

Mesa Regional Family History Center

Quick Start #3

German Research

(How to find the place of origin in Germany)

*A complete guide can be downloaded
from Family Search:
www.familysearch.org*



First Step:

- Work from known data by using the available records from the area where your ancestors lived in the United States.
- Diaries/Family Bibles
- Family Letters
- Family Histories
- Personal Journals
- Census Records
- Emigration/Immigration Records
- Cemetery Records
- Church Certificates
- Church Records
- Court Records
- Land/Property Deeds
- Naturalization/Citizenship Records
- Obituaries/Newspapers
- Maps
- Military Records
- Vital Records
- Social Security Death Index

Resources available in the MRFHC to find Emigration/Immigration and Naturalization Records:

1. Naturalization: Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States Schaefer, Christina K; 973.P4s
2. German American Newspapers and Periodicals 1732-1955 Microfilm 829041, Item 1
3. Passenger Lists and Immigration CDs
 - Early Texas Settlers 1700-1800s
 - Passenger and Immigration Lists Index; 1538-1940, 1999 Update
 - Early South Carolina Settlers, 1500s to 1900s, plus 2000 Supplement
 - New Orleans Passenger Lists 1840-1849
 - Passenger and Immigration Lists: Boston, 1821-1850Passenger Lists are also available on Ancestry.Com
4. Thirty Thousand Names of Germans, Swiss, Dutch, French and other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776 974.47 W2ra Index

5. The Alsace Emigration Book 944.3&W2s
6. The Württemberg Emigration Index; Shenk, Trudy 943.47 w22.st
7. Pennsylvania German Pioneers (a publication of the original lists of arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727-1808) 974.811 W3s
8. Collection of Ships Passenger Lists from Boston, New Orleans, Baltimore and other Eastern Ports – except New York – Green Book Reference Section
9. Germans to America , 1820-1950 Philby 973W2ger over 50 volumes
10. Hamburg Passenger Lists 1850-1934 973 W2ger

These Lists are available on Ancestry.Com. After locating a name, check the ship's manifest since families and sometimes entire villages came together.

Naturalization records in the United States were kept by the local courts until 1906. The US National Archives hold the records and this is being digitized by Foot-Note. About 20% are currently available on line.

MRFHC Books on German Surnames and their Variations:

Deutsches Namenlexikon, Bahlow, Hans 943 D466ba
 Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Familiennamen; Brechenmaker, Josef Karlmann 943 D466

Where do I find local Church Records and Civil Registration?

1. Salt Lake Family History Library Catalog
2. Mesa Regional Family History Center Catalog
3. Meyers Orts und Verkehrs Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs 3 volumes in Reference Section.
4. Müllers Ort 1 volume in Reference Section.
5. The German Researcher; Dearden, Fay 943.D27df Guide to Meyers Ort

Maps:

Atlas of the German Empire 1892 Q Section (over-sized books)
 Several are available in Drawer 4 of the Map Cabinet
 On the internet: davidrumsey.com

Free Internet Sources:

www.familysearch.com
www.pilot.familysearch.com

German Research

On the Internet

GENERAL INFORMATION

- http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/wiki/Germans_to_America - German and American sources for German emigration to America
- <http://www.dausa.de/> - Forschungsstelle deutscher Auswanderer in die USA, discusses the problems with "Germans to America" at length, has links to sites containing transcribed passenger lists, offers research services.
- <http://www.dogpile.com/> - Meta search engine- searches other search engines
- <http://www.geocities.com/mppraetorius/> - "Palmer list of merchant vessels" – contains descriptions and pictures of European sailing vessels
- <http://www.ancestorsonboard.com/> - passenger lists of outbound ships from the United Kingdom 1890-1960 [subscription website, part of www.findmypast.com]
- <http://www.ghi-de.org/publications/ghipubs/rg/rg012/> - a bibliography of Americana in German Archives, including lists of emigrants emigrant letters etc.
- <http://www.anthoni.de/genealogen/wollmershaeuser/d/Auswanderer.html> - list of data bases compiled by Friedrich Wollmershaeuser for southwestern German emigrants [actual data bases NOT included]

U.S. AND GERMAN PASSENGER LISTS AND INDEXES

- <http://www.ellisland.org> - New York arrivals 1892-1924, limited search functionality, includes images
- <http://www.castlegarden.org/> - passenger arrivals in New York 1820-1913, currently not linked to images
- <http://www.stevemorse.org> – improved search forms for the Ellis Island website, Castlegarden.org, and other websites, which allow searches by various fields, with or without a complete name.
- www.ancestry.com/ - includes an ever-increasing number of passenger list indexes and linked images, including New York 1851-1891 and several other major ports. Many major public libraries have the "library edition".
- <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/passengers.html> - Emigration and immigration links compiled by Joe Beine
- <http://www.ingeneas.com/> - data base of emigrants coming through Canada.
- <http://www.roots-in-germany.de/> - links to German emigrant data bases arranged by geographical area.
- <http://www.routes.de/database.html> links to several regional emigrant databases: DELAUS – Delmenhorst 1830-1930, CUXAUS Cuxhaven 1830-1930, CLAUS - Cloppenburg and Vechta areas 1830- abt. 1875, – Bad Laer - 19th Century emigration from Bad Laer near Osnabrueck.
- <http://istg.rootsweb.com/> - Immigrant Ships Transcribers' Guild, contains transcriptions of various passenger lists.

