

German Online Gazetteers and Parish Register Inventories

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German Empire

Meyers Gazetteer of the German Empire (*Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reiches*) was published in 1912. This gazetteer covers all localities in the German Empire, from a single house to a large city. About 60% of the entries are “see”-references. In the original volumes, churches were only listed if they are in that locality, but the online version found at <http://www.meyersgaz.org/> includes parish information.

The website <http://www.meyersgaz.org/> provides users with

- An image of the original entry with major jurisdictions listed in English.
- Detailed maps linked to many localities.
- The Evangelical and Catholic parish and/ or a list of nearby communities with churches for most entries.
- A list of related places
- The opportunity to register as having a research interest in that locality.

A detailed help guide linked on the home page explains the use of the website in detail.

The original Meyers gazetteer is available online in several places. See “Where to find Meyers Gazetteer” at

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Gazetteers#Where_to_find_Meyer.27s_gazetteer.

Other general gazetteers:

Various gazetteers and parish register inventories are available in the digital library (DigiBib) of the German Society for Computer Genealogy, new titles are added regularly see:

<https://www.compgen.de/informieren/#digibib>

Links to several general gazetteers and the Prussian *Gemeindelexikon* are found at

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Gazetteers#Other_general_gazetteers . In addition to the resources listed there, the following may be helpful.

- ❖ *Deutsch-Fremdsprachiges Ortsnamenverzeichnis* – place name changes for localities formerly located in Germany, 1927 edition, see <http://pbc.gda.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=7346&from=pubstats>
- ❖ The Fuzzy Gazetteer, great for phonetic searches using current country boundaries, see: <http://isodp.hof-university.de/fuzzyg/query/>

Prussia (*Preußen*)

- ❖ *Gemeindelexikon* Preussen – All volumes are available on www.ancestry.com . However, many volumes are available elsewhere online for free. See state listings for details. On Ancestry, search the card catalog with the **keyword**: *Gemeindelexikon*". The collection is titled "Prussia, Municipality Gazetteer, 1905". Browse the entries by going to the respective state volume, search the index and then locate the entry on the page. The "search" options do not yield good results at this time.
- ❖ Various volumes are also available on GoogleBooks and the CompGen DigiBib, see: <https://wiki.genealogy.net/Portal:DigiBib> , category: „Geografie, Kartographie, Topographie etc.“

German states and provinces

The list found below is also accessible in abbreviated form in the FamilySearch Wiki, see https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Online_German_Gazetteers_and_Parish_Register_Invntories.

Alsace-Lorraine (*Elsass-Lothringen*)

- ❖ Town Directory of Alsace-Lorraine, 1880 (*Ortschaft-Verzeichnis von Elsass-Lotharingen*, 1880), see: http://books.google.com/books?id=4JJMAQAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gb_s_g_e_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false
- ❖ The Villages of Alsace (*Die Orte des Elsass*), see: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fraalsac/alsaceaz/geninfofer.htm>
- ❖ Geographical Names in Alsace-Lorraine (*Geografische Bezeichnungen in Elsass-Lothringen*), see:
- ❖ <http://www.elsass-lothringen.de/ortenamen.htm> - provides German and French place names for communities in Alsace -Lorraine

Baden

- ❖ The Grand Duchy of Baden shown from Geographical, Scientific, Historical and Civil Aspects (*Das Grossherzogtum Baden in geographischer, naturwissenschaftlicher, geschichtlicher, wirtschaftlicher und staatlicher Hinsicht dargestellt*). Includes explanations of symbols and abbreviations used beginning on page 768, followed by an alphabetical index, see: http://books.google.com/books/about/Das_Grossherzogtum_Baden_in_geographisch.html?id=GjEBAAAAQAAJ.
- ❖ Baden-Wuerttemberg Gazetteer of Villages. Includes a history of each locality, but does not always give the parish where villagers attended church. Enter the place name in the search box on the right for access to various resources, including links to 19th Century parish register duplicates. See: <http://www.leo-bw.de/themen/ortslexikon> .

