

GERMAN AND GERMAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL GUIDES AND SOURCES SINCE 1850

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Despite the mountain of publications produced in Europe concerning German and German-American genealogical research, relatively little information is accessible to the amateur and professional genealogist who is not conversant with the German language. And much of what has been done in English restricts itself to the American colonial period. Yet, the largest waves of immigration from Germany came in the latter half of the 19th century and the first decade of the present century: 1853-54, 1865-73, 1882-83, 1907. The large crest of German immigration after the Civil War was temporarily cut off by the economic crash of 1873, but resumed less than a decade later, culminating in the peak year 1907. Between 1855 and 1895 an average of 100,000 Germans came to America annually. Since 1820 some seven million Germans have made the United States their adopted homeland—more than any other nationality, including Great Britain.

The general definition of the term, *German-American* refers to those persons from or descended from German-speaking countries and settlements around the world who have made the U.S. their home. This paper¹ necessarily limits itself to Germany's geographical limits since 1850 and to guides and sources pertaining to genealogical research on persons from Germany and their American descendants. It excludes Switzerland, Austria, and

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those areas temporarily held by Germany during the Third Reich.²

A great fund of material is to be found among the publications, documents, and artifacts associated with the religious, cultural, educational, social and fraternal institutions of America's German-speaking element. Characteristic of German ethnic consciousness is the propensity for record-keeping and the handing down of oral, written and physical evidence for purposes of traditions and language maintenance, the perpetuation of social, economic, and political ideas, as well as population control, statistics, and familial and self-identification. Thus the German-speaking element left considerable evidence of its existence and origins.

Geographical and Historical Guides and Sources

Good methodology requires that the researcher construct an ancestral profile which serves as an outline or checklist of time periods, movements within the socio-religious and political realms, personal affiliations of the ancestor and his family and friends, geographical locations, and other data. Locating the German-American's residence may often be accomplished by placing him in a historical perspective. It is important, for example, to consider whether a German immigrant of the 1850s might have been identified with the Forty-Eighters Movement, or whether, as an 1873 arrival, he had come from a German settlement in Russia. In the former instance, one should proceed to publications and other sources on political emigres and radicalism; in the latter case, one might seek out sources on and in the Dakotas since it was there that such settlements were established that year by adherents of the Reformed Church.³

The major bibliographical guides to literature on the Germans in America since 1850 are Henry A. Pochmann and Arthur R. Schultz, *Bibliography of German Culture in America to 1940* (Madison, Wis., 1953), and Don Heinrich Tolzmann, *Americana Germanica: A Bibliography* (Metuchen, N.J., 1975), the latter of which lists sources since 1940, including the important bibliographies which appeared in various issues of the *American German Review* and the *German Quarterly*. Olga K. Miller's *Migration*,

²Guides to genealogical research in Austria, Switzerland, and other German-speaking areas are to be found in *The German-American Genealogist* and other periodicals mentioned in this article. See also the various publications of the Genealogical Society of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, hereinafter referred to as LDS, including *Major Genealogical Record Sources in Austria* (Series C, No. 16: 1971), *Major Genealogical Record Sources in Switzerland* (Series C, No. 2:1 Sep 1967), Prof. Dr. Hanns Leo Mikoletzky, *Genealogical Research Sources in Austrian Archives* (Area D-7:1969), and Dr. Grete Mecenseffy, *Central European Population Movements* (Area D-12:1969).

³See, for example, Carl Wittke, *Refugees of the Revolution* (Phila., 1952); A. E. Zucker, *The Forty-Eighters* (N.Y., 1950, 1967); Richard Sallet, *Russian-German Settlements in the United States*, trans. by LaVern J. Ripple and Armand Bauer (Fargo, 1974).

Emigration, Immigration (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1974) contains extensive bibliographical data on German-American genealogy and history. Karl J. R. Arndt and Robert Elmer Ward are currently working on bio-bibliographical handbooks which deal exclusively with German-American editors and writers.

Arndt and May Olson compiled an extremely valuable book for research on German-America, *German-American Newspapers and Periodicals* (Heidelberg, 1961). In addition to the listing of every known German-language newspaper published in the United States,⁴ it contains statistical and historical notes pertaining to the various cities and towns in which these newspapers appeared. Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszczan-Czaja Smith drew from Arndt and Olson for their list of places of publication of German-American periodicals.⁵ This list serves as a valuable guide to German-American settlements. They also give the locations of German-speaking congregations by state, county, and denomination.

