

The Magic of German Church Records



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German-English Genealogy Translations

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Book: *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting*

Premium Membership: <https://sktranslations.com/premium>

1. Where to Find Church Records

- a. FamilySearch: <https://www.familysearch.org>
- b. Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/>
- c. Archion: <https://www.archion.de/en/>
- d. Matricula: <http://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

2. Genealogy German

- a. Date Format: Day-Month-Year
- b. Ending “in”
- c. Possession Signifiers: des (of the) + an “s” on the next noun; dessen; “s” on end of name
 - i. *der Sohn des Johann Schmidts* (the son of Johann Schmidt)
 - ii. *und dessen Ehefrau* (and his wife)
 - iii. *Johann Schmidts... ehelicher Sohn* (the legitimate son of Johann Schmidt)
- d. Town Signifiers
 - i. *in*
 - ii. *zu*
 - iii. *aus*

3. Common Abbreviations

- a. Complete the Abbreviation: <https://abkuerzungen.de>
- b. Genealogy Abbreviations: <https://sktranslations.com/19-common-abbreviations-german-genealogy>

4. Symbols You’ll See

- a. * born
- b. ~ baptized
- c. ∞ married
- d. o/o divorced
- e. + died
- f. [] buried

5. Church Record Lingo (see page three)

6. Handwriting Help

- a. *Fraktur*: Typed Text; *Kurrentschrift*: Handwritten Text

- b. Recommended Books:
 - i. *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting*, Katherine Schober
 - ii. *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents*, Roger Minert
 - iii. *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records*, Edna Bentz
 - iv. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*, Ernest Thode
- c. Script Familiarity: <https://www.deutsche-handschrift.de/adsschreiben.php#schriftfeld>

7. Baptismal Records

- a. Child's Name
- b. Parents' Names, Residence and Occupations
- c. Dates and Locations of Birth and Baptism
- d. Sponsors/Witnesses

8. Hangman Fun

- a. <https://www.wordmine.info/>

9. Marriage Records

- a. Groom's Name, Occupation, Residence
- b. Groom's Parents' Information
- c. Brides' Name, Occupation, Residence
- d. Bride's Parents' Information
- e. Dates of Marriage Banns; Location of Marriage Banns; Date and Place of Marriage

10. Surname Search

- a. <http://geogen.stoepel.net/>
- b. Google: Name + *Nachname*

11. Occupations You'll See

- a. <https://sktranslations.com/living-ancestor-common-occupations-german-genealogy>
- b. *If I Can You Can Decipher German Records* by Edna Bentz

12. Death Records

- a. Name of Deceased
- b. Date/Time of Death and of Burial
- c. Place of Birth of Deceased
- d. Age of Deceased
- e. Relationship Status of Deceased
- f. Cause of Death

13. Common Illnesses

- a. *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records* by Edna Bentz
 - i. *Abzehrung*: consumption
 - ii. *Altersschwäche*: old age
 - iii. *Lungenentzündung*: pneumonia
 - iv. *Nervenfieber*: typhoid fever

14. Town Tools

- a. Meyer's Gazetteer: <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>
- b. Google Search Engine: "Did You Mean...?"

Key Church Record Vocabulary:

Name	Name, Namen, Nahme, Nahmen
Parish	Pfarre, Gemeinde
Local	hiesig
Baptism	Taufe
Birth	Geburt
Child	Kind
Son	Sohn
Daughter	Tochter
Mother	Mutter
Father	Vater
Parents	Eltern, Aeltern
Boy	Knabe, Junge
Girl	Mädchen
Stillborn	totgeboren, todtgeboren
Year, Month and Day	Jahr, Monat und Tag
(In the) Morning; Afternoon; Evening	früh; nachmittags; abends
Legitimate; Illegitimate	ehelich; unehelich
Profession/Occupation	Stand, Beruf, Gewerbe
Godparents/Sponsors	Paten, Pathen, Taufpaten, Taufpathen, Gevatter
Witnesses	Zeugen, Beistand, Beystand, Beistände
Pastor/Priest; Assistant Pastor/Priest	Pfarrer, Priester; Koop., Coop.
Marriage	Trauung, Ehe
Groom	Bräutigam
Bride	Braut
Married	verheiratet, verhelicht
Wife	Frau, Ehefrau, Gattin, Weib, Eheweib
Husband	Mann, Ehemann, Gatte
Location/Place of Residence	Ort, Wohnort
Divorced	geschieden
Widower/Widow	Wittwer, Witwer; Wittwe, Witwe
Death	Tod
Die; Died	sterben; gestorben, starb
Burial/Funeral	Begräbnis, Beerdigung

Additional Vocabulary Lists:

German Genealogical Word List:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/German_Genealogical_Word_List

Latin Genealogical Word List:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List

a	<i>a A</i>	j	<i>j J</i>	s	<i>s S</i>
b	<i>b B</i>	k	<i>k K</i>	t	<i>t T</i>
c	<i>c C</i>	l	<i>l L</i>	u	<i>u U</i>
d	<i>d D</i>	m	<i>m M</i>	v	<i>v V</i>
e	<i>e E</i>	n	<i>n N</i>	w	<i>w W</i>
f	<i>f F</i>	o	<i>o O</i>	x	<i>x X</i>
g	<i>g G</i>	p	<i>p P</i>	y	<i>y Y</i>
h	<i>h H</i>	q	<i>q Q</i>	z	<i>z Z</i>
i	<i>i I</i>	r	<i>r R</i>	tz	<i>tz</i>

ü Au ö Ou ü Uu
ff ll ff ff ff ff