Fig. 8D

Baden

Franz, Hermann. Die Kirchenbucher 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 Neun-
          kirchen. 1705 auch luth Pf err, die aber 1777—1821 v Daudenzell

FIG. 8E

Bayern (BAVARIA)

Ortschaften-Verzeichnis Fur den Freistaat Bayern. Munich: J. Lindauersche Universitats 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.

N e u b a u , W., z. k. Pf. Bayerfeld 2, km, z. pr. Pf. u.
    Schule Ransweiler 1,e km, z. Post Dielkirchen,
    8 Einw., 1 Wgb.
B a n s w e i l e r , Pfd., v. Amt 9,e km — z. n. E Stat.
    Dielkirchen 5,e km, Post-A. — pr. Pfarrei, Dek.
    Rockenhausen, z. k. Pf. Bayerfeld 3,e 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.

Lembach: An die Zivilgemeinde sind 9 Bücher abgegeben worden, die 1603 beginnen; im Pfarrarchive werden aufbewahrt: 3 Tauf-, je 2 Trau- und Totenbücher, 2 Konfirmandenregister und 4 Konfirmanden- listen, 25 Kirchenrechnungen und 3 Protokollbücher des Kirchenrates. Zustand gut, die historischen Notizen zu einer Art Ortschronik ver- wendet. Eine alte series pastorum ist bis auf die Neuzeit fortgeführt. (Altorffer).

VI. Bolchen.

Bettingen: Außer Geburts- und Trauscheinen aus dem Jahre 1795 liegen die Bücher erst seit 1808 vor, es sind 103 Bände, die alle Kasualien ungetrennt umfassen. (J. Poncelet.)

FIG. 8G

Hanover- See Preussen

Hessen

Praetorius, Otfried. *Kirchenbucher und Standesregister fur Alle Wohnplatze im Land Hessen.* Darmstadt: Selbstverlag der Historischen Kommission fur 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; b) StA e I. Tf Tr St 1742 Kf 1822 Km 1819 Bz 1748; vor 1742 bei Vielbrunn k (Tf Tr St 1876; vorher:) bei Neustadt

Seidenbuch H. (vor 1803 Kurpfalz) StA Kolmbach e bei Schlierbach k bei Lindenfels

Fig. 8H

Hessen Nassau- See Preussen

Hohenzollern - See Preussen

Lippe - Die Bestande 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 (Preussia)

Gemeindelexikon fur das Konigreich Preussen. 10 vols. Berlin: Verlag des Koniglichen Statistischen Landesamts, 1908. (Ref 943 E5kp).
Gemeindelexikon fur 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. 8I. 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.

Fig. 8I

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.) *Vollstandjges Staats- Post- und Zeitungs Lexikon von Sachsen*. 13 vols. Zwickau: Im Verlag der Gebruder 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 Ortmansdorf-Rathsfeld (824,322 Item 2)
Vol.9 Rehbocksberg-Sachsen (824,323 Item 1)
Vol.10 Sachsen-Schweinsdorf (824,324 Item 1)
Vol.11 Schweitz-Trebishayn (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 is 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 schriftsassig 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 (Thüringia) - 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 ganzen	davon				(siehe die Vorbemerkungen)				
			ev.	kath.	isr.	von anb. Bekenntnissen	ev.	kath.	ev.	kath.	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Blaubeuren, OA.St.	3394	2774	567	1	52	1¹²	1⁷	1	1	Bhf LG, Btg
	2. Blaubeurer Heffenhöfe, H. u. W.	21	21	-	-	-	"	-	"	-	
	3. Bleiche, W.	10	9	1	-	-	"	-	"	-	
	1. (II. 13)	3425	2804	568	1	52					
2.	Arnegg, D. (III. 7)	393	43	350	-	-	32	17,2⁽⁷⁾	15	2	LG (Bhf B 14)
3.	Asch, Pfd. (III. 7)	651	648	2	-	1	3⁷	1	3	-	LG LG (Bhf B 1)

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-Loraine)	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
  Żulawka gm - pow Sztum - PomM
Postmahlen Gm 395 - Kr Preußisch Eylau -
  Ostpr - sV
```

Fig. 9E

C

Kredel, Otto and Thierfelder, Franz. *Deutsch-Fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis.* 3 Vols. Berlin: Deutsche Verlagsgesselschaft, 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.

