



---

German Genealogical Society of America

Post Office Box 291818 Los Angeles, California 90029

## FRIEDRICH R. WOLLMERSHÄUSER

on

## GERMAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

presented by the

*German Genealogical Society of America and the Scripps College German Department*

SATURDAY, 6 MARCH 1993 - 9:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

Bette Cree Edwards Humanities Building Auditorium

Scripps College, Claremont, California

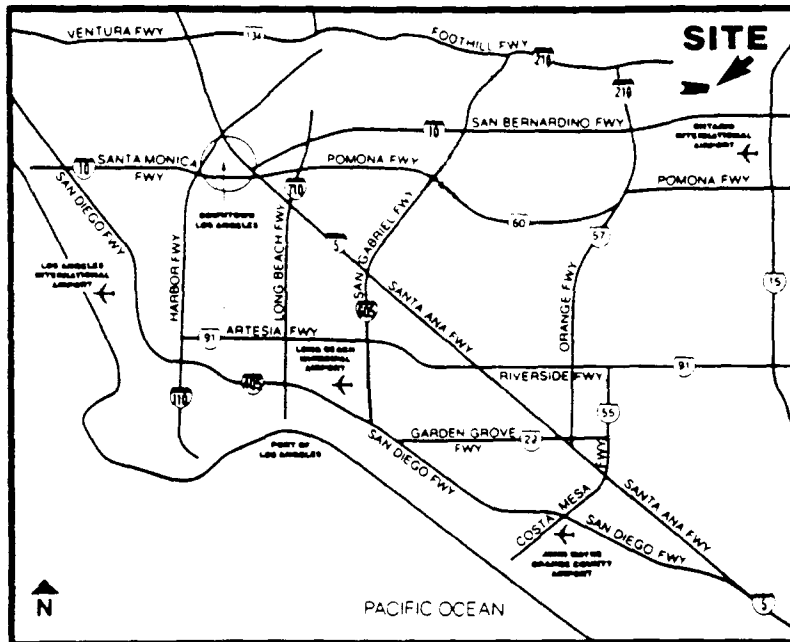
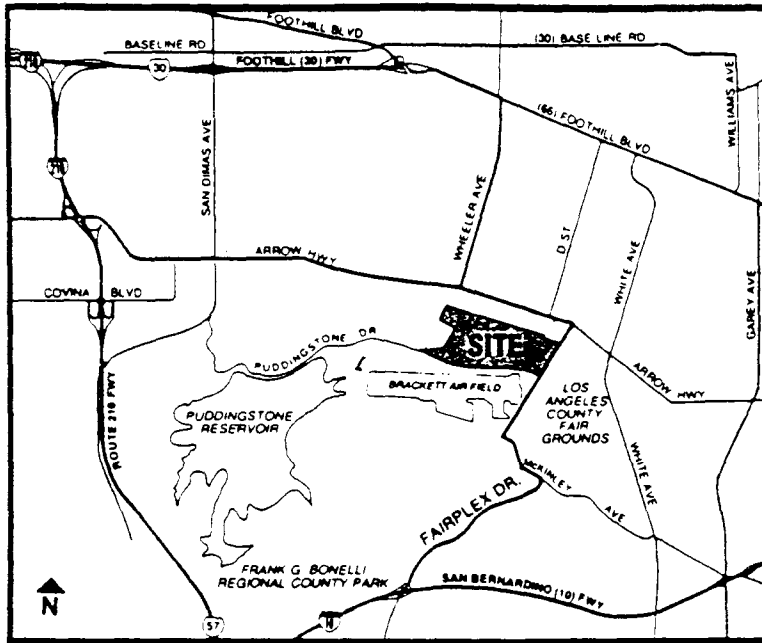
Mr. Wollmershäuser, one of today's most knowledgeable and dynamic speakers on German genealogical research, is a native of Württemberg. He has an M.A. in history and the history of science from Stuttgart University, and is Vice President of the Association of Germanic Professional Genealogists. Mr. Wollmershäuser specializes in genealogical research in Southwestern Germany, and in German emigration, in particular to America. He is responsible for the database program utilized by the *Germanic Emigrants Register*, consisting of abstracts from the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger und Königlich preußischer Staats-Anzeiger* for the years 1875-1914. The completed database is expected to contain references to about 800,000 individuals. He has published extensively in German and American genealogical periodicals. Larger works in progress concern emigration from the Breisgau area of Baden, 1839-71 (12,000 entries); emigration from the Prussian Province of Hohenzollern, 1815-71; emigration from Württemberg, 1790-1814; *Vielen Dank Herr Bielefeld* (names of grateful passengers emigrating through Le Havre, 1850-55); and passenger entries in the *Allgemeine Auswanderungs-Zeitung*, 1848-71 (27,000 entries).

This is Mr. Wollmershäuser's first visit to the United States in 5 years. He will present the following lectures: "Finding the Place of Origin of 18th-Century Emigrants," "Successful Genealogical Correspondence and Travel to Germany," "German Parish Registers - What Else is New?" and "Has Anything Been Published on My German Family?"

8:30	Registration
9:30	Announcements
9:45	FRIEDRICH R. WOLLMERSHAUSER
10:45	Break
11:00	FRIEDRICH R. WOLLMERSHAUSER
12:00	Lunch (Restaurants are nearby)
1:30	ANNUAL MEETING
2:00	FRIEDRICH R. WOLLMERSHAUSER
3:00	Break
3:15	FRIEDRICH R. WOLLMERSHAUSER
4:00	Adjourn

\*\* Index Cards will be distributed throughout the day to those who have questions. If the question is too specific, Mr. Wollmershäuser has the option of answering the question after we adjourn at 4:00. (PLEASE, NO SALES DURING THE LECTURE).

# LOCATION OF NEW GGSA LIBRARY



GGSA Library  
 2125 Wright Avenue, Suite C-9  
 La Verne, CA 91750  
 (909) 593-0509

# FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser<sup>1</sup>

Finding the origins of 18th-century emigrants from Southern Germany

- I. Where are 18th-century emigrants recorded?
- II. Printed compilations of emigrants.
- III. Some words about methodology.
- IV. German censuses may help.
- V. Some more words about methodology.

## I. Where are 18th-century emigrants recorded?

In the eighteenth century many Germans left their homes to seek better living conditions in the Prussian provinces, in southeast Europe, in Russia, and in America (1). Today many descendants of these emigrants are searching for the original homes of their ancestors (2). This lecture will provide some indications on how these often hopeless-seeming cases can be solved.

An eighteenth-century German emigrant frequently left numerous documentary traces behind him, above all in the following sources:

- (1) in the parish registers of his original home community;
- (2) in additional sources there, for example in court records and tax lists;
- (3) in the files of the authority responsible for manumitting him from ties of subjection or serfdom;
- (4) in land-transaction records (if he sold his property before emigrating) and in yearly government accounts (if he had to pay a removing duty called *Abzug* or *Nachsteuer*);
- (5) in lists of emigrants, generally made for statistical purposes;
- (6) in the parish registers of places along his route, if he married, baptized a child, or buried a family member on his journey;
- (7) in trans-migrant and passenger lists;
- (8) in settlement, naturalization, land grant and other records of his new country;
- (9) in the parish registers and sometimes the newspapers of his new home;
- (10) in his family bible or in letters to his relatives in the old country;
- (11) in inheritance records, advertisements for heirs, or declarations of death in his country of origin;
- (12) on his gravestone.

In most of the documents of his country of origin the fact that he emigrated will not be mentioned. Only occasionally does one find in the parish registers remarks such as "migravit in Pennsylvaniam," and public accounts and emigrant lists do not always include the emigrant's intended destination, which is in any case no indication of where he finally settled. Similarly, in the place where he settled his place of origin is often not at all or only imprecisely noted: "Wittenberg" in American documents normally means somewhere in the duchy of Württemberg.

If the emigrant's place of origin is not at all, or only imprecisely, noted in his new country, then although documents relevant to him and his ancestors are probably "somewhere" to be found, in order to find them, one must first know approximately in what places to begin looking.

---

<sup>1</sup>Copyright © 1993 Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser. All rights reserved.

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

### II. Printed compilations of emigrants.

To aid us in this dilemma we possess numerous lists of emigrants, published in this century, which rely on local or regional sources (3). In 1928, Adolf Gerber published a collection of entries referring to emigrants from Württemberg parish registers (4). In 1932, Otto Langguth published two articles about immigrants to and emigrants from the County of Wertheim (5). In 1935, Max Miller followed with a study of Württemberg emigrants to West Prussia and the Netze District (Polish: *Notec*) district (6), and Hermann Roemer's work on emigration to Galicia appeared in 1939 (7).

After the Second World War Werner Hacker indefatigably collected and published some 40,000 cases of emigration, including approximately 120,000 individuals, from many sources in Baden, Württemberg, and the Palatinate (8). In 1961, Erich Weise published a list of Swabian settlers (mostly from Württemberg) in the district of Posen (Polish: *Poznan*) (9).

For what is now Bavaria, Johannes Hack (in 1938) and Alfons Pfreuzinger (in 1941) published lists of emigrants from Franconia (10). Local studies of emigration from the districts of (Markt) Oberdorf, Benediktbeuren, and Rettenberg are also available (11).

Sources on migrants are particularly rich in that traditional land of immigration and emigration, the Palatinate; a guide to documents in Palatine state archives relevant to emigration was published in 1976 (12). The Institut für pfälzische Landes- und Volkskunde (formerly called "Heimatstelle Pfalz") (13) has for decades gathered information on migrants to and from the Palatine, and publishes the series *Schriften zur Wanderungsgeschichte der Pfälzer*. The eighteenth-century emigrants to southeast Europe in the card index maintained by the "Heimatstelle Pfalz" have been published by Stefan Stader (14). Emigrants to Banat from what is now the Saarland were collected by Karl Waldner (15). For what is nowadays Hesse we have numerous published lists of emigrants to Hungary (16), East Prussia (17) and America (18).

American authors have been trying to undertake research on emigrants origins by an evaluation of sources on both sides of the ocean. The results are breakthrough studies by Henry Z. Jones on the emigrants of 1709/1710, and of Annette K. Burgert on 18th-century emigrants from various German areas (19).

In addition to sources in the places of origin and destination, numerous entries from the parish registers of places along their outward route have been collected and published: for emigrants to Russia who passed through Lübeck and Rosslau (20); for emigrants to Hungary passing through Ulm (21), Günzburg (22), Donauwörth (23), Vienna (24) and possibly Bratislava (25); for people on their way to America unfortunately only the London parish registers for 1709 to 1711 have been published (26). A survey of the parish registers along the Rhine from Heilbronn to Rotterdam, and of those in Cowes and London, could yield priceless information about German emigrants, as could the publication of accidental discoveries of references in other sorts of documents.

Of mayor importance are passenger and trans-migrant lists. For America before 1800 we have such lists only for New York 1709-1711 (27) and for the port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808 (28). The latter contain the names of many immigrants not only to Pennsylvania, but also to Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. A general index to these and many other emigration, immigration and naturalization lists relevant to America from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries has been published since 1981 (29).

Of similar value are the Viennese trans-migrant lists, which were published between 1932 and 1936 (30). Some imperfections in the publication were pointed out by Hacker in 1975 (31). The archives in Vienna also contain many more documents relevant to the history of settlement in southeast Europe (32).

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

Lists of German immigrants onto Russia were published in the sometimes questionable work of Karl Stumpp (33), the sources for which are today largely inaccessible.

Several very praiseworthy projects have aimed at covering all immigrants during a given period from a given country. There are also some even larger projects: the "Donauschwäbische Gesamtkartei" aims to list all settlers in the areas of German settlement in Hungary after 1717 (34); and a research project on German immigration into Nova Scotia from 1750 to 1752 deserves to be mentioned (35).

### III. Some words about methodology.

Having surveyed the published emigration lists at our disposal, I would now like to say a few words about methodology. One's first task is to bring together all details about the settler that an exhaustive search of all known sources will yield: surname and first names, including those of other family members, age, occupation, year of immigration, etc. Then one tries, with the help of the above mentioned literature, to localize his community of origin.

If this doesn't work, one should by no means throw in the towel. It has been shown again and again (35) that eighteenth-century German emigration was a group phenomenon: friends or relatives left the community together, travelled together, and often settled near one another in their new country. At this point in the investigation one tries to reconstruct these groups at the place of settlement. If one knows the place of origin of one or more of these persons, then one has a clue about the origin of the other travellers. The names of other fellow emigrants appearing on the same passenger or trans-migrant list are also very helpful, since many passengers on the same ship came from the same area (36).

Of course one ought not to over stress this concept and assume that all passengers on a ship came from an area which is known to be the origin of a few of them. It is also suggested not to trust too much in the areas of origin given in the headings of the passenger lists.

