

Researching our German Ancestors

Silverton Ancestry Detectives

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Prepared by Tom O'Brien
tom.obrien4@comcast.net

Resources:

FamilySearch Research Articles <https://familysearch.org/> I recommend you register.
Go to the **Learn** tab and click on **Research Wiki**, then **List all countries**, then **Germany**.

FamilySearch Videos

Go to the **Learn** tab and click on **Research Courses**, then **Germany**.

German Telephone Directory - Das Telefonbuch - <http://www.dastelefonbuch.de/>
Surname distribution maps <http://christoph.stoepel.net/geogen/en/default.aspx>

Deutsche Post code finder - http://www.postdirekt.de/plzserver/PlzSearchServlet?lang=en_GB

WorldGenWeb Project - <http://www.worldgenweb.org/>

Click on "Country Index" then select "G" for Germany & click on the CenEuroGenWeb link

Global IGI Batch #'s - <http://www.pricegen.com/resources/globalbatchnumbers.htm#numbers>

Maps for German research - <http://www.gofalk.com/> or <http://www.viamichelin.com/>

Be aware that the names of quite a few towns & cities have been anglicized. Examples are:

<i>Anglicized Name</i>	<i>German Name</i>
Munich	München
Cologne	Köln
Hanover	Hannover
Nuremberg	Nürnberg
Brunswick	Braunschweig
Vienna	Wien

Names of geographic features can also cause confusion. Learn to accept such irregularities. An example is the lake bordering Germany, Switzerland (Suisse) and Austria can be correctly identified as Lake Konstanz, Lake Constance as well as the Bodensee.

To determine the most appropriate spelling of the town name as well as to determine how many towns by that name exist in present day Germany use <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/>

Finding the web site for your ancestor's town - type the name of the town followed by ".de"

Examples Ebbersheim.de, Ettenheim.de or Steinheim.de

"Google Translate" can be helpful to understand what is on the site (the site is in German)

Do a "Google Image" search for the name of your ancestor's town

Old German handwritten scripts - <http://www.genealogienetz.de/misc/scripts.html>

GeneaNet <http://www.geneanet.org/> and

RootsWeb Family Trees <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

Both of these sites can be helpful in finding other individuals who are researching your families.

Join the RootsWeb List (digest mode) for the appropriate geographic area. This will assist you in learning more about the area and the resources that are available to you. On the RootsWeb home page, scroll down the left hand column until you get to the forth section titled "Mailing Lists". Click on Index (Browse All Lists). Next scroll to the International section and click on Germany.

Hamburg Passenger Lists - These contain passport applications recorded by the police information office in Hamburg. Each volume has its own index. Indexes show the name, birth date and place of the applicant, the year and file number. After 1897 another index was kept separately. This index includes some entries as early as 1881. The Hamburg Passenger Lists are available through your local Family History Center (323 rolls of microfilm).

Bremen Passenger Lists - <http://www.passengerlists.de/>

German Genealogy Research at ProGenealogists.com

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/articles/gdepart.htm>

You may also wish to click on the "German Genealogy" link in the right hand sidebar.

Helpful Publications

The German Research Companion, Third Edition (Oregon State Library)

(ISBN 0-9656761-6-1) Riemer, Shirley J., Minert, Roger P. & Anderson, Jennifer A.

German-English Genealogical Dictionary (Oregon State Library) (Salem Public Library) (GFO Library)

(ISBN: 0806313420 / 0-8063-1342-0) Thode, Ernest

A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Germanic Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage (Salem Public Library) (GFO Library)

(ISBN: 1558705201 / 1-55870-520-1) Anderson, Chris; Thode Ernest

In Search of Your German Roots A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe (Oregon State Library) (Salem Public Library) (GFO Library)

(ISBN: 0806314478) Baxter, Angus

Central European Genealogical Terminology (Salem Public Library)

Suess, Jared H.

Genealogical Handbook of German Research (Oregon State Library)

Jensen, Larry This is available as a PDF file on the FamilySearch.org site and it is FREE

Researching in Germany: A handbook for your visit to the homeland of your ancestors

(Multnomah County Library in Portland)

(ISBN: 0965676153 / 0-9656761-5-3) Roger P. Minert

German Immigrants in American Church Records (Oregon State Library)

(ISBN: 0897257596 / 978-0897257596) Roger P. Minert