# FOREIGN RESEARCH

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# GERMANY

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# GERMAN
# EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION
## BEFORE 1800

NATURAL SEPARATION LINE BETWEEN TWO PERIODS:
   EARLIEST: Third to Eighth Century...thought to have *Wanderlust*

   MIDDLE AGES: Somewhat limited; mostly merchants and craftsmen.
         Actual first attempt to settle in America was in 1562 in what is now
         South Carolina but the settlement was destroyed by the Spanish. In
         1683 a ship called the Concord brought a group of Pietist from the
         Palatinate and settled in Germantown, PA..now part of Philly.
         The next major group came in 1708 again from the Palatinate and this
         time settled on the Hudson in the city of Newburg, NY.  Large group
         left to England with a major part sent on to America.
         ***WHY DID THEY LEAVE...SAME OLD REASONS.***
1) Religious Persecution.....2) Economic/Constant wars...3) Political (Rev's)
                                    Plus:
         1) Climate: Cold weather and drought and famine
         2) Enticing Tales: free/worship...from war....as much land as wanted.
How to find: Confusion over Palatines; belonged to Kingdom of Bayern or
Bavaria though not attached to it. When actually they were from the Alsace-
Lorraine , Switzerland. Or Southern Germany such as Baden, Rhineland, and
Wurttenberg.
*Two references:*   Completely indexed. Came in clusters.  Research neighbors.


                              *AFTER 1800*
1800-1820: Slight numbers Am/ Fre Rev's; come to Germany soon.
1820-1830: Increase due to Napoleonic wars.
1830-1840: Over pop/prod.No land/ mass prod. Artisans left. Rhein to OH. IN & MO
1840-1860: More. Crop fails/ pol.not chngd/Gov encouraged/ cheaper travel
1860-1865: Am. Civil War.  Drafted or vol.  See records.
1866-1900: Fluctuated continually 1882/250,000.
1900-census...28/48 more.  **1820-1974: *Germ.7m; It.5.2m; G.Brit.4.8; Ire.4.7***

# AID TO
# GENEALOGICAL
# RESEARCH
# IN GERMANY

TABLE A

## MAJOR SOURCE AVAILABILITY BY CENTURY

| TYPE OF RECORD | 13th | 14th | 15th | 16th | 17th | 18th | 19th | 20th |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1.  Civil Registration | | | | | | | | |
| 2.  Passenger Lists | | | | | | | | |
| 3.  City Directories | | | | | | | | |
| 4.  Emigration Records | | | | | | | | |
| 5.  Police Registers | | | | | | | | |
| 6.  Parish Register Transcripts | | | | | | | | |
| 7.  Parish Registers | | | | | | | | |
| 8.  Funeral Sermons | | | | | | | | |
| 9.  Apprentice and Guild Records | | | | | | | | |
| 10.  Schools and Universities | | | | | | | | |
| 11.  House Books | | | | | | | | |
| 12.  Census Records | | | | | | | | |
| 13.  Burgher Rolls | | | | | | | | |
| 14.  Wills & Probate Records | | | | | | | | |
| 15.  Deeds & Other Land Records | | | | | | | | |

CENTURY

# Research Proceedures in Germany

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## NORTHERN GERMANY:

**Historic Background:**

**Population Movements:**

**Locating Parishes and Determination Place Names:**

**Naming Practices**

**Major sources**

| | |
|---|---|
| Civil Registers- | Church Records- |
| Funeral Sermons- | Death Records- |
| Census Records- | Military Records- |
| Land and Property Record- | |

## CENTRAL GERMANY:

**Historic Background:**

**Population Movements:**

**Locating Parishes and Determination Place Names:**

**Naming Practices**

**Major sources**

| | |
|---|---|
| Civil Registers- | Church Records- |
| Military Records- | Guild Records- |

