

# German Research Strategies and Sources for Eastern Provinces

*Pomerania, Brandenburg, West Prussia, Posen, East Prussia, Silesia*

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## ALWAYS START WITH GAZETTEERS

- [www.meyersgaz.org](http://www.meyersgaz.org) Digitized Meyer's gazetteer online
  - German Empire jurisdictions are at the top of the entry page.
  - Click on map to see historical map. Click on "Toggle Historical Map" to see modern map.
  - Tutorial → <https://familysearch.org/ask/learningViewer/872>
- [www.kartenmeister.com](http://www.kartenmeister.com) Gazetteer of German Empire locations not in modern Germany.
  - Scroll down → enter "German City Name" → Choose entry
  - Modern Polish province name provided. Use GoogleMaps for other Polish jurisdictions.
  - Note "Lutheran Parish", "Catholic Parish", and "Civil Registry".

**GENERAL RESOURCES:** These resources should be used for research in all of the eastern provinces.

- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Germany records databases
  - "Search" → "Records" → Click on Europe on the map → Choose "Germany"
  - Read list of "Indexed Historical Records" AND "Image Only Historical Records"
  - Browse ALL databases. Indexes are *sometimes* incomplete and *always* only as good as the indexer.
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) *Eastern Prussian Provinces, Germany [Poland], Selected Civil Vitals, 1874-1945* database available here  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60749>
  - Search index or browse by locality.
  - Remember that witnesses and informants are not indexed.
  - In process. Localities are being added alphabetically.
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) *Germany Lutheran...*
  - 3 separate databases
  - Search → Card Catalog → type keywords "Germany Lutheran" → search indexes and browse records for all three
- [www.baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.php?l=en](http://www.baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.php?l=en) The PRADZIAD Database
  - Enter locality → "Search" → Scroll down → "more"
  - Note dates, record type, and archive. Use GoogleTranslate for "remarks".

- [www.szukajwarchiwach.pl](http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl) Polish “Archival resources online”
  - Search for digitized and non-digitized records
  - Tutorial, [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland) ”How to” Guides → “Polish State Archives Online”
- [www.lostshoebox.com](http://www.lostshoebox.com) “Online Records for Poland”
  - Right side → “Countries” → “Online Records for Poland”
  - The map shows you which websites to use. The list below the map describes the websites. Use the tutorials and guides below to help you navigate the various websites.
    - 1. Geneteka → [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Geneteka\\_database](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Geneteka_database)
    - 2. Metryki GenBaza → download .pdf from <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/File:GENBAZA.pdf>
    - 3. Szukaj w Archiwach → “Polish State Archives Online” from [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland) ”How to” Guides
    - 7. AGAD → download .pdf from <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/File:AGAD.pdf>
    - 8. Poznan Project → “Poznan Marriage Project” from [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland) ”How to” Guides
    - 10. Genealogia w Archiwach → <http://www.lostshoebox.com/tutorial/genealogia-w-archiwach/>
- [www.archion.de](http://www.archion.de) Cooperative of protestant archives in Germany
  - Evangelisches Zentralarchiv Berlin
  - Tutorial, <https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany> How to Guides → “Archives Online: Archion”
- [www.compgen.de](http://www.compgen.de) Association for Computer Genealogy
  - Top of screen → “OFBs”
  - Top of screen → “Adressbücher” → Left side “List all places” → Use “GOV” link to determine if listed locality is the one you need; When you click on the town name, it will bring up 1) a map showing general location and 2) the alphabetically navigable results
- [www.many-roads.com](http://www.many-roads.com) ManyRoads Adreßbücher-Address Books
  - Top of page → Hover over “Libraries” → Hover over “Prussia (Germany)” → “Adressbücher Address Books”
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) FamilySearch Catalog
  - Search → “Place” and “Keywords”
- [www.archivesportaleurope.net](http://www.archivesportaleurope.net) Archives Portal Europe
- [www.recherche.im.blha.de/suchinfo.aspx](http://www.recherche.im.blha.de/suchinfo.aspx) Brandenburg State Archives, Online Research
  - “Suche” → enter keyword(s) → “Suchen”
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
  - Googling for research takes practice. If you make a habit of it, you will get better at it, and the results can be amazing.