Bavaria (*Bayern*)

- ❖ Official Locality Gazetteer (*Amtliche Ortsverzeichnisse*), available beginning with 1877 can be downloaded here, see: <http://www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/landesbeschreibungen-orte#1888>
- ❖ Place Name Database (*Ortsdatenbank*); entries include links to articles and nice maps, see: <http://www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/ortsdatenbank>

Brandenburg

- ❖ Sources for Population History in Brandenburg (*Quellen zur Bevölkerungsgeschichte in der Mark Brandenburg bis 1945*), see:
- ❖ <https://www.yumpu.com/de/document/view/3315714/quellen-zur-bevolkerungsgeschichte-in-der-mark-brandenburg-bis-1> This digital book [„paper“] can be read online or downloaded.
- ❖ Lists of available resources for the Priegnitz region and some other areas in Brandenburg, see <http://grueneberg-lenzen.de/deutsch/Kirchbuch/start.html>. The author provides information from his indexes for a fee, but the parish registers listed may be accessible on the subscription website www.archion.de.

Bremen

- ❖ History and Description of the Duchies of Bremen and Verden (*Geschichte und Landesbeschreibung der Herzogthümer Bremen und Verden*, 1824); the table of contents is at the end of volume 2, see:
Volume 1 <http://books.google.com/books?id=AZcwAAAAyAAJ>
Volume 2 <http://books.google.com/books?id=pW0AAAAAcAAJ>

Brunswick (*Braunschweig*)

- ❖ Place List of the Former Duchy of Braunschweig in the Kingdom of Westphalia, 1806–1813 (*Ortsverzeichnis des ehemaligen Herzogtums Braunschweig im Königreich Westphalen*), useful due to the boundary changes that had happened under Napoleon, see:
http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ortsverzeichnis_des_ehemaligen_Herzogtums_Braunschweig_im_K%C3%B6nigreich_Westphalen

East Prussia (*Ostpreussen*)

- ❖ East Prussia Community Gazetteer, 1905 (*Gemeindelexikon Ostpreussen, 1905*), see: http://books.google.com/books/about/Gemeindelexikon_f%C3%BCr_das_K%C3%B6nigreich_Preu.html?id=EcEzAQAAMAAJ

Hamburg

- ❖ Detailed Information about the parishes in the Hanseatic City of Hamburg, including Lists of Pastors, 1826 (*Ausführliche Nachrichten über die sämtlichen evangelisch-protestantischen Kirchen und Geistlichen der freyen und Hansestadt Hamburg, 1826*), click on “Inhalt” for a table of contents linked to images, see:

[http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Ausf%C3%BChrliche Nachrichten %C3%BCber die s%C3%A4mmtlichen evangelisch-protestantischen Kirchen und Geistlichen der freyen und Hansestadt Hamburg](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Ausf%C3%BChrliche_Nachrichten_%C3%BCber_die_s%C3%A4mmtlichen_evangelisch-protestantischen_Kirchen_und_Geistlichen_der_freyen_und_Hansestadt_Hamburg)

- ❖ Hamburg in “Topography of the Duchy of Holstein”, published about 1846, see https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_sWUTAQAAMAAJ#page/n7/mode/2up

Hannover

- ❖ Hannover Community Gazetteer, 1905 (*Gemeindelexikon, 1905*), Hannover is on images 1-274, see: <https://books.google.de/books?id=9cEzAQAAMAAJ&lpg=PA249&ots=Dq1YeAl5wY&dq=westfalen%20Gemeindelexikon&pg=PA249#v=onepage&q=westfalen%20Gemeindelexikon&f=false>

Hessen

- ❖ Church Records and Civil Registers for all Residential Places in Hesse, 1939 (*Kirchenbücher und Standesregister für alle Wohnplätze im Land Hessen, 1939*), see: [http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kirchenb%C3%BCcher und Standesregister f%C3%BCr alle Wohnpl%C3%A4tze im Land Hessen \(1939\)](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_und_Standesregister_f%C3%BCr_alle_Wohnpl%C3%A4tze_im_Land_Hessen_(1939))

Hessen-Nassau

- ❖ Hessen-Nassau Historical Gazetteer (*Historisches Ortslexikon*), see: <https://www.lagis-hessen.de/>. Of special interest are the resources listed under the headings: “Lexica and dictionaries” and “ Atlases and maps”.

