

Hiring A Researcher To Search For Records in German Archives

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German Genealogy Group of North Texas

<https://dallasgenealogy.org/meetings-events/special-interest-groups/german-sig/>

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Strategy

- Perform a reasonable exhaustive search of American records to determine the immigrant ancestor's home town and religion.
- If possible, determine in which archive the records are located.
- Search for a reputable, competent researcher in Germany.
- Provide the researcher with all the information you have regarding your ancestor, including all the places you have searched.
- Formulate the specific question(s) you wish to have answered.
- Agree on the research rate and payment method.

Hiring A Professional Genealogist I

- A professional genealogist will know where to find the records. They can visit archives if needed and use tips and tricks that they have acquired to easily find the information you are seeking.
- Find and contact the local genealogy/family history society for the area.
- Fee Types -- Base Price, All-Inclusive Price, or Hourly Rate.
- A professional genealogist will normally charge an hourly rate and often have a minimum charge of two to four hours. They will also usually add travel and other incidental expenses such as the cost of obtaining certificates, etc.
- They should provide a detailed agreement outlining the work to be done, the costs of the work and any expenses that will be charged. It should also state that extra work will not be undertaken unless agreed by the client. This agreement should be signed by both parties before work commences.

Hiring A Professional Genealogist II

- Many German records are only available to researchers who can physically visit repositories at the local level in Germany or the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City.
- Some professional genealogists have completed a college degree program such as Boston University's Genealogical Programs Certificate or Brigham Young University's bachelor's degree in Family History.
- Other excellent genealogists have learned by attending institutes and conferences, viewing Webinars, reading books, and through a variety of research projects.
- The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen) is a professional credentialing organization dedicated to testing an individual's competence in genealogical research. They list 15 individuals with German expertise.
- The Association of German-speaking Professional Genealogists (*Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen e. V.*) is committed to binding professional principles which conform to international standards for the conscientious processing of orders and to verifiable, sourced reports.

Major Records For Genealogy Research in Germany

- Church baptisms, marriages, and burials, some from late 1400s, most beginning around 1550.
 - *“At least 85% of the German church records ever written exist today in some medium.”* -- Roger Minert
- Civil births, marriages, and deaths from 1871.
- Census records from 1800s.
 - *The first all-Germany census was conducted in 1867.*
- Ships’ passenger lists (Canada, Australia, Ireland, UK, and U.S.).
- Court records from 1300s include wills, mortgages, loans, and court trials.
- Military records from before 1867 to the present.
- Ship passenger lists from early 1800s for the ports of Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp (Belgium), Le Havre (France), Stettin (Poland), and others.
- Land records kept by the districts from the time they were settled.
- Newspapers from many areas and time periods contain information such as notices of marriages, notices of death, and obituaries.
- Town and county histories record information about the settlers and their families; many family genealogies of the settlers of Germany have also been written.

Summary of My Interactions with Researchers at One Archive

Researcher	Archive Employee	Found through Facebook Group	German SIG Contact
Information Provided to Researcher	Specific names & parish of ancestors	Known names & dates of family members. Letters from archive.	Links to Family Trees (mine & hinted)
Records Requested	Baptismal records for specific individuals	Sacramental records for all family members found	Sacramental records to verify individuals in hinted family tree
Records Received	3 images	20 images Cadastral map	21 images
Report Included	Transcriptions of records	Detailed results of search for family members. Suggestions for further research.	Detailed results of search for family members. Contact info for owner of linked tree.
Cost	€ 69	\$150	\$543.78
Method of Payment	Cash sent	Paypal	Check sent to U.S. partner

Selected Resources:

Association of Professional Genealogists. *How to Hire a Professional Genealogist*.
<https://www.apgen.org/cpages/how-to-hire-a-professional-genealogist>

Elder, Diana, FamilyLocket.com, 2021. *Hiring a Professional Genealogist: Why, What, and How*. <https://familylocket.com/hiring-a-professional-genealogist-why-what-and-how/>

FamilySearch.com. *Hiring a Professional Researcher*.
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Hiring_a_Professional_Researcher

GenealogyYou.com, 2021. *The Costs Of Hiring A Professional Genealogist*.
<https://genealogyyou.com/hiring-a-professional-genealogist/>

MyGenealogist.com. *Genealogy Research in Germany*.
<https://mygenealogist.com/german-genealogy.html>

Association of German-speaking Professional Genealogists (Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen e.V.). <https://www.berufsgenealogie.net/>

Sending money from United States to Germany.
<https://moneytransfers.com/send-money/germany/usa>