1

2

3

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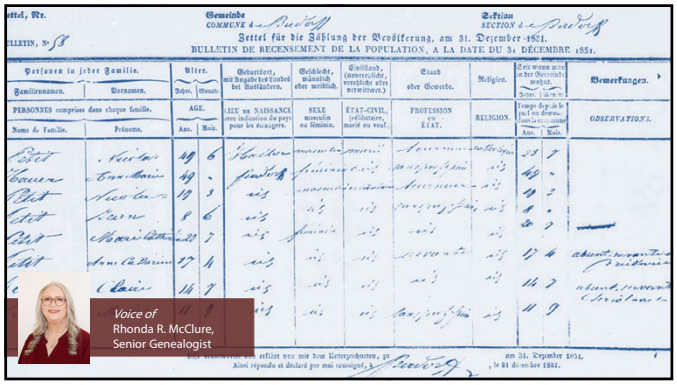

4

5

Records

- Civil Registration
- Church Records (*Kirchenbücher*)
- Family Registers (*Familienregister* or *Familienbücher*)
- Town Lineage/Family Books (*Ortssippenbuch/Ortsfamilienbuch*)

6

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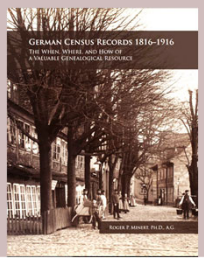
Records

- Census Records (*Volkszählungen*)
- Emigration Records
- Occupational Records
- Military Records

7

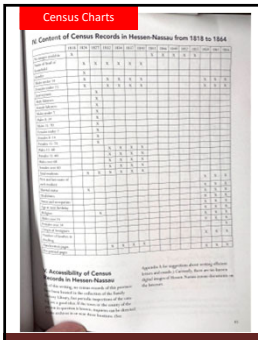
Census Records

- Chapters 5-42 devoted to the different kingdoms, duchies, states, etc.
- Arranged alphabetically
- Valuable appendices
- Appendix D is a mini gazetteer

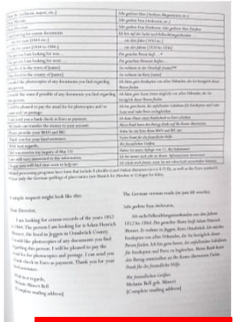


8

Census Charts



German Census Records…



Letter writing aids to contact local archives

9

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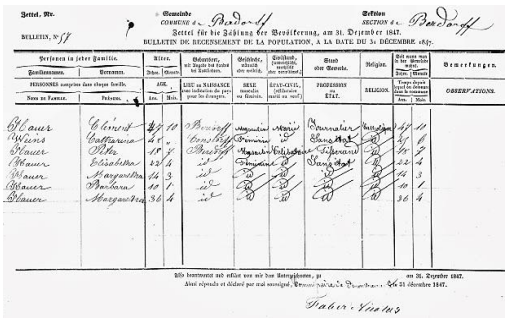
Census Records

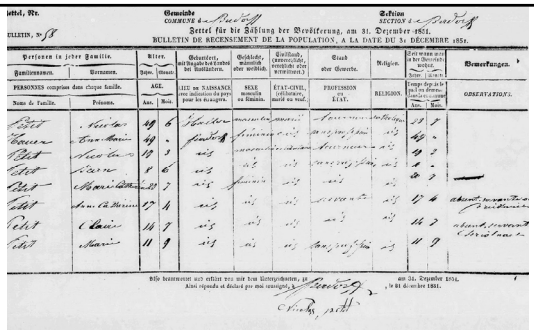
- *Volkszählungen* are only available in certain regions because of the many changes to what is considered "Germany"
- May have been microfilmed by FamilySearch
- May only be available at a state archive or city archive

10



1847 census - Bardorff

11



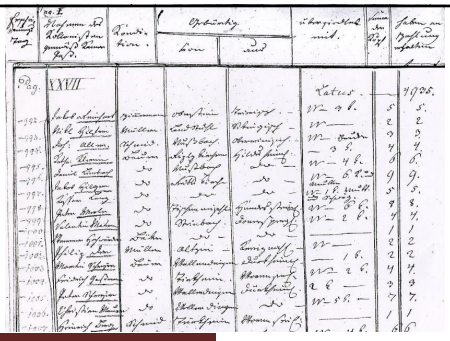
1851 census - Bardorff

12

Emigration Records

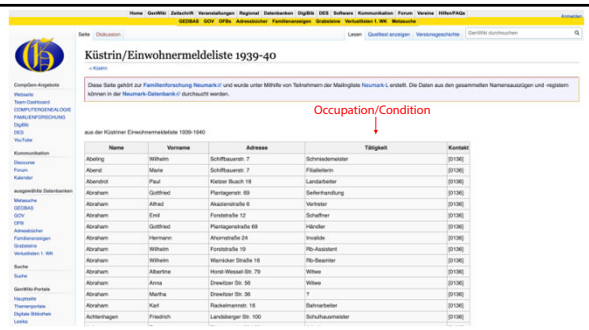
- Consist of a number of different records
  - Emigration lists (*auswanderunglisten*)
  - Resident registration lists (*einwohnermeldelisten*)
  - Emigration passenger lists (*passagierlisten* or *shiffslisten*)
- The family may not have requested permission to leave because they knew they would be denied

