

German immigration

Info Guide 3.32

German land boundaries have changed dramatically over the centuries. The Germany we know today covers a vastly different area to that of the German Empire in 1871, parts of which came under the jurisdiction of Austrian, Danish, French, Polish, or Russian authorities at various periods.

For Australian family historians tracing early birth, death and marriage information in the former German States this presents particular challenges, not least of which are:

- requesting genealogical information in a foreign language
- tracking place name changes

The State Library of Queensland holds a number of publications that can assist with these issues and German genealogy in general, including:

- **Ancestors in German archives: a guide to family history sources** (FAMHIS 929.343 2004). A comprehensive guide to the location and holdings of national, state, local and non-government archives in Germany
- **Atlas of the German Empire, 1892** (ATLAS 912.43 1989). Shows political and administrative divisions of the period
- **German genealogical research** / George K. Schweitzer. (G 929.1072 1992) Written from an American perspective but contains useful lists of German archival repositories, maps, and sample letters in German to use when requesting genealogical information.
- **Namensänderungen ehemals preußischer Gemeinde von 1850 bis 1942** / Fritz Verdenhalven (FAMHIS 914.3 1971). This is a German language key to name changes in former Prussian communities 1850-1942
- In-house **German place names index** for places in countries that are no longer part of Germany that includes original and modern names. Ask at Desk in Micrographics area on level 3.

Check the One Search online catalogue for additional titles. <http://onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au/>

What online resources are available for German genealogical research?

Links to German family history resources on the Internet may be found at www.cyndislist.com. Check the alphabetical index under 'G' for Germany.

FamilySearch (LDS) at <https://www.familysearch.org/> provides extensive assistance. They have created a wiki for their various guides and useful information on many subjects. To access what's available click on 'Learn' then type in "Germany" or go to <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Germany>.

Ancestry

Use **ancestry.com** (Library edition), *onsite only*, at the State Library to search for other German records that can be of use in researching family history.

How can I find shipping details for my German ancestors?

Immigration

For information on where to find lists of assisted and unassisted immigrants see **SLQ Info Guides 3.10 – Immigration and shipping: getting started** and **3.11 – Immigration and shipping: more than just lists**

See also:

- **Immigration: Germans on bounty ships, 1849-52** [microfiche] (MFC 929.3944 1986)
Gives name, marital status, religion and education of German workers brought out to New South Wales to relieve demands for special skills, such as wine making and carpentry
- **German immigrants to Port Phillip, 1849-1850** [microfiche] Compiled by Faye Guthrie (MFC 304.8945043 1995)
- **Estray correspondence and immigrant lists regarding certain German immigrants** [microfiche] (MFC 929.3945 1995). Title on the accompanying printed sheet is *Immigration to Victoria: assisted German immigrants passenger lists and index 1849-1850*

The State Library holds a number of other resources on German immigration. Check the catalogue for details.

Emigration

German citizens were required to apply for permission to emigrate and lists of departing migrants were maintained from around 1850. They form an invaluable additional resource to complement Australian immigration records and often supply a wealth of additional details on individual migrants. Unfortunately, not all of the emigration lists have survived.

Bremen 1920-1939

Lists of emigrants leaving through the port of Bremen were maintained by the Bremen Chamber of Commerce from around 1851. Storage problems led to the destruction of many of the early records between 1875 and 1908. Most of the remaining records were lost in World War II. Two ships that came to Queensland in the 1850's, the *Solon* and the *Diana*, are amongst those for which no lists exist. The only complete lists and files of passengers departing Bremen are for the period 1946 –1974 and are held by Staatsarchiv Bremen <http://www.staatsarchiv.bremen.de/>

However, lists of some 637,880 passengers leaving Bremen 1920-1939 were saved and are being progressively digitized by members of an organization called DIE MAUS. Their online passenger index, www.passagierlisten.de, can be searched by ship name, departure date, destination port, and native place as well as family name. Ship names for individual voyages link to images and further details of the ship. DIE MAUS will respond to e-mail enquiries addressed to kwesling@gmx.de.

Hamburg 1850-1934

Hamburg emigration lists 1850-1934 are available on microfilm at LDS Family History Centers, locations for which can be found at: <https://familysearch.org/locations>

The following indexes are also available:

- **Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934** Check **ancestry.com** (Library edition) available *onsite only*, at the State Library to search these lists. Browse handwritten indexes (in German) to find your ancestor in the original passenger lists for the years 1855-1934
- **Index to emigrants from Hamburg to Australia 1850-1879** [CD-ROM] (QCFS 929.3943 2006)
Transcribed from the official Hamburg emigration records, details given include original place of residence, age, occupation. Names on the lists appear in original order to reflect friends and family traveling together. Extracts from shipping intelligence columns published at ports of arrival provide additional details on each voyage. Also available in printed form and on microfiches under the title
- **Emigrants from Hamburg to Australia** / Eric & Rosemary Kopitke (FAMHIS 929.3943 1991-).
The Library holds volumes for 1850-1879 with index volumes for 1850-59 and 1860-69. The years 1870, 1871, 1873 and 1877 and indexes for 1850-69 are also held on microfiche (FICHE/S 325.243 EMI).

Württemberg

- **Württemberg emigration index** / Trudy Schenk, Ruth Froelke & Inge Bork (FAMHIS 929.34347 1986)
This is a multi-volume index of German emigrants from Württemberg. The list only includes people with approval to emigrate and mainly covers emigrants bound for America, but some Australia bound passengers are included.
- Use **ancestry.com** (Library edition) *onsite only*, at the State Library to search the Württemberg emigration index. Records include names of the principal emigrant, date and place of birth, date of emigration, 'Oberamt', destination, and the Family History Library microfilm number of the original document.

What other resources are helpful in tracing immigration details for German migrants?

Naturalization records

To vote or hold land German migrants were required to become naturalized and records of naturalization may include information that can help locate immigration details. Check the **SLQ Info Guide 3.30 Naturalizations: a family history resource** for details of the records available for each State.

Newspapers

Obituaries in local newspapers may include immigration information. Other newspaper articles covering golden wedding anniversaries or significant birthdays (80th, 90th, 100th) may also include these details. Check the online catalogue for newspaper titles and holdings. See also **SLQ Info Guide 3.9 Newspapers**.

Pioneer registers/local histories

Pioneer registers are often compiled using private family papers and/or interviews with surviving family members and frequently supply immigration details not available elsewhere.

Land orders (Qld.)

As an incentive to intending migrants the Queensland Government issued a kind of voucher or 'land order' that could be used towards the purchase of land. A card index of land orders is maintained at Queensland State Archives (QSA) which may provide the immigrant's date of arrival and/or ship's name. The index is available for searching on the premises in QSA's Public Search Room at 435 Compton Road, Runcorn. See also **SLQ Info Guide 3.15 Land records** for further information.

Need further information?

State Library of Queensland, Queensland Cultural Centre, Stanley Place, South Bank, Reference Services.

t. +61 7 3840 7810, w. www.slq.qld.gov.au/enquiry

Visit http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/pub/info_guides/collections/fh to access all family history Info Guides