Hohenzollern

- ❖ Province of Hohenzollern Town Gazetteer, 1887 (*Hohenzollernsche Lande /Gemeindelexikon, 1887*), see: [http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Hohenzollernsche Lande/Gemeindelexikon 1887](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Hohenzollernsche_Lande/Gemeindelexikon_1887)

Lippe-Detmold

- ❖ German GenWiki: Place in the principality of Lippe (*Ort im Fürstentum Lippe*), individual pages include parish, civil registration office, post office and more, see: [https://wiki.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Ort im F%C3%BCrstentum Lippe](https://wiki.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Ort_im_F%C3%BCrstentum_Lippe)
- ❖ Listing of the places in the province of Westphalia and the principalities of Lippe and Schaumburg, 1884 (*Verzeichnis der Ortschaften der Provinz Westfalen und der Fürstenthümer Lippe und Schaumburg-Lippe, 1884*) See: <https://sammlungen.ulb.uni-muenster.de/urn/urn:nbn:de:hbz:6:1-198732>

Lübeck

- ❖ Topography of the Duchy of Holstein, 1908 (*Topographie des Herzogtums Holstein,*

1908), includes a chapter on the Principality of Lübeck, read online or download, see:

https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_sWUTAQAAMAAJ

Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz

- ❖ Gazetteer for Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Mecklenburg-Strelitz, see:
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Mecklenburg-Schwerin_Gazetteers

Oldenburg

- ❖ Oldenburg Dutchy Gazetteers, see:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oldenburg_Gazetteers

Palatinate (Pfalz)

- ❖ The Parish Registers of the Bavarian Palatinate, 1925 (*Die Kirchenbücher der Bayrischen Pfalz*, 1925), see:
[http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCher_der_bayerischen_Pfalz_\(1925\)](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCher_der_bayerischen_Pfalz_(1925))

Pomerania (Pommern)

- ❖ Community Gazetteer for the Province of Pomerania, 1895 (*Gemeindelexikon für die Provinz Pommern*, 1895), see:
<http://pbc.gda.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=7545&from=FBC>
- ❖ Community Gazetteer for the Kingdom of Prussia, Province of Pomerania, 1905 (*Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preussen. H. 4, Provinz Pommern*, 1905), see:
<http://pbc.gda.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=7326>

Posen

- ❖ Posen Community Gazetteer, 1908 (*Posen Gemeindelexikon*, 1908)
<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra/docmetadata?id=2094>

Rheinland

- ❖ Rheinland Community Gazetteer, 1888 (*Gemeindelexikon für die Provinz Rheinland*, 1888), see: http://www.digitalis.uni-koeln.de/Gemeinde/gemeinde_index.html
The same book is also available as a PDF that can be downloaded in sections in the DigiBib, see: <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Portal:DigiBib>

Saxon Duchies

- ❖ For most areas use the Digital Historical Gazetteer of Saxony (*Das Historische Ortsverzeichnis von Sachsen*), see:
<http://hov.isgv.de/projekt/>
- ❖ The above project is based on the *Staats-, Post- und Zeitungslexikon* published beginning in 1813 (13 main volumes plus 5 supplemental volumes). To find the districts that are included in the work above, use the *Ämterverzeichnis*, see:
<http://hov.isgv.de/aemterverzeichnis/>
- ❖ All original volumes of the *Staats-, Post- und Zeitungslexikon* are available digitally and can be downloaded. For links to the areas below see:

[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vorlage:Staatslexikon Sachsen](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vorlage:Staatslexikon_Sachsen)

Saxony [Kingdom] (*Königreich Sachsen*)

- ❖ Use the sources listed under the Saxon Duchies to find information on the Kingdom of Saxony.
- ❖ Parish Register Inventory for Kingdom of Saxony (*Die Kirchenbücher im Königreich Sachsen*), see:
[http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_im_K%C3%B6nigreich_Sachsen_\(1901\)](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_im_K%C3%B6nigreich_Sachsen_(1901))

Saxony [Prussian Province] (*Provinz Sachsen*)

- ❖ The parish registers of the Province of Saxony (*Die Kirchenbücher der Provinz Sachsen*, 1925)
[https://wiki.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_der_evangelischen_Kirchen_in_der_Provinz_Sachsen_\(1925\)](https://wiki.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_der_evangelischen_Kirchen_in_der_Provinz_Sachsen_(1925))
- ❖ Administrative guide for the Province Saxony, 1854 (*Handbuch der Provinz Sachsen*, 1854), see: <http://books.google.com/books?id=d9oAAAAcAAJ>
- ❖ Administrative guide for the Province Saxony, 1839 (*Handbuch der Provinz Sachsen*, 1839), see: <http://books.google.com/books?id=wQs8AAAAMAAJ>