### VI. German censuses may help.

I have found the rich files of population lists that survive for parts of southern Germany very useful for investigating emigrants' origins. These tax, oath of allegiance, census and other lists are basically available for many of the larger territories, such as (37):

- (1) Baden-Baden (38):  
Lists of those taking the oath of allegiance in Baden-Baden 1765; lists of inhabitants of the Vordere Grafschaft Sponheim district 1701 and 1765.
- (2) Baden-Durlach (39):  
Oath of allegiance list 1709; lists of inhabitants of Durlach 1729 and Karlsruhe 1736; oath of allegiance lists 1738.
- (3) Bavaria (Electorate) (40):  
Numerous tax registers for 1692, 1721, 1755, 1760 and 1775.
- (4) Brandenburg-Ansbach (41):  
Oath of allegiance lists for 1603, 1625, 1673, 1686, 1695, 1703, 1719, 1723, and 1729.
- (5) Hesse-Darmstadt (42):  
Oath of allegiance lists for 1696 and further incomplete lists until 1776.
- (6) Limburg-Obersonthem (43):  
Many lists of names from 1581 to 1803.

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

- (7) Austrian possessions in Anterior Austria (Vorderösterreich) (44):  
An oath of allegiance lists of 1717.
- (8) The Palatinate (Electorate) (45):  
For the areas east of the Rhine oath of allegiance lists for 1685/90, 1717 and 1744/50; for the areas west of the Rhine the tax registers for 1721 (partially lost in the last war) and numerous other lists.
- (9) The Danube Canton of the Swabian Imperial Knight (46):  
Survey roll of all property holdings of the subjects for 1722.
- (10) Württemberg (Duchy) (47):  
Oath of allegiance lists for 1674/78, 1734/36 and 1744 (all incomplete). The name indexes to Privy Council (*Oberrat*) minutes are also very helpful.
- (11) Zweibrücken (Duchy) (48):  
Oath of allegiance lists for 1731 (only for the county of Zweibrücken) and 1776 (for the whole duchy).
- (12) Eichstätt (Archbishopric) (49):  
Lists of the "souls" in the counties (*Landvogtei* and *Stadtrichteramt*) of Hirschberg-Beilngries, for 1741/42; and a number of additional population lists.
- (13) Mainz (Archbishopric), and
- (14) Würzburg (Archbishopric) (50):  
Numerous oath of allegiance lists from the 17th and early 18th centuries.
- (15) Ellwangen (Monastery) (51):  
Annual or almost annual tax registers of the 18th century, listing all households.

Of course it is not feasible to spend months in German archives just reading 18th-century censuses. One either needs an overall index to the lists (which I have partially prepared) or some type of preliminary information on possible origins of the emigrant.

### V. Some more words about methodology.

If the family name is rare, one can use genealogical literature and German telephone-books to localize one's ancestors geographically. Another effective source to learn the occurrence areas of a name is the International Genealogical Index (IGI).

After pinpointing the appearance of such a rare name to a small area, one may check the censuses for this region. Optionally, one may perform an area search of the parish registers of that neighborhood, or search through records (e.g. annual accounts) where emigration cases are listed.

Before doing so, it is recommended to make sure about the historical geography. Before the 1770's, emigrants to America almost solely came from protestant areas and emigrants to Hungary mainly from Roman Catholic areas. As most of the inhabitants of one realm were of the same denomination, one can exclude wide areas from the search.

Once you have found a mention of someone who bore the same name as your emigrant ancestor, the next step will be the identification of this man with the emigrant. This may be done in several ways:

- It is usually easy to identify an emigrant if precise information is known, such as his birthdate or the names of his wife and children. It is unlikely that two persons by the same name and the same birthday, or two persons by the same name, the same wife's and children names emigrated around the same time.

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

If such an identification does not work, the following steps are recommended:

- If you have found a birth entry, make sure that the person did not die in childhood, or did not marry and remain at the place of birth. Often one can exclude a candidate from being the emigrants right from the start by such a check.
- If you found an entry on a name in a census list, identify him in the parish registers and find out what happened to him.
- When a possible place is known, the emigration can often be proven or disproved with the help of the sources mentioned at the begin of the lecture. Obvious entries are a release of the man from being a subject or from serfdom, and a look into the probate record of his parents or of any testators from whom he would inherit and who died after the departure, or (if probate records are lost) into the annual account of this year and district.
- If such records are not available, one may rely on circumstantial evidence. This can be any significant fact: the same rare given name among the German and American family, the same rare occupation, or some fellow emigrants coming from the same neighborhood.

Although it is teasing to connect the ancestry to a European family, one ought still be careful about a positive identification.

Several case studies are found in a previous article of the lecturer (52).

### FOOTNOTES

1. Günter Franz, "Geschichte des deutschen Bauernstandes vom frühen Mittelalter bis zum 19. Jahrhundert," *Deutsche Agrargeschichte*, 4 (Stuttgart: Ulmer, 1970), pp. 198-210 (with a bibliography). Hans Fenske, "Die deutsche Auswanderung," *Mitteilungen des historischen Vereins der Pfalz*, 76 (1978), 183-221. *Idem*, "International Migration: Germany in the Eighteenth Century," *Central European History*, 13, no. 4 (Dec. 1980), 332-347.
2. Genealogical societies in Germany annually receive several hundred inquiries from people seeking the origins of eighteenth-century emigrants.
3. Compilations of books and articles about emigrants to America can be found in:
  - a) Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszczan-Czaja Smith, *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (New York & London: Bowker, 1976).
  - b) Olga K. Miller, *Migration, Emigration, Immigration* (2nd ed.; Logan, Utah: Everton, 1974), pp. 196-204: "Germany" (incomplete, titles often translated into English).
  - c) Annette K. Burgert, "Palatine Origins. A bibliography of Source Material Containing Points of Origin of German, Swiss and Huguenot Immigrants," *PI*, 2, no. 1 (Winter 1977), 1-7 (containing only English publications and English versions of German publications).
  - d) Arlene H. Eakle, "Emigrant Sources for Tracing Pennsylvania German Ancestors," *APG Newsletter*, 3, no. 5 (1981), 8-13 (practically identical with c, similarly includes only English publications).
  - e) Gertrud Kuhn, *USA-Deutschland-Baden und Württemberg. Eine Auswahl von Titeln zur Auswanderung und zur Geschichte der Deutsch-Amerikaner vor allem aus Baden und Württemberg, von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des zweiten Weltkrieges*, Schriftenreihe des

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

Instituts für Auslandsbeziehungen, Reihe Dokumentation, 7 (Stuttgart: Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, 1976) (contains references to articles in local histories, newspapers and journals).

Most of the titles mentioned in these four compilations (a-d) are included in a single general index (see note 29 below).

4. a) Adolf Gerber, *Beiträge zur Auswanderung nach Amerika im 18. Jahrhundert aus altwürttembergischen Kirchenbüchern* (Stuttgart: Steinkopf, 1928).
- b) *Idem*, *Neue Beiträge zur Auswanderung nach Amerika im 18. Jahrhundert aus altwürttembergischen Kirchenbüchern unter Hinzuziehung anderer Quellen* (Stuttgart: Steinkopf, 1928).

The contents of these contributions were repeated in the following books:

- c) Don Yoder (ed.), *Pennsylvania German Immigrants, 1709-1786* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1980).

In addition, Gerber published a largely unknown compilation on early emigrants from the County of Nassau-Dillenburg:

- d) *Idem*, *Die Nassau-Dillenburger Auswanderung nach Amerika im 18. Jahrhundert* (Flensburg: Flensburger Nachrichten, 1930).

This book is now superseded by the following:

- e) Annette K. Burgert and Henry Z. Jones, *Westerwald to America* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1989).

5. Otto Langguth, "Auswanderer aus der Grafschaft Wertheim," *Familiengeschichtliche Blätter*, 30, nos. 3 and 4/5 (1932); *idem*, "Einwanderer in Stadt und Grafschaft Wertheim," *ibidem*, 32, nos. 10ff. (1934) (both articles were also available as offprints with a consistent pagination). The contents of the article on emigrants were repeated in Yoder's book (see footnote 4 c).
6. Max Miller, *Die Auswanderung der Württemberger nach Westpreußen und dem Netzegau 1776-1786*, Veröffentlichungen der württembergischen Archivverwaltung, 1 (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1935); reprinted as Sonderschriften des Vereins für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen, 22 (Hamburg: Verein für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen, 1977) (NL).
7. a) Hermann Roemer, "Die Auswanderung der Württemberger nach Galizien 1782-1785 und 1803-1805," *JbDAI*, 5 (1940), 133-173 (with a list of 1912 names).
- b) Ludwig Schneider, *Das Kolonisationswerk Josefs II. in Galizien* (Leipzig: S. Hirzel, 1939) (NL).
- c) Bruce Brandt (comp.), *Where to Look for Hard-to-Find German-Speaking Ancestors in Eastern Europe, Index to 16,372 Surnames* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: privately printed by the author, c1992) (lists surnames appearing in b above and 30 below).
8. The following works, all by Werner Hacker:
  - a) *Auswanderungen aus dem früheren Hochstift Speyer nach Südosteuropa und Übersee im XVIII. Jahrhundert*, WgPf, 28 (Kaiserslautern: Heimatstelle Pfalz, 1969).
  - b) *Auswanderungen aus Baden und dem Breisgau. Obere und mittlere rechtsseitige Oberrheinlande im 18. Jahrhundert archivalisch dokumentiert* (Stuttgart and Aalen: Theiss, 1980).
  - c) *Auswanderungen aus dem südöstlichen Schwarzwald zwischen Hochrhein, Baar und Kinzig*, BSHK, 29 (München: Oldenbourg, 1975).



## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

- d) *Auswanderungen vom Oberen Neckar nach Südosteuropa*, BSHK, 23 (München: Oldenbourg, 1970).
- e) *Auswanderungen aus dem nördlichen Bodenseeraum im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert archivalisch dokumentiert*, Hegau-Bibliothek, 29 (Singen: Hegau-Geschichtsverein, 1975).
- f) "Auswanderungen aus dem Raum der späteren Hohenzollerischen Lande nach Südosteuropa im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert," *Zeitschrift für Hohenzollerische Geschichte*, 5 (1969), 45-230.
- g) *Auswanderungen aus Oberschwaben* (Stuttgart and Aalen: Theiss, 1977).
- h) "Auswanderer aus dem Territorium der Reichstadt Ulm, vor allem im ausgehenden 17. und 18. Jahrhundert," *Ulm und Oberschwaben*, 42/43 (1978), 161-257.
- i) *Auswanderungen aus Baden und dem Breisgau* (Stuttgart and Aalen: Theiss 1980).
- j) *Kurpfälzische Auswanderer vom Unteren Neckar* (Stuttgart and Aalen: Theiss, 1983).
- k) *Auswanderungen aus Rheinpfalz und Saarland im 18. Jahrhundert* (Stuttgart: Theiss 1987).

Of these works, a-h contain name-lists and exhaustive bibliographies.

- 9. Erich Weise, *Die Schwabensiedlungen im Posener Kammerdepartement 1794-1804*, Marburger Ostforschungen, 13 (Würzburg: Holzner, 1961) (NL).
- 10.
  - a) Johannes Hack, "Fuldaer Landesuntertanen wandern nach Ungarn," *Neue Heimatblätter*, 3 (Budapest 1938), 112-116 (NL).
  - b) Alfons Pfrenginger, *Die Mainfränkische Auswanderung nach Ungarn und den österreichischen Erbländern im 18. Jahrhundert*, Schriftenreihe der Deutschen Forschungen in Ungarn (Wien and Budapest: Deutsche Forschungen in Ungarn, 1941) (NL).
- 11.
  - a) Richard Dertsch, *Abwanderungen aus der Pflege Oberdorf 1576-1802*, Alte Allgäuer Geschlechter, 21 (Kempten: Oechelhäuser, 1940) (NL).
  - b) Joseph Demleitner, "Abwanderungen aus dem ehemaligen Klostergericht Benediktbeuren im 17. und 18. Jahrhundert," *Blätter des Bayerischen Landesvereins für Familienkunde*, 1 (1924), 36-43 (NL).
  - c) Alfred Weitnauer, *Einwanderungen und Auswanderungen im Gebiet des ehemaligen Pflegeamts Rettenberg*, Alte Allgäuer Geschlechter, 8 (Kempten: Oechelhäuser, 1939) (NL).
- 12. Peter Brommer, Karl Heinz Debus and Hans-Walter Herrmann, *Inventar der Quellen zur Geschichte der Auswanderung 1500-1914 in den staatlichen Archiven von Rheinland-Pfalz und dem Saarland*, Veröffentlichungen der Landesarchivverwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz, 27, WgPf, 35 (Koblenz: Selbstverlag der Landesarchivverwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz, 1976).
- 13. The address of this organization is Institut für pfälzische Landes- und Volkskunde, Benzinoring 6, W-6750 Kaiserslautern, Germany.
- 14. Stefan Stader, *Auswanderer nach Südosteuropa im 18. Jh. nach der Zentralkartei der Heimatstelle Pfalz*, Schriftenreihe zur donauschwäbischen Herkunftsforschung, 1, WgPf, 36 (Darmstadt: Arbeitskreis donauschwäbischer Familienforscher, 1978) (NL).
- 15. Karl Waldner, *Wanderungen aus dem Raum des heutigen Saarlandes in das Banat im 18. Jahrhundert*, Schriftenreihe des Donaudeutschen Kulturwerkes Saarland, 5 (Homburg/Saar 1977) (NL).

