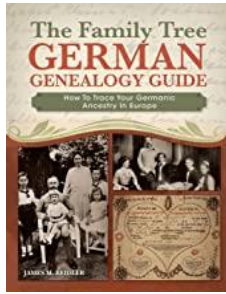# German Genealogy Books

At the January 2022 meeting of the German Genealogy Group members were invited to discuss the books that have proved most useful in their German research.

What follows is an illustrated and annotated list of the books discussed.

Disclaimer: To the best of our knowledge, none of the Group members has any business, commercial, financial or personal interests in any of the books included in this list.
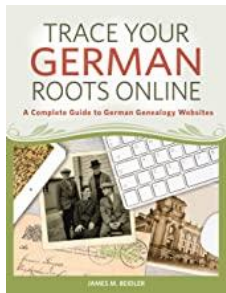
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For Those Early in Their Research

The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Germanic Ancestry in Europe
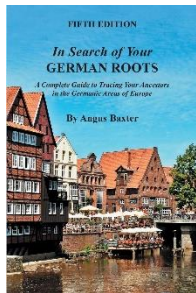by James M. Beidler | Mar 14, 2014
This in-depth genealogy guide will walk you step by step through the exciting journey of researching your German heritage, whether your ancestors came from lands now in modern-day Germany or other German-speaking areas of Europe, including Austria, Switzerland, and enclaves across Eastern Europe.

Trace Your German Roots Online: A Complete Guide to German Genealogy Websites
by James M. Beidler | Apr 29, 2016
Highlights important German resources on popular genealogy websites including Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, as well as lesser-known resources such as Archion.de. With helpful illustrated step-by-step instructions, you'll learn how to use each site to its fullest potential for German genealogy.
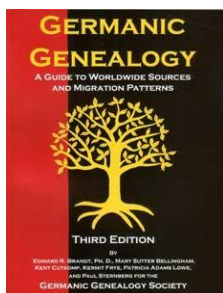
In Search of Your German Roots: A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe, 5th Edition
by Angus Baxter | January 25, 2015
This book helps the reader to not only trace his German ancestry in Germany, but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe. It explores the resources of the LDS Church, then covers sources and archives in the old country.
There is a list of family archives, a list of genealogical associations in Germany, and a list of German genealogical associations in the U.S.
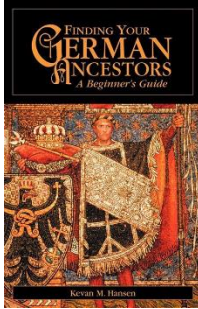
Germanic Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns, 3rd Edition
By Edward R, Brandt, Ph.D., Mary Sutter Bellingham, Kent Cutkomp, Kermit Frye, Patricia Adams Lowe, and Paul Sternberg | January 1, 2007
"Your most complete resource for beginning and advanced genealogists doing research of Germanic / German ancestry throughout the world."
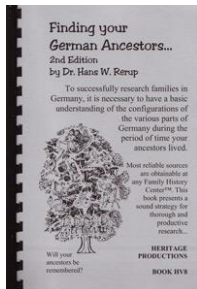
For Those Early in Their Research (cont.)

Finding Your German Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide
by Kevan M. Hansen | January 1, 2001
A brief but thorough introduction to German research. It presents the most up-to-date sources and resources for successful German research. Many German archives are accessible via the Internet, and Finding Your German Ancestors is the first reference work to include these vital contacts. And because identifying documents is key to **German research, it contains sample illustrations of typical German documents, as well as contact sample information for major repositories of German records.**
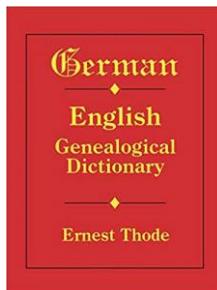
Finding Your German Ancestors, 2nd Edition
by Dr Hans W Rerup | 2002
To successfully research families in Germany, it is necessary to have a basic understanding of the configurations of the various parts of Germany during the period of time of the lives of your ancestors.
This straight-forward guide will assist anyone researching their German ancestry. It includes sources of records, name changes for states and regions, and charts to decipher handwritten records with old script.
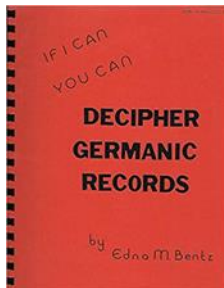
Transcribing and Translating Records