13



Auswanderungliste

14



https://wiki.genealogy.net/

15

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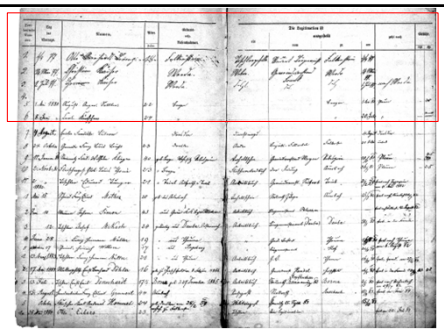
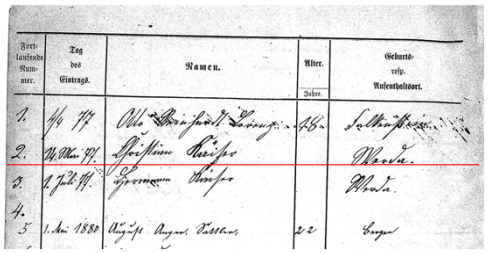


Einwohnermeldeliste - 1877

Bergen, Auerbach, Sachsen, Germany

16

No. Day of Entry Name Age Place of birth or residence



Einwohnermeldeliste - 1877

Bergen, Auerbach, Sachsen, Germany

17

Employment

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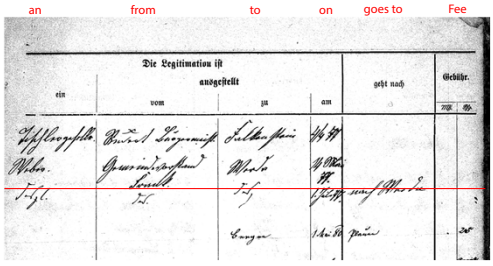

Einwohnermeldeliste - 1877

Bergen, Auerbach, Sachsen, Germany

18

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Tip:
Always work in the emigration passenger lists if available.

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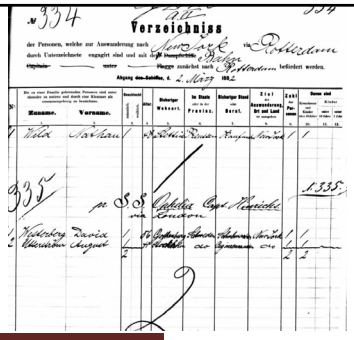
Hamburg Emigration Lists

- Direct and Indirect
  - Direct – from Germany to foreign country
  - Indirect – from Germany to a foreign country with a stop between (e.g. Hull, England)
- Lists for 1850-1854 arranged alphabetically
- 15-year index to Direct lists for 1856-1871
- Regular indexes (by year or part of year)
  - Direct – 1854-1934
  - Indirect – 1854-1910

20



Hamburg Indirect Emigration List

21

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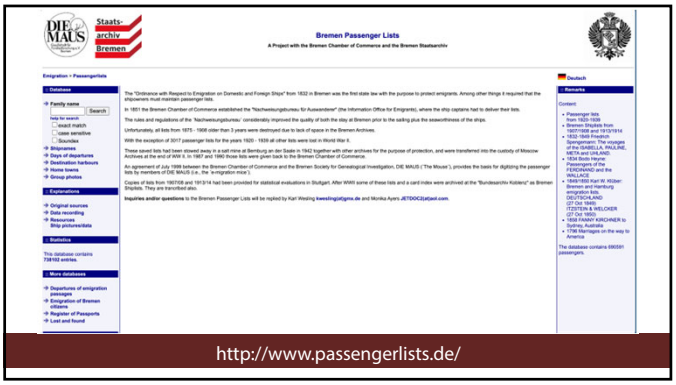
Bremen

- Much of the lists destroyed
  - 1832-1872, burned
  - 1874-1907, destroyed every 2 years
  - 1907-1945, destroyed in an air raid
- 1920-1939 – survive
- DIE MAUS
  - Surviving copies of 1907/08 and 1913/14
  - http://www.passengerlists.de/

22

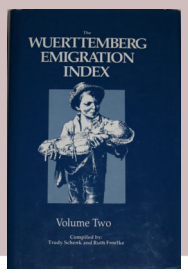


http://www.passengerlists.de/

23

Emigration Compilation

- 7-volume publication
- Abstracted from emigration papers submitted within Württemberg
- Points you to microfilmed (now digitized) original records
- Available online



24

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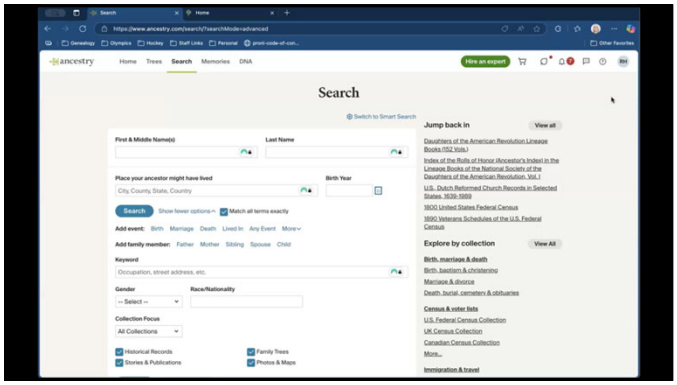
Video Demonstration: Using Württemberg Emigration Index and Records