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

16. a) Johannes Schmidt, "Hessische Auswanderer nach den Komitaten Tolnau, Baranya, Somogy im 18. Jahrhundert," *Mitteilungen der Hessischen Familiengeschichtlichen Vereinigung*, 3 (1934), 303-316.
- b) *Idem*, *Német telepések bevándorlása Hesszenből Tolna-Baranya-Somogyba a XVIII század első felében* (Győr: Baross-Ny, 1939). Contains names of emigrants from documents in the Darmstadt state archives which were burnt in 1944, see Franz Kniesel in *DFF*, 6 (1980), 2-9.
- c) Ernst Wagner, "Auswanderer aus dem Großherzogtum Hessen nach Ungarn," *Hessische Familienkunde*, 5 (1960/61), 265-276 and 333-338 (673 entries from various sources).
- d) Franz Philipp, "Auswanderungen aus der Grafschaft Hanau-Münzenberg nach Ungarn und Galizien," *Hessische Familienkunde*, 6 (1962/63), 349-362 (274 entries).
- e) Karl Herbeck, "Beitrag zur Erfassung von Personen, die im 18. Jahrhundert aus hessischen Gebieten nach Ungarn und in das Banat auswanderten," *DFF*, 3 (1977), 51-59 (251 names).
- f) Anton Reimann (comp.), *Auswanderungen aus Hessischen Territorien nach Südosteuropa im 18. und 19. Jahrhundert*, Schriften zur donauschwäbischen Herkunftsforschung, 13, Forschungen zur Hessischen Familien- und Heimatkunde, 62 (Darmstadt: Arbeitskreis Donauschwäbischer Familienforscher, 1986).
17. a) Rolf Farnsteiner, "Auswanderer aus Hessen-Darmstadt nach Ostpreußen 1724-1724," *APG*, 3 (1955), 29-40 (NL).
- b) Franz Philip, "Auswanderer aus Hessen-Kassel nach Ostpreußen in den Jahren 1724 und 1725," *APG*, 10 (1962), 119-167 (NL, bibliographical references).
- c) *Idem*, "Auswanderer aus Hessen-Darmstadt nach Ostpreußen 1724-1727," *APG*, 11 (1963), 168 (Supplement to a)).
- d) *Idem*, "Auswanderungen aus der Grafschaft Hanau-Münzberg nach Ostpreußen und anderen preußischen Gebietsteilen im 18. Jahrhundert," *APG*, 11 (1963), 187-212 (NL, bibliographical references).
- e) Heinrich Hain, "Auswanderung aus Nassau-Dillenburg nach Ostpreußen 1721-1726," *APG*, 11 (1963), 171-177 (NL).
- f) Friedrich Stahl, *Nassausche Bauern und andere deutsche Siedler in Ostpreußen*, Einzelschriften des Vereins für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen, 1 (Königsberg: Verein für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen, 1936); reprinted as *Sonderschriften des Vereins für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen*, 5 (Hamburg: Verein für Familienforschung in Ost- und Westpreußen, 1965) (NL).
18. a) Clifford Neal Smith, *Emigrants from the Principality of Hessen-Hanau, Germany, 1741-1767*, German-American Genealogical Research Monograph, 6 (McNeal, Arizona: Westland Publications, 1979) (NL).
- b) Inge Auerbach (ed.), *Hessische Auswanderer (HESAUS), Index nach Familiennamen*, Bd. I: *Auswanderer aus Hanau im 18. Jahrhundert*, Veröffentlichungen der Archivschule Marburg, 12 (Marburg: Archivschule, 1987) (NL).
- c) Ella Gieg, *Auswanderungen aus dem Odenwaldkreis* (Lützelbach: privately published by the author, 1988ff.) (NL). 3 vols. published so far (March 1993) of a proposed total of 5.
19. a) Henry Z. Jones, Jr., *The Palatine Families of New York 1710* (2 vols.; Universal City, California: privately published by the author, 1985) (NL).
- b) *Idem*, *More Palatine Families* (Universal City, California: Privately published by the author, 1991) (includes families of New York and New Jersey which arrived between

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

- 1717 and 1776; additional data on the families listed in the preceding volume; the names of emigrants from the principality of Sayn-Hachenburg; and from many other German areas) (NL).
- c) Annette K. Burgert, *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America*, Volume 1: *The Northern Kraichgau*, Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, 16 (Breinigsville, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1983) (NL).
- d) *Idem*, *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America*, Volume 2: *The Western Palatinate*, Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, 19 (Birdsboro, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania German Society, 1985) (NL).
20. Karl Stumpp, "Die Lübecker Traulisten," *JbDAI*, 4 (1939), 111-116 (marriages of trans-migrants 1764/65, frequently with no place of origin noted).
21. Werner Hacker, "Südwestdeutsche Auswanderer nach Ungarn als Durchwanderer in den Kirchenbüchern von Ulm und Günzburg im 18. Jahrhundert," *Südostdeutsches Archiv*, 12 (1969), 118-199 (2160 emigrants from 1689 to 1803). See also the supplement to this article *ibid.*, 14 (1971), 264-265.
22. See note 21 above.
23. a) Günter Junkers, "Ungarnwanderer ziehen durch Donauwörth," *DFF*, 3 (1977), 29-32 (9 entries, bibliographical references).  
 b) Anton Tafferner, "Ungarnwanderer in den Donauwörther Matrikeln," *DFF*, 4 (1978), 2-13 (118 individuals).
24. Hans von Bourcy, "242 Trauungen deutscher Ostwanderer auf ihrer Durchreise in Wien 1782-1802," *Adler*, 14 (1944), 90-128.
25. Gerhard Nebinger, "Bayerische und schwäbische Einträge in den Ehematrikeln 1725-1729 der Dompfarrei St. Martin Preßburg," *Blätter des Bayerischen Landesvereins für Familienkunde*, 22 (1959), 212-215.
26. John P. Dern, *London Churchbooks and the German Emigration of 1709. Die deutsche Auswanderung von 1709 in den Londoner Kirchenbüchern*, WgPf, 26 (bilingual edition; Ann Arbor: Edwards, 1968) (NL).
27. a) Walter Allen Knittle, *Early Eighteenth-Century Palatinate Emigration: a British Government Redemptioner Project to Manufacture Naval Stores* (Philadelphia 1937; reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965, 1970) (NL).  
 b) Lou D. MacWethy, *The Book of Names, Especially Relating to the Early Palatines and the Settlers in the Mohawk Valley* (St. Johnsville, New York, 1933; reprint Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969) (NL).
28. Israel Daniel Rupp, *A collection of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French, Portuguese and other Immigrants to Pennsylvania Chronologically Arranged from 1727 to 1776* (Philadelphia 1856, 1876, 1880, 1927). A bilingual edition (reprint of the edition Philadelphia: Kohler, 1880, with and index of names by Friedrich Wecken) appeared under the German title *Chronologisch geordnete Sammlung von mehr als 30.000 Namen von Einwanderern in Pennsylvanien aus Deutschland, der Schweiz, Holland, Frankreich, u. a. St. von 1727 bis 1776* (Leipzig: Degener/Spohr, 1931). A considerably improved edition of the same lists and the additional lists

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

- up to 1808 appeared in 1934: Ralph Beaver Strassburger and William John Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers, A Publication of the Original List of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia From 1727 to 1808*, 3 vols. (vol. 2 containing a facsimile of the original lists 1727-1775) (Norristown, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934; reprint Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992; also, without vol. 2, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992). See also Annette K. Burgert, "Who came before 1727?," *Der Reggebogge*, 14 (1980), 13-15 (for emigrants who arrived before the Philadelphia passenger lists start).
29. P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* (3 vols.; Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981); *1982-1985 Cumulation* (4 vols.; Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1985); annual *Supplement* (1986ff.).
  30. Franz Wilhelm and Josef Kallbrunner, *Quellen zur Deutschen Siedlungsgeschichte in Südosteuropa*, Schriften der Deutschen Akademie, 11 (München: Reinhardt, 1932-1936; reprint Berlin: Helmut Scherer, 1989) (for a list of surnames, see 7c above).
  31. Werner Hacker, "Bemerkungen zu den ungarischen und galizischen Einwanderungslisten (den 'Quellen zur deutschen Siedlungsgeschichte in Südosteuropa')," *Der Donauschwabe* (1975), nos. 13-21, in each issue p. 2.
  32.
    - a) Josef Kallbrunner, "Quellen zur Auswanderungsforschung in den Wiener Archiven," *JdDAI*, 5 (1940), 285-290.
    - b) Franz Klein, "Das Wiener Hofkammerarchiv als unerschöpfliche Quelle Donauschwäbischer Ansiedlungsdokumentation," *DDF*, 7 (1981), 67-70.
    - c) Franz Stanglica, "Wiener Kartei der deutschen Auswanderer nach dem Südosten," *JbDAI*, 33 (1938), 54ff. (references to a card index with at that time 80,000 cards for the years 1683-1820).
  33. Karl Stumpp, *Die Auswanderung aus Deutschland nach Rußland in den Jahren 1763 bis 1862* (Tübingen: privately published by the author, 1974; reprinted under the title *The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the years 1763 to 1862*, Lincoln, Nebraska: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, c1982) (exceedingly voluminous lists of names).
  34. Stefan Stader, "Arbeitsgruppe 'Donauschwäbische Gesamtkartei'," *DDF*, 7 (1981), 11f.
  35. Terrence M. Punch, "'Foreign Protestants' in Nova Scotia, 1750-1752," *PI*, 7, no. 1 (Summer 1981), 2-9.
  36.
    - a) H(einz) F. Friederichs, "Pfälzer-Palatines. 200 Jahre USA - 300 Jahre pfälzische Auswanderung nach Nordamerika," *Genealogie*, 25 (1976), 29f.
    - b) Fritz Braun, *Auswanderer aus der Umgebung von Ludwigshafen a. Rh. auf dem Schiff 'Thistle of Glasgow' 1730*, WgPf, 8 (Kaiserslautern: Heimatstelle Pfalz, 1959).
  37. A survey of census listings in south Germany and Austria has been carried out by the Staatsarchiv Nürnberg. The results (Staatsarchiv Nürnberg, Handakt V/1671, Produkt 46) include some of the sources indicated below. This information is derived from Puchner, see note 49 below, pp. 222f.
  38. 1765: GLAK 74/538ff., and elsewhere; Sponheim: *ibid.* 75/93 and 75/87.

FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

39. a) Hermann Jacob, *Einwohnerbuch der Markgrafschaft Baden-Durlach 1709* (Schopfheim, 1935) (complete list of subjects of this territory, indexed).  
 b) 1738: GLAK 108/1106; 115/395; 148/289; 168/316; 120/900; 180/232; 1765: GLAK 74/5036-5042 and in the record groups for the individual districts.
40. References in Hans Roth and Heinz W. Schlaich, *Bayerische Heimatkunde. Ein Wegweiser* (München: Süddeutscher Verlag, 1974), esp. pp. 45-62, "Archive in Bayern;" pp. 63-77, "Zur Archivbenutzung."
41. In the Staatsarchiv Nürnberg, *Brandenburger Literalien*. vols. 592 (1603), 593 (1625), 594 (1668), 595 (1673), 596 (1686), 597 (1695), 599 (1703), 598 (1719-25), 600-603 (1725), 605-608, 627, 636 (1729). In this connection, see Karin Plodeck, "Hofstruktur und Hofzeremoniell in Brandenburg-Ansbach vom 16. bis zum 18. Jahrhundert," *Jahrbuch des Historischen Vereins für Mittelfranken*, 86 (1971/72), 1-260 (esp. 175-188, "Die Erb- und Landeshuldigung").
42. Staatsarchiv Darmstadt, E 9 Konv. 20 Fasc. 1-7; Konv. 22 Fasc. 1-4.
43. Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg, B 113 Büschel 649-654a and 1771-1773b.
44. GLAK 79/1534 for the Austrian possessions in the Breisgau and the Black Forest.
45. a) Palatinate east of the Rhine:  
 GLAK 131/114, 132/190, 77/4146, 166/123 (1688-90); 145/292, 166/121 (1716-17); 145/294, 166/126, 131/117 (1744-50).  
 b) Palatinate west of the Rhine:  
 (a) Rolf Kilian and Franz Neuner, *Untertanenverzeichnisse des Kurpfälzischen Oberamtes Alzey von 1698*, BgPf, 1, (2nd. ed.; Ludwigshafen: Arbeitsgemeinschaft für pfälzische Familien- und Wappenkunde, 1967) (NL).  
 (b) Rolf Kilian and Franz Neuner, *Untertanenverzeichnisse des kurpfälzischen Oberamtes Alzey von 1698*, 2. Auflage, *Gesamregister*, ed. by Rolf Kilian (Ludwigshafen: Arbeitsgemeinschaft für pfälzische Familien- und Wappenkunde, 1979) (index of names and places to the former title).  
 (c) Rolf Kilian, "Mannbuch des Oberamtes Simmern 1698," *Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde*, 31 (1982), 1-11 (and continued) (NL).  
 Tax registers for the Palatine Electorate for 1721: Landesarchiv Speyer, Bestand F 3 (approximately half of these books were destroyed in the Second World War). For references to further population lists see Theresia Zimmer, "Familiengeschichtliche Quellen im Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz," *Genealogie*, 26 (1977), 657-664 (esp. 662).
46. HStAS B 573 Büschel 8a and b.
47. a) HStAS A 213 Büschel 4761-4778 (1674/78); 4779-4790 (1734/36); 4793-4863 (1744).  
 b) On these council minutes (*Oberratsprotokolle*) see Karl Otto Müller, "Eine Hauptquelle württembergischer Familienforschung," *Kultur und Leben*, 3 (1926), 80ff.  
 On sources for emigration in general, see Max Miller, "Quellen zur Geschichte des Auslandsdeutschtums im württembergischen Staatsarchiv," *JbDAI*, 1 (1936), 152f.
48. a) Günter F. Anthes, August Brauner, Karl Schaaff, and Erwin Friedrich Schmidt, *Pfälzische Untertanen- Huldigungs- und Musterungslisten aus den Jahren 1587-1609-1612-*

## FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF 18TH-CENTURY EMIGRANTS

- 1624-1731-1776, BgPf, 9 (Ludwigshafen: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde, 1981) (NL).
- b) Karl Schaaff, *Untertanenlisten des Herzogtums Pfalz-Zweibrücken aus den Huldigungsprotokollen des Jahres 1776*, BgPf, 6 (Ludwigshafen: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde, 1977) (NL).
- c) Rolf Kilian, *Schatzungsregister des kurpfälzischen Oberamtes Stromberg 1683 und 1722*, BgPf, 11 (Ludwigshafen: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde, 1984) (NL).
- d) August N. Ernst, *Untertanen-Liste 1742 Oberamt Zweibrücken* (Zweibrücken: Zweibrücker Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Familienforschung, 1986).
- e) Walter Bohrer, *Die erste Kirchenvisitacion nach dem 30-j. Krieg im Amt Zweibrücken von 1663* (Zweibrücken: privately published by the author, 1980).
- f) Hermann Mast et al., *Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1793* (Elverson, Pennsylvania: Mennonite Family History, 1987).
49. Otto Puchner, "Seelenbeschreibungen im Hochstift Eichstätt aus den Jahren 1741 und 1742 als bevölkerungsgeschichtliche Quellen," in Horst Heldenmann (ed.), *Archive und Geschichtsforschung. Fridolin Solleder zum 80. Geburtstag* (Neustadt/Aisch: Schmidt, 1966), pp. 222-251 (references to lists).
50. Siegfried Wenisch, "Genealogische Quellen im Staatsarchiv Würzburg," *Genealogie*, 30 (1981), 529-541 (esp. 536).
51. Staatsarchiv Ludwigsburg, record group B 186.
52. Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser, "Süddeutsche Auswandererforschung im 18. Jahrhundert," *Genealogisches Jahrbuch*, 23 (1983), 193-216.

### ABBREVIATIONS

APG	<i>Altpreußische Geschlechterkunde</i> , Neue Folge, Hamburg 1953ff. (Note: APG and APG Newsletter are two entirely different publications)
BgPf	Schriften zur Bevölkerungsgeschichte der pfälzischen Lande.
BSHK	Buchreihe der Südostdeutschen Historischen Kommission, München
DFP	<i>Donauschwäbische Familienkundliche Forschungsblätter</i> , Darmstadt 1975ff.
GLAK	Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe.
HFK	<i>Hessische Familienkunde</i> , Frankfurt/Main 1948ff.
HStAS	Hauptstaatsarchiv Stuttgart
JdDAI	1 (1936) and 2 (1939): <i>Jahrbuch für auslandsdeutsche Sippenkunde</i> . 3 (1938): <i>Jahrbuch Sippenkunde des Deutschtums im Ausland</i> . 4 (1939): <i>Jahrbuch der Hauptstelle für die Sippenkunde des Deutschtums im Ausland</i> . 5 (1940): <i>Jahrbuch der Hauptabteilung Wanderungsforschung und Sippenkunde des Deutschen Auslands-Instituts</i> .
NL	Contains name lists.
PI	<i>The Palatine Immigrant</i> , Salt Lake City (Utah), later Columbus (Ohio), 1976ff.
WgPf	Schriften zur Wanderungsgeschichte der Pfälzer.

# SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

*Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser<sup>1</sup>*

Every year the regional genealogical association in Stuttgart of which I am a member receives approximately one thousand letters from overseas, from people who want to find their ancestors. There are perhaps twenty or thirty genealogical associations in Germany, as well as numerous archives and parish offices. This means that at least 10,000 inquiries pour in every year to a small and overworked population of genealogical researchers. Lots of letters don't get answered at all, many receive only printed forms in reply. This need not happen if the person sending the inquiry is aware of a few basic rules.

Every year many thousands of people from English-speaking countries visit Germany, and many of them want to visit the home-towns of their ancestors and try to do some genealogical research there. The time they have to spend is usually limited, and effective research may yield much better results than just roaming around among some archives. This article is intended to make genealogical correspondence more promising and to provide hints on the successful use of German archives and research places.

Contents of this paper:

1. Preparations at home - be critical of your sources.
2. Find the rights addresses.
3. General hints for correspondence to Germany.
4. General hints for travelling in Germany.
5. Finding living relatives.

## **1. Preparations at home - be critical of your sources.**

Exhaust literally all local possibilities for finding information about your ancestors, before writing your first inquiry or planning a trip to Germany.

A wrong preliminary assumption can lead a genealogical researcher into a lot of dead-end research. Before planning a letter or trip to Germany, sort out all uncertain information which is not really proven and build up your research avenues upon what you know for sure.

Some frequent sources of wrong preliminary assumptions are:

- (a) Over-confidence in census: census information about countries of birth is often incorrect.
- (b) The assumption that all immigrants with the same family name came from the same place.
- (c) Over-credulity in family details passed down by word-of-mouth, for example
  - the emigrant was a nobleman who dropped his title on crossing to America or elsewhere;
  - the emigrant was the illegitimate offspring of a nobleman;
  - the emigrant was a democrat who had to flee after 1848;

---

<sup>1</sup>Copyright © 1993 Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser. All rights reserved.

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

- the emigrant formerly served in the bodyguard of the ruler;
- the emigrant's father was a mayor, professor, etc.;
- the emigrant was driven out for religious reasons (esp. in the Alsace);
- the emigrant was to become a catholic priest, but ran away.

### 2. Find the right addresses.

The point is not to write a lot of letters to a lot of addresses, but to write one letter to the right address. In the same sense, there is no need to roam around at many archives and libraries, but just go to the one where the requested information is available.

First of all, identify the German place of origin where your ancestor came from. The following books can help:

[Karl Ritter,] *Ritters Geographisch-Statistisches Lexicon*, 2 vols., 3rd ed. (Leipzig: Wigand, 1845/46) through 9th ed. (1905/06) (contains all places worldwide).

*Die Postleitzahl. Verzeichnis der Postleitzahlen* (Bonn: Bundesministerium für das Post- und Fernmeldewesen, 1991) (Zip-code directory for present-day Germany).

*Müllers Großes Deutsches Ortsbuch. Vollständiges Gemeindelexikon* (24th ed.; Wuppertal: Post- und Ortsbuchverlag, 1991), ca. 950 pp. (detailed gazetteer for present-day Germany).

After locating the exact place, you may then contact one or some of the following places:

#### (a) Parish offices.

In some parts of Germany, church-registers (with entries of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burial) are kept at the local parish offices, in other parts at central church archives or at the state archives. Local parish offices for places whose registers are in an archive will usually pass inquiries on to the archive. The smaller parish-offices have no secretary, and you may have to rely upon the help of the priest or minister. However, clergymen and their secretaries are not genealogists and can make mistakes. Many priests can't read the old handwriting, have no time to look through big volumes without indexes, and may already be swamped with inquiries. It is the responsibility of a priest or minister to take care of his community, not to translate his old books for foreign visitors, so please do not over stress the help of such a person. The larger parishes have offices with certain opening hours, and in some big cities there are offices just for keeping the church-registers (*Kirchenbuchamt*, *Kirchenregisteramt*). Some of the central church archives no longer allow people to use the original church registers, but hand out microfilms. There are usually long waiting lists for the microfilm-readers, and instead of going there, you may more easily check the microfilms at an LDS library in the United States.

#### (b) Civil registration.

Local civil registration offices have registers of births, deaths and marriages from 1876, some of them from 1798 onwards, and will issue certificates from these registers to direct descendants. The place and date of the event to be certified should be known fairly exactly. These offices are usually open in the morning. In many cases, the entries in the civil registration registers are more detailed than those in the parish registers.



## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

### (c) Genealogical societies.

Societies are groups of genealogists who get together in order to maintain a library, share research results and experiences, publish a journal, and introduce beginners to the practice of genealogy.

Some societies maintain alphabetical ancestral files and indexes to their library holdings. In this case they may quickly find information on other persons searching for a particular family name (although these are not necessarily your relatives).

Societies are not information offices or research agencies. You may write to a society for the address of a researcher or an archive, or ask to put an advertisement for you in their journal. Many inquiries are passed on to members of the society or answered with form letters. German genealogical societies often don't care to have overseas members because they join for only a year or so, and cause the societies a lot of transaction costs when they don't renew their subscriptions on time.

There is an umbrella organization (the DAGV) in whose lists of members you will find the addresses and particulars of regional genealogical societies.

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände (ed.), *Mitgliederverzeichnis 1989 und Satzung*, comp. by Dieter Zwinger, Aktuelle Themen zur Genealogie, 9 (Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1989).

All inquiries addressed to the DAGV will be passed on to the appropriate regional society, although you must count on some delay.

The offices of most genealogical societies are only open a few hours a week. If the place is not too crowded, somebody will take the time to analyse your research problem and give some good advice.

### (d) Archives.

The main function of archives is organizing their documents and looking after the people who come to look at the documents. Normally archives will answer written inquiries only with information about what documents they have; they undertake only limited research jobs and are expensive.

See the separate essay "Before the parish registers start" for detailed information about the organization of an archive and the personal research in its files.

Addresses and information about archives can be found in the following books:

*Minerva Handbücher Archive. Archive im deutschsprachigen Raum* (2 vols., 2nd ed.; Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 1974) (contains the addresses and information about the holdings of almost all archives in the German-speaking area).

Verein deutscher Archivare (ed.), *Archive und Archivare in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz* (14th ed. 1985/86; München: Verein deutscher Archivare, 1986) (addresses of archives).

Wolfgang Ribbe and Eckart Henning (eds.), *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (10th ed.; Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1990) (pages 431-456 contain the addresses of the archives in Germany, Austria and Switzerland).

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszczan-Czaja Smith, *American Genealogical Resources in German Archives (AGRIGA): A Handbook* (München: Verlag Dokumentation, 1977) (descriptions of the documents relating to emigration the West German archives).

### (e) Private genealogists.

Private local genealogists (often retired people) can be very helpful and often ask only for reimbursement of their expenses or a small fee. Their names and addresses can be obtained from parish offices, regional genealogical societies, and from the following publications:

Johannes Glenzdorf (ed.), *Glenzdorfs Internationales Genealogen-Lexikon* (3rd ed.; Bad Münden am Deister: Wilhelm Rost, 1984) (a list of German genealogists with details of their research areas and names).