Perhaps the best guide to the geography of German-America is Heinz Kloss, *Atlas der im 19. und fruehen 20. Jahrhundert entstandenen deutschen Siedlungen in USA* (Marburg, 1974) which has maps and text in German and English. Lists of German atlases and gazetteers and notes on how to use them are given in Volume I, Nos. 5 and 6 (1975) of *The German-American Genealogist*. The major gazetteers are *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon* and *Muellers Grosses Deutsches Ortsbuch*, copies of which are to be found at LDS libraries. The researcher will also find much use for the German zip code directory, *Verzeichnis der Postleitzahlen*, which can be purchased directly from the German postal headquarters in Bonn or from the Society for German-American Studies.

Information on the locations and histories of the German principalities is to be found in the various issues of *The German-American Genealogist* (Vol. I:1975), the *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (N.Y. & London, 1976) by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Neal Smith, and various American and German encyclopedias, e.g., *Encyclopedia Americana* (N.Y., 1967 ff.) and *Neues Grosses Lexikon* (Grossversandhaus Quelle: Fuerth, 1967).

Charles M. Hall has compiled important data for his several-volumed series of books called *The Atlantic Bridge to Germany* which contains historical notes on the various German states, help in tracing ancestors across the Atlantic, correlations of various jurisdictions within the German states, indices to German communities and parishes, and maps of the German states.

⁴A second volume has recently appeared which contains data on German-language publications in the Americas and a supplement to the first volume (United States). See *Die deutschsprachige Presse der Amerikas 1732-1968: Geschichte und Bibliographie* (Pullach bei Muenchen, 1973).

⁵See *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (R. R. Bowker Co.:N.Y. & London, 1976).

The Mecklenburg Handbook by The German Research Team in Salt Lake City serves a similar function.

The many historical works on German-American culture and settlements are rich in geographical and biographical information. In Cleveland, for example, two histories were published under the title *Cleveland und sein Deutschtum* (Cleveland and Its Germandom) which contain lengthy biographies and photos of individuals.⁶ Most German cities, towns, and villages are the subject of similar works, called *Heimatbuecher*, which usually have extensive lists of the residents and biographical data on them.⁷

Handbooks and Guides on Methodology

The classical handbook on German genealogical research is *Handbuch der praktischen Genealogie* (2 vols., Leipzig, 1913)⁸ by Eduard Heydenreich. It was supplemented by Rudolph Dimpel's *Biographische Nachschlagwerke* (Wiesbaden, 1921, 1969) and *Handbuch der Genealogie* (Verlag Degener:1972) by Eckart Henning and Wolfgang Ribbe. Another popular handbook is *Einfuehrung in die praktische Genealogie* (Limburg an der Lahn, 1966) by Erich Wentscher and Hermann Mitgau.⁹ The Smiths' *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* represents the major English-language handbook on German-American methodology. It was preceded by Robert Elmer Ward's *Research Manual for German-American Genealogy*.¹⁰ Guides to methodology are also found in *The German-American Genealogist* and the *Journal of German-American Studies*.¹¹

Excellent guides on name changes are listed in the first issue of *The German-American Genealogist*. Hans Bahlow's *Deutsches Namen-Lexikon* (German Name Lexicon) is one of the most helpful handbooks on the origin of German names. The researcher should also familiarize himself with the National Archives Soundex Rules, a profile of which is given in the *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*.

Records of German Societies and Clubs

In Germany and America, German societies and clubs have published membership lists, biographical notes on their members,

⁶They were published in Cleveland in 1897-98 and 1906, respectively.

⁷The village histories are referred to as *Dorfbuecher* or *Heimatbuecher*.

⁸Republished in 1971 by Verlag Degener in Neustadt an der Aisch, one of Germany's largest genealogical publishing houses.

⁹Published by C. A. Starke Verlag, another large German genealogical publishing house.

¹⁰This manual was published in limited supply and distributed to students of the German-American genealogical workshops sponsored by the Institute for German-American Studies under the auspices of the Society for German-American Studies. It is no longer available; however, much of the material therein has been republished in *The German-American Genealogist*.