- <http://www.jewishgen.org/infoFiles/GermanOocs.htm> - JewishGen Infofile: translations of about 1500 German occupations

Regional resources:

Alsace - <http://alsacegenweb.online.fr/homepage.htm> - Alsace GenWeb

<http://www.prenom.com/bas-rhin-67/villes-bas-rhin-cartes-cassini-ville-village.htm> - 1750 historical maps by Cassini, also available on several other websites, but seems more navigable here. See also:

<http://www.cartocassini.org/planville/plan.php>

Baden - <http://www.websters.net/blackforest/index.html> - for those researching in the Black Forest area; can post queries.

<http://www.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/helios/fachinfo/www/gesch/tipfam2.htm> - link collection for family history in Baden Wuerttemberg, Pfalz

Bavaria - <http://www.gf-franken.de/> web page of the Franken Genealogical Society

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/Articles/bavgen.htm> - short descriptive article listing sources and archives for research in Bavaria

http://www.lkan-ekb.de/Download/Kirchenmatrikeln_nach_Orten.pdf - listing of Lutheran parish registers available in the Church Book Archive in Nuernberg

<http://www.kirchenbuch-virtuell.de> - Lutheran church archive Bayreuth: digital reading room- over 26 parishes [scanned images] searchable online [fee]

Berlin - <http://www.alt-berlin.info/> - street maps

<http://adressbuch.zfb.de/> - Berlin address book from 1799-1943 available with images.

<http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/berlin/berlin.htm> - street index with church- and civil jurisdictions

<http://www.blocksignal.de/krt/b07/f.cgi> - map of Berlin and suburbs 1907

Brandenburg - <http://grueneberg-lenzen.de/deutsch/Kirchbuch/start.html> - links to some „virtual parish registers“ and indexes for Brandenburg and Mecklenburg

Bremen - <http://www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/maus/datenbanken/index.php?lang=de> - links to various data bases, including town genealogies for the Bremen area, funeral registration books, tax records, emigration sources

Hamburg - <http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/HAM/> - resources for research, links to gazetteers etc.

<http://www.genealogus.de/infoskontakt/> - research in and around Hamburg, explains various sources and their location, gives archive addresses etc.

Hannover - <http://aldaonline.niedersachsen.de/> - Online record inventory for the state archives in Niedersachsen, includes indexes of emigrants

<http://www.osfa.de/> -family history sources in the Osnabrueck area, includes lists of parishes, farming estates [Hoefe], and a parish register inventory

Hessen-Darmstadt and Hessen-Nassau - http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/wiki/Hessische_Kirchenb%C3%BCher lists parish registers filmed at the Kassel Church Book Archive

<http://www.archive.hessen.de/> - Archives in Hessen; a web portal

<http://www.hadis.hessen.de/> - online indexes to Hessen archival resources. Enter surname or search term in the field "Schnellsuche" and click on the magnifying glass. For lists of emigrants look for the category "Auswanderernachweise"

Hohenzollern - <http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/>

Lippe-Detmold - <http://www.nhv-ahnenforschung.de/> - genealogical and local history material for Lippe

Mecklenburg - <http://portal.hsb.hs-wismar.de/pub/ibmv/mjb/jb079/348686668.html> - historical development of the principality of Ratzburg [book online, in German]

Niedersachsen - <http://www.staatsarchive.niedersachsen.de/home> - state archives in Niedersachsen, includes inventories of the various state archives.

Oldenburg - <http://www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/OGF/index.html> - list of parishes, with beginning date for records and expert to contact for help, where available, also includes an emigrant database

Ostfriesland [belongs to Hannover] -

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mnogsm/records.htm> - list of Ostfriesland parishes, when the parishes begin, and whether an OSB has been published

- http://www.galvestonhistory.org/Texas_Seaport_Museum.asp - Galveston Immigration data base, free, but need to get user-ID and password.
- <http://home.att.net/~arnielang/shipguide.html> - Immigration and ship passengers research guide - helpful!
- <http://www.passagierlisten.de/> - Bremen passenger lists 1920-1939
- <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoiff/immigr.htm> - links to passenger lists for various countries.
- <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/5978/Emigration.html> - emigration resources and links to passenger lists
- <http://ahnenforschungen.de/genlink/Auswanderungen/more3.html> - a German link list of websites dealing with German emigration to various countries, especially the U.S. and Canada
- http://www.frenchlines.com/passager_index_fr.php - lists of passengers on French ships
- <http://www.saxonyroots.com/ships/> - transcribed passenger lists sent in by volunteers
- <http://members.aol.com/rprost/passenger.html> - finding passenger lists on the Internet
- <http://home.foni.net/~adelforschung1/auswand.htm> - lists of emigrants from noble families