*Familienkundliche Nachrichten* (a journal published every two months by Verlag Degener, Postfach 1340, W-8530 Neustadt/Aisch, Germany, consisting only of advertisements and read by almost all German genealogists).

### (f) Professional genealogists.

Good professional genealogists are swamped with requests and hard to find. Some (a very few) professionals just see genealogical work as a way of making a quick Deutschmark. Professional genealogists may also serve as travel guides if they are asked to do so. This is actually an expensive enterprise, but may make your visit much more effective than just searching your own ways.

### (g) Family societies.

One-name societies are not as common in Germany as in America: you can find them in the same way as you find genealogists (see above) or in the following book:

Heinz F. Friederichs, *Familienarchive in öffentlichem und privatem Besitz*, vol. 2, *Genealogische Informationen*, 6 (Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1977) (actually a list of family archives, but also contains many addresses of one-name societies).

Usually you find a lot of help from those societies, and the German members will devote a lot of their time to make your visit impressive.

### (h) Libraries.

All you can expect from a library by mail is to get photocopies from journals and books if you can tell them title and page numbers.

Libraries store printed books, and only some larger ones have manuscript sections. The state libraries (*Staatsbibliothek, Landesbibliothek*) usually keep extended holdings of local and regional history books. Addresses of libraries in former West Germany are found in the following book:

Deutsche Bibliothekskonferenz (ed.), *Deutsche Bibliotheks-Adressbuch. Verzeichnis von Bibliotheken in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland einschliesslich Berlin (West)* (2nd ed.; München and New York: KG Saur, 1976).

When you visit a library personally, you may at first go to their systematical catalogue and check it for books on your research field. Many libraries have a computerized book order system, and you need a user's card to place orders. These cards are usually issued on the spot, but you need to show your passport.

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

### (i) Museums

Museums (most of which are closed on Mondays), are listed in the following books:

Klemens Mörmann (ed.), *Der Deutsche Museumsführer in Farbe* (2nd ed.; Frankfurt/Main: Krüger, 1983) (holdings of and information on 1500 museums).

*Bertelsmann Museumsführer. Sammlungen zu Kunst, Kultur, Natur und Technik in Deutschland* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Lexikon Verlag, 1992).

Birgit Grosz, *Museen in den neuen Bundesländern* (1992/93 ed.; Dortmund: Grafit, 1992) (museums in the area of the former GDR).

*Handbuch der Museen/Handbook of Museums. Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Österreich, Schweiz. Lichtenstein* (2nd ed.; München and New York: KG Saur, 1981) (museums in the German-speaking area, bilingual).

Many local Museums have built up collections that show the everyday living conditions of earlier ages. In some open-air-museums old buildings have been restored. These places will give you a good insight into the physical environment of your ancestors. This information is just for travellers - it does not make sense to write to a museum for genealogical information.

### (j) Addresses in general.

An excellent source of German genealogical addresses and information is the following book:

Ernest Thode, *Address Book for Germanic Genealogy* (4th ed.; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991)

If the place is in present-day Poland, then the best idea is to get in touch with the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City. On occasion an inquiry addressed to a Catholic parish office in Poland (in Polish or Latin) may get results.

## 3. General hints for correspondence to Germany.

Your chances to get an answer are much higher if you avoid unnecessary work and trouble by observing the following rules:

- (a) Type your letters, if at all possible. You have a better chance of getting an answer of your letter is legible and businesslike.
- (b) Provide every single detail you already know about your ancestors: name, dates (expressed in the order of day-month-year), exact place-name, religious denominations, year of immigration to America, Australia or Canada and in the case of emigrating children, the name of the adult person(s) with whom they emigrated, and all other relevant information.
- (c) Ask precise questions: do you want an name, a date, a place, or all three? Long, rambling letters are less likely to be answered than ones that express the problem in a few words.
- (d) Don't abbreviate! Germans aren't familiar with foreign abbreviations.

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

- (e) If you can't decipher place-names or names from the documents you already have, enclose a photocopy. Don't send originals!
- (f) Say where you have already written for information, when and with what success.
- (g) Put your return address and the date on the letter and every enclosure. Since you won't get an answer right away, give some address where you can always be contacted (especially if you are likely to move).
- (h) Set the maximum amount you're prepared to pay for an answer - this helps avoid unpleasant surprises.
- (i) Enclose at least two International Reply Coupons (you can buy them in any Post Office) or two US dollars in cash (no US or Canadian postage stamps!).
- (j) When you write to a local parish office, say whether you have a clear indication that the person you are searching came from there, or whether you just suspect so.
- (k) Use a separate sheet of paper for each question - otherwise your inquiry can't be passed on to the different people who might be able to answer each question.
- (l) Unless your German is fairly good, write your inquiry in English. Good English is better than bad German. Avoid idioms and rare words. Most genealogists and organizations can understand English letters.
- (m) You can increase your chances of getting a detailed, early reply to your inquiry (or a reply at all!) by saying in your letter that the answer can be in German (you can get it translated quite easily). Many Germans can read English but not compose a detailed reply in it.
- (n) Take the trouble to write individual letters of inquiry: a duplicate inquiry does not inspire the recipient to take much trouble over a reply.
- (o) Many of the German form-letters provided by American genealogical publications are written in very poor German. A personal letter in good English makes a much better impression.
- (p) Avoid asking primitive questions (e.g., "Tell me something about the history of this region"). There is certainly a book (*Encyclopædia Britannica*?) or an expert in your country who can supply this sort of information more easily (and cheaply!). Be aware of the historical geography of the region from which you think your ancestor came.
- (q) Don't be informal: say "Dear Sir" rather than "Dear folk" or "To whom it may concern." And supply a Mr., Mrs. or Ms. before your name so that a German person who doesn't know what gender of person "Jean" is, for example, can address you without embarrassment.
- (r) Say thank you! Acknowledge the work a German genealogist has done for you, even when it has proved unsuccessful. This will encourage him to do work for you or other overseas inquirers.
- (s) Pay your bills! Normally you pay for the research, not necessarily for the successful finding of your ancestors.

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

- (t) Don't be impatient! You may not believe it, but (as I said at the beginning) your letter is just one of tens of thousands of inquiries arriving at German genealogical addresses every year.

### 4. General hints for travelling in Germany.

- (a) Being in Germany as a tourist.

Tourism in Germany mainly takes place in two separate kinds of areas: in the holiday resorts for Germans (skiing areas etc.) and in the main attractions for foreign (American, Australian, Japanese etc.) tourists (Cologne, Heidelberg, Munich etc.). In other areas, tourists travel like businessmen.

Information about travelling in Germany in general may be found in various printed guides, one of them being

*Baedeker's Travel Guide Germany* (Stuttgart and Freiburg: Baedeker 1985). Contains an introduction to the political structure of West Germany, its climate, history, art and music; has a great deal of practical information for tourists and carries descriptions of the various German regions and the major towns.

There are few motels along the German motorways. Average hotel prices range from DM 70 to DM 150 a night for a room including breakfast. Hotel reservations may be made through your local travel agency (which will usually arrange more expensive places for you), through the central German reservations bureau, the *Allgemeine Deutsche Zimmerreservierung (ADZ)*, Corneliusstraße 34, W-6000 Frankfurt 1, telephone 0049-69-740767 (English spoken), or with the hotels themselves. Here is a selection of the major German hotel-guides:

*Varta-Führer Deutschland* (Stuttgart: Mairs, 1993) (lists 9000 hotels and 4000 restaurants).

*Michelin-Hotelführer Deutschland 1993* (Karlsruhe: Michelin, 1985) (8000 hotels, 2000 restaurants).

*Aral Schlummer-Atlas 1993. Ein Wegweiser zu über 4000 Hotels und Gasthäuser* (16th ed.; Dortmund: Busche, 1993) (a guide to more than 4000 hotels and restaurants, with more than 100 town plans and 16 pages of maps).

*Deutsches Jugendherbergverzeichnis 1992/93* (Detmold: Dt. Jugendherbergswerk, 1990) (list of German youth-hostels, with addresses and further information).

For further information you may consult the German National Tourist Office, 11766 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 750, Los Angeles, CA 90025, telephone (310) 575-9799, fax (310) 575-1565.

Outside of the main season and of the main tourist places, you will do just as well looking for a hotel sign at the roadside. Many of the smaller hotels and inns are not listed in the guides above.

Road maps, hotel guides and other tourist guides are mostly bilingual, and some of them are available in English. It is possible to travel in Germany without speaking the German language, but it is recommended to learn a few words to understand signs of all kinds. Almost everywhere you will find someone who can translate for you, but please observe the following hints: (1) speak slowly and clearly, and do not use idioms; (2) spell slowly (not more than two letters a second); (3) when you feel you have not been understood, repeat your phrase in other words.

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

Using a public telephone is very simple in Germany, as you do not need an operator even for foreign calls. You simply put coins of a telephone card (*Telefonkarte*, available at every post office) into the machine and dial. People in Germany usually reply by saying their name or the name of their office, so you can identify if you have reached the right number. When your credit is expired, a sign will light up on the telephone and give you a few seconds to put more coins in. Other machines display your current credit. All German post offices have phone-booths where you may place long-distance calls and pay after you have completed your call.

### (b) Transportation.

Compared with the United States or Australia, Germany is a small country and you may travel anywhere within a day. There are various means of transportation:

#### (1) By car.

The easiest way is to rent a car. The major international car rental companies have branches in Germany, and you may get a reservation through your local office. You may borrow a car from a German friend. No special insurance arrangement is needed in this case, as in Germany cars are insured for every driver. To register a car on your own requires a fixed place of residence (*fester Wohnsitz*) which you will get by registering at a local office called the *Einwohnermeldeamt*, but don't forget to notify the *Einwohnermeldeamt* when you leave; otherwise you will be traced as an illegal alien after three months. You may register the car either with a domestic license-plate (if you want to leave it in Germany) or with an international (oval) plate (if you want to export it). Insurance for an oval plate is much higher.

#### (2) By train and bus.

Germany has a dense railway network and the trains usually depart and arrive precisely on time. Large cities in Germany are connected to each other by very fast "IC" and "IEC" trains that usually run once an hour during the daytime, and are connected with the outskirts by a quick and frequent urban train or subway system (S-Bahn). The countryside is served less effectively by slower trains and buses. All train connections and buses operated by the German railways are found in a thick book with their schedules: *DB Allgemeines Kursbuch*, issued twice a year by the *Deutsche Bundesbahn* (with English explanation of symbols and useful information for passengers). For all questions concerning railway travel in Germany you may contact one of the following offices: DER Tours, 11933 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025, telephone (310) 479-4411. The Eurailpass entitles persons having their permanent residence outside Europe to unlimited first class travel over the 100,000-mile national railroad networks of the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. It is also valid on some lake steamers and some private railroads. It cannot be purchased in Europe and is issued to children aged 4 to under 12 years at half rate. The Eurailpass is available from your travel agent or from the tourist offices of various participating European countries.

For further information consult:

Katie Wood and George McDonald (eds.), *Europe by train: the complete guide to inter-railing* (Harmondsworth, United Kingdom: Penguin, 1984), 411 pp., maps.

#### (3) By bicycle in combination with train.

The German railways offer cheap bike tickets if you load and unload your bicycle yourself onto the freight car (guard's van).

#### (4) By hitch-hiking.

This is mainly for young people. Ask others about their experiences. In some cities there are agencies (*Mitfahrzentralen*) that refer people who are looking for a lift to people who offer a lift in return for

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

sharing the cost. Addresses and phone numbers of such agencies are found in the telephone directory (white pages, subject heading *Mitfahrzentrale*). For further information see:

Ken Welsh, *Hitch-hiker's guide to Europe: how to see Europe by the skin of your teeth* (London: Fontana, 1985), 412 pp., maps.

One young American genealogist had very good luck: when he tried to get a ride to the place where his ancestors came from, he was given a lift by the local genealogist and not only got free travel, but also lots of information about his ancestors.

(5) By taxi.

This is the most expensive way. If you plan to do longer journeys, then arrange a special rate in advance. Many students work as taxi drivers, so it should not be too difficult to find an English-speaking driver, at least in a city where there is a university. You may also prefer to use taxis within big cities, because the network of buses and trams is often hard to understand for strangers.

Road atlases (*Auto-Atlas*) are available in bookstores and gas stations, and contain maps of Germany (scale about 1:300,000) and Europe, an index of places, and other tourist information. For more details you may choose between the *Deutsche Generalkarte* (scale 1:200,000) or the *Topographische Karte* (scale 1:50,000). Both are available from bookstores.

(c) The best seasons to travel.

The best time for a genealogical travel is spring (April to June) and fall (September and October). Watch out for many public holidays in spring. July and August are not recommended because many parish offices and smaller archives are closed for vacation and because you may suffer from the heat (Germany does not have much air conditioning).