¹¹These periodicals were merged in 1976. They are published by the Society for German-American Studies, 21010 Mastick Road, Cleveland, Ohio, 44126. Subscription price is \$7.00 (four issues annually).

program booklets and periodicals which often contain vital genealogical information. Material of this sort is usually found in local and regional archives. In the U.S. the Max Kade Institute at the University of Kansas serves as a central storehouse for all types of American Germanica. The H. H. Fick Collection at the University of Cincinnati is another source. The researcher should contact local historical societies¹² and German-American organizations as well.

The LDS Genealogical Society Library in Salt Lake City is the major American source of genealogical data on German-Americans. The only other genealogical society that specializes in German genealogical research is The Palatines to America, but its interest is mainly for the American colonial period. In Germany the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbaende is the roof organization for some fifty genealogical societies, most of which have archives or libraries and carry on various projects, including the publication of genealogical periodicals.¹³

Several professional genealogists offer special services to researchers seeking German-American ancestors. Watch the ads in the *Familienkundliche Nachrichten* and Everton's *Genealogical Helper*. Volume 11, No. 1 of *The Journal of German-American Studies* gives information and sample application blanks for Friedrich R. Wollmerhaeuser's project, "Genealogical Research in Southwest Germany." For a modest fee one can register with him to find lost ancestors from nineteenth century Wuerttemberg.¹⁴

Periodicals

There are at least five American periodicals which specialize in German-American genealogy: *The Germanic Genealogist* (formerly known as *The German Genealogical Helper* and *The Germanic Genealogical Helper*) published by the Augustan Society; *The German-American Genealogist*, published by The Society for German-American Studies; the *Journal of German-American Studies* (formerly known as *German-American Studies* and now merged with *The German-American Genealogist*), published by The Society for German-American Studies; *Clues*, published by the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia); and the periodical published by the Palatines to America, a German-American genealogical society which is mainly

¹²The Ethnic Archives, Dr. Robert E. Ward Collection of Americana Germanica at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, for example, has an excellent collection of publications, documents, and records of local German-American organizations.

¹³Information on the activities and records of these societies is to be found in the various issues of *The German-American Genealogist* and the *Journal of German-American Studies*. See also *Aktuelle Themen zur Genealogie* published by Verlag Degener and compiled by this roof organization.

¹⁴For a registration form and information on this vital project, write to Wollmerhaeuser at Stuttgarter Strasse 133, 7261 Ostelsheim, West Germany.

concerned with the pre-1850 period. The Swiss-American Historical Society also publishes a periodical which frequently contains articles pertinent to genealogical research on the German-Swiss in America. For the titles of other German-American periodicals, see the Arndt-Olson volumes.

The titles of German-language periodicals published in Europe are listed in the series *Aktuelle Themen zur Genealogie*,¹⁵ a publication of the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbaende (German Federation of Genealogical Societies). One should also study and publish genealogical inquiry ads in the widely distributed *Familienkundliche Nachrichten* (Family Research News) which is put out by the Verlag Degener & Co. (853 Neustadt/Aisch, Postfach 1340, W. Germany) and given free to members of German genealogical societies. *Der Schluessel* (The Key) is the major index for German genealogical publications since 1900.¹⁶

Newspapers

German-American and German newspapers provide much information on post-1850 Germans who came to America. It was required of German citizens that their intention to emigrate be published in local newspapers of general circulation. German-American newspapers are especially valuable sources since they frequently contain lengthy obituaries which generally provide more genealogically significant details than those of their English-language counterparts. When consulting them, be sure to research those published in both the ancestor's hometown and neighboring communities. Often death notices and obituaries appeared in German-American newspapers published in towns nearby. It should also be noted that obituaries and death notices sometimes appeared four to six weeks after the ancestor's demise. Also an important source are the special issues occasionally printed by the German-American press. The *Jubilaumsausgabe*¹⁷ (Anniversary Issue) of the *Waechter und Anzeiger*, Cleveland's second German newspaper, contains, for example, pertinent information on individuals, societies, churches and various institutions of the German-American community.

Governmental Sources

The *Jubilaumsausgabe* of the *Waechter und Anzeiger* contains an article on German-American military units and organizations to which the local German element belonged. Most major American cities and some towns had German-American military clubs whose members received liberal treatment in the press and local histories. Ohio and Cleveland, for example, are cited as the

¹⁵See footnote 13, supra. A collection of German genealogical periodicals is being assembled at the Western Reserve Historical Society's Ethnic Archives (Dr. Robert E. Ward Collection of Americana Germanica).