## POMERANIA

- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) “Kirchenbuchduplikat Pommern”
  - “Search”→”Place”→Enter ”Germany, Preußen, Pommern”→”Search”→”Church records”
  - Six catalog entries, all by “Evangelische Kirche Stralsund”, see listed towns on each catalog page
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) “Germany, Prussia, Pomerania Church Records, 1544-1945”
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) “Pomerania, Germany, Parish Register Transcripts, 1544-1883”
- [www.szczecin.ap.gov.pl/](http://www.szczecin.ap.gov.pl/) National Archives in Stettin
  - Tutorial→  
[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/images/8/84/Stettin\\_tutorial\\_update2.pdf](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/images/8/84/Stettin_tutorial_update2.pdf)
- [www.pommerscher-greif.de](http://www.pommerscher-greif.de) Association for Pomeranian Family and Local History
  - “Forschung”→”Familienforschung”→”Standesamt online” or “Kirchenbuch online”→Find your Kreis→”Weiterlesen...”
- [www.pommerndatenbank.de](http://www.pommerndatenbank.de) The Database for Genealogy in Pomerania
  - “Adreßbuch Pommern”→”Suche”→Enter surname
  - “Kirchenbücher und Standesregister”→”Suche”→Enter locality name→”Suche”
- [www.provinz-pommern.de](http://www.provinz-pommern.de) “The Province of Pommern in the former Free State of Prussia”
  - Top right of screen→ “in english”
  - “Town search in Pomerania”→Enter locality name→Select from list of results
  - Scroll down→click to interact with map
- [www.ptg.gda.pl](http://www.ptg.gda.pl) “Pomerania Genealogical Association”
  - “PomGenBase”→”Search PomGenBase”→Select “Christenings”, “Marriages”, or “Deaths”→Use drop-down menu to see list of locations→select a locality or search in all localities→restrict your search using “Years”→enter at least a “Surname”→change “Search Method” to “similar”→”Search”
- [www.pomeranianews.com/welcome.html](http://www.pomeranianews.com/welcome.html) “The Pomeranian People” Quarterly Periodical for the Descendants of the Baltic Duchy of Pomerania
  - Scroll down→”Full Name Index” on the right→”More”→click link under “The Full Name”→click the correct alphabetical link→Note item and submitter numbers for your surname→scroll up→”Advanced Search” in text at top of page→type submitter number into “Subscriber ID”→”Submit”→See other surnames associated with this submitter
  - Scroll down→”Full Name Index” on the right→”More”→click link under “The Place Name”→click the correct alphabetical link→check your locality for submitter numbers associated with your surname

## BRANDENBURG

- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) “Germany, Prussia, Brandenburg and Posen, Church Book Duplicates, 1794-1874”

- [www.stiftung-brandenburg.de/files/karte2.jpg](http://www.stiftung-brandenburg.de/files/karte2.jpg) Map of Brandenburg with Neumark shaded (E of Oder/Neisse)
- [www.neumark.agoff.de/NeuMark/](http://www.neumark.agoff.de/NeuMark/) Family History Research in Neumark
  - Search for your surname and localities to see what others have been able to find in Neumark
- [grueneberg-lenzen.de/deutsch/Kirchbuch/start.html](http://grueneberg-lenzen.de/deutsch/Kirchbuch/start.html) Neumark resources
  - “Kr. Landsberg/Warthe und Warthebruch (Kr. Oststernberg)”→See if there are surviving records for a parish in this area
  - “Genealogische Datenbank”→Grueneberg has a database including all the records on this list. He will search the database for free with the oldest information you have. If future research promises success, he is available for hire.
  - “Virtuelle Kirchenbücher”→choose a book→use your browser’s “find on page” function to search for anything that might relate to your Neumark family
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) “Brandenburg, Prussia Emigration Records”
  - Don’t search with special characters.
  - More detail available on the original card index on microfiche at the Family History Library
    - FamilySearch Catalog: “Germany, Preußen, Brandenburg – Emigration and Immigration”→Auswanderungskartei
    - Alphabetical Auswanderungskartei for *district of Frankfurt* on FHL INTL fiche series 6109219
    - Alphabetical Auswanderungskartei for *district of Potsdam* on FHL INTL fiche series 6109220
    - An arrow at the bottom of the card points to a separate card for the wife and children
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) “Brandenburg, Germany, Transcripts of Church Records, 1700-1874”
  - Use drop-down menu to see list of localities.
- In areas with few surviving records, search for records at all jurisdiction levels.
  - [www.meyersgaz.org](http://www.meyersgaz.org) Get the Regierungsbezirk, Kreis, Amtsgericht, Bezirkskommando, Standesamt, Amt
  - [www.kartenmeister.com](http://www.kartenmeister.com) Get the parish
    - FamilySearch catalog: “Germany, Prueßen, Brandenburg”→”Places within Germany, Preußen, Brandenburg”→scan list for ALL jurisdictions you found above and search everything

## WEST PRUSSIA

- Be aware of 20<sup>th</sup> century geography. If your town ended up in a different province, you could be using resources/websites for other provinces.
  - Use Pomeranian resources for Kreise Deutsch Krone, Flatow, and Schlochau
  - <http://www.his-data.de/objekt/1/2/6/4/posen-westpr,prov,karte,rahmen.htm> Map of Grenzmark
- [www.westpreussen.de](http://www.westpreussen.de) “Genealogy in West Prussia”

- Left of page → "Forschungshilfen" → "Ortsverzeichnis" → type in locality name → "Suche" → select a result → "[Details]" → click on link for jurisdiction of interest (Evangelische Kirche, Katholische Kirche, or Standesamt) → note which years of records are available and in what repositories; make sure you understand all "Remarks"; if remarks refer you to other records, pay attention; use google translate and watch for "digitized" in the remarks.
- [www.odessa3.org/collections/land/wprussia/](http://www.odessa3.org/collections/land/wprussia/) 1772/73 West Prussian Land Register