(d) A visit to the ancestral village.

Unless they lie close to a big city, many German villages have preserved their appearance over the centuries. The church and the town hall should still look the same as they did in previous centuries. With the help of the land register (*Kataster*), you may find out the house where your ancestors lived (but make sure that there was no change of house-numbers in the meantime - otherwise you will take pictures of the wrong building). There may even be a record of the sale of your emigrant ancestor's estate kept in the local archives. The old house where your ancestors lived may be inhabited by Italians or Turks now, and they will not understand your interest in this buildings and may suspect you are a real estate broker and want to take their residence from them. There is no need to visit the local cemetery because graves are usually only preserved for about thirty years, and the burial plot is then reused for another interment. This is not true for Jewish cemeteries.

(e) Plan your trip in advance.

A visiting researcher who, after some hours of searching all over the town, finally comes into the state archives shortly before closing time and asks for the birth certificate of his grandfather John Miller who left Germany around 1880 is a common feature. He may be informed that vital registers for that period are kept by the church and the vital registration office (*Standesamt*), also that emigration records are not kept by this archive, that a certain knowledge of the German language is needed to work with such papers, and that the German place of origin must be known to start a search at all.

Such an experience shows that a research trip must be properly planned in order to gain all the desired information. You may gain initial information in the books listed below and then write to the places of interest some months in advance and ask if they have useful documents, books or collections, and what

## SUCCESSFUL GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE AND TRAVEL TO GERMANY

their opening hours and vacation times are. You may order documents or books in advance, so they will be there when you arrive. Some archives demand a written application several weeks before the visit.

### 5. Finding living relatives.

There is a widespread desire to find living German relatives, descendants of a brother or sister of an emigrant ancestor. This is a difficult job and can only be outlined roughly.

If the persons in question lived in a small place, then you may be able to use the church registers and trace the descendants down to a person who is still living in or near the village. He or she may be able to tell you what happened to the brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts and other relatives.

If the persons moved away, then it is more difficult. If you have no idea where they went to, then the first choices would be the next bigger city and the United States. Probate records or death notices in newspapers may give you an idea about the descendants. The cities have files of inhabitants (*Einwohnermeldekarteien*) that provide information about individuals living there.

Telephone directories help to locate bearers of a certain family name. However, if you find someone with a given surname, he is not necessarily a relative, because many surnames are concentrated in certain areas. Practically everybody in Germany will tell you that a brother of his grandfather or great grandfather emigrated to America, so this information does not mean a great deal.



# GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser<sup>1</sup>

- I. What are parish registers?
- II. Where can parish registers be found?
- III. Working with parish registers.
- IV. What to do when an entry is missing.
- V. Sources replacing missing parish registers.
- VI. Printed inventories of parish registers.

## I. What are parish registers?

Parish registers are books maintained by parish offices to record the ecclesiastical casualties, i.e. performances by the priest or minister, such as

- baptisms (recorded with or without the date of birth);
- confirmations (around the age of 14);
- marriages, banns before marriages, or permissions to marry in another parish;
- burials (with or without the date of death);
- lists of parish members (often at the begin of the first volume to replace entries of a lost previous volume);
- lists of persons taking communion;
- family registers (*Seelenregister, Familienregister*) as compilations of family groups on one page;
- later remarks about the whereabouts of parish members;
- copies of baptismal or marriage records shown by people when they moved into the parish;
- conversions;
- lists and biographies of clergymen;
- chronicles and miscellaneous notes.

The following records are not parish registers:

- books maintained by parish offices to record financial, construction and other matters;
- vital registers maintained by state authorities;
- private records of sacristans, cemetery registers, etc.;
- accounts of baptismal, marriage and burial fees;
- proceedings of moral courts (*Kirchenconventsprotokolle, Kirchenzensurprotokolle*).

These types of records may replace missing parish registers (see below chapter V).

The time frame of these books is quite different. In the Protestant territories, the oldest ones usually start when the reformation was introduced in the pertinent dominion (from the 1520's onwards), in Roman Catholic lands after the Tridentine Council of 1563. Many of these old books were destroyed during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), by the French invasions around 1690, and during World War II (1939-45).

At first, most parishes used just one book for all categories, and the entries ought to be arranged separately in chronological order for every one of these categories. This was often not maintained, and it can be difficult to reconstruct the sequence. In the older books, entries may as well be arranged by places within the parish, by the fathers of the baptized or by the initials of their first names.

---

<sup>1</sup>Copyright © 1993 Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser. All rights reserved.

## GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

The extent of the entries may vary from diocese to diocese and from place to place. Only after the ecclesiastical and country authorities began to publish guidelines on the recording of casualties from the mid-1700's onwards did the entries take on a uniform appearance.

The reliability of parish register entries is somewhat questionable. There are contemporary corrections and additions of missing entries in the older books, and there are remarks by recent genealogists to correct errors (sometimes, however, these corrections are wrong). From about 1800 to the beginning of vital registration, the contents of the parish registers may be considered reliable.

### II. Where can parish registers be found?

Originally, parish registers were kept at the local parish offices, but they may have been forwarded to other places, such as

- to another parish office if the original parish is not attended any longer;
- to a central parish register office in a city;
- to a central ecclesiastical archive;
- to the local vital registration office;
- to a state archive;
- to a municipal archive.

In addition, most German countries required the preparation of duplicates (verbatim copies) of the original registers, which had to be stored separately from the original registers or delivered annually to the district court, from about 1800 onwards to the establishment of vital registration offices (*Standesämter*) at latest in 1876. Before 1800, some Roman Catholic dioceses required the yearly submission of duplicates to the diocesan archives.

The LDS church has taken many original parish registers and duplicates on microfilm, so besides in the repositories of the books, they may be checked in LDS branch libraries.

### III. Working with parish registers.

The research method depends on the initial information, on the objective of the search and on the extent of the books. It is therefore not feasible to give overall research methods, and I limit myself to a few hints:

- (a) Make sure that your initial entry is correct. When starting with a known birth date, verify this entry before searching the marriage and death entries of the parents.
- (b) Become aware about the structure of the books and the methods of recording the entries. In many Roman Catholic places, a wife was registered only by her maiden name in the death registers, and you need to know whether this was the case at a given place to find the correct death entries.
- (c) Watch for biological constraints. A woman giving birth at the age of 50 is as suspicious as a first child being born 5 years after the marriage of the parents.
- (d) Watch for anomalies. If in all entries in a marriage register either the groom's and bride's parents are recorded or they are denoted as widower or widow, and if such an indication is lacking in just one entry, then there is evidence that something is wrong with this couple.

## GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

- (e) Do not trust indexes. If you can find an entry with the help of an index, it is fine, but otherwise, search through the original register page by page. The entry may be recorded and indexed by a slightly different name (Clais instead of Klais), or by a quite different name (if an illegitimate child was recorded with the mother's surname and later on accepted the surname of the presumed father).
- (f) When you find the death entry of a husband and the wife was fairly young at this time, first look for her second marriage before you continue to check the death register. The widow may have remarried and be registered under the surname of her second husband in the death register.
- (g) Places of origin are sometimes listed at unexpected places in the registers, such as
  - in an entry on a relative;
  - in an entry of the sponsors of the children;
  - in an entry on the confirmation of a child;
  - at the death of the person;
  - in the death entry of a person's father, father-in-law or other relative;
  - sometimes a group of people moved to the same place at the same time from the same area of origin;
  - a child may have imported by the mother when she married to a place.
- (h) Abstract all information given in an entry: every detail may be of importance for the further research. Such details are the term "weiland" in an entry (indicating the person was deceased), the mention of someone's ruler, of his nickname, or of the occupation.
- (i) Be careful not to mix up two bearers of the same name.
- (j) If you pick up a birth entry and are not sure if this is the person you are looking for, then check the death, confirmation and marriage registers to find out if the child grew up at all.
- (k) Solve obsolete dates, such as Tuesday after the Sunday Rogate of 1769. Observe the calendar reform.
- (l) Become aware of local customs, especially on name-giving and on who might have been a sponsor.

### IV. What to do when an entry is missing.

Often the parish register for the period in question is there, but the requested entry is not found. The following reasons may be responsible:

- the casualty did not take place in this town at all;
- there is a gap in the parish registers or on the microfilm;
- the entry was recorded under a different date or on a wrong page;
- the entry was recorded in the registers of another parish covering this town;
- the entry is recorded under a different name;
- the entry is recorded in a separate book or another section of one book, for example a separate register for illegitimates or for the inhabitants of another village pertaining to this parish.

## GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

### V. Sources replacing missing parish registers.

Often the parish registers are not there any more. Here is a listing of other sources which may replace missing parish registers:

#### General:

- duplicates of parish registers (from about 1780 to 1876 only);
- printed parish registers (in the newspapers of many towns);
- abstracts which were made at a time when the parish registers were still there;
- state vital registers, the earliest starting in 1798.

#### Birth registers:

- birth certificates (*Geburtsschein, Mannrecht*);
- entries on penalties for illegitimate births;
- entries in registers of serfs.

#### Marriage registers:

- marriage contracts;
- marriage licenses;
- entries about the payment of a marriage fee (*Brautlauf, Salzscheibe*).

#### Death registers:

- death notes in newspapers;
- death dates in probate records, which often include detailed notifications about the death of the deceased (*Sterbfallanzeigen*);
- tombstones;
- funeral sermons;
- entries on the death tax of serfs (*Hauptrecht*);
- petitions of widows, entries on a second marriage;
- orphans records.

### VI. Printed inventories of parish registers.

Inventories of the available parish registers have been published for almost every German state. The following list observes the old political structures (i.e., before 1945):

#### General:

- (1) Wolfgang Ribbe and Eckart Henning (eds.), *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (10th ed.; Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1990) (with a listing of published parish register inventories on pp. 103-121).
- (2) Eckart Henning and Christel Wegeleben, *Kirchenbücher. Bibliographie gedruckter Tauf-, Trau- und Totenregister sowie der Bestandsverzeichnisse im deutschen Sprachgebiet*, Genealogische Informationen, 23 (Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1991) (a bibliography of all books and articles where parish registers were edited in print, but not containing the *Ortssippenbücher*).
- (3) Ronald Smelser, Thomas Dullen, Heribert Hinrichs, *Preliminary Survey of the German Collection*, Finding Aids to the Microfilmed Manuscript Collection of the Genealogical Society of Utah, 2 (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1979).
- (4) Johni Cerni, *A Guide to German Parish Registers*, Volume 1: *Baden, Bavaria, Wuerttemberg* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988) (lists the years for which parish registers of microfilms are available at the LDS library, with many errors and wrong references).

## GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

- (5) Christa Stache, *Verzeichnis der Kirchenbücher im Evangelischen Zentralarchiv in Berlin*, Teil I: *Die östlichen Kirchenprovinzen der Evangelischen Kirche der altpreußischen Union*, Veröffentlichungen des Evangelischen Zentralarchivs in Berlin, 3 (Berlin: Evangelisches Zentralarchiv, 1985).
- (6) Martina Wermes et al., *Bestandsverzeichnis der Deutschen Zentralstelle für Genealogie Leipzig*, Teil I: *Die Kirchenbuchunterlagen der östlichen Provinzen Posen, Ost- und Westpreußen, Pommern und Schlesien*, Genealogische Informationen, 24 (Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1991).