¹⁶Published in five volumes (1955-1965) by the Heinz Riese Verlag in Goettingen.

¹⁷Published in 1902 in commemoration of the newspaper's 50th anniversary.

contributors to several German-speaking regiments in the Civil War. In addition to the records of German-American military organizations, the researcher should consult the military records at the Library of Congress and certain archives in Germany, e.g. the Kriegsarchiv (War Archives) in Munich.¹⁸

The German state archives are governmental institutions. Most of them have valuable genealogical holdings and employ a staff which will perform genealogical research for a fee. Printed inventories of these holdings as well as publications on genealogy are periodically issued by some of these archives. Several directories of German archives and libraries are also available.¹⁹

The Hamburg State Archive (Staatsarchiv Hamburg) and the LDS Genealogical Society Library in Salt Lake City have passenger lists for ships sailing from Hamburg to America. Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp and Le Havre were perhaps the most popular points of departure after 1850. Whereas the Bremen lists were destroyed, those for the latter two ports are still available. Rotterdam continued to be a point of departure after 1850. The Smiths²⁰ suggest that the researcher looking for ancestors who departed from Rotterdam also check British port records since many ships stopped there on their way to the United States. Other port records should also be checked, e.g., Trieste and Bergen. The passenger lists generally give more details on the husband than on the wife and children except in the case of widows. According to an LDS research paper,²¹ the passenger lists (Schiffslisten; Passagierlisten) give date of embarkation, husband's full name, place of origin, occupation, age, and the names and ages of the wife and children, and sometimes their destination. When researching this type of source, distinguish among customs passenger lists, immigration passenger lists, customs lists of aliens, and cargo manifests. To find them, contact the LDS Genealogical Society Library; National Archives in Washington, D.C.; Federal Records Center, GSA, in Philadelphia; the various state archives in Germany; and other agencies which preserve maritime and immigration records.²²

¹⁸It should be noted that until the turn of the century each of the German principalities recruited its own troops. Therefore, the records of these militias are frequently found in regional or state archives in the area in which the principality is presently or was formerly located.

For a list of German archives and libraries, see *The German-American Genealogist*, Vol. I, No. 5 and subsequent issues. The *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (pp. 8-10) contains a list of German archives with primary source materials on German-Americans.

¹⁹Excellent directories of German archives and libraries as well as historical societies are available from Verlag Degener and the C. A. Starke Verlag.

²⁰*Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*.

²¹*Major Genealogical Record Sources in Germany*, Series C, No. 1 (Revised 1974).

²²For an illuminating discussion of this type of source, and others, see the authoritative *Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives*, by Meredith B. Colket, Jr., and Frank E. Bridgers (Washington, D. C.: The National Archives, 1964).

Emigration permits (Auswanderungsgenehmigungen) were issued at the appropriate governmental office located at or near the town of origin. Emigration lists (Auswandererlisten) are to be found in German state archives and contain the names of the emigrant and his wife and children, their ages, sometimes the country of destination, and the emigrant head of household's residence, occupation and place of birth. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., is an important source for passenger lists of the 19th and 20th centuries, and the decennial Federal censuses which aid in the determination of the year of arrival. When using the passenger lists it is also necessary to know the port of entry; therefore check first for the ports nearest to the immigrant's first domicile in America.

Since naturalization is not a requirement for immigration, naturalization records²³ do not always yield the desired name. Even when the immigrant's name is listed, they are of limited assistance since they usually only give his state or principality, not the town of origin. But knowing at least the general area from which the ancestor came is often sufficient to put the researcher on the right track.

The records of American consulates in Germany may also contain vital information since they variously give certificates of registration, marriage contracts, and papers and documents on estate and business matters concerning German-Americans. According to the Smiths' research findings,²⁴ the certificates of registration contain the birthdate, names of the children, residence, date of arrival in Germany, date of departure from Germany, and miscellaneous information including the date of naturalization. The records of German consulates in America are also sources of genealogical data, particularly on the estates and heirs of immigrants.

German census lists (Volkszählungslisten) give the name, age, occupation, residence, and place of origin. They are usually found at the state archives, however some are at city archives in Germany and at the LDS libraries in the U.S. The German police registers (Einwohnermeldelisten) and burgher rolls (Buergerbuecher) serve a similar function. The former are to be found at the local *Einwohnermeldeamt* (Office for Residential Registration), but they provide limited information. The latter are located at German city and state archives, and copies of some of them have been made by the LDS. The burgher rolls generally give the name, age, and social or economic status of the burgher. Some of the printed burgher rolls contain genealogies.²⁵

German court records often provide the missing link. Of major importance are the probate court (Hinterlegungsgericht)

²³Until the 20th century, naturalization records were also kept locally.

