

IT'S ALL "DUTCH" TO ME: A CRASHCOURSE IN THE SOUNDS OF GERMAN

BACKGROUND

The goal of this talk is to introduce the sounds of German, as well as basic linguistic concepts, to help participants further their German and German-American genealogy research. While not all of us are in the position to pick up a second language, learning the sounds of German is an easy way to develop your ear and think creatively about genealogical problems.

We will do this first by learning the phonetics of spoken German, and second by applying that knowledge to English-language examples. With practice, participants can use these skills to recognize anglicized texts and spellings: a skill vital not only to tracking ancestors but also making efficient use of search engines and indexes.

Why Take a Linguistics-Based Approach to German-American Genealogy?

- i. Written texts comprise the most common kinds of evidence we encounter day-to-day in genealogy. These texts are as much a history of language as they are of people, places, and events we wish to study.
- ii. It encourages you to think not only about a document's content but more so its *context*: any number of factors can influence the shaping of a document via the author/speaker, audience, and also the genre/form of document itself.
- iii. Before 1930, large-scale efforts at documentation like the U. S. Federal Census were largely recorded by hand. Even birth registers, most often completed by county-level notaries, were handwritten. Name spelling in these documents was not *prescriptive* but rather *descriptive*.
 - (a) David Ferriero, 10th Archivist at the National Archives stated in 2019 that the NARA is "sitting on 15 billion pieces of paper and parchment . . . and as much as 80% of it is [handwritten] in cursive."
- iv. The importance of exact/prescriptive spelling with names (and places) arose *within the past century* for most nations, particularly as governments introduced fixed-ID items like Social Security Cards, Driver's Licenses, and State/County birth, marriage, and death certificates.
- v. Because of dialect, varying levels of education, and the slow-moving efforts to regularize spelling in both English and German, we can find meaningful

information for genealogical research based on spellings and usage, so long as we keep track of what I call **the 6 Ws of genealogical documents**:

- (a) Who is speaking [providing info]?
- (b) Who is recording [listening, transcribing]?
- (c) What was the purpose of the exchange?
- (d) When did it occur?
- (e) Where did the recording happen?
- (f) What languages or dialects are visible?

BASIC TERMS FOR UNDERSTANDING SPEECH

The term **phonetics** generally refers to the sounds of speech in a language. In this talk, we're most concerned with **articulation**: how the vocal tract produces the individual sounds that form words.

Vowels and **consonants**, the basic categories of these sounds, are likely familiar to you, but here's a closer look:

Vowels

- i. A range of sounds produced by the passing of air through an open vocal tract
- ii. In both German and English, all vowels are described as **voiced**, meaning the larynx (i. e. voice box) and vocal cords vibrate. Feel the middle of your throat as you say the five common vowels of English!
- iii. **American English contains 14 vowel sounds. Modern Standard German (*Hochdeutsch*) contains 15.** They can be described as **short** or **long** (in terms of **duration**: how long the sound lasts)
- iv. German uses the same letters as English to denote vowel sounds, but the rules for pronunciation differ greatly. German retained (and developed from) older Germanic pronunciations. In general, German and most Romance languages use something closer to Latin vowel pronunciation. Here are ***Latinate*** vowels (in simplified form):
 - /a/ as in English "not"
 - /e/ as in "net," (also, /e/ as in "mate")
 - /i/ as in "neat"
 - /o/ as "note,"
 - /u/ as in "moot"
 - /y/ as in the start of the vowel in "new"
- v. Since 750 CE or before, the **umlaut** (ü) (a diacritic) has been used in writing to describe German "rounded" vowels, as in "schön," "Bär," or "Bücher"
- vi. In older German texts, especially names, the vowel + letter-e is an acceptable written substitute for the umlaut symbol, as in "Koenig" for "König," "Schaefer"

for “Schäfer.” and even “Görg/Georg.” **These are not different names in terms of pronunciation:** just different depictions of the same name!

- In American records, the replacement of ö with oe, ä with ae, and ü with ue was much more predominant since we do not use umlauts.
- vii. Umlauted vowels in German act *somewhat* like **diphthongs**: a vowel sound that leans toward a different vowel.
- In American English, diphthongs can occur with almost any vowel! Many dialects in English are partly defined by the substitution of diphthongs in certain sounds.
 - Fun example: how would an American Southerner, in their dialect, pronounce the phrase, “Alright, that’s it! I quit!”

