



*Dallas Genealogical Society
German Genealogy Group*

Finding German Church Records

Finding the Church

- 1) <https://www.familysearch.org/research/places/>
- 2) Book: Volumes 1 thru 57 of Map Guide to German Parish Registers by Kevan Hansen
- 3) <http://www.meyersgaz.org/>
 - Abbreviation Table for Meyers Orts und Verkehrs Lexikon Des Deutschen Reichs
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Abbreviation Table for Meyers Orts und Verkehrs Lexikon Des Deutschen Reichs](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Abbreviation_Table_for_Meyers_Orts_und_Verkehrs_Lexikon_Des_Deutschen_Reichs)

Church Records on Websites

- 1) FamilySeach.org
- 2) Ancestry.com
- 3) Matricula
 - <https://icar-us.eu/cooperation/online-portals/matricula/>
 - Matricula is an interdenominational and international platform that provides free access to church records.
 - To access the records
 - Click on “Continue to Matricula”
 - The “Welcome” page provides three options for searching:
 - “book” icon: search by country, then archive, then parish
 - “world” icon: search by clicking on areas marked on successively expanding maps
 - “magnifying glass” icon: search a listing of all parishes included on the website.
 - All options eventually lead to a “parish page” with an itemized list of church books.
- 4) [Archion.de](http://www.archion.de)

Since 2015 the Evangelical cooperative archive website www.archion.de has provided an increasing number of Protestant church record images from many parts of the former German Empire.

Some portals

- Online-Personenstandsregister (Online civil registration records) found on the German GenWiki at <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Online-Personenstandsregister>
- Kirchenbücher Online (parish registers online) found on the German GenWiki at http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kirchenb%C3%BCher_online
- Matriken im Netz (church records online)—a listing by country and state compiled by the Austrian genealogical society Familia Austria at <https://familia-austria.at/index.php/forschung-und-service/netzrecherche/111-matriken-im-netz>

State and local archives

Several archives have made church and/or civil registration records available on their own websites. Here are some examples:

- A good generic place to start is https://www.archivportal-d.de/?filterValues=sector_sec_11
- The Section Ostwestfalen-Lippe of the Nordrhein-Westfalen state archives is posting civil death registers and Jewish records online under the heading “Service für Familienforschung” (service for genealogy) at http://www.archive.nrw.de/lav/abteilungen/ostwestfalen_lippe/service_familienforschung/index.php
- The Hessen state archive has published all public civil registration records on <https://www.lagis-hessen.de/>. Click on “Hessian vital records” under “sources.” Many of these records have also been published and indexed on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org.
- Baden-Wuerttemberg State Archives: <http://www.leo-bw.de/> Historical gazetteer for Baden-Wuerttemberg with links to online parish register duplicates for Baden covering 1810–1870. Look up the place and search the associated documents. For direct links to those collections, organized by civil court district, see:
 - Northern Baden: Staatsarchiv Karlsruhe <https://www2.landesarchiv-bw.de/ofs21/olf/startbild.php?bestand=12390>
 - Southern Baden: Staatsarchiv Freiburg <https://www2.landesarchiv-bw.de/ofs21/olf/struktur.php?bestand=10028>
 - Jewish 19th Century civil registration records in Wuerttemberg (Baden records listed with the respective localities) <http://www.landesarchiv-bw.de/web/49483>
- The City archive of Cologne, Germany has published some 19th Century civil registration records online at <http://historischesarchivkoeln.de/lav/index.php>

- The community of Rommerskirchen in the Rhineland has posted color scans of many 19th Century civil registration records online at http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Standesamtsurkunde_der_Gemeinde_Rommerskirchen
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany (*Landeskirchliche Archiv Kiel*). They have a preliminary list of filmed and/or digitized church books. Its headquarters are in Kiel with two branch offices in Greifswald and Schwerin.
 - <http://www.archivnordkirche.de/>
 - <http://www.archivnordkirche.de/index.php/familiennforschung.html>
 - A preliminary list of filmed and/or digitized church books can be found here: <http://archivnordkirche.de/index.php/publikationen.html>
- Inventory overview church records at the State Church Archives in Berlin (ELAB)
 - <https://www.landeskirchenarchivberlin.de/kirchenbuchstelle-berlin-brandenburg-schlesische-oberlausitz/bestandsuebersicht-kirchenbuecher/>
- Central Evangelical Archives (Evangelisches Zentralarchiv) in Berlin has a church book search - some are on Archion.de
 - <http://www.ezab.de/>
 - <http://www.ezab.de/kirchenbuecher/kirchenbuch-suche.php>
- Landeskirchliches Archiv Kassel has a searchable church archives
 - <http://www.archiv-ekkw.de/?lang=en>
- There is a West Prussia research website that has church record locations
 - <http://www.westpreussen.de/cms/ct/kirchenbuecher.php>
- Evangelical Church in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
 - Does not have the records but has pictures and contact information ... <http://www.kirche-mv.de/kirche-mv-de.2.0.html>
 - Map http://pix.kirche-mv.de/fileadmin/AAA_Relaunch/PEK/Downloads/PEK-Karte-Sitzungssaal-K.pdf
- The archives Niedersachsen and Bremen has a “church archive”
 - <https://www.arcinsys.niedersachsen.de/arcinsys/start.action?oldNodeid=>
 - <https://www.stadtkirchenkanzlei.de/kirchenbuchamt/familienforschung>

Eastern Europe

- The portal <http://www.lostshoebox.com> includes links to seventeen websites with online records and indexes for different parts of today's Poland. The user clicks on the sidebar item "Online records for Poland" to access a map that indicates which websites pertain to the various Polish regions and provinces. The websites are listed below the map with a brief explanation and links. All of them are free, although a couple require free registration and log-in to fully utilize the website. Most websites use current Polish place names, even though some allow for searches under both German and Polish names. One of the larger providers of online records for today's Poland is <http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl> which hosts records published by many state archives. The search can be limited to records with online scans. Searches for German and Polish town names yield different results. (Hint: Polish names for localities located in the former Prussian provinces can be found at www.kartenmeister.com .)
- Resources for Volhynia - The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe [SGGEE] provides several pages with links to online church records in Russian Poland, Volhynia, Kiev, and Podolia at <https://sggee.org/research/parish.html>.
- Additional resources and links are found at <http://www.wolhynien.de> under the heading "Kirchenbücher."

Some Search Terms Examples

- Personenstandsregister, Kirchenbücher, Kirchenarchive, Kirchenbuch-Suche, Kirchliche
- Katholisch / Evangelisch

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