25



26

27

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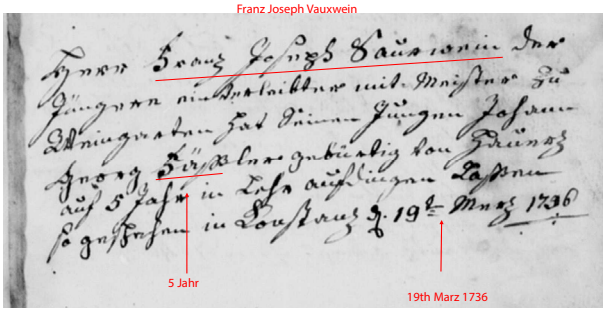
Occupational Records

- Occupational records include:
  - Apprenticeship records (*Lehrzeit/Wanderbuch*)
  - Guild records (*Zunft*)
  - Character books (*dienstbuch*)
- Histories of various guilds may hold clues to original records
- May only be available at a state archive or city archive

28

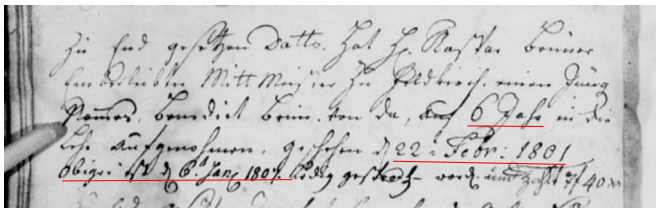
Franz Joseph Vauxwein



Lehrzeit (Apprenticeship) Book

Konstanz, Baden, Germany

29



Apprenticeship Book

Konstanz, Baden, Germany

30

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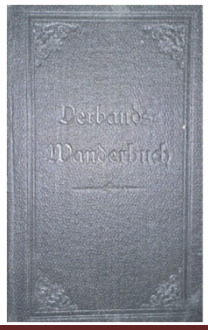


Wanderbuch (Apprentice Book)

31

Wanderbuch (Apprentice Book)

Name (name)

zu (in)
am (on)

Statur (build)

Augen (eyes)

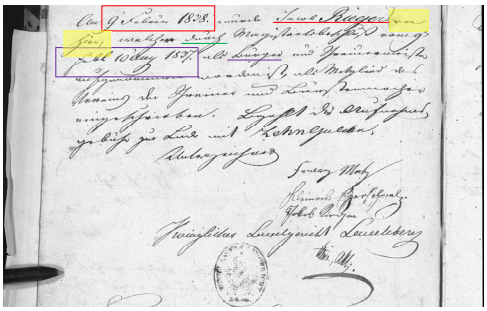
haare (hair)

Mund (mouth)

Rase (race)

Bersondere Merkmale
(special features)

32



Carpenters Registration - 1839

Landsberg am Lech, Bayern, Germany

33

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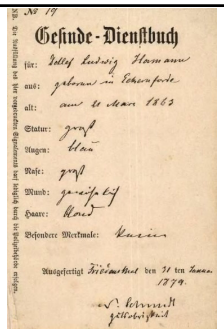


Für (for)
aus (out of)

alt (aged)

Statur (build)

Augen (eyes)

Rase (race)

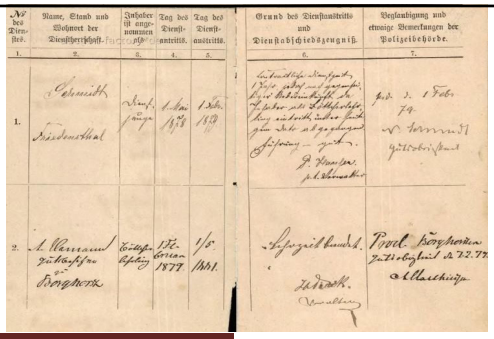
Mund (mouth)

haare (hair)

Bersondere Merkmale
(special features)

Dienstbuch – Identifying info

34



Dienstbuch – Job History

35

Military Records

- Most males were required to render military service
- Often must know the unit in which your ancestor served
- May be able to use military directories for certain areas to isolate units—more useful if your ancestor was an officer

36

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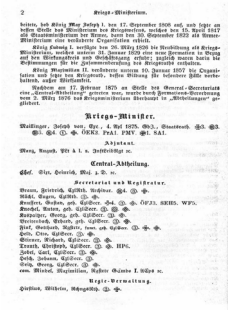

Kriegs-Ministerium.

Kriegs-Minister.

Adjutant.

Central-Abtheilung.

Secretariat und Registratur.

Regie-Vermaltung.

