

# German Genealogy

## Basic Word list for German Genealogy:

English	German
birth	Geburten, Geburtsregister, Geborene, geboren
burial	Beerdigungen, begraben, Begräbnisse, bestattet, beerdigt
Catholic	katholisch
child	Kind, Kinder
christening	Taufe, Taufen, Getaufte
confirmations	Konfirmationen, Firmungen
civil registry	Standesamt
death	Tote, Tod, sterben, starb, verstorben, gestorben, Sterbefall
father	Vater
husband	Mann, Ehemann, Gatte
index	Verzeichnis, Register
Jewish	jüdisch, Jude(n), israelitisch
marriage	Proklamationen, Aufgebote, Verkündigungen
banns marriage	Heiraten, Trauungen, Getraute, Ehe, Kopulation, kopulieren, verheiratet, Verehelichungen, Eheschliessungen
month	Monat
mother	Mutter
name, given	Vorname, Name
name, surname	Zuname, Familienname, Geschlechtsname, Name
parents	Eltern
parish	Pfarrei, Kirchspiel, Gemeinde
Protestant	evangelisch, lutherisch, Protestant
Reformed	reformiert
wife	Frau, Ehegattin, Weib, Ehefrau, Hausfrau, Gattin
year	Jahr

Adapted from: [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German\\_Word\\_List](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List) which provides much more complete information.

**Family History Center Research Outline:** <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany>

**GERMAN GENEALOGY by Els Tveit Genpals2003:** <http://dutch.favos.nl/>

**Find Your Roots in Germany:** <http://www.roots-in-germany.de/>

**Germany GenWeb Project:** <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wggerman/>

**GeoGen (surname mapping):** <http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en/>



# Old German Type and Handwriting

Roman Type	German Type	German Script	Roman Type	German Type	German Script
Aa	Aa	A a	Vv	Vv	V v
Bb	Bb	B b	Ww	Ww	W w
Cc	Cc	C c	Xx	Xx	X x
Dd	Dd	D d	Yy	Yy	Y y
Ee	Ee	E e	Zz	Zz	Z z
Ff	Ff	F f	Modified Vowels (Umlaute)		
Gg	Gg	G g	Ää	Ä ä	Ä ä
Hh	Hh	H h	Öö	Ö ö	Ö ö
Ii	Ii	I i	Üü	Ü ü	Ü ü
Jj	Jj	J j	Compound Consonants		
Kk	Kk	K k	ch	ch	ch
Ll	Ll	L l	sch	sch	sch
Mm	Mm	M m	ck	ck	ck
Nn	Nn	N n	ss	ss	ss
Oo	Oo	O o	ß (sz, ss)	ß (ß ñ)	ß
Pp	Pp	P p	st	st	st
Qq	Qq	Q q	tz	tz	tz
Rr	Rr	R r	ph	ph	ph
Ss	Ss	S s			
Tt	Tt	T t			
Uu	Uu	U u			

Adapted from:

[http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rg.asp?Dest=G1&Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Guide=German\\_Gothic99-36316.ASP](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=G1&Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Guide=German_Gothic99-36316.ASP) which provides much more complete information.

## German Maps

Knowledge of German maps is also necessary for serious genealogists. To find a map for the location and time period your ancestors lived in the area that is now Germany go to:

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/germaps.htm>

## Finding Records in Germany—An Action Plan:

1. **Google** the name of the town
  - a. Lots of the results will be tourism related.
  - b. *Wikipedia* is a good starting point but you may need to dig deeper. Remember any one can edit these entries. However, it may give you the map location and can be very helpful.
2. Use the **University of Wisconsin** site



- a. [Download the appropriate index page](#). For our example that is **page 10**.
- b. Record the information for **Herrenberg** \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Use the information from b to [download map](#)
  - i. The Roman numeral will be the “**Map #**”
  - ii. The rest of the entry will be the **coordinates** on that map.
  - iii. Select the appropriate **quadrant** of the appropriate map.
- d. Find Herrenberg
  - i. Scroll around the map until you can see the **faint red characters** on the **bottom border (letters)** and the **right border (numbers)** of the map.
  - ii. Focus in on **Herrenberg** using the **coordinates** information from the index.
  - iii. **Hint:** In this example 2 letters are combined to show that our town is horizontally right on the cusp between two different letters.
  - iv. **Hint:** The name of the town is slightly abbreviated on the map.
- e. Repeat steps a-d above to find any other town of your choice.

Town Name	Map # (Roman numeral)	Horizontal axis (Capital letter)	Vertical axis (Arabic numeral)

3. **German Records Locations Using Meyers Orts:** “*Meyers Orts-und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* is a gazetteer describing approximately 210, 000 cities, towns, hamlets, and dwelling places in the German Empire prior to World War I.”<sup>1</sup> It was originally in 4 volumes and was created at the time a united Germany was beginning to emerge from scores of tiny kingdoms in the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It was painstakingly created by traveling around and inventorying all the localities. It has become the “*Bible*” of German genealogy. A slightly condensed version of two volumes is available online. It takes a while for the

neophyte to decode an entry and glean the information from it about where the records may be stored that may have data of genealogical significance. However, with patience and sufficient motivation, you should be able to decipher much useful information.

*Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*: With Researcher's Guide and Translations of the Introduction, Instruction for the Use of the Gazetteer, and Abbreviations. Three Volumes **In German is available on line & on Ancestry.**  
<http://www.genealogical.com/products/Meyers%20Orts%20und%20Verkehrs%20Lexikon%20des%20Deutschen%20Reichs/6504.html>

- a. **How to Use Meyer Gazetteer** [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Step-by-step\\_guide:\\_Using\\_Meyers\\_Gazetteer\\_Online](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Step-by-step_guide:_Using_Meyers_Gazetteer_Online)
- b. Historic German maps:  
<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/germaps.htm>
- c. Further useful background information can be found in several locations. A few are listed in a note at the foot of this page.<sup>2</sup> *Meyers Orts* Searchable online:
- d. **Volume 1, A-K:**  
[https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE74680&vid=FHD&vid=FHD](https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE74680&vid=FHD&vid=FHD)
- e. **Volume 2, L-Z:**  
[https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE74645&vid=FHD&vid=FHD](https://dcms.lds.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE74645&vid=FHD&vid=FHD)

**German Overview – Gary Haas:** <http://garylhaas.web.aplus.net/phgnews/phgg0711.pdf>

**Finding People and Places in the USA and Germany:** <http://www.germanroots.com/places.html>

**German Research Websites:** [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/German\\_Research\\_Websites](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/German_Research_Websites)

**Some German Records:** <https://www.familysearch.org/s/collection/list?page=1&countryId=1927074>

**Surname locator:** <http://www.verwandt.de/karten/relativ/walter.html> Substitute your surname for Walter after you open the site.

**Online German Emigration Records, Lists & Indexes:** <http://germanroots.com/emigration.html>

**Immigrant Genealogy Society, Burbank:** <http://immigrantgensoc.org/>

