



Buried Treasures - 20th Century: Hardly Known Files of Genealogical Significance in German Archives

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Summary

German archives hold real treasures for genealogists interested in the lives of their ancestors. Whilst the Jewish Registers started from around 1810 hold information about the head of the family, the Jewish Cadasters also mention their wives and children. Most interesting are the proceedings leading to permission to establish residence. These connect with the marriage intention files, and contain detailed information about both families, sometimes even actual marriage contracts. The land and property records tell us how our ancestors lived, what happened when an estate was inherited or purchased, if a house was owned by one, two or even four Jewish families. Colored maps dating from the 19th century - which are available online - show their houses and from the numbering system, also the location of any associated fields and meadows. The emigration permit files can be particularly detailed. Each file type is illustrated using images from Bavarian examples.

Vital Records from 1876 on (in West Prussia since 1874): Standesamt, *pl.* Standesaemter, since 2009 the records are classified as archival: births older than 110 years, marriages 80 years and deaths 30 years.

Inhabitant Registration Office = Einwohnermeldeamt, *sg.* Einwohnermeldeamt in every town hall.

Military Records in Archives

A very important site is http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/FAQ_Erster_Weltkrieg at GenWiki.
Not in there: Alsace and Lorraine

Bundesarchiv Freiburg, Abteilung Militärarchiv: Department MILITARY ARCHIVES
(Department MA)

http://www.bundesarchiv.de/bundesarchiv/organisation/abteilung_ma/index.html.en

Krankensbuchlager (sickness records centre) at:

Deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht (WASSt) =

German Office for the notification of next-of-kin of members of the former German Wehrmacht who were killed in action at www.dd-wast.de/en/home.html.

Online Resources

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) historical archives:

Prisoners of the First World War: <http://grandeguerre.icrc.org> in English

Onlineprojekt Gefallenendenkmäler German War Memorial Website

<http://www.denkmalprojekt.org/en.htm>

Memorial Book of the Reichsbund (Emperial Association of Jewish Front Soldiers)

Here it is just one of many sources: http://www.denkmalprojekt.org/verlustlisten/rjf_wk1.htm

State Archives or Landesarchive

- Files of the Probate Courts
- Tax Files of Racially Persecuted
- Restitution Files — see Restitution and Compensation Files and their Genealogical Significance. In: *Avotaynu, The International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, Volume XXX, Number 1, Spring 2014:45-53.
- Compensation Files — see above.
Compensation Offices in West Germany, see <http://www.gepete.de/reparation/offices.html>
including **Bundeszentalkartei** (Federal Central Register)

Main State Archives in West Germany, see <http://www.gepete.de/reparation/archives.html>

International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen

<https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/>, eMail: research-clients@its-arolsen.org

Offer

If you need professional help, if you like to learn which records concerning your relatives are held in German archives or if you like to now more about the services GPT offers, please visit

www.geepeetee.de

or send an email to

contact@geepeetee.de

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