Consonants

- i. A range of sounds produced through the closure of the vocal tract, either partial or full. We use different parts of the tongue, glottis, nasal cavity, lips, and teeth (often several together) to produce them.
- ii. Consonants in both German and English can be **voiced** or **unvoiced**. An **unvoiced consonant** (/f/, /p/, /k/, /t/, /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /θ/ in English) is one that can be produced **without** vibration of the vocal cords.
- iii. Voiced consonants in English include /b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, / ð /, /z/, /ʒ/, /dʒ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/ and /r/
- iv. Example: in the English word “stop,” all consonants–/s/,/t/, & /p/–are *unvoiced*.
- v. **Important Pairings:**

In Germanic-language phonetics, certain consonants are grouped as pairings because they are performed using similar vocal motions/mechanics:

p / b	t / d	k / g	s / z
f / v	θ / ð [English only]	ʃ / ʒ	r* / l

In the case of all but “r / l,” one of the biggest links is that the first in the pairs is **unvoiced** whereas the second is **voiced**.

IMPORTANT: Knowing these pairings will help you understand why certain consonant sounds in German are pronounced differently (and may sometimes be misheard by English speakers).

Duration

Duration refers to how long a sound [most often a vowel] in a word is vocalized. We won't explore this topic much, but it's important to recognize that when we use the term "long vowel" or "short vowel" in German, they properly refer to *duration*.

Beware! In American schooling, we commonly refer to "long vowels" as any vowel that is pronounced like the name of the letter, as "long a" for "hay" or "brake."

Technically, this vowel sound in "hay" is produced *by two different sounds*, /e/ + /i/ = /ei/ in English. Try saying the first part of "hay" without reaching the end /i/ of the vowel: can you hear the "-eh" (as in "bed") sound?

German long vowels sometimes come with clues in spelling:

In older person and place names, the **use of the letter /h/ after a vowel** (and typically before a consonant) tends to indicate a *long-vowel pronunciation!*

e. g. Kühne, Böhme, Führmann, Hahn, Lehrer, etc.

- TIP: true long vowels in German are often formed in printed words by the **doubling** of the vowel (usually /o/, /e/, or /a/), as in *Das Boot* [sounds like its English cognate, "boat") or surnames like Beer or Scheel.
- It was common in old German handwriting to write a flat line above the letter, indicating either a vowel OR a doubled consonant! You will see this in German American church records as well!
 - Hüber = Hüber/Hueber
 - Hofmān = Hofmann

VOWEL DEVELOPMENT: A BIT OF HISTORY

German and English share common linguistic roots (Proto-Germanic), as well as, ***most*** of the same alphabet (Latin). However, over the span of 2,000 years, stark differences developed in their phonetics and structure. The most major changes in phonetics began with vowels. German, for example, remains highly articulated/phonetic, and includes relatively few "silent" sounds (more relevant to spelling). English now includes *many* due to a shift in vowels that began around 1066 CE.

German vowels pronounced as one sound (with few exceptions), without any diphthonging or shifting. English once followed the same rules! The word "Bite" in English was once pronounced BEE – TUH. Due to the Great Vowel Shift, however, we have difficult vowel rules like 'ea.' Examples: *breath bead break beautiful beau*

Even the use of "oa" as in English "boat" once indicated a distinct vowel sound: an /o/ sound formed farther in the back of the throat, like the /o/ at the beginning of "bought." [*some dialects of English retain this difference! Think Ireland, Boston, Newfoundland, and parts of Canada and the northern Midwest]

DIE DEUTSCHE SPRACHE: A GERMAN PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

The first chart below deals with vowel sounds, both individual and combined. The second deals with umlauts followed by a guide to consonants and consonant clusters. IPA [International Phonetic Alphabet] symbols are included in brackets to note different sounds made by the same letters/orthography. This guide deals with the most common sounds but is *not* comprehensive: refer to a good dictionary when in doubt!