Schaumburg-Lippe

- ❖ Places in the Schaumburg District (*Orte im Schaumburger Land*), Parish listings including links to 19th Century emigrants, census records, pictures, maps, websites, see:
<http://www.blume-gen.de/index-orte.html>
- ❖ Listing of the places in the province of Westphalia and the principalities of Lippe and Schaumburg, 1884 (*Verzeichnis der Ortschaften der Provinz Westfalen und der Fürstenthümer Lippe und Schaumburg-Lippe*, 1884) See: <https://sammlungen.ulb.uni-muenster.de/urn/urn:nbn:de:hbz:6:1-198732>

Schleswig-Holstein

- ❖ Schleswig-Holstein Community Gazetteer, 1897 (*Gemeindelexikon*, 1897), see:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=FYNAAQAAMAAJ&source=gbs>
- ❖ Topography of the Duchy of Holstein, 1908 (*Topographie des Herzogtums Holstein*, 1908). This is a more recent gazetteer that can be downloaded or read online:
https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_sWUTAQAAMAAJ

Silesia (*Schlesien*)

- ❖ Inventory of Silesian Parish Registers of Both Confessions, 1902 (*Die Kirchenbücher Schlesiens beider Confessionen*, 1902), see:
[http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_Schlesiens_beider_Confessionen_\(1902\)](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Die_Kirchenb%C3%BCcher_Schlesiens_beider_Confessionen_(1902))

Waldeck-Pyrmont

- ❖ Waldeck-Pyrmont Community Gazetteer, 1905 (*Gemeindelexikon 1905*), included with Westfalen, see the addendum beginning on page 131, see:
<https://books.google.de/books?id=9cEzAQAAMAAJ&lpg=PA247&ots=Dq1YeAlbz1&dq=Gemeindelexikon%20Waldeck-Pyrmont&pg=PA247#v=onepage&q=Gemeindelexikon%20Waldeck-Pyrmont&f=false>

Westphalia (*Westfalen*)

- ❖ Westphalia Community Gazetteer, 1905 (*Gemeindelexikon, 1905*), digitized together with Hannover and Pyrmont; Westfalen begins with image 245, see:
<https://books.google.de/books?id=9cEzAQAAMAAJ&lpg=PA249&ots=Dq1YeAl5wY&dq=westfalen%20Gemeindelexikon&pg=PA249#v=onepage&q=westfalen%20Gemeindelexikon&f=false>
- ❖ Westphalia Community Gazetteer, 1887 (*Gemeindelexikon Westfalen, 1887*), see:
http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Gemeindelexikon_Westfalen_1887
- ❖ Listing of the places in the province of Westphalia and the principalities of Lippe and Schaumburg, 1884 (*Verzeichnis der Ortschaften der Provinz Westfalen und der Fürstenthümer Lippe und Schaumburg-Lippe, 1884*) See: <https://sammlungen.ulb.uni-muenster.de/urn:urn:nbn:de:hbz:6:1-198732>

West Prussia (*Westpreußen*)

- ❖ West Prussian Gazetteer (*Westpreußisches Ortsverzeichnis*). An informative gazetteer with records inventory and links to maps (in German). Search partial place names (at least 4 letters required), see:
<http://westpreussen.de/pages/forschungshilfen/ortsverzeichnis.php>

Württemberg

- ❖ Estate and State Guide for Württemberg (*Hof- und Staatshandbuch für Württemberg*) – several editions can be viewed or downloaded on GoogleBooks. For the 1901 edition, see:
http://books.google.com/books/about/Staatshandbuch_f%C3%BCr_W%C3%BCrttemberg.html?id=nMsnc6NvbnUC
- ❖ Same, 1907 edition, see:
<https://archive.org/details/staatshandbuchf01landgoog>
- ❖ State Guide 1936 (*Staatshandbuch 1936*), see:
http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/W%C3%BCrttemberg/Staatshandbuch_1936/
- ❖ Gazetteer (*Ortslexikon*). Does not always list parish for villages, but it gives history:
<http://www.leo-bw.de/themen/ortslexikon>