German-English Genealogical Dictionary
by Ernest Thode | January 5, 2008
This book is designed for the family researcher who has little or no knowledge of German but who nevertheless needs to make a translation of German-language documents. The dictionary covers thousands of German terms and defines them in single words or brief phrases. All words, symbols, and abbreviations in the dictionary were chosen on the basis of their association with genealogy,
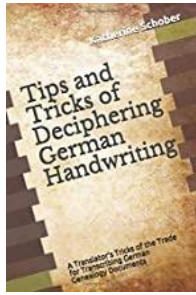
If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records
by Edna M. Bentz | November 7, 2006
This book covers the Gothic alphabet and shows variations of handwritten script for each letter. It then provides handwritten script examples of common genealogical words and their German and English translation. Handwritten symbols and common abbreviations found in Germanic records are also covered.
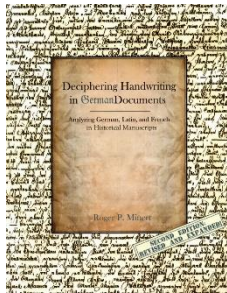
Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting: A Translator's Tricks of the Trade for Transcribing German Genealogy Documents
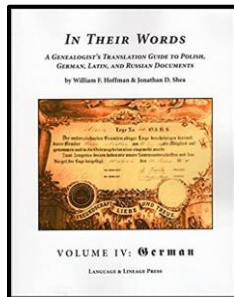by Katherine Schober | February 18, 2018
Whether you are a beginner, intermediate or advanced genealogy enthusiast, these easy-to-use transcription and translation tips by professional German handwriting translator Katherine Schober will help you reach new levels in deciphering your ancestors' genealogy records.

Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin, and French in Historical Manuscripts
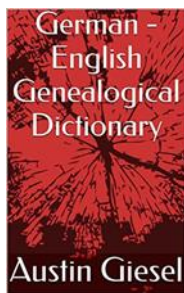Roger P. Minert | January 1, 2013
A systematic instruction for deciphering German handwriting for researchers on all levels of expertise. Features a brief, scholarly review of the history of handwriting styles and alphabets in German-speaking regions of Europe; introduction of modern computerized, normed sets of alphabet characters representing the old Fraktur and Gothic handwriting alphabets.

In Their Words - A Genealogist's Translation Guide - Volume 4: German Paperback
by William F. Hoffman and Jonathan D. Shea | January 1, 2017
The book's features include: 25 documents drawn up in America and 70 drawn up in Europe, reproduced, analyzed, and translated, most with the handwritten parts repeated in modern Roman-style typeface to facilitate comparison.
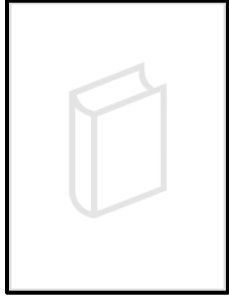
German - English Genealogical Dictionary
Kindle Edition, 17 pages
by Austin Giesel | October 21, 2016
This dictionary is designed to serve as a helpful aid to anyone interested in researching genealogy through German-language records. This dictionary contains common genealogical terms, calendar vocabulary, examples of old German writing script and more.
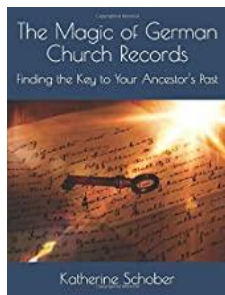
Transcribing and Translating Records (cont.)

German For Genealogy: A Translator's Handbook
by John W Heisey | Jan**uary 1, 1985**
Brief: 30 pages. Usual content (alphabet, glossary, abbreviations, etc.) plus:
diseases, titles, Latin glossary and abbreviations, maps of former German
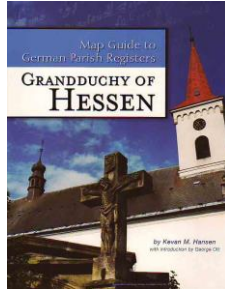states & present-day Germany

Church, Census, Newspaper and Military Records

The Magic of German Church Records: Finding the Key to Your Ancestor's Past
by Katherine Schober | Feb 17, 2020
In this how-to guide, learn how you can extract the information you need
from German church records – without having to decipher every word on the
page. Complete with handpicked examples from real German church records.