```
Kulm — Kolno — Birnbaum, P
Kunau — Kunowo — Wirsitz, P
Kunil — 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 Lacznosci, 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)

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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 Rreichs (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:

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 Konigsberg, 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 Ostpruessen as found in Meyers encyclopedia, see Fig. l0B. 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. l0B in which the following information is found:

I.	RB.	KONIGSBERG
II.	KR.	BRAUNSBERG
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. l0C.

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. l0D. 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
Burgerbucher – 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
Volkszahlungslisten – 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
Universitatsarchive – 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

Addressbucher (Address books)	1813-1973
Auswanderungsakten (Emigration records)	1800-1900s
Gerichtsprotokole (Court records)	1400s-1800s
Hof Kirchenbucher (Estate church register)	1672-1888
Lagerbucher (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

Addressbucher (Address books)	1550-1965
Aufgeboten (Marriage banns)	1727-1955
Auswanderungsakten (Emigration records)	1526-1934
Burgerbucher (Citizen registers)	1250-1874
Familienregister (Family registers)	1808-1875
Gerichtsprotokolle (Court records)	770-1940
Glockenblucher (Bell toll registers)	1439-1517
Grundbucher (Land records)	783-1902
Kirchen zweitschriften (Parish transcripts)	1761-1874
Kirchenbucher (Parish registers)	1280-1968
Lehrlingsbuicher (Apprentice records)	1530-1887
Leichenpredigten (Funeral sermons)	1500-
Polizeiregister (Police registers)	1826-1890
Stadtchroniken (City chronicles)	552-1962
Steuerbocher (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-Handbucher Archive Archive im Deutschprachigen 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 individuals 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 pate. 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 Schmediding 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 fathers 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	Adols (Herm) Johann Konrad Franz Nr. 24 born Brand, owner of the palce Nr. 18 in Varenholz and Anna 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	Daughter of the deceased parents Johann Hein-rich Borgmann born Schromeyer and Anna Margaretha Borgmann, farm owner at Osterbeck.

Fig. 13 B

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 Adolpfs. In situations like this it is necessary to extend the line back several generations before it can be determined where the farm name originated.

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.
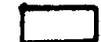
2. Force yourself as soon as possible to read word by word instead of letter by letter. An excellent terminology book that has been written is:

> Walker, Ronald D. *A Genealogical Handboqk 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:

Symbol	Meaning
* (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

German	English	German	English
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)	geneaology research
Am folgenden tag	on the following day	Findling (der)	orphan
Ammerkungen	remarks	Firmung (die)	confirmation
Aufenthaltsort (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	Gedenktag (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, 0, and Z.
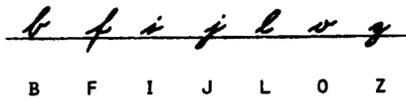

B   F   I   J   L   0   Z
Fig. 15A

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.
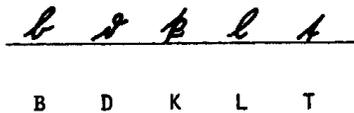
B   D   K   L   T
Fig. 15B

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.

G   J   P   Q   X   Y   Z
Fig. l5C

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.

F   H   S
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 a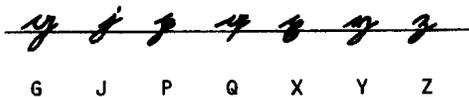nd the I are the only two that are similar to the Latin script. The letter U is placed with two groups because of its similarity with the A and 0, and the M and N. Most German writers will put either a slash or a dot over the u to distinguish it from the letter N. If a dot is used, then the letter u 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 _" ꟼ "_
   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 – Thrusday	

Centuries

Funfzehnhundert – 1500	Achtzehnhundert – 1800
Sechszehnhundert – 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	Mannlich - male, masculine
Jungling (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' 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 Vierundzwangiste
3 Dritte	14 Vierzehnte	25 Funfundzwanzigste
4 Vierte	15 Funfzehnte	26 Sechundzwangiste
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 Einundreissigste
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
Schwiegersohn (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
Trauung (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 - BrachetMay **-**Maien	December- Chrjstmond

