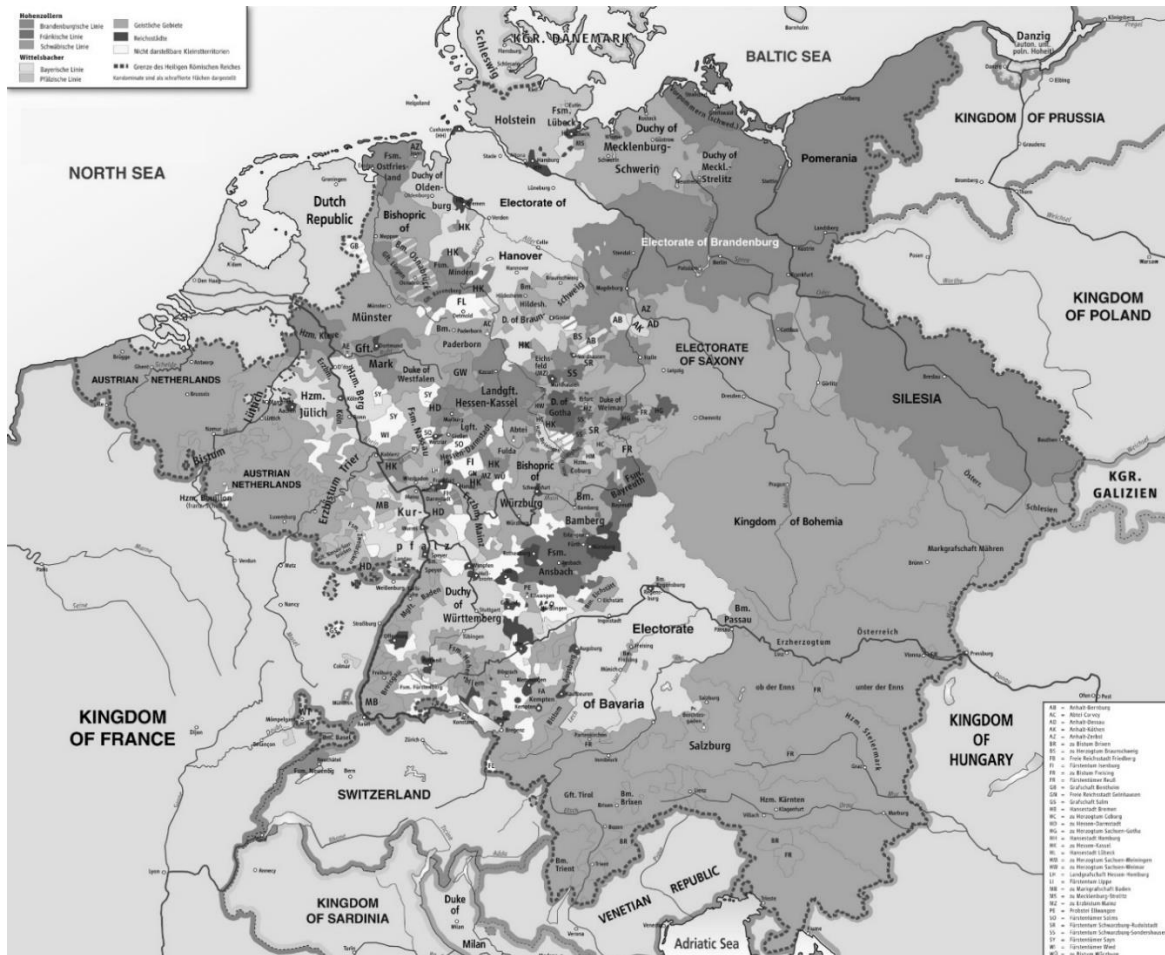


Leveraging MyHeritage's German Resources Effectively

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Researching your ancestors deep into Germany simply doesn't happen unless you know the name of the village of origin. This presentation goes over the sources to tie your immigrant to a Heimat and then find the village and its records!



The German states in 1789 on the eve of the French Revolution

Methodologies review:

- First job: Find every document of the immigrant ancestor or mentioning immigrant
 - Prepare for surname variants
 - “Redundancy” is a virtue (e.g., obit may well have something tombstone does not)
 - Even items such as letters and diaries might give clues!
 - Be prepared for village names to be corrupted

- Familiarize yourself with German maps / gazetteers
- Look for “patterns of association” with other individuals
- Process any piece of information that might distinguish the immigrant (e.g., occupation, names of other family members, etc.)
- Utilize “whole family” genealogy
 - If specific records don’t exist for your ancestor, try others in family
- Look for published sources
 - 1700s families: Burgert / Jones / Yoder / Hacker
 - 1800s families: Burkett / *Germans to America* / Emigration indexes
- Search International Genealogical Index for:
 - References to individual
 - References to clusters of the surname if it is not common
 - References to shipmates
 - References to “associated persons”
- Look for other sources of immigrant information:
 - Heimatstelle Pfalz immigrant card file
 - Hamburg embarkation lists
 - German phonebooks
 - Google searches
- Use the “concentric circles” strategy
 - If a village is found for the above categories of people (surname, shipmates, associated persons) but your immigrant is not found ...
 - ... work out from that village in “concentric circles” to other surrounding villages
- “Things found on the way to something else”
 - Machmer / Magemer / Mahomer example
 - Never turn away luck!

Types of records that might yield a place of origin:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturalizations • Declarations of intent (“first papers”) • Naturalization petitions (“final papers”) • Baptisms of children • Marriage records • Church burial records • Tombstones • Obituaries • U.S. Census | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Bibles • Family registers • Fraternal societies’ records • Enlistment papers • Discharge papers • Pension documents • Letters from relatives • Postmarks on letters! |
|---|--|

Some of the **MyHeritage** databases most useful for German genealogy:

- **Germany, Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898**
- **Germany, Marriages, 1558-1929**
- **Germany Deaths and Burials, 1582-1958**
- **West Prussia Church Books**
- **Germany, Prussia, Brandenburg and Posen, Church Book Duplicates, 1794-1874**
- **Emigrants from Southwestern Germany, 1736-1963**
- **Emigrants from Hamburg to Australasia, 1850 – 1879**
- **Gothaisches Genealogisches Taschenbuch Der Freiherrlichen Hauser**
- **Germany, Hesse Marriage Index, 1849-1931**

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