A selected listing for several German states and provinces:

- (1) Anhalt:
  - (a) Franz Bobbe, "Die Kirchenbücher in Anhalt," *Mitteilungen des Vereins für Anhaltische Geschichte und Altertumskunde*, 7 (1895), 198-222.
  - (b) R. Krieg, "Die Kirchenbücher im Herzogtum Anhalt," *Neue Mitteilungen aus dem Gebiet historisch-antiquarischer Forschungen*, 19 (1895), 79-95.
- (2) Baden:

Hermann Franz, *Die Kirchenbücher in Baden*, Inventare der nichtstaatlichen Archive in Baden-Württemberg, 4 (3rd ed.; Karlsruhe: Braun, 1957).
- (3) Bavaria:
  - (a) J. Klemens Stadler, *Erzbistum München und Freising*, Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse für das rechtsrheinische Bayern, 1 (München: Ackermann, 1938).
  - (b) Richard Hipper and Alois Weißthanner, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für das Bistum Augsburg*, Bayerische Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse, 2 (München: Bayerische Heimatforschung, 1951).
  - (c) Anton Schmid, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für das Bistum Passau*, Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse für das rechtsrheinische Bayern, 3 (München: Ackermann, 1937).
  - (d) K. Puchner and Alois Weißthanner, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für das Bistum Regensburg*, Bayerische Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse, 4 (Regensburg: Bischöfliches Ordinariat, 1949).
  - (e) J. Klemens Stadler, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für das Erzbistum Bamberg*, Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse für das rechtsrheinische Bayern, 5 (München: Ackermann, 1941).
  - (f) Karl Puchner, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für das Bistum Eichstätt*, Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse für das rechtsrheinische Bayern, 6 (München: Ackermann, 1937).
  - (g) Ludwig Friedrich Barthel, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für das Bistum Würzburg*, Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse für das rechtsrheinische Bayern, 7 (München: Ackermann, 1943).
  - (h) Wilhelm Biebinger, *Pfarrbücherverzeichnis für die Evang.-Lutherische und Evang. Reformierte Kirche des rechtsrheinischen Bayerns*, Pfarrbücherverzeichnisse für das rechtsrheinische Bayern, 8 (München: Ackermann, 1940).
- (4) The Palatinate (until 1945 in Bavaria):
  - (a) Anton Müller, *Die Kirchenbücher der bayerischen Pfalz*, Archivalische Zeitschrift, Beiheft 1 (München 1925) (includes the locations of the remaining parish registers of all denominations and helpful indications about the sovereignty of the discussed places before 1792).
  - (b) Wolfgang Eger (comp.), *Verzeichnis der protestantischen Kirchenbücher der Pfalz*, Veröffentlichungen der Landesarchivverwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz, 26 (Koblenz: Landesarchivverwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz, 1975) (only includes the registers of the Lutheran and Reformed, later on Protestant parishes and the locations of those books; in the meantime, many books have been forwarded from the vital registration offices, quoted as BgmA, to the Speyer Landesarchiv).

## GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

- (5) Berlin:
- (a) Karl Themel (comp.), *Die evangelischen Kirchenbücher von Berlin*, Einzelveröffentlichungen der Historischen Kommission zu Berlin, 48, Publikationen der Sektion für die Geschichte Berlins, 2 (Berlin: Colloquium, 1984).
  - (b) Christa Stache, *Verzeichnis der Kirchenbücher im Evangelischen Zentralarchiv in Berlin*, Teil II: *Alt-Berlin*, Veröffentlichungen des Evangelischen Zentralarchivs in Berlin, 4 (Berlin: Evangelisches Zentralarchiv, 1987).
- (6) Hannover:
- Fritz Garbe, *Die Kirchenbücher in der Ev.-luth. Landeskirche Hannovers* (Hannover: Albrecht, 1960).
- (7) Hesse (Grand Duchy):
- Otfried Praetorius, *Kirchenbücher und Standesregister für alle Wohnplätze im Land Hessen*, Arbeiten der Historischen Kommission für das Land Hessen (Darmstadt: Historische Kommission, 1939).
- (8) Hessen-Nassau:
- (a) Ernst Kramer, "Die Kirchenbücher des Bistums Fulda," *Familiengeschichtliche Blätter*, 29 (1931), 67-70.
  - (b) Heinz F. Friederichs, "Kirchenbücher und sippenkundliche Quellen in den Kreisen Hanau, Gelnhausen und Schlüchtern," *Rheinische Sippen*, 7 (1943), 1-13.
  - (c) Manfred Hofmann, "Die Kirchenbücher des Bistums Limburg," *Hessische Familienkunde*, 4 (1957-1959), 497-502.
  - (d) K. Spiess, "Die evangelischen Kirchenbücher im Regierungsbezirk Wiesbaden," *Annalen des Vereins für Hessische Altertumskunde und Geschichtsforschung*, 39 (1909), 1-85.
- (9) Hohenzollern:
- Franz Haug, "Verzeichnis der Kirchenbücher Hohenzollerns," *Hohenzollernsche Jahreshefte*, 8 (1941, published in 1949), 5-29.
- (10) Pomerania:
- Martin Wehrmann, "Die Kirchenbücher in Pommern," *Baltische Studien*, 42 (1892), 201-280.
- (11) Rhine Province of Prussia:
- (a) Heinz Schüler, *Verzeichnis der Kirchenbücher der Archivstelle Koblenz des Archivs der Evangelischen Kirche im Rheinland*, Veröffentlichungen der Landesarchivverwaltung Rheinland-Pfalz, 30 (Koblenz: Landesarchivverwaltung, 1977).
  - (b) Anton Krudewig, *Neues Verzeichnis der Kirchenbücher der ehemaligen Rheinprovinz*, Veröffentlichungen der Westdeutschen Gesellschaft für Familienkunde, Köln, Neue Folge, 11 (Köln: Westdeutsche Gesellschaft für Familienkunde, 1977).
- (12) Saxony (Kingdom):
- Hermann Koehler, *Sippenkundliche Quellen der ev.-luth. Pfarrämter Sachsens. Verzeichnis der Kirchenbücher und der übrigen für die Sippenforschung wichtigen Amtsbücher*, Beiträge zur sächsischen Kirchengeschichte, Sonderheft 45 (Dresden 1938).

## GERMAN PARISH REGISTERS - WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

- (13) Saxony (Prussian Province):  
Ernst Machholz, *Die Kirchenbücher der evangelischen Kirchen in der Provinz Sachsen, Mitteilungen der Zentralstelle für deutsche Personen- und Familiengeschichte*, 30 (Leipzig: Zentralstelle für deutsche Personen- und Familiengeschichte, 1925).
- (14) Schleswig-Holstein:  
Wilhelm Jensen, *Die Kirchenbücher Schleswig-Holsteins, der Landeskirche Eutin und der Hansestädte*, Quellen und Forschungen zur Familiengeschichte Schleswig-Holsteins, 2 (2nd ed.; Neumünster: Wachholtz, 1958).
- (15) Silesia:  
Erich Randt and Horst-Oskar Swientek, *Die älteren Personenstandsregister Schlesiens* (Görlitz: Starke, 1938).
- (16) Thuringia:  
Karl Güldenapfel, "Die evangelischen Kirchenbücher Thüringens," *Archiv für Sippenforschung*, 8 (1931), 4-11, 69-72, 89-92, 134-135, 173-175, 210-214, 247-249, 277-281, 352-359 (also offprint with consistent pagination, 46 pp.).
- (17) Württemberg:  
Max Duncker, *Verzeichnis der württembergischen Kirchenbücher* (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1938).

# HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser<sup>1</sup>

Generations of genealogists have gathered and published information about families in the German-speaking area. There is a good chance of finding information on a given family in print and thus avoiding the duplication of tedious research that someone has done before. How can one find previous publications about a person or family?

There are many possible places where genealogical data may have been published:

- (a) In the form of a printed family history.
- (b) As an article in a genealogical, historical or heraldic journal or in a book series.
- (c) In a local history book.
- (d) In a book about all families of one town (Ortssippenbuch).
- (e) In a general or specific dictionary.
- (f) In the publication of a genealogical source.
- (g) In newspapers.
- (h) In publications on special groups of people.
- (i) In a funeral sermon.
- (k) In address directories.
- (l) In a book describing those who are allowed to participate in hereditary scholarships.

These categories are now discussed in detail:

(a) Family history books.

The first genealogies of non-noble families were printed in the late 1700's, but the number remained small for the first hundred years. The increased interest in genealogy between the wars and from the 1970's onwards yielded an increased number of published family histories. Most of them were compiled by private researchers and vary markedly in quality.

(b) Family histories in periodicals.

Such articles may appear in

- the periodicals of the genealogical societies,
- the (small number of) periodicals of one-name societies,
- the periodicals of historical societies (prominent families only),
- the Gotha (noble families only),
- equivalent publications on non-noble families, especially the following two:
  - (1) *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch* (1889ff.), published under the following titles:
    - 1889-1903 *Genealogisches Handbuch bürgerlicher Familien.*
    - 1904-1910 *Genealogisches Handbuch bürgerlicher Familien, ein Deutsches Geschlechterbuch.*
    - 1911-1943 *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch.*
    - 1965-1991 *Deutsches Geschlechterbuch.*The articles in this series follow a standard structure.
  - (2) *Deutsches Familienarchiv* (1952ff.). The articles in this series follow whatever structure the contributors wish.

---

<sup>1</sup>Copyright © 1993 Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser. All rights reserved.



## HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

- the Siebmacher, a series of heraldic drawings with short abstracts about the pertaining families begun in 1605; at first on noble, later on also on non-noble families.
  - book series published by the Herold and by professional heraldic bureaux, including
    - 1920ff. Deutsche Wappenrolle, ed. by Der Herold, Berlin.
    - 1946-1958 Wappenführende Geschlechter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, then
    - 1959ff. Wappenrolle Dochtermann, ed. by Wappen-Archiv Dochtermann, later by Wappen-Archiv Stuttgart.
    - 1971ff. Allgemeine Deutsche Wappenrolle, ed. by Wappen-Herold.
- Again, the quality of these articles varies markedly.

### (c) Local histories.

German local histories do not contain as many biographical accounts as late-19th-century and early-20th-century American "mug-books". However, recent local histories often contain lists of the inhabitants in various centuries, lists of immigrants and emigrants and biographies of clergymen, mayors and local celebrities.

### (d) Ortssippenbücher.

An *Ortssippenbuch* is a compilation of all entries in the church birth, marriage and death registers, and sometimes of other records, arranged by families. Almost 300 volumes have been published so far. Using these books it is possible to construct extensive ancestral lists within a few minutes.

### (e) Dictionaries.

- "Zedler's" universal dictionary, published from 1732 to 1754 under the title *Großes vollständiges Universal-Lexicon aller Wissenschaften und Künste*, 64 vols. and 4 supplementary vols., contains a wealth of biographical and genealogical information.
- *Brockhaus Enzyklopädie* (1st ed., 1796-1810; 17th ed., 1966ff.).
- *Meyers Enzyklopädisches Lexikon* (1st ed., 1840-1855; 9th ed., 1971ff.).
- Regional biographical dictionaries.
- Biographical dictionaries of special population groups (mathematicians, doctors, ministers etc.).

### (f) Publications of genealogical sources.

Much source material has been published in the last 200 years. During the 19th century, medieval deeds were the preferred objects, while the interest is now in sources from about 1500 to 1900 (and of other periods, of course). Such publications may cover early censuses, land registers and lists of settlers or emigrants. For the 18th and 19th centuries, many books on emigrants have been published, mainly based on archival material, sometimes upon official notifications. Some towns published their parish registers in print from the 1690's until about 1850. The matriculation records of most German universities have published and indexed. They offer a wealth of names back to the middle ages and are of good value for the research on scholars, clergymen or government officials.

### (g) Newspapers.

Various categories of newspaper entries may be of interest to genealogists:

- In many towns, the local newspapers printed current lists of the births, marriages and deaths (of the town only, not for the other places where the paper was also distributed).
- In the 1700's, a few widely-distributed papers published calls for missing heirs and for deserters. In the 1800's, such adds were published in the local papers and often in the gazettes of the pertinent countries or provinces. From 1870 onwards, calls for missing heirs were published in the *Reichsanzeiger* and from 1949 onwards in the *Bundesanzeiger*.
- Legal emigrations were advertised in the newspapers and gazettes of many German countries from about 1800 to 1871.

## HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

- Death notes and obituaries were published from the late 1700's onwards for prominent persons. Presently death notes (including the names of the bereaved) are inserted for most of the deceased.

(h) Special groups of people.

Printed membership lists of orders, societies etc. may as well yield some information, but are very hard to locate. This category includes publications on religious groups (e.g., the expulsion of the Salzburgers).

(i) Funeral sermons.

From the 1500's to about 1900, many funeral sermons were published. They contain the text of the religious and biographical sermon, the names of the bereaved and of other persons involved in the life and death of the deceased.

(k) Address directories.

These books were published from the early 1700's onwards, at first only for some large cities. They just contain the names and addresses of the inhabitants. From the 1960's onwards they are more or less superseded by telephone directories.

(l) Hereditary scholarships.

Most of these were donated in the 1500's or early 1600's, and the number of people to participate had widely increased by the 1800's. Some books and book series were published to identify those who may have claimed support from these scholarships.

How does one find the titles of such publications as listed above? This is sometimes quite easy, in other cases a difficult job. The following list of bibliographies may help:

(a) General bibliographies.

- (1) Wilhelm Totok, Karl-Heinz Weimann and Rolf Weitzel (comps.), *Handbuch der bibliographischen Nachschlagewerke* (5th ed.; Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann, 1977) (known as Totok-Weitzel, a key to bibliographies of many fields and countries).
- (2) Winfried Baumgart (comp.), *Bücherverzeichnis zur deutschen Geschichte* (4th ed.; Frankfurt/Main, Berlin, Wien: Ullstein, 1978) (a bibliography of books on German history, including complete bibliographical information about the Gotha and other books on noble and ruling families).