Military directory of officers

37

Town Lineage/Family Books

- Books that include births, marriages, and deaths on individuals from a specific town and time
- Arranged in families
- Sources may include parish registers, civil registration, court, land, and other resources
- When printed the information is arranged in a standardized format
- Online format may vary

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Working with Online Records

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Working with Online Records

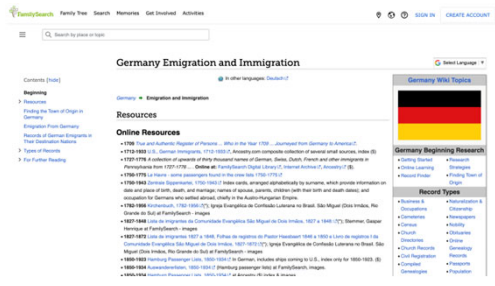
- It is important to understand as much as possible about your ancestor
- Usually must go image by image (much like looking page by page on a microfilm or in a book)
- The more you know, the less frustration there will be (especially in the face of language and writing challenges)

40

Emigration Resources

- Deutsche Auswanderer-Datenbank http://www.deutsche-auswanderer-datenbank.de
- Die Maus Gesellschaft für Familienforschung e. V. Bremen http://www.die-maus-bremen.de
- Ancestry.com (must have World Explorer) http://www.ancestry.com
- FamilySearch Wiki – German Emigration & Immigration https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Emigration_and_Immigration

41



www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Emigration_and_Immigration

42

Tip:
Exact dates mean you can search common words in documents

43

Efficiently Searching Records

- See if someone has abstracted the information:
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Ancestry.com
  - Google
- Exact dates and/or page number makes working with online images easier.

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Efficiently Searching

- Online options may ultimately lead you to digitized records on FamilySearch
- These records may only be viewable going image by image (camera icon)
- Some of them may require you to visit an "auxiliary institution" or a FamilySearch Center

45

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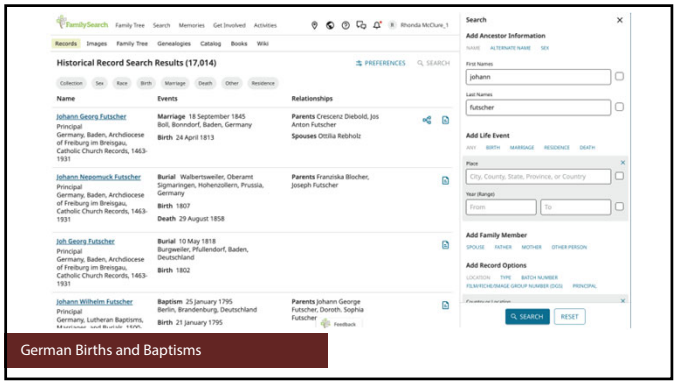

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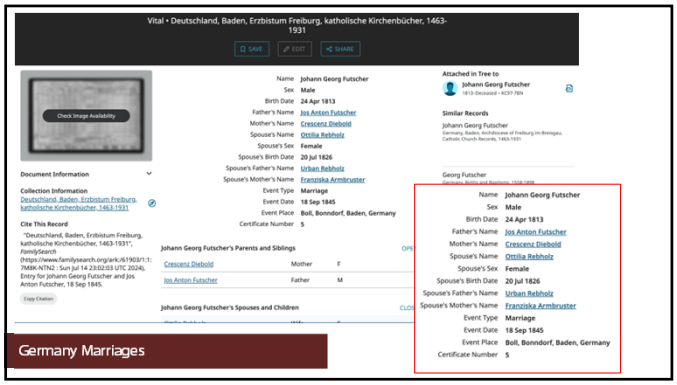

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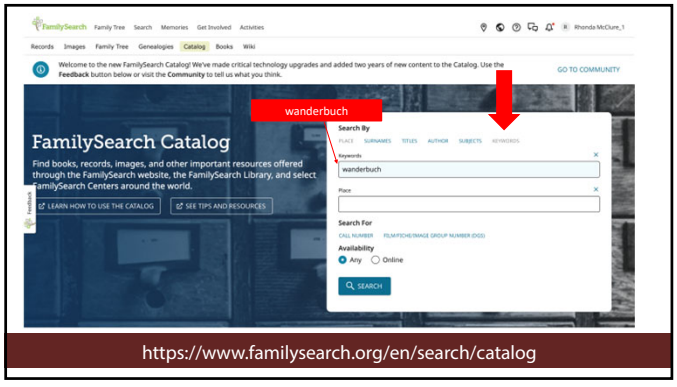