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 As1 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
Sprokkelmaand	-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:
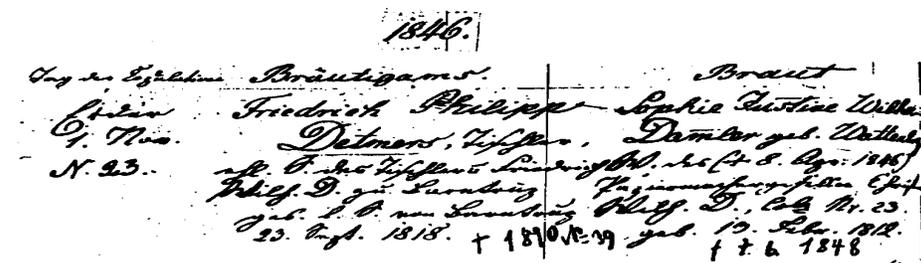
Died 21 October 1879, age 69 years, 8 months, 14 days

```
 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		
Day of Marriage	**Bridegroom**	**Bride**
Erder	*Friedrich Philipp*	*Sophie Justine Wilhelmina*
1 Nov.	*Detmers, Carpenter*	*Dammler born Wattenberg,*
No. 23	*Legitimate Son of the Carpenter*	*Widow of the (8+ Apr 1846)*
	Friedrich	*papermaker journeyman*
	Wilh. D. from Barntruz	*Christian*
	Born Single Son from Barntruz	*Wilh. D. Farmer No. 23*
	23 Sept. 1818 + 1870 No. 39	*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.
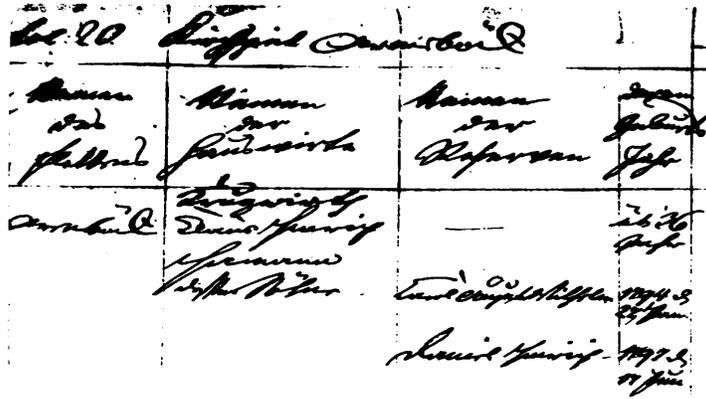
Another very important document that is found throughout Germany is the Geburtsbrief (letter of birth). This is also called the Geburtszeugnis (certificate of birth) or Herkunftszeugnis (certificate of origin). When an individual wanted to establish citizenship in a city or town, when he tried to join 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 Gilderbucher) 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 (Volkzahlungen), resident lists (Einwohnerlisten), and citizen books (Burgerbucher) 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 leving 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	*Innkeeper Claus Henrich Hamann*		*36 years*
	His sons	*Carl August Wilhelm*	*1794 27 Jan*
		Daniel Henrich	*1797 17 Jun*

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 certicates 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 Derzentralstelle fur Niedersachsische 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.

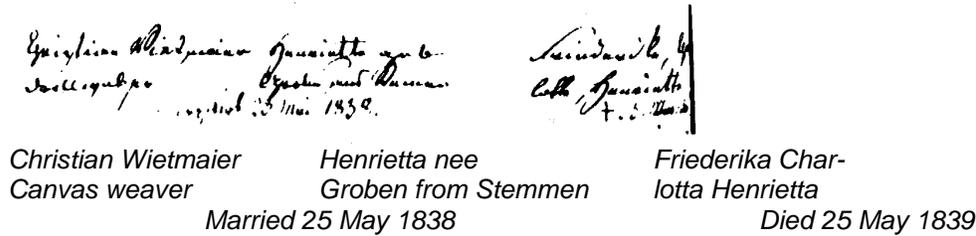| Christian Wietmaier | Henrietta nee | Friederika Char- |
| Canvas weaver | Groben from Stemmen | lotta Henrietta |
| *Married 25 May 1838* | | *Died 25 May 1839* |

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 scources are the *Dorfsippenbucher* (village lineage books), see Fig. 19C for an example, and the Deutsche Geschlechterbucher (German lineage books), see Fig. 19D for an extract of one.

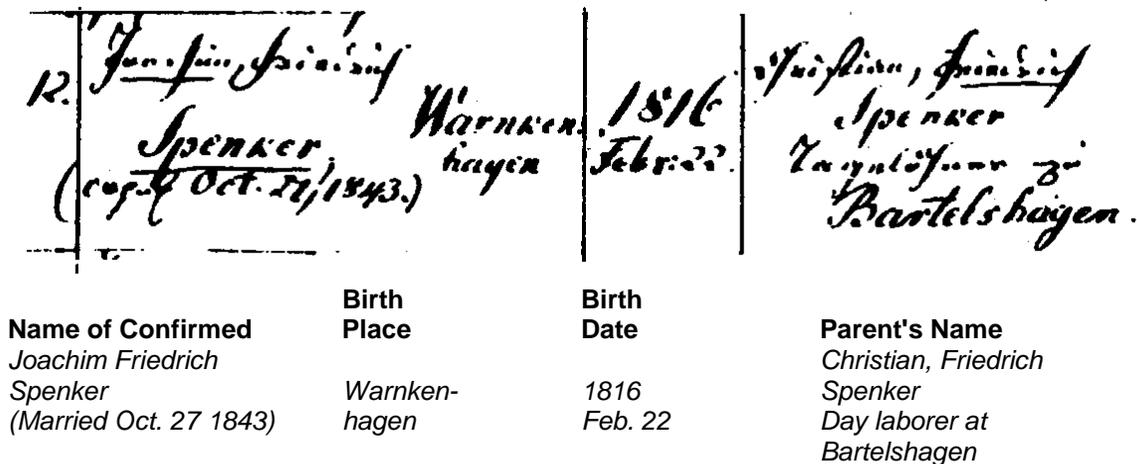| Name of Confirmed	Birth Place	Birth Date	Parent's Name
Joachim Friedrich			*Christian, Friedrich*
Spenker	*Warnken-*	*1816*	*Spenker*
(Married Oct. 27 1843)	*hagen*	*Feb. 22*	*Day laborer at*
			Bartelshagen

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.

A b r e d e r

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 Hassur (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.

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 Catr. Dor. Klopp age 1 1/4 yr. buried with Eng. christ Laage age 8 days
17 Decbr. 30	Hinr. Christ. Schmüsser from Neydorf his two children, Maria Margar age 4 yr. Joh. Friederich Schmüsser 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.

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

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.

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