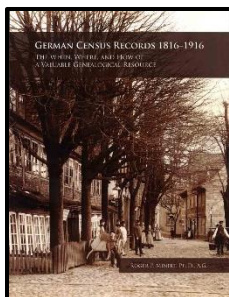**Map Guide to German Parish Registers (65 Volumes)**
by Kevan Hansen | 2004-2020
Each volume of the series does the following: Identifies the parish where an
ancestor worshipped based on where they lived.
Gives the FHL microfilm number for the family's parish records.
Identifies nearly every city, town, and place as of about 1870 that included
residents. Visually identifies church parishes for Lutherans & Catholics in
each district. Identifies adjoining parishes in case an ancestor attended an
alternate parish. The series is still in production. In many cases, even the smallest places are
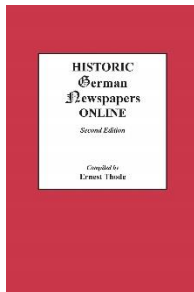listed in this series – some with as little population as one person!

German Census Records 1816-1916 : The When, Where, And How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource
by Roger P. Minert | January 1, 2016
Researchers can now learn where and when German census records were
compiled, as well as why and how. The author also describes state by state
the content of census records and explains how surviving census documents
can be located. This is groundbreaking information, of enormous value to
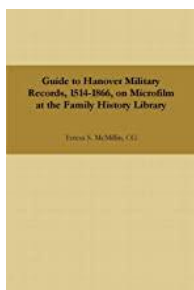anyone researching their German roots.

dallasgenealogy.org

Church, Census, Newspaper and Military Records (cont.)

Historic German Newspapers Online (Second Edition)
by Ernest Thode | October 29, 2018
German-language newspapers are at least as useful as their English language counterparts. Astonishingly, there are now approximately 2,000 historic German-language newspapers online at public, private, and commercial websites. Since most of these digitized papers are fully searchable, this guide to the newspapers, indicating newspaper title, place of publication, date range, and website, is a key to a mother lode of information found in German-language papers and is a revolutionary new tool for German genealogy research.
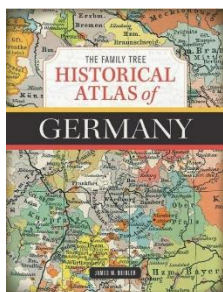
Guide to Hanover Military Records, 1514-1866, on Microfilm at the Family History Library
by Teresa S. McMillin | July 24, 2014
This publication is the only English-language guide to this gold mine of information for genealogists. With this guide a researcher can quickly determine all available records for a regiment and time period and know where to find them in the microfilm of the Family History Library
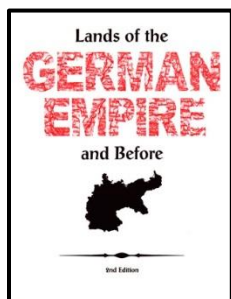
Maps and Locations

The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany
by James M. Beidler | June 18, 2019
"Delve into your German heritage! With these 100-plus full-color maps, you can view German border changes throughout the centuries, allowing you to find your German hometown and records of your German ancestors."
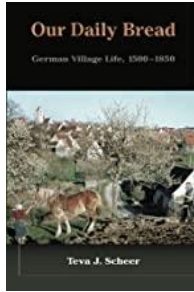
Lands of the German Empire and Before
by Wendy K. Uncapher | January 1, 2000
This book explains the history of the German Empire states in a way the genealogists can understand. The book also identifies land divisions by kreise (counties) and states - not towns. Each state has a historical timeline plus maps. The book explains "what and where" was Prussia. Indexed with over 100 maps, this volume is invaluable for anyone doing German genealogy research.
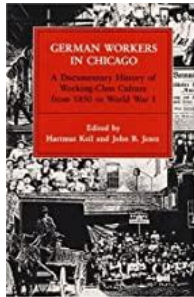
Life in the Old and New World

Our Daily Bread: German Village Life, 1500-1850
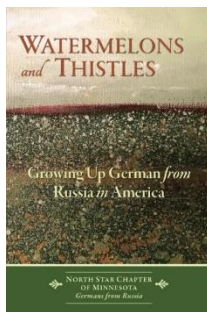by Teva J Scheer | September 28, 2010
"Our Daily Bread" uses a fictitious family, the Mann's, to explain the major historical events and the everyday customs in German villages between the years 1500 and 1850. Read chapters on wars, religion, community structure, courtship and marriage, inheritance, family life, and emigration. Recommended for anyone who is curious about who their German ancestors really were, or anyone who would simply like to know more about German history and culture.

