

Have You Found the “Schatz” in Your Family Tree?

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I. Suggested approaches when working on German ancestors:

- I. Question variations of spelling and/or sound of surnames
- II. Look for cluster relationships in records
- III. Identify family religious preference
- IV. Learn about naming practices within families
- V. Research the reason(s) why the ancestor would have been willing to leave their homeland
- VI. Find and use historical maps and gazetteers
- VII. Check all U.S. record sources first before researching German records

II. Helpful online resources:

- I. Google Translate, <https://translate.google.com>
- II. Meyer's Gazetteer, www.meyersgaz.org
- III. Google search using “boolean operators” i.e., AND, AND NOT, OR, NOT
 1. (“ ”) Quotation Marks - Exact phrase search using two or more words within quotes
 2. (* or ?) Wild Card Spelling i.e., S*mth
 3. (..) For a span of time i.e., 1825..1830
 4. (+ or –) Plus sign is essential to search. Minus sign to eliminate a particular word. i.e., George Brown +III Lincoln -Abraham
- IV. Google Books, Hathi Trust Digital Library, <https://www.hathitrust.org>
- V. Family Search Wiki's, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page.
- VI. German occupation list, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Word_List#Occupations

III. Analyze your collected data

- I. Use a timeline approach for known data to discover what is still missing in your research.

IV. First example: If I can't identify the correct name, how can I ever find his German origin?

V. Second example: Was a surname change intentional misinformation in my German family?

VI. Resources:

Corr, Robbie. (March/April, 2017). Matronymics and the Addition of Ann. *Your Genealogy Today*, volume 3, number 1, 19 - 21.

O'Neill, Joe. (November/December, 2012). Researching Your Bavarian Ancestors. *Family Chronicle*, volume 17, number 2, 41 - 44.

Alzo, Lisa A. (January, 2010). Victory in Europe. *Family Tree Magazine*, volume 11, issue 1, 27 – 32.

Marcum, Adele Maurine. (January/February, 2004). Beginning German Research. *Ancestry*, volume 22, number 1, 34 – 40.

Blankenau, Gail. (November/December, 2011). Ten Tips for Reading German Parish Registers. *Family Chronicle*, volume 16, number 2, 13 - 14.

Gorr, Robbie. (January/February, 2017). For the Love of God, What Kind of a Name is 'Gottlieb'?. *Your Genealogy Today*, volume 2, number 6, 31 - 33.

Beidler, James M. (December/January, 2009). Family Research, A New Angle in Researching Ancestors. *German Life*, volume 15, number 4, 64.