48

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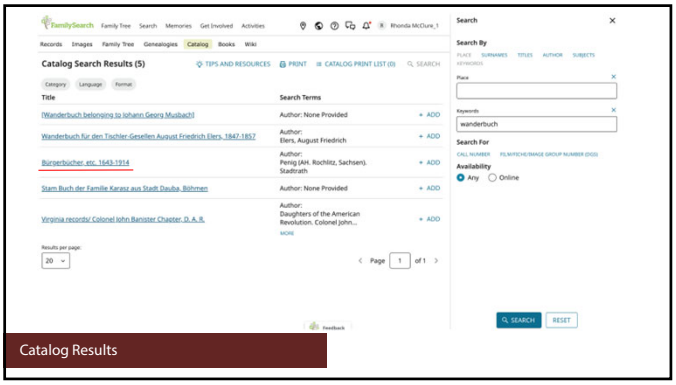
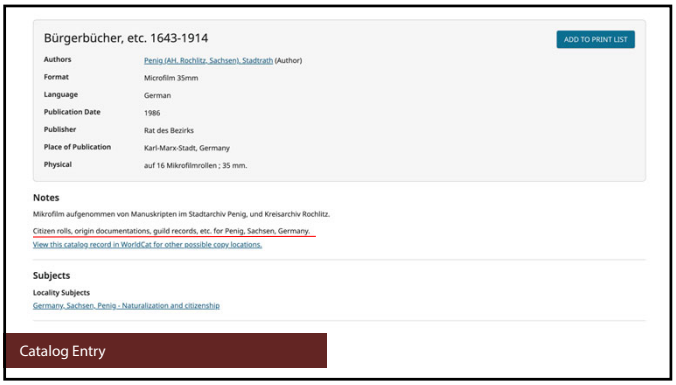


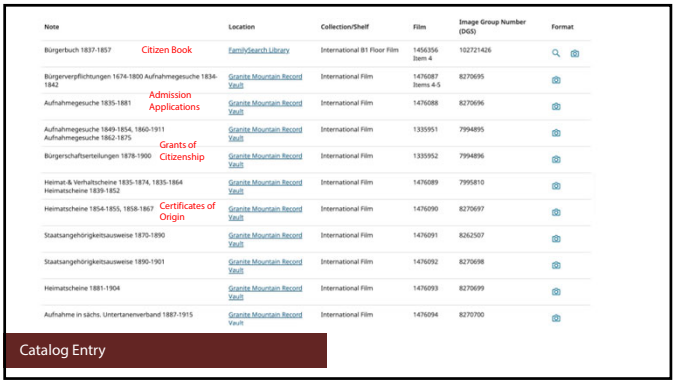
Catalog Results

49



Catalog Entry

50



Catalog Entry

51

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Staatsangehörigkeitsausweise 1890-1901	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476092	8270698	
Heimatscheine 1881-1904	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476093	8270699	
Aufnahme in sächs. Untertanenverband 1887-1915	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476094	8270700	
Auswanderungsscheine 1834-1848 Entlassungsurkunden 1854-1857 Entlassungen aus sächs Staatsverband 1871-1913 Auswanderungsgesuche 1852-1862	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476095	8270701	
Auswanderungsgesuche 1861-1910 Untertaneneide 1771-1866 Bürgerbuch 1643-1702 Bürgerrechtsangelegenheiten 1663-1664 Bürgerrechte 1703-1742	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476096	8270702	
Bürgerrechte 1742-1836 Bürgerrechtserteilungen 1869-1891	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476097	7995811	
Bürgerrechtserteilungen 1892-1903 Erbzinskataster 1853-1914 Meisteraufnahmegesuche 1780 Posamentenhandwerk 1785-1786	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476098	8270703	
Posamentierinnung 1820-1827 Denunciation gegen Meister Fischer 1786-1788 Wanderjahrengesuche 1843-1852 Heimatscheine 1834-1867 Wanderbuch Schmidt 1816-1839 Wanderbuch Kühn 1835-1837 Wanderbuch Jungnickel 1829-1838	Granite Mountain Record Vault	International Film	1476099 Items 1-11	8270704	

Catalog Entry

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Tip:
Consider searching just the root word of the record of interest

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Root Words

- *Einwohner* (resident) instead of *Einwohnermeldeliste* (resident list)
- *Bürger* (citizen) instead of *Bürgerbucher* (citizen book) or *Bürgerlisten* (citizen list)
- *Militär* (military) instead of *Militärunterlagen* (military documents)
- *Steuer* (tax) instead of *Steuerlisten* (tax lists) or *Steuerbüch* (tax book)

54

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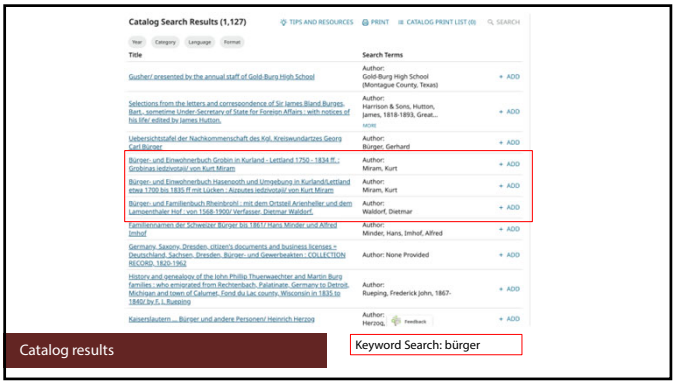
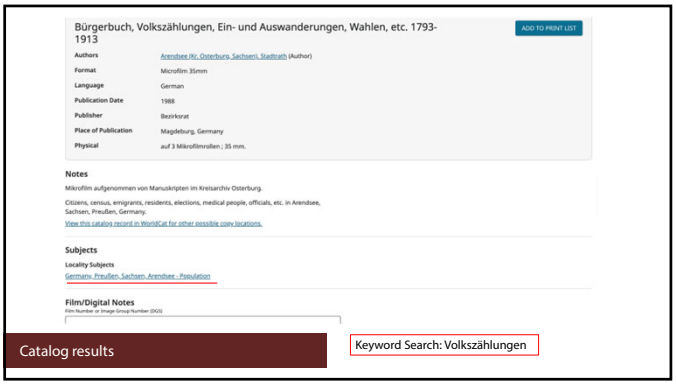
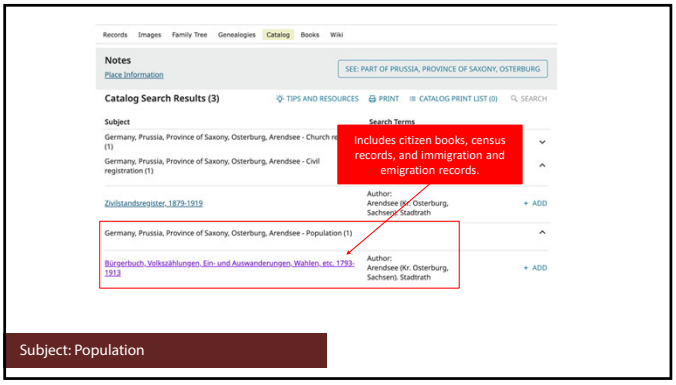