(b) German Genealogical Bibliographies.

- (1) Wolfgang Ribbe and Eckart Henning (eds.), *Taschenbuch für Familiengeschichtsforschung* (10th ed.; Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1990) (includes the following bibliographies: religious groups, pp. 122-131; funeral sermons, p. 132; citizenship books, pp. 138-181; university matriculation records, pp. 181-221; *Ortssippenbücher*, pp. 221-233; address directories, pp. 235-262; genealogical bibliographies in Germany and abroad, pp. 267-272; genealogical periodicals, pp. 272-278; biographical reference works, pp. 279-286; migration and deportation, pp. 286-289; nobility, pp. 289-296; gazetteers, pp. 296-301; heraldry, pp. 331-336; names, pp. 350-352).
- (2) Otto Gundlach (comp.), *Bibliotheca familiarum nobilium* (3rd ed.; Neustrelitz: Gundlach, 1897) (references to genealogies of noble families published before 1897).
- (3) Friedrich Wecken and Johannes Hohlfeld (eds.), *Familiengeschichtliche Bibliographie*, (7 vols.; Leipzig 1928-1938/Marktschellenberg: Degener, 1951; reprint of vols. 1-6 Wiesbaden: Sändig, 1968) (includes fairly complete bibliographical references for the

## HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

following categories: general, institutions, bibliographies, periodicals, sources, social classes and occupations, places, onomastics, individual families, index of authors, surnames, etc., covering publications from 1898 to 1945; for a list of which volumes cover what years, see vol. 6, p. 318).

- (4) Heinz F. Friederichs (comp.), *Familiengeschichtliche Bibliographie*, vol. 11 (3 parts; Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1961-1963) (continuation for years 1960-1962).

For 1946 to 1959 and from 1963 onwards, there is no current bibliography of the genealogical literature. The Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände is charged with editing such a work, but nothing has been achieved so far. Several other books and series partially help to overcome this lack:

- (5) *Schriftumsberichte zur Genealogie und ihren Nachbargebieten* (2 vols.; Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1951-1959, 1962-1972). Includes the following articles:
- no. 4: Citizenship registers, by Erich Wentscher.
  - no. 5: Genealogy outside of Germany, by Hermann Mitgau.
  - no. 8: Bibliography of regimental histories and registers of officers, by Fritz Runge.
  - no. 9: German genealogical societies and their publications, by Walther Lampe.
  - no. 11: Baltic genealogical works, by Olaf Welding.
  - no. 12: Literature on funeral sermons, by Fritz Roth.
  - no. 13: Poem and remembrance albums (Stammbücher), by Hugo Schünemann.
- (6) Oswald Spohr (comp.), *Familiengeschichtliche Quellen*, 1-13 (Leipzig/Schellenberg/Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1926-1959) (lists of surnames appearing in genealogical and historical books and periodicals; more than 2 millions references, valuable for people who search all occurrences of a given name everywhere).
- (7) Franz Heinzmann (comp.), *Familiengeschichtliche Quellen*, 14ff. (Düsseldorf: privately published by the author, 1984ff.).
- (8) Heinz Reise (ed.), *Der Schlüssel*, 1-9 (Göttingen: Reise, 1950-1986) (possibly continued) (complete indexes to German-language genealogical and regional history periodicals, with thorough indexes).
- (9) Thomas Freiherr von Fritsch, *Die Gothaischen Taschenbücher, Hofkalender, und Almanach*, Aus dem Adelsarchiv, 2 (Limburg/Lahn: Starke, 1968) (the history of the Gotha yearbooks and an index of the noble families whose genealogies they contain).
- (10) Karlheinz Goldmann (comp.), *Verzeichnis der Hochschulen* (Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1967) (a list of universities in the German-speaking area and their matriculation records).
- (c) Bibliographies for individual German states. One must differentiate between the years covered (*Berichtsjahre*) and the year the bibliography was published.
- (1) Baden:
- a) *Bibliographie der badischen Geschichte* (8 vols., 1929-1979) (continued by the *Landesbibliographie Baden-Württemberg*).
  - b) Otto Beuttenmüller *Bibliographie der gedruckten badischen bürgerlichen Familiengeschichten*, *Schriftumsberichte zur Genealogie*, vol. 2, nos. 6-7 (1968).
- See also Württemberg (from 1973 onwards).
- (2) Bavaria (Bayern):
- a) *Literarische Jahresrundschau*, 1 (1928) (an appendix to the *Zeitschrift für bayerische Landesgeschichte*), then various titles, now *Bayerische Bibliographie* (1989ff.) (for 1980-1981ff.).

## HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

- b) Gerhard Pfeiffer, *Fränkische Bibliographie* (4 vols.; Würzburg: Schöningh/Neustadt/Aisch: Degener, 1965-1978) (for publications before 1945).
  - c) "Unterfränkische Bibliographie," appendix to *Mainfränkisches Jahrbuch für Geschichte und Kunst*, 15ff. (1963ff.) (for 1961ff.).
  - d) "Schrifttum zur Geschichte von Stadt und Hochstift Bamberg sowie der Randgebiete," appendix to *Berichte des Historischen Vereins Bamberg*, 122ff. (1986ff.) (for 1981-1985ff.).
  - e) "Neues Schrifttum zur Landeskunde Bayerisch Schwabens," series 67, appendix to *Zeitschrift des Historischen Vereins für Schwaben*, 82ff. (1989ff.) (for 1988ff.).
  - f) "Coburger Bibliographie," appendix to *Jahrbuch der Coburger Landesstiftung*, 33ff. (1988ff.).
  - g) "Neuerscheinungen zur Geschichte und Landeskunde der Oberpfalz," *Verhandlungen des Historischen Vereins der Oberpfalz und Regensburg*, 128 (1988) (for 1988).
  - h) *Pfälzische Bibliographie* (started by Daniel Häberle in 1908) (Speyer: Pfälzische Landesbibliothek, 1991ff.) (for 1980-1984ff.).
  - i) Klaus Schwartzkopff, *Blätter des Bayerischen Landesvereins für Familienkunde, Gesamtregister*, Blätter des Bayerischen Landesvereins für Familienkunde, 13a (München: Bayerischer Landesverein für Familienkunde, 1982).
- (3) Berlin:  
*Berlin-Bibliographie*, Veröffentlichungen der Historischen Kommission Berlin, Bibliographien ..., 6ff. (1987ff.) (for 1978ff.). See also Brandenburg (for 1941-1956).
- (4) Brandenburg:  
a) *Bibliographie zur Geschichte der Mark Brandenburg und der Stadt Berlin 1941-1956*, Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Schriften des Instituts für Geschichte, Reihe II: Landesgeschichte, Band 6 (Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1961).  
b) *Bibliographie zur Geschichte der Mark Brandenburg* (5 vols.; Weimar: Böhlau, 1970-1986).  
c) *Brandenburgische Literatur* (Potsdam: Wissenschaftliche Allgemeinbibliothek des Bezirkes Potsdam, 1962ff.) (for 1945ff.).
- (5) Brunswick:  
"Bibliographie zur braunschweigischen Landesgeschichte," *Braunschweigesches Jahrbuch*, 69ff. (1988ff.) (for 1987ff.). See also Hannover.
- (6) Hannover:  
a) *Niedersachsen-Bibliographie 1908-1970* (5 vols.; Mainz-Kastel: Gaertner, 1985) (vol. 5 includes families and persons).  
b) *Niedersächsische Bibliographie*, 1-6 (Hildesheim: Lax, 1975-1989) (for 1971-1984).
- (7) Hesse:  
a) *Schrifttum zur Geschichte und geschichtlichen Landeskunde von Hessen* (4 vols.; Marburg: Elwert, 1973-1984) (for 1965-1976).  
b) *Hessische Bibliographie*, 11ff. (München: Saur, 1989ff.) (for 1987ff.).  
c) Manfred Hofmann, *Genealogische und biographische Quellen im Nassauischen*, Schriftumsberichte zur Genealogie, vol. 2, no. 1 (1962).

## HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

- (8) Hohenzollern:  
Walter Bernhardt and Rudolf Seigel, *Bibliographie der Hohenzollerischen Geschichte*, Arbeiten zur Landeskunde Hohenzollerns, 12 (Sigmaringen: Thorbecke, 1975). See also Württemberg (from 1973 onwards).
- (9) Lippe:  
*Lippische Landesbibliographie* (Detmold: Lippische Landesbibliothek, 1988ff.) (for 1986ff.).
- (10) Mecklenburg:  
Wilhelm Heeß, *Geschichtliche Bibliographie von Mecklenburg* (3 vols.; Rostock: Hinstorff, 1944).  
b) *Mecklenburgische Bibliographie* (Schwerin: Wissenschaftliche Allgemeinbibliothek, 1979-1990) (for 1943-1987).
- (11) Oldenburg:  
"Oldenburgische Bibliographie," *Oldenburger Jahrbuch*, 89ff. (1989ff.) (for 1988ff.).
- (12) Pomerania:  
*Geschichtliche und landeskundliche Literatur Pommerns*, Bibliographien zur Geschichte und Landeskunde Ostmitteleuropas (for 1961ff.); vol. 5 is an index to *Berichtsjahre 1977-1984*.
- (13) Rhineland:  
a) "Rheinland," *Blätter für deutsche Landesgeschichte*, 125 (1989) (for 1978-1982).  
b) *Mittelrhein-Moselland-Bibliographie*, Veröffentlichungen aus rheinland-pfälzischen und saarländischen Archiven, 1-12 (1978-1988) (for 1975-1987).  
c) "Bibliographie der wichtigeren Neuerscheinungen zur rheinischen Geschichte," *Rheinische Heimatpflege*, 26ff. (1989ff.) (for 1986ff.).  
d) *Nordrhein-Westfälische Bibliographie* (Düsseldorf: Schwann, 1984ff.).  
e) Edith Przyrembel, *Bibliothek der Westdeutschen Gesellschaft für Familienkunde, Bestandsverzeichnis*, Veröffentlichungen der Westdeutschen Gesellschaft für Familienkunde, Neue Folge, 10 (Köln: Westdeutsche Gesellschaft für Familienkunde 1976).
- (14) Saxony:  
*Sächsische Bibliographie* (Dresden: Sächsische Landesbibliothek, 1988ff.) (for 1945-1960ff.).
- (15) Schleswig-Holstein:  
*Schleswig-Holsteinische Bibliographie*, 12ff. (Neumünster: Wachholtz, 1989ff.) (for 1984ff.).
- (16) Silesia:  
a) *Schlesische Bibliographie* (3 vols.; Marburg: J.-G. Herder Institut, 1986-1987) (for 1971-1980).  
b) *Schlesische Bibliographie* (2 vols.; Marburg: J.-G. Herder Institut, 1989) (for 1981-1985).  
c) "Literatur zur schlesischen Landeskunde für das Jahr 19...", *Jahrbuch der schlesischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Breslau*, 29ff. (1988ff.) (for 1986ff.).
- (17) Thuringia/Thüringen:  
a) "Regionalgeschichtliche Arbeiten im Bezirk Gera von 19.. bis 19...", *Jahrbuch für Regionalgeschichte* [Weimar], 16 (1989) (for 1980-1985) and prior volumes.  
b) *Regionalbibliographie für die Bezirke Erfurt, Gera und Suhl* (Jena: Universitätsbibliothek, 1989ff.) (for 1985ff.).

## HAS ANYTHING BEEN PUBLISHED ABOUT MY FAMILY?

- (18) Westfalia:  
"Beiträge zur geschichtlichen Landeskunde Westfalens in ausgewählten Zeitschriften," *Westfälische Forschungen*, 38ff. (1988ff.) (for 1985-1986ff.). See also Rhineland.
- (19) Württemberg:
- a) *Bibliographie der württembergischen Geschichte*, 1-11 (1895-1974) (includes older works).
  - b) *Landesbibliographie von Baden-Württemberg* (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 1978ff.) (for 1973-1974ff.).
  - c) Otto Beuttenmüller, *Bibliographie der gedruckten württembergischen bürgerlichen Familiengeschichten*, *Schriftumsberichte zur Genealogie*, vol. 2, nos. 8-10 (1970-1972).

This listing is incomplete, especially concerning older series and titles. In addition, many regional historical societies publish overall indexes to their periodicals. A listing of these societies, their periodicals and the indexes is found in Walter Heinemeyer (comp.), *Gesamtverein der deutschen Geschichts- und Altertumsvereine, Mitgliederverzeichnis* (2nd. ed.; Köln and Ulm: Gesamtverein der deutschen Geschichts- und Altertumsvereine, 1986).

It is a matter of personal experience whether it is easier to search for a published account of an ancestral family or to begin with original sources, such as parish registers.