## SOUTHERN GERMANY:

**Historic Background:**

**Population Movements:**

**Locating Parishes and Determination Place Names:**

**Major sources**

| | |
|---|---|
| Civil Registers- | Church Records- |

# EASTERN GERMANY:

**Historic Background:**

**Population Movements:**

**Locating Parishes and Determination Place Names:**

**Major sources**
        **Civil Registers-**                         **Church Records-**
        **Census-**


# GERMANY UNDER FOREIGN RULE:

**Historic Background:**

**Population Movements:**

**Locating Parishes and Determination Place Names:**

**Major sources**
        **Civil Registers-**                         **Church Records-**

# GERMAN RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

## I. LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAP
    A. Isolate

    B. Boundaries

## II. SO WHERE DO WE START
    A. From sure knowledge

    B. Family tradition

    C. Religion/former communities

    D. Census

## III. LET'S LIST SOURCES WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH
    A. Vital Records

    B. Church Records

    C. Census

    D. Land and Probate

## IV. CHECK THE LDS RECORDS
    A. Barely miss or miss completely

    B. Language barrier

    C. Old joke about Amsterdam

## V. IMMIGRATION RECORDS AND INDEXES
    A. Hamburg

    B. Bremen

    C. Le Harve, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Antwerp

## VI. NOW BACK TO THE MAP
    A. Let's take a look at Napoleon

    B. But let's exclude

# FINDING THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF YOUR GERMAN ANCESTOR

## 1. U.S. SOURCES:
A. Computer
1. FamilySearch.org
2. Ancestral Quest
3. Cyndi's List

B. Vital Records
1. Church Records
a. Christening records of children whose parents came over from Germany sometimes indicated the place of origin of the parents.
b. Marriage records may more frequently give the German place of origin.
c. Death records are the best source for giving the place of origin.
2. County marriage and death records will often give places of birth.
3. Obituary and sexton records may give the place of birth.
4. Family bibles will also give clues as to where an ancestor came from.

C. Naturalization:
1. Naturalization records prior to 1907.
a. These records are kept at the county level.
b. In some Eastern states, naturalization records go back to the 1700's.
c. Most naturalization records begin in the early to middle 1800's.
d. County inventories show which court in that county handled naturalization.
e. The documents that most often give a birth place are the declaration of intention, the application, or the petition of naturalization.
2. Naturalization after 1907 was taken over by the Emigration/Naturalization Office of the Federal Government.

D. Histories of town, counties, and groups of people will often give biographies of local people giving their place of origin.

## II. SOURCES IN GERMANY
A. Passenger lists:
1. Hamburg passenger list (1850-present)
a. Direct lists- the ships came directly from Hamburg to America.
b. Indirect list- ships stopped at other ports after leaving Hamburg and before coming to America.
c. Passenger lists are indexed according to the first initial of the surname.
d. 1850-1854 the passenger list itself was indexed in this manner.
e. 1855-present, a separate index was kept.
2. Bremen Passenger list.
a. Kept as was the Hamburg list.
b. Destroyed during World War II
3. Other ports of debarkation.
a. Rotterdam, Holland- prior to 1800 the majority of people left from this port.
b. Antwerp, Belgium- large numbers of German left from this port during the 1800's.
c. LeHarve, France- many Southern Germans left from this port in the 1800's.

G-b

B. Immigration Lists:
1. Wurttemburg Immigration records.
   a. In some areas these records date back to before fourteen hundred.
   b. Records were kept by over sixty Oberamt officials.
   c. To know which Oberamt to search, the place of origin would have to be known or else each Oberamt would have to be searched.
2. Strassburg immigration records:
   a. Southern Germans passed through Strassburg to go to the port of LeHarve, France.
   b. Emigrants registered here prior to embarking from LeHarve.

C. Linage Books:
1. Over one hundred sixty linage books from all over Germany have been printed.
2. Linage books trace various family lines back, often as far back as the 1400 and 1500's.
3. Some books cover Germany in general but most deal with families in a specific area.
4. Each book has a surname index in the back.