55



56



57

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Ortsfamilienbücher

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Town Lineage/Family Books

- Town Histories Hosted at Online Ortsfamilienbücher http://www.online-ofb.de/
- Germany Town Genealogies and Parish Register Inventories on the Internet https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Town_Genealogies_and_Parish_Register_Inventories_on_the_Internet

59

www.compgen.de/portfolio-item/db-ortsfamilienbuecher/

60

Ortsfamilienbücher

61

Ortsfamilienbücher

62

Ortsfamilienbücher

63

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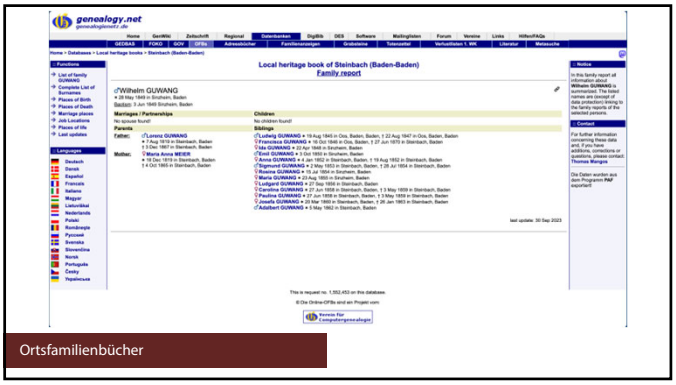

Ortsfamilienbücher

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65

66

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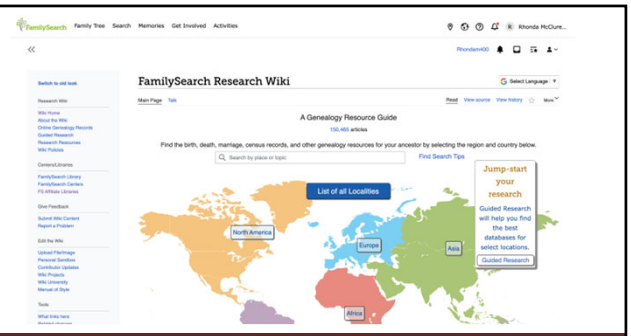
Contacting Archives

- Not everything is online and not everything is on microfilm
- Condition of records could prevent the Family History Library from microfilming, as could denied permission
- It is always good to send your first request in German.
- FamilySearch Letter Writing Guides can help

67



https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page

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www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/German_Letter_Writing_Guide

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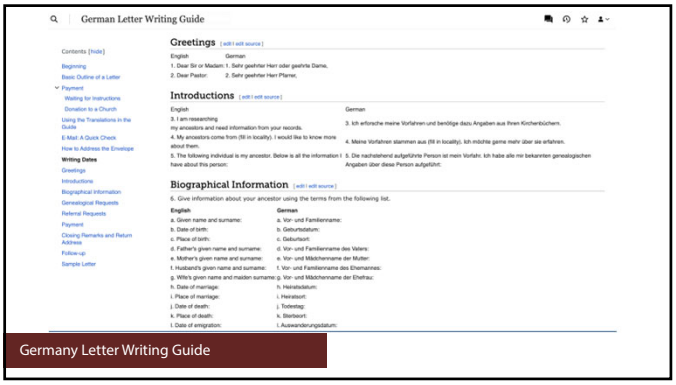

Germany Letter Writing Guide

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Seeking the Archive

- Family information:
  - Philipp Koch, b. Niederklein, Hesse, 14 Dec 1826, son of…
  - Johannes Koch (bapt. 18 Apr 1795; bur. 12 July 1861), son of…
  - Johann Georg Koch (1743-1814)
- Where are the tax records and land records?
- Nothing was found in FamilySearch catalog