²⁴*Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*.

²⁵The Smiths, *ibid.*, point out that *Familienregister* (family registers) were kept in Wuerttemberg which comprise a house to house listing of residents, excluding foreigners and persons from other parts of Germany.

records and the land records (*Grundbuecher*). The former are usually located at local or state archives or at the local courthouse (*Amtsgericht*). The latter are also collected at city or state archives and local courthouses. One should also consult the *Achtbuecher* (proscription books), the *Schaffebuecher* (registers of courts of first instance), and the *Schuldbuecher* (records of indebtedness).²⁶

The *Ahnenpass* (Ancestral Passport) which was required during the period of the Third Reich may also prove to be a valuable source of genealogical information, since it was required that the bearer's ancestral tree be recorded therein, both the maternal and paternal lines, back to the third great grandparents. Although the *Ahnenpass* data was certified by an official, it is probable, in some instances, that it contains false information. The original application forms for the *Ahnenpass* may be in the possession of the Berlin Document Center. Certainly one should inquire of any living relatives from Germany whether their Ancestral Passports are still in their possession, since few of these documents have turned up in archival collections.

The *Personenstandregister* (Registry of Vital Statistics) was created during the Bismarckian era. Civil registration actually began in the Napoleonic period in some areas of Germany, however, it was not required in all the German states until the mid-1870s. When requesting information, the researcher will find the special German form letter published by the Society for German-American Studies to be a useful guide. It is designed to request genealogical information from the German *Standesamt* (Registry Office) in the ancestor's town of birth. The records kept there are: birth registers (*Geburtsregister*), marriage registers (*Eheregister*), and death registers (*Todesregister*). The birth registers generally contain the names of the child and his parents, the child's date of birth, and the residence and occupation of the parents. The marriage registers give the names, ages, residence and occupation of the married couple, their parents' names, residences, and occupations, and the names of the persons who officiated at the marriage ceremony and served as witnesses. The death registers contain the decedent's name and age, the date and place of his death, his occupation and his spouse's name, and the cause of his death. Sometimes one also finds the name and residence of the person who reported the death, the names of the decedent's parents, and the names of his children.

Church Records

The registers and other records of German-speaking church congregations and parishes in the United States are usually written in German. Since the 19th century and early 20th century, German-American churches usually had German-born pastors or priests, one is not surprised to find their records

²⁶For an interesting discussion of these types of sources, see *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*.

following European formats and using European symbols and German abbreviations. Like their counterparts in Germany, these clergymen frequently made marginal notes which serve as a vital source of information for the genealogist. It was customary for the German clergyman to keep a diary or personal record on events in his life and the lives of some of his flock. By making, therefore, a checklist of the names of all clergymen associated with one's ancestor and his relatives, the researcher will have a helpful source when tracing not only the ancestor but also the clergyman, whose personal records may still be available.

Upon locating churches with which one's ancestor was or may have been affiliated, the researcher should make it a practice to inquire about the existence and availability of publications on the history of the congregation or parish in question. This can lead to many fruitful sources. The published history of St. John's Lutheran Church in Garfield Heights, Ohio, for example, contains a list of every communicant from 1854 to 1929, and includes his or her date of birth and confirmation, the place of burial or residence, and, in the case of female members, the maiden as well as married name.

Since most German towns have fewer churches than do American towns, finding one's ancestor's church is not ordinarily a difficult task. Also the various German churches are listed at local church registries. The "German Form Letter for Churches" put out by the Society for German-American Studies is a helpful guide. One does not ordinarily need to know the name and address of the church in question, but rather whether the ancestor was Protestant or Catholic. Thus, a letter addressed to *Evangelisches Pfarramt* (Protestant Church Registry)²⁷ or *Katholisches Pfarramt* (Catholic Church Registry) at the town in question usually suffices. To find the German-American church in question often requires a bit of detective work:

- (1) locate the general vicinity of the ancestor's neighborhood residence,
- (2) make a list of churches which stand and have stood in that vicinity
- (3) check this list for the year(s) of residence
- (4) contact the churches which are and were located there, or write to the church's national headquarters²⁸
- (5) contact local and other historical and genealogical societies which may have acquired the original records of the church.