German Workers in Chicago: A Documentary History of Working-Class Culture from 1850 to World War I
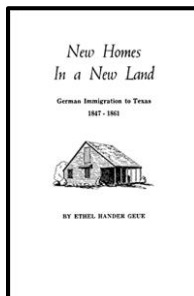by Hartmut Keil and John B. Jentz | September 1, 1988
This anthology of documents is one of several publications resulting from the work of the Chicago Project on the social history of German workers in Chicago from 1850 to 1910.

Watermelons and Thistles: Growing Up German from Russia in America
by North Star Chapter of Minnesota Germans from Russia | March 10, 2018
Where is home when you've traveled halfway around the world? Where is home when memories are all you have? Where is home when you find a new path? The members of the North Star Chapter of Minnesota Germans from Russia explore these themes and more in their second anthology of essays reflecting on being children of three homelands in two centuries. Their respect for the past and hopes for the future are ever-constant, and these glimpses into the spaces they call home will recall memories we all hold dear.
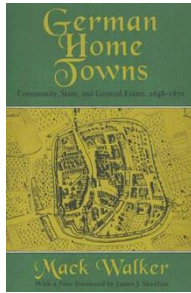
New Homes in a New Land German Immigration to Texas, 1847-1861
by Ethel H. Geue | June 1, 2009
This work is essentially a compilation of information gleaned from the passenger lists of ships that arrived at Galveston between the years 1847 and 1861.
It is also the story of the German immigration to Texas during this formative period of Texas history.
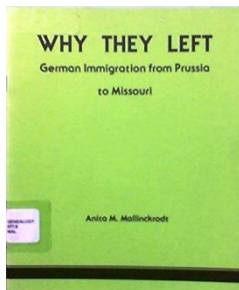
Life in the Old and New World (cont.)

German Home Towns: Community, State, and General Estate, 1648-1871
by Mack Walker | June 18, 1998
This is a social biography of the hometown Burger from the end of the seventeenth to the beginning of the twentieth centuries. After his opening chapters on the political, social, and economic basis of town life, Mack Walker traces a painful process of decline that, while occasionally slowed or diverted, leads inexorably toward death and, in the twentieth century, transfiguration. Along the way, he addresses such topics as local government, corporate economies, and communal society. Equally important, he illuminates familiar aspects of German history in compelling ways, including the workings of the Holy Roman Empire, the Napoleonic reforms, and the revolution of 1848.
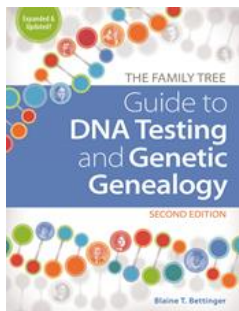
Why They Left: German Immigration from Prussia to Missouri
by Anita M. Mallinckrodt | Revised 1988.
Great reference for insight into the historical forces that influenced emigration from Prussia - particularly in the 1800s.
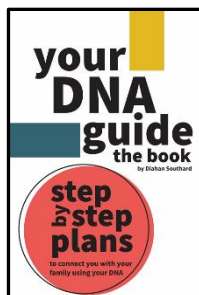Very brief (26 pages) but well written and very readable.

Genealogical Applications of DNA

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy (Second Edition)
by Blaine T. Bettinger | August 13, 2019
This plain-English guide will teach you what DNA tests are available; the pros and cons of the major testing companies; and how to choose the right test to answer your specific genealogy questions. And once you've taken a DNA test, this guide will help you use your often-overwhelming results, with tips for understanding ethnicity estimates, navigating suggested cousin matches, and using third-party tools to further analyze your data.

Your DNA Guide - the Book
by Diahan Southard | February 26, 2020
You don't have to learn everything about genetic genealogy before asking (and answering!) specific DNA questions. Instead of learning more-than-you-need-to-know in textbook style, you'll choose a specific DNA question and start exploring it right away.
Follow concrete step-by-step plans, learning important DNA concepts--in plain English—as you go. As you proceed, you will check your progress and be guided based on your specific results at each stage.