D. Etymologies of Surnames:
1. Etymology books show the origin of surnames.
2. These books indicate the time period and cities where the names first appeared in records.

# FUNDAMENTALS OF GERMAN RESEARCH

## I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION
  A. Kingdoms of Germany
      1. The boundaries of Germany's kingdoms have changed throughout history due to wars and laws of inheritance.
      2. There were as many as 1700 different kingdoms, each kept its own records.
         a. Most record types are found in each kingdom.
         b. The beginning dates of these records vary with each kingdom.
         c. Record content and repositories also vary with each kingdom.
  B. The Gazetteer <u>MYERS ORTS UND VERKEHRS</u>
      1. The myers gazetteer lists the german cities, towns and farming communities for all of Germany as they existed in 1871.
      2. It indicates whether a town had a parish or not.
      3. It gives the place name of where the civil register was located.

## II. CIVIL REGISTRY:
  A. Prior to 1800:
      1. The earliest civil registration occurred in the 1500's in three cities: Dortmund, Emden and Leipzig.
      2. The areas of Germany that came under French rule in the late 1700's were the next areas to begin civil registration.
  B. After 1800:
      1. Each kingdom differed as far as when civil registry began.
      2. By 1876 civil registry was being kept in all of the kingdoms.

## III PARISH REGISTERS:
  A. Protestant Records:
      1. Usually began before Catholic records in the 1500's.
      2. Protestant churches are more numerous in Northern Germany.
  B. Catholic Records:
      1. Found mostly in Southern Germany and in the Eastern areas where there was a Polish influence.
      2. Parish records were written mostly in Latin.
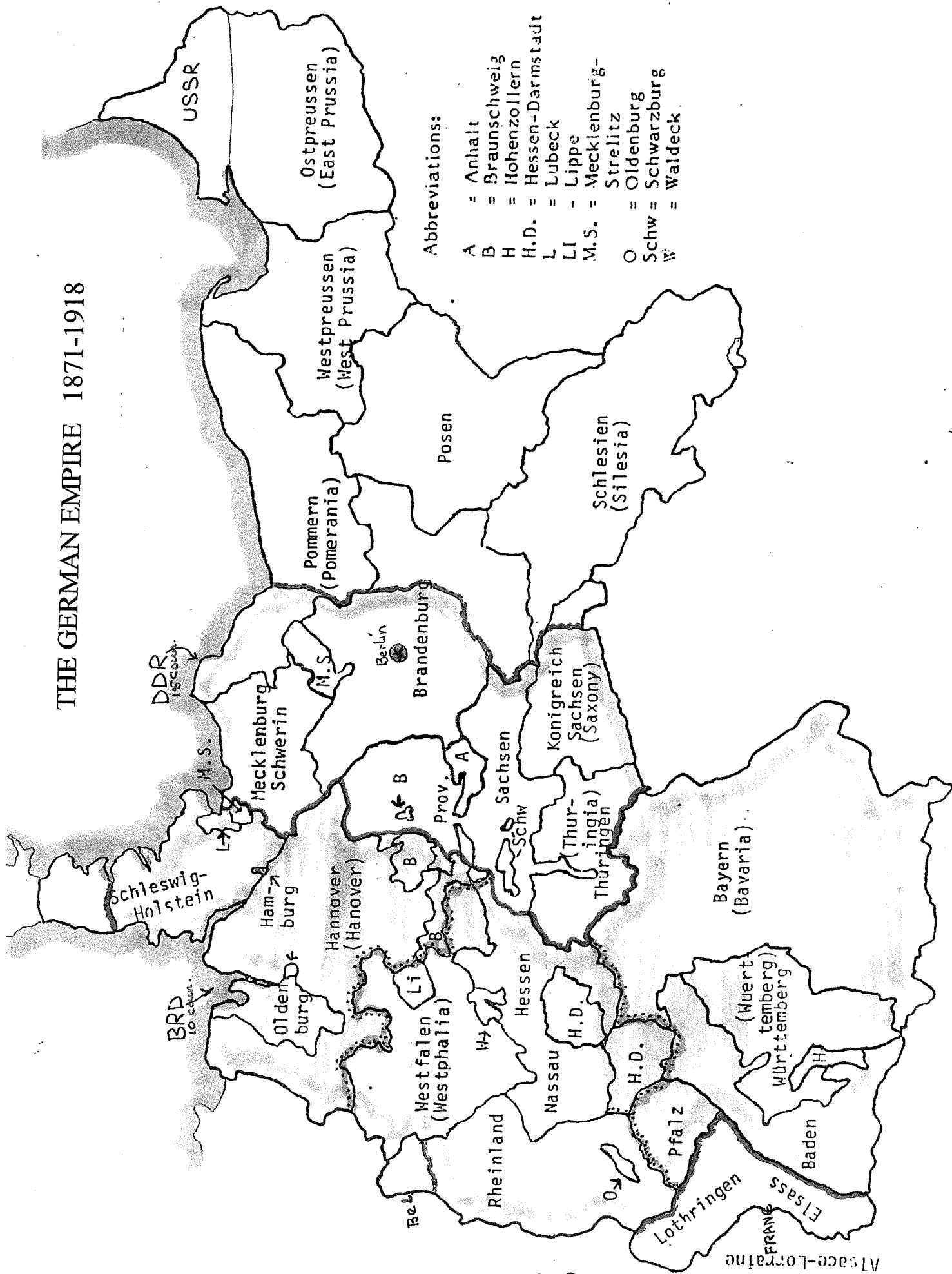  C. Availability:
      1. Parish records in many areas are scarce prior to 1650 due to the Thirty Years War, which ended in 1648.
      2. Prior to 1800 there are very few printed forms making some records very difficult to read.
      3. Family registers, which listed parents, grandparents, children, birth, marriage and death records are found in Southern Germany.
  D. Handwriting:
      1. German script was used up until the 1930's in most areas of Germany.
      2. Reading the German Script:
         a. Knowledge of the German language is very helpful.
         b. To decipher letters, construct an alphabet using the style of writing you are trying to read. Try reading words instead of letters.
         c. Find identical letters in known words.