In addition to the *Seelenregister* (Register of Souls), kept by priests and pastors of German churches here and abroad, one

²⁷Although the term *Evangelisches* means "Evangelical", it is generally used to denote a Protestant church.

²⁸An excellent list of the various religious denominations to which most German-Americans belonged is given in the *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research*. Consult, among other sources, E. Kay Kirkham's *Survey of American Church Records*, vol. II, for addresses of the national headquarters of church denominations.

should consult the records of clubs and societies associated with the church. The church registers (*Kirchenbuecher*) are, of course, the most valuable link to the ancestor born between 1850 and 1876. In Germany, copies of many church registers, called *Kirchenbuecher-Zweitschriften* (parish register transcripts), were often made and are available at local and state archives.²⁹ The LDS Church is presently microfilming and copying church registers for entire communities in West Germany. East Germany continues its policy of non-cooperation in this area of research; however, the LDS Church has succeeded in copying, filming, and acquiring data from church registers in areas now under East German jurisdiction.

The German and German-American church registers consist of *Geburtsregister* (birth registers), *Taufregister* (baptismal registers), *Konfirmationsregister* (confirmation registers), *Eheregister* (marriage registers), and *Todesregister* (death registers). It has been previously noted that many German-American churches have published lists containing data from their various registers. This does not appear to have been frequently done by churches in Germany.

The birth and baptismal registers usually give the name, date and place of birth of the child, the parents' names, residence, and occupations, and the names of the godparents (*Paten*). The confirmation registers give the name and age of the confirmed, and the date of confirmation. The marriage registers give the names, ages, date and place of marriage of the newlyweds as well as their parents' names, and sometimes the parents' occupations. The death registers list the name, age, and sometimes the occupation of the deceased, the date and place of death and burial, and sometimes the names of the spouse, parents, and children as well as the Biblical text read at the burial.

The researcher should also look for certificates issued by the pastor or priest commemorating baptisms and confirmations. These certificates usually contain the names of the church or religious denomination, the clergyman, the witnesses, the parents, and the person being baptized or confirmed. These certificates are also usually dated.

Miscellaneous Sources and Guides

Many of the German and German-American churches sponsored parochial schools whose records are usually located at the church rectory, parochial school office, or at local archives and historical societies.

²⁹For the locations of the parish register transcripts of churches in Bavaria, Mecklenburg, Prussia, and Wuerttemberg, the LDS study (*Major Genealogical Record Sources in Germany*, op. cit.) lists local and state archives. For Protestant churches from 1808 to 1875, see the parish register transcripts at the Landeskirchliches Archiv in Stuttgart; for the Catholic churches in Wuerttemberg during that period, see the parish register transcripts at the Staatsarchiv in Ludwigsburg.

The Smiths³⁰ point out that German municipal tax records may contain information of genealogical significance since it was customary to pay a tax on baptism. Also, the *Proklamationsbuch* (proclamation register) of the groom's church may contain an entry on the marriage which was usually transcribed before the ceremony took place. Apparently, a municipal tax was also paid when one married.

Occupational and apprentice and guild registers (*Lehrlings- und Gesellenbuecher*; *Zunftbuecher*) are located at local and state archives in Germany. They generally give the name, residence, and occupation of the tradesman, and the names of his employer and parents. Students' names, ages, and places of residence are to be found in the various *Universitaetsmatrikeln* (university matricles) and *Schulmatrikeln* (school matricles) in Germany. These sources are located at local and state archives and universities and schools still in existence. Often doctoral dissertations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries contain a short autobiographical sketch of their authors. Schools were also run by German-American organizations, e.g., *Turnvereine* (Turner societies) and *Freimaennervereine* (freethinker societies). Their records have been largely lost but may turn up in private collections and at various archives and historical societies.

The city directory (*Adressbuch*) of the ancestor's town of residence in Germany should also be consulted. It usually lists just the names and addresses of the local residents. This type of source is available at city archives and local libraries in Germany, and at some American university libraries.

The researcher should also investigate major books on German heraldry, e.g., Siebmacher's *Wappenbuch* (Book of Heraldry) since the recognition of nobility and the granting of patent nobility titles were still common until the early 20th century.

³⁰*Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research.*

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