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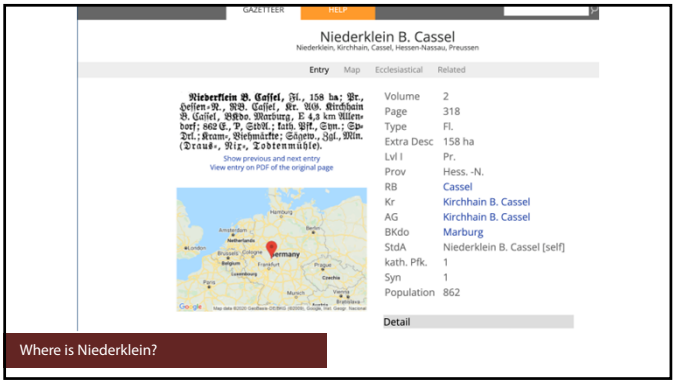

Where is Niederklein?

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Finding Contact Information

- Ernest Thode's *Address Book for Germanic Genealogy*, 6th edition (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1997)
- Raymond Wright's *Ancestors in German Archives, A Guide to Family History Sources* (Baltimore, Maryland, Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2004)

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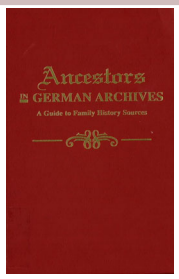
Ancestors in German Archives



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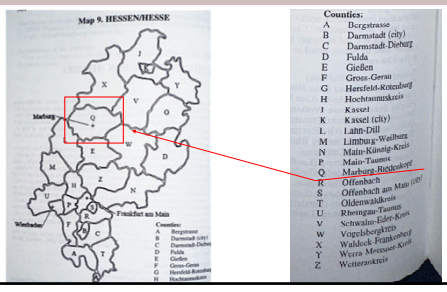
Ancestors in German Archives



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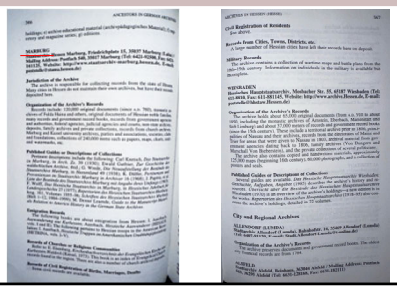
Ancestors in German Archives



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Finding Contact Information

- Searching for web pages of
  - Town halls
  - Churches
  - Regional Archives
  - State Archives
- Use Google and try to search in German

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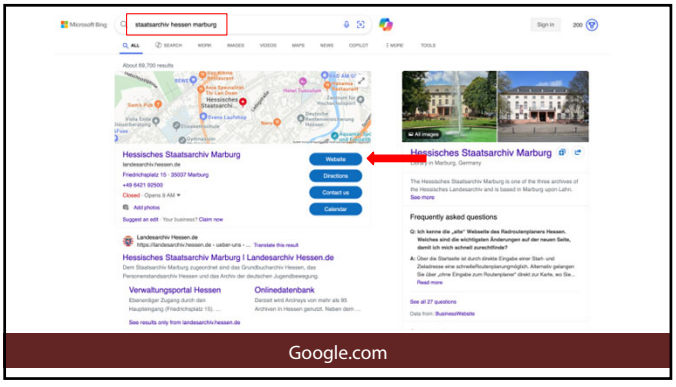

Google.com

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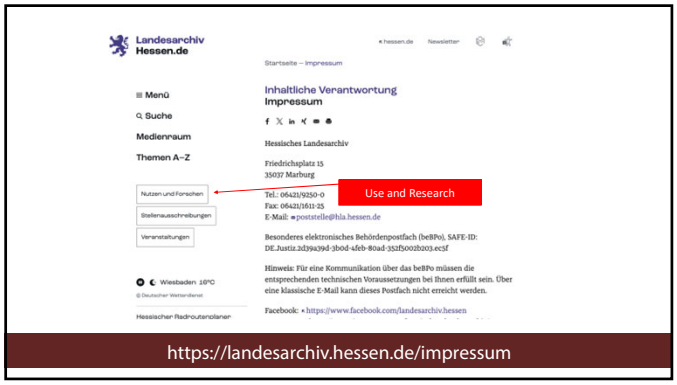

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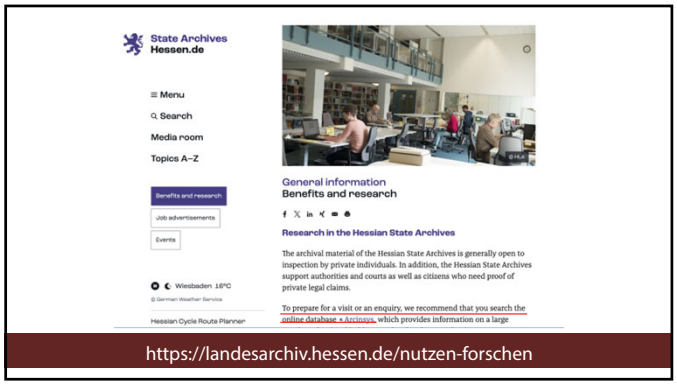