Knupper, Harmen: Bruder 28 Nov 1706, Schaffer 1715, Besitzer 1731, Alter1738, oo Bruders Tochter, ergegraben 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

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	00 = marriage	**+ =** death	s = son
t = daughter	geb =maiden name	Wwe = widow	

Farm History

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 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 fur 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 Gesellsckaft 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 Familenvereine fur die obengennannten Eamiliennamen bestehen. Wurden Sie bitte so freundlich sein, wenn soiche vorhanden sind, mir bescheid zu genen wie ich mich mit den Familienvereinen in Verbindung sitzen 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 fur Familienforschung e.V. Lubeck
   Erich Gercken
   Moltlkestrasse 20
   2400 Lubeck 1
   Germany
   Periodical: *Lubecker Beitrage zur Familien und Wappenkund*

2. Arbeitsgemeinschaft fur Familienkundlichen Gesellschaften in Hessen
   Loreleistr. 28
   6230 Frankfurt/Main
   Germany
   Periodicals: *Hessische Familienkunde; Hessische Ahnenlisten*

3. Arbeitsgemeinschaft fur Mitteldeutsche Familienforschung e.V.
   Emilienstr. 1
   3500 Kassel
   Germany
   Periodical: *Mitteldeutsche Familenkunde*
   Publisher: Verlag Degener, Nuruenberger Strasse 27, 8530 Neustadt (Aisch)

4. Arbeitsgemeinschaft fur Pfalzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde
   Rottstr. 17
   6700 Ludwigshafen
   Germany
   Periodical: *Pfalzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde*

5. Arbeitsgemeinschaft fur Saarlandische Familienkiende
   Hans Greuling
   Neunkircher Str. 98
   6600 SaarbrUcken 2
   Germany
   Periodical: *Saarlandische Famjlienkunde*

6. Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ostdeutscher Familienforschr 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: *B1atter 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
    Osttalische 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 fur Familienkunde
    Lerigauweg 14
    2900 Oldenburg
    Germany
    Periodical: Oldenburgische Familienkunde

16. Ostfriesischen Landschaft, Arbeitsgruppe Faznilienkuride
    Verlag Ostfriesische Landschaft
    2960 Aurich
    Germany
    Periodical: *Quellen und Forschugen zur Qstfriesischen Familien- und Wappenkunde*

17. Schleswig-Holsteinische Gesellschaft fur Familienforschung und
    Wappenkunde e.V. Kiel
    Gartenstr. 12
    2300 Kiel
    Germany
    Periodical: *Familienkliches Jahrbuch Schleswig-Holstein*

18. Verein fur Familienforschung in Ost und Westpreussen e.V. Hamburg
    Alversloweg 15
    2000 Hamburg 67
    Germany
    Periodical: *Altpreussische Geschlechterkunde*

19. Verein fur Familien- und Wappenkunde in Wurttenmberg und Baden e.V.
    Postfach 769
    7000 Stuttgart 1
    Germany
    Periodical: *Sudwestdeutsche Blatter fur Familien- und Wappenkunde*

20. Vereins zur Forderung der Zentralstelle fur Personen- und Familiengeschichtliche
    Archivstr. 12-14
    1000 Berlin-Dahlem 33
    West Berlin
    Germany
    Periodical: *Familiengeschicchtliche Blatter: und Mitteilungen*

21. Westdeutsche Gesellschaft fur Familienkunde e.V.