REGIONAL LISTS/INDEXES OF EMIGRANTS

Baden

- <http://www.auswanderer-bw.de/auswanderer/> - data base of emigrants from Baden and Wuerttemberg, known as "Glatzle" collection.
- http://www.emigration-offenburg.de/english_code/isucheing_1.php - emigrants from the Offenburg area [appears to be off-line June 2008]
- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~herz/ind/index.htm> - links for emigrant lists from the towns of Kuppenheim, Steinmauern, Oetigheim, Stein am Kocher, Herbolzheim, Kochertürn, Neckarsulm, Binswangen, Dahlenfeld, and Schefflenz

Bayern

- <http://www.emigration-research.de/vu/> - list of emigrants from Oberbayern - obtain town of origin from compiler for a fee.
- <http://www.genealogie-kiening.de/> lists of property owners found in the communities East of Munich, not emigrants specifically, but they can be used to link emigrant surnames to specific towns
- **Braunschweig**
- <http://www.thomas-erbe.de/ahnen/buch/001.htm> - every-name index to: Fritz Gruhne, Auswandererlisten des ehemaligen Herzogtums Braunschweig 1846-1871. The book is available at the Family History Library, call # 943.59 W29g. [Int'l Reference], on microfilm 1045468 Item 10.

Hannover

- <http://aidaonline.niedersachsen.de/> - Niedersachsen State archives searchable archive inventory online., which includes a list of emigrants:
- Click on "Auswanderersuche" to the right of the "Suchen"[search] field
- Enter surname in field labeled "Suchbegriffe" and click on "Weiter"
- The next screen displays the record groups selected for the search. Click "suchen"
- The list of hits is displayed next. If nothing was found, it may say "keine Treffer" [no hits].
- Click "erneute Suche" if you want to search again.

- <http://www.nordfriiskinstitut.de/datenbank.html> - Emigrants from Northern Friesland-data base.
- <http://www.routes.de/iinksammlung/004NS.htm> - emigration sources for the modern state of Niedersachsen, includes material for Oldenburg.
- http://www.pohlw.de/vor_ort/emigration_whs/index.htm - emigration from the former county of Wildeshausen
- <http://routes.de/tinc?key=aDbVINBZ&formname=Cuxaus> - data base of emigrants who left from the port of Cuxhaven
- <http://www.emslanders.com/> - emigrants from the Emsland region [Hannover] to the Midwestern States
- <http://www.dialogos-studies.com/bisemigrants.htm> - emigrants from the Grafschaft of Bentheim

Hessen

- <http://www.rheingau-genealogie.de/seite16.htm> - Auswanderung aus dem Rheingau
- <http://www.hadis.hessen.de/> - Online inventory system for the Hessen State archives. Enter the surname in the box labeled „Schnellsuche“. Emigrants specifically are found under the heading „Auswanderer-Nachweise“, but can be found under other topics as well. Click on the topic for a detailed list of entries.

Lippe-Detmold

- <http://www.lippe-auswanderer.de/html/auswanderer-usa-eng.htm> - data base of emigrants from Lippe-Detmold

Mecklenburg-Schwerin

- <http://www.imar-ivv.com/> - Institute for migration and ancestral research in Mecklenburg - has large data base they will search upon request (25,000 names).
- <http://www.griesegegend-online.de/datenbank.htm> - various lists of emigrants; some list only names, other extensive personal information

Mecklenburg-Strelitz

- <http://www.emecklenburg.de/MFP/database/auswanderer.php> - data base of emigrants

Oldenburg

- <http://www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/OGF/auswanderer/auswanderer.html> - list of emigrants from Oldenburg [Oldenburg Genealogical Society]
- <http://www.honkomp.de/damme-auswanderung/chapter0.htm> - Emigrants from the old district of Damme, Oldenburg.
- <http://www.familie-bloemer.de/gene/> - lists of emigrants from the Southern part of Oldenburg, known as 'Oldenburger Muensterland' (predominantly Catholic)
- <http://www.auswanderungdelmenhorst.de/> - Emigrants from the district of Delmenhorst

Rheinland

- <http://www.roots-in-germany.de/> - check under "Rheinland_Pfalz for links to various emigrant lists
- <http://www2.genealogy.net/vereine/ArGeWe/englisch/index-e.htm> - emigrants from the Westerwald region
- <http://www.genealogienetz.de/vereine/wgff/trier/index.html> - emigrants from the former Regierungsbezirk Trier 1700-1900, click on „ABC-Listen“, then choose „Auswanderer“

Sachsen

- <http://www.bcepworld.de/members81/saxonforefathers/index.htm> - lists names and date of emigration, but not town of origin. Further information can be requested from site owner.

Schaumburg-Lippe

- <http://www.blume-gen.de/> - click on "Schaumburger Auswanderer" to link to a list of emigrants from Schaumburg-Lippe

• Odessa - Germans from Russia