## POSEN

- Be aware of 20<sup>th</sup> century geography. If your town ended up in a different province, you might be able to use resources/websites for other provinces.
  - Was your town in Grenzmark Posen-Westpreussen?
  - Was your town in Netzekreis, Pomerania?
  - Was your town in part of the Grenzmark that went to Brandenburg or Silesia?
- <http://poznan-project.psnk.pl/> Poznan Marriage Project (PMP)
  - Scroll down → "Advanced search" → carefully read search options → enter search criteria → "Search" → select a result → click "Original record" to the right of a result → note record location
  - Top of page → "Contents" → click on a county → determine if needed records are included in PMP
  - Tutorial, "Poznan Marriage Project" → [www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Poland) "How to" Guides
- [www.basia.famula.pl/en/](http://www.basia.famula.pl/en/) BaSIA: Database of Archival Indexing System
  - Top right → "Extended search" → restrict "Person", "Similarity", and "Years" → "Search" → select area and click the corresponding bar → select a result → check to right of result for link to record
  - Top of page → "Contents" → "Full list in alphabetical order" → check alphabetical list to see if needed records are included in BaSIA
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) "Germany, Prussia, Brandenburg and Posen, Church Book Duplicates, 1794-1874"
- [www.genealogy.drefs.net/Introduction.htm](http://www.genealogy.drefs.net/Introduction.htm) 1793-1794 Land Records of South Prussia
- [www.kerntopf.com/diverses/kolliste.htm](http://www.kerntopf.com/diverses/kolliste.htm) 1776-1798 List of Colonists in the Netze District
- [www.odessa3.org/collections/land/wprussia/](http://www.odessa3.org/collections/land/wprussia/) 1772 The Netze Land Register

## EAST PRUSSIA

- [www.ostpreussen.net/ostpreussen/orte.php](http://www.ostpreussen.net/ostpreussen/orte.php) Ostpreussen.net "Places" (Click on map to interact)
- <http://www.ahnen-gesucht.de/ostpreussen> "On the Trail of your Ancestors"
  - Left of page → "Landkreise und Kirchspiele" → Hover over a number to see Kreis name → Click number to see *parish* map of Kreis → Hover over parish to see alternate names and year of founding

- <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Ostpreußen/Kirchenbücher> East Prussia Sources
  - You can find this by googling “ostpreussen kirchenbucher genealogy.net”
  - Select a Kreis from alphabetical list left of map → click on Kreis name → For that Kreis, click on “Kirchenbuchbestände” → select parish from alphabetical list left of map → click on parish name
- <http://www.vffow-buchverkauf.de/> Genealogical Society of East and West Prussia
  - “Online-Datenbanken” → Namensindex der Standesamtsregister des Archiv in Allenstein → “zum inhalt”
  - “Online-Datenbanken” → Kartei Mauter → “zum inhalt”
- <http://olsztyn.ap.gov.pl/> Polish State Archive in Olsztyn
  - “Skany Digitalizacja” → nazwa zespołu → scroll down to “Urząd Stanu Cywilnego” to browse civil registration indexed in “Namensindex...” (see above) and other digitized holdings
- [www.epaveldas.lt](http://www.epaveldas.lt) Lithuanian repository of digital information
  - If there aren’t any surviving vital records for a town that is now in Lithuania, type in the name of the town on this website and go through everything you find. This stone is often left unturned.

## SILESIA

- [www.agoff.de](http://www.agoff.de) “Association of East German Genealogists”
  - Top of page → Hover over “Projekte/Datenbanken” → “Schlesienkartei” → below text “Datenbank ‚Schlesienkartei’ Suchmaske” → enter surname and choose exact, begins with, or includes → “suchen”
- <http://siliusradicum.pl/> “Upper Silesian Genealogical Society” (GTG)
  - GTG is digitizing church books from the state archive in Katowice, that are not prioritized for digitization by government efforts
    - Top of page → “Księgi metrykalne” → Scroll down → Note color coding: Red=Roman Catholic, Green=Lutheran, Blue=Jewish → Scroll down to see all digitized parishes → Click grey text to view the images
  - Top of page → Hover over “Zasoby” (Resources) → “Wykazy mieszkańców” (Resident Lists)
- <http://www.sbc.org.pl/dlibra> Silesian Digital Library
  - Type “Adreßbuch” and/or a town name into the search bar
- <http://ahnenforscher.pl/> Family History in Schlesien
  - Digitized civil registration for Breslau I, II, III and IV
  - Breslau I and II also here <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Breslau#Standesamturkunden>
  - Breslau III also here <http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/82/1427/0/#tabZespol>
  - Much of Breslau is indexed on Ancestry.com and part of the *Eastern Prussian Provinces, Germany [Poland], Selected Civil Vitals, 1874-1945* database. Family History in Schlesien (<http://ahnenforscher.pl/>) has a list of what is and is not included in the Ancestry.com indexing.