    Rotdornstr. 6
    5000 Koln 50
    Germany
    Periodical: Mitteilungen der Westdeutschen Gesellschaft fur Familienkunde

Appendix A

GERMAN EMIGRATION – IMMIGRATION BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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 —	𝔄	N —	𝔑	a —	𝔞	n —	𝔫
B —	𝔅	O —	𝔒	b —	𝔟	o —	𝔬
C —	ℭ	P —	𝔓	c —	𝔠	p —	𝔭
D —	𝔇	Q —	𝔔	ch —	𝔠𝔥	q —	𝔮
E —	𝔈	R —	𝔐	ck —	𝔠𝔨	r —	𝔯
F —	𝔉	S —	𝔖	d —	𝔡	s —	ſ,𝔰
G —	𝔊	T —	𝔗	e —	𝔢	ss —	ß
H —	𝔥	U —	𝔘	f —	𝔣	t —	𝔱
I —	𝔍	V —	𝔙	g —	𝔤	tz —	𝔱𝔷
J —	𝔍	W —	𝔚	h —	𝔥	u —	𝔲
K —	𝔎	X —	𝔛	i —	𝔦	v —	𝔳
L —	𝔏	Y —	𝔜	j —	𝔧	w —	𝔴
M —	𝔐	Z —	ℨ	k —	𝔨	x —	𝔵
				l —	𝔩	y —	𝔶
				m —	𝔪	z —	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 – ⑤	Schaarhof, D., f. Sandhofen A. Mannheim.
CH – ⑭	Schaarreihe, Hrgr., f. Rüstringen.
A – ⑭	Schaarteich, Hufe, Kr. Plön, f. Helmstorf 4).
B – ⑭	Schabau, Ein., BA. Wasserburg, f. Schlicht.
E – ⑭	Schabelhof, H., A. Villingen, f. Dürrheim.
	Schabelhöfe, Wlr., A. Donaueschingen, f.
	Riedöschingen. [lowitz.
	Schabelnia, Kol., LKr. Kattowitz, f. Mys-
N – ⑭	Schaben, H., Kr. Bunzlau, f. Strauß.
AU – ⑭ ⑭	Schabenau, D.-u. Rg. (mit Neuvorwerf),
	a/d Bartsch; Pr., Schlef., RB. Breslau, Kr.
	AG. Guhrau, Bstdo. Wohlau, StbA. A. Wend-
	stedt, E 3,6 km Rechlau; 163 h; 37 E., T,
	fath. Pfl.; SpDrf. [Kirchberg 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 " ſ " (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., BA. Eschenbach, f. Kaun-
Heberthal, Ein., BA. Wasserburg, f. Attel.
Heberting, Ein., BA. Eggenfelden, f. Stau-
bach).**

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.)	Füstentum	(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:

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
Braunschw.	(Braunschw.)	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.)	Honnover

Fraktur	Abbrev.	Full Name
Hessen-N.	(Hessen-N.)	Hessen-Nassau
Hohenzollern		Hohenzollern
Ostpr.	(ostpr.)	Ostpreussen
Pomm.	(Pomm.)	Pommern
Posen		Posen
Rheinl.	(Rheinl.)	Rheinland
Sa.	(Sa.)	Sachsen (Province)
Schles.	(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:

Fraktur	Abbrev.	German	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.	BK.do.	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	Bradenburg
WALDEN	Bradenburg, Westpreussen
WELLER	Elass-Lothringen
WITZ	Bradenburg, Schlemiel
WO	Posen
ZIG	Bradenburg, 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 hoeflichst 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 kiszuges 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 Ibre 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

Research Guidance

Version of Data: 03/28/2001

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 - Augstogallen	X			Smalininkai	Jurbarkas
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 - Iriartea	599,541
9	Irideen - Königsgrün	599,542
10	Konigshofen - Luzon	599,543
11	Luzula - Nathanael	599,544
12	Nathusius - Phlegmone	599,545
13	Phlegon - Rubinsteir	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
Waldeck	Braunschweig	599536 (2nd Item)	3	358 - 359
Westfalen		547,503 (2nd Item)	16	556 - 557
Westpreussen	Ostpreussen	599,545	12	540 - 541
Württemberg		547,503 (2nd Item)	16	772 - 773