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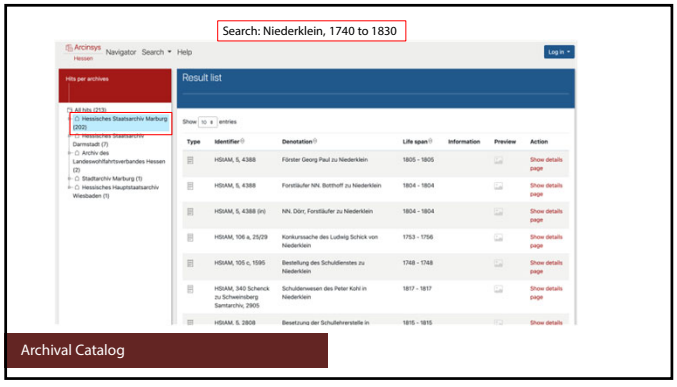

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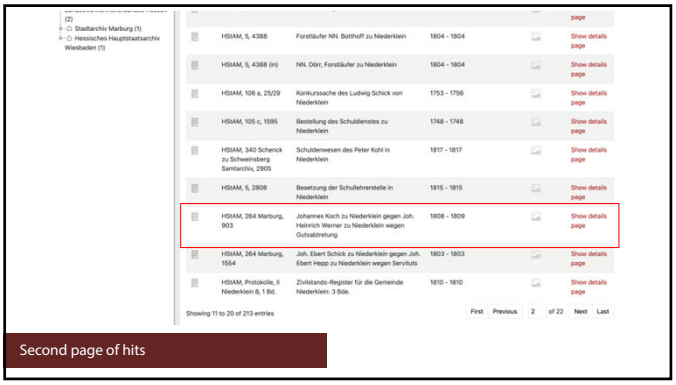

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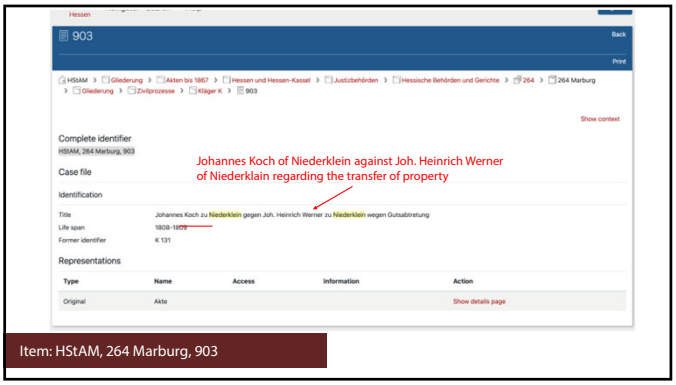

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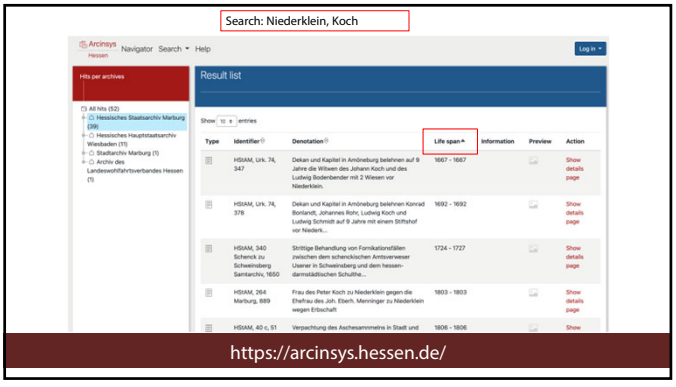

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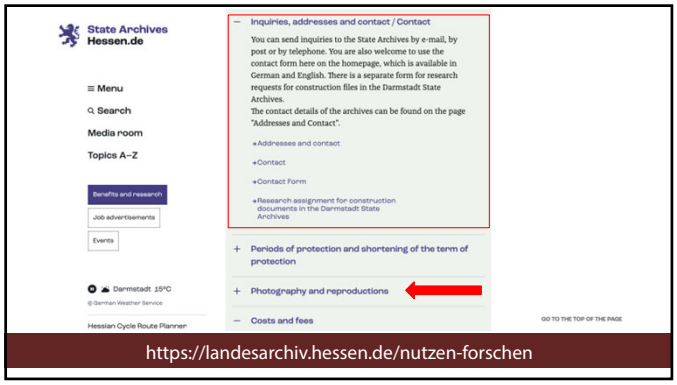

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Tip:
Poke around any site!

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Keep in Mind

- Wide variety of records that go beyond the church and civil records you may feel more comfortable with
- Not all records are online
- You may need to identify an appropriate archive and reach out to them
- Be creative and click links and see what happens in different sites

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QUESTIONS?
Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org
Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org

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Consultations
Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!
AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations
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Germans have been emigrating to America since the seventeenth century and today are the largest self-reported ancestry group living in the country. No matter when your ancestors arrived in the U.S., this online seminar will teach you how to trace your German ancestry. You will discover key records, resources, and repositories, while gaining important skills and strategies for finding your ancestors. Topics include: migration patterns, finding German origins, deciphering records and German script, using and accessing records, and leveraging online resources.
This course includes five 90-minute classes and exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.
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THANK YOU!
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