# THE GERMAN EMPIRE 1871-1918

USSR

Ostpreussen (East Prussia)

Westpreussen (West Prussia)

Posen

Schlesien (Silesia)

Pommern (Pomerania)

Berlin

Brandenburg

DDR 15Count.

M.S.

M.S.

Mecklenburg Schwerin

Königreich Sachsen (Saxony)

Prov. Sachsen

A

B

Schw

(Thur-ingia) Thüringen

Schleswig-Holstein

L

Ham-burg

Hannover (Hanover)

B

O

B

Li

W→

Bayern (Bavaria)

BRD 10 Count.

Olden-burg

Westfalen (Westphalia)

Hessen

Nassau

H.D.

H.D.

(Wuert-temberg) Württemberg

Rheinland

Bel.

Pfalz

O

Baden

H

Lothringen

Elsass

FRANCE

Alsace-Lorraine

**Abbreviations:**

A = Anhalt
B = Braunschweig
H = Hohenzollern
H.D. = Hessen-Darmstadt
L = Lubeck
LI - Lippe
M.S. = Mecklenburg-Strelitz
O = Oldenburg
Schw = Schwarzburg
W = Waldeck

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# States of Germany
## as of November 2005



Schleswig-Holstein

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania

Hamburg

Bremen

Lower Saxony

Brandenburg

Berlin

North Rhine-Westphalia

Saxony-Anhalt

Saxony

Hesse

Thuringia

Rhineland-Palatinate

Saarland

Bavaria

Baden-Würtemberg