



NYSFHC Session Syllabus

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A la Karte:

Borders, Maps and Gazetteers for German Genealogists

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The borders of German-speaking lands in Europe followed a non-linear pattern that is at first hard to unpack. Learn about the gamut of on- and off-line tools to overcome this difficulty.

- I. History, contrasts, goals
 - a. Linear vs. non-linear history
 - b. Decentralized records
 - c. Finding village and/or noble jurisdiction

- II. Types of maps and map resources
 - a. Maps vary by ...
 - i. Time period
 1. Contemporaneous historical maps
 2. Retrospective historical maps
 3. Modern-day maps
 - ii. Features
 1. Roads
 2. Political boundaries
 3. Topographical
 4. Property owners
 5. Demographics
 - b. Other resources
 - i. Gazetteers
 - ii. Collections
 - iii. Land / estate records

- III. Specific tools and examples
 - a. Online gazetteers: MeyersGaz.org and Kartenmeister
 - b. Online map collections: David Rumsey and Library of Congress
 - c. Books: Hansen's Map Guides and Minert's Reverse Indexes
 - d. Opacity slider on some sites ("Georeferencer" on Rumsey)

- IV. Case studies
 - a. Which parish is that?
 - b. Which part of Hessen is that?

Helping Find Where Records Are: **Heimat Tic Tac Toe**

	Historical (pre-1871)	Second Reich (1871-1918)	Modern (1945-present)
Political jurisdiction (Noble entity/district)			
Church parish (Catholic/Protestant)			
Standesamt (Civil registration)			

Best Mapping Resources: **Bibliography of Books and Websites**

Books

- Beidler, James M. *The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Germanic Ancestry in Europe*. Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books, 2014.
- Beidler, James M. *The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany*. Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books, 2019.
- Dearden, Fay S. *Understanding Meyers Orts: Translating Guide for the Directory of the Towns and Places in the German Empire*. Bountiful, UT: Family Roots Publishing Co., 2013.
- Gemeindelexikon für das Königreich Preußen*. Berlin: Verlag des Königlichen Statistischen Landesamts, 1909. [On Ancestry.com as “Prussia, Municipality Gazetteer, 1905”]
- Hansen, Kevan. *Map Guide to German Parish Registers*. Various: Family Roots Publishing Co., 2004-present. [Series of more than 60 volumes]
- Koebler, Gerhard. *Historische Lexikon der Deutschen Laender*, Sixth Edition. Munich: C.H. Beck, 1999.
- Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-lexikon des deutschen Reichs*. Leipzig and Wien: Bibliographisches Institut, 1912.

- Minert, Roger P. _____ *Place Name Indexes: Identifying Place Names Using Alphabetical and Reverse Alphabetical Indexes*. Provo, UT: GRT Publications, 2000s.
[Series, includes all German Empire states]
- Uncapher, Wendy K. *Lands of the German Empire and Before*. Janesville, Wisconsin: Origins, 2004.
- Uncapher, Wendy K. *How to Read & Understand Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs*. Janesville, Wisconsin: Origins, 2003.

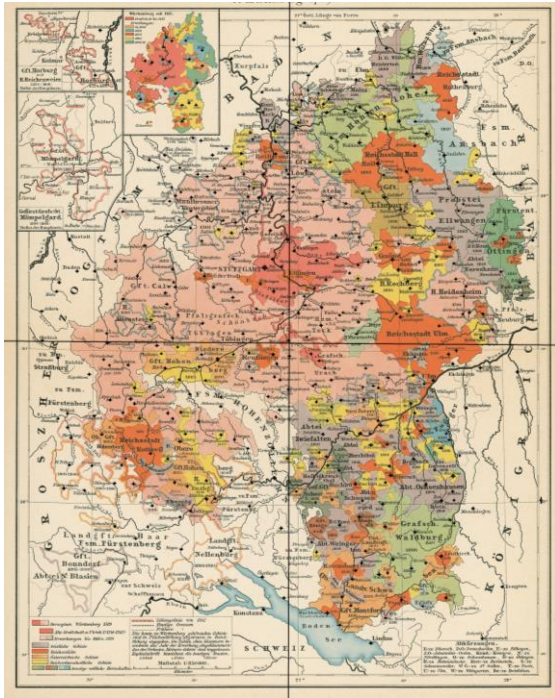
Websites

- CompGen.de's GOV <http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index>
FamilySearch Wiki. "Germany Gazetteers."
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Gazetteers
Kartenmeister.com <http://kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp>
MeyersGaz.org <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>
Includes *Karte des Deutschen Reiches*, ca. 1890
Mapire.eu <https://mapire.eu/en/>
Putzgers Historischer Schul-Atlas, 1914 <http://www.maproom.org/00/04/index.php>
Ravenstein's Map <https://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/german/ravenstein/>
David Rumsey Map Collection <https://www.davidrumsey.com>

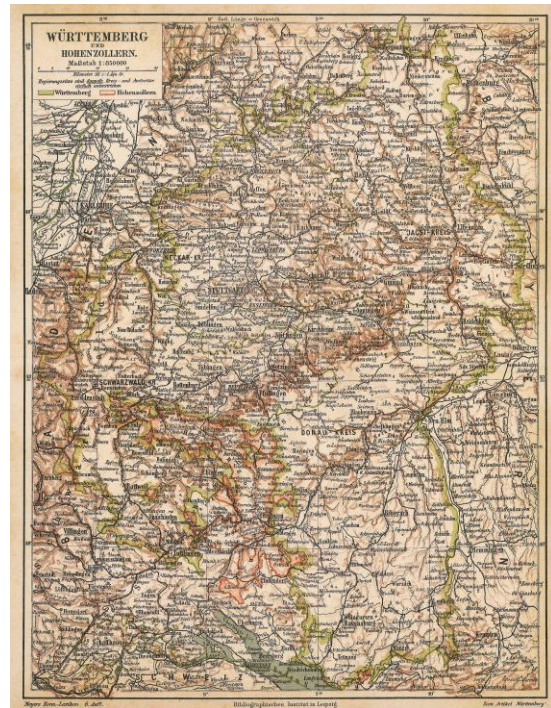
Jurisdictional and Nobility Vocabulary: Glossary

Amt	district	Kirchspiel	church parish
Ansiedlung	settlement	Kolonie	colony
Bauerschaft	farm township	Königreich, König	kingdom, king
Bezirk	district	Kreis	district, county
Bürgergemeinde	civil community	Land	state
Dekanat	deanery	Landgemeinde	rural community
Domäne	state-owned estate	Landkreis	rural county
Dorf	village	Mark	march (borderland)
Flecken	small town	Marktgemeinde	market town
Fürstentum, Fürst	principality, prince	Marktflecken	market town
Gau	district	Oberamt	governing district
Gebiet	territory, region	Ortsteil	quarter, part of a city
Gemeinde	community	Provinz	province
Grafschaft, Graf	countship, count / earl	Regierungsbezirk	region, governing district
Großherzogtum, Großherzog	grand duchy, grand duke	Reich	empire or realm
Gut	farm estate	Rittergut, Ritter	knight's estate, knight
Herrschaft	lord's estate	Staat	sovereign state
Herzogt(h)um, Herzog	duchy, duke	Stadt	city
Kaiserreich, Kaiser	empire, emperor	Stadtgemeinde	neighborhood (of a city)
Kanton	canton	Stadtkreis	city-county
Kirchengemeinde	church parish	Verwaltungsbezirk	administrative district
Kirchensprengel	church district	Weiler	hamlet

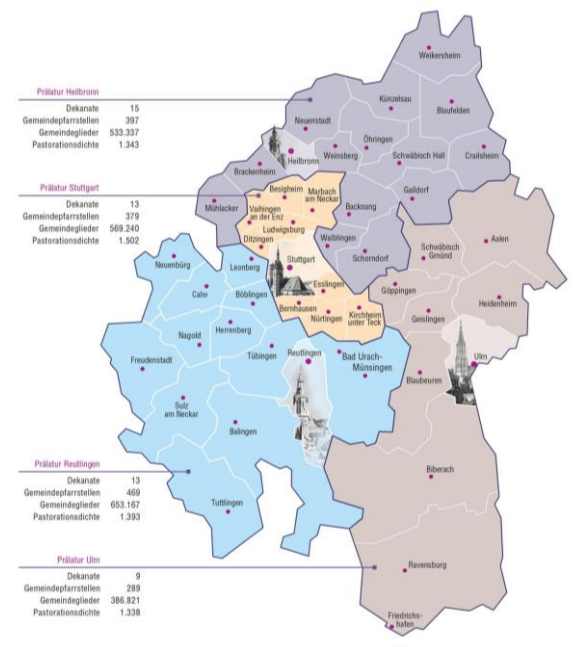
Different Maps, Different Ways of Looking at the Same Area: **Württemberg**



Political divisions, 1789



Villages, 1912



Protestant church divisions today



Political divisions today

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