German / IPA	Pronunciation	German Examples
a [a:]	-ah , but with the back of the tongue elevated toward the middle of your mouth. Sounds a bit like “rock,” but brighter.	Vater = “father” Wasser = “water”
e [ɛ]	-e , like English “let.” Keep the front of the tongue low, but the back of the tongue high.”	Wetter = “weather” Bett = “bed”
e [e:]	Between -e [ɛ], as in “bed,” and [e] as in “bait.” When in doubt, go with [e] as in “bait.”	geben = “to give” leben = “to live” Ehe = “marriage” Schnee = “snow”
i [i]	-ee , as in “beet,” but spoken with the front of your mouth (keep the your lips slightly close together, back of tongue raised)	Liebe = love Sie = you [formal], they Bibel = the Bible
i [ɪ]	-i as in “pick,” but with the mouth in the forward position; purse your lips a bit	ich = I bitte = please Schnitt = cut
o [o:]	-o as in “boat” (no -u); a darker sound produced farther back in the throat	Tod = death Roman = novel, romance
o [ɔ]	Make an -uh sound (as in “gut”) in the back of your throat, but round your lips	Onkel = Uncle Gott = God Bonn = [city of Bonn]

u [u:]	-oo, as in “mood”; try to keep the sound as straight/pure as possible without shifting to another vowel	Buch = book gut = good suchen = to look for
u [ʊ]	Like the -oo in “took,” but leaning toward [u:]; this is a subtle sound	Mutter = mother und = and
*[ə]	Like a cross between -uh (as in “but”) and -eh as in “bet.” Often at the ends of words.	bitte = please Pferde = horses
*[ɐ]	Close to -uh sound in English, but more a bit more an -err sound.	Bier = beer Fischer = fisherman Bürger = citizen
au [aʊ]	Very similar to -ow as in “cow,” but slightly darker (back of the throat)	Frau = woman, wife Baum = tree
ei [ai]	Like “tie,” but resist the urge to “chew” the vowel: say it quickly (resist making a -yuh sound).	M ein(e) = my
eu (also, äu) [ɔʏ];	-oy, as in “toy,” but resist the urge to make an -ee sound at the end	German Words: Kreuz = cross Leute = people Bäume = trees

Umlauted Vowels	Pronunciation	German Examples
ä [ɛ:]	Like long -eh, but brighter. First, hold your mouth as if an -ah sound; in the same position, try to say -eh. If you can't do this, make an -ay sound (like “May”)	Bär = bear Mädchen = girl Schäfer = shepherd
ö [œ]	First, purse your lips and say, “oh”; now, holding the same position, try to say “eh”; when in doubt, go with “eh” or “ay”	schön = beautiful Söhne = sons Böse = evil
ü [ʏ]	Purse your lips as tight as possible, as if to say -oo; next, in that position, try to say -ee. This sound can be either short or long in certain words.	Mühle = mill Frühstück = breakfast Württemberg

CONSONANTS: UNIQUE RULES, SOUNDS, & SYMBOLS

In German, although you will see familiar letters for consonant sounds, they will always behave a bit different than in English. Rather than go over every single similarity and difference, here are the things to watch out for:

Ess, Tset, und Ess-Tzet (s, z, and β)

- i. In German, 's' + vowel is most often pronounced like English /z/, making it a voiced consonant. Some exceptions to watch out for:
 - a. If 's' is part of a consonant cluster like "Sch," as in "Schmitt," "St" as in "Stern" [star]; or Sp- as in "Spiel" [game]. In these cases, /s/ makes a [ʃ] sound, like "shine."
 - b. Often if 's' ends a word following an unvoiced consonant, as in "rechts" [on the right], "gehts" [goes], or "nichts" [nothing].
 - c. Often if 's' is part of an unstressed syllable, as with noun and verb inflections like "seines" [his/its, possessive pronoun]
- ii. 'z' + is pronounced [ts] in German, like the -ts at the endings of English words like "hunts" and "lets." What you may not be used to is the number of German words that begin with this sound! Example: zehn [ten], Zimmermann
- iii. Whereas 's' typically sounds like [z], to make an unvoiced, long /s/ sound, the ess-tset symbol – β -was developed. English also once used this to distinguish between voiced 's' = [z] and unvoiced /s/ = β . In transcribing names, it is usually acceptable to substitute a double-'s', as in Weiss for Weiß.

Rewiring your Ws, Vs, Js, and Ys

In German, observe the following (always, unless you're looking at a loan word from a different language):

- i. 'w' is always [v] as in English "voice." *Always*. Yes, even in front of an -r, as in "wringen" [to wring]! Just be mindful that in old cursive texts, /u/ can look a lot like /w/.
- ii. 'J' is nearly always [y] as in English "yacht." It is never [dʒ] as in "joke" or [ʒ] as in "Jacques" [unless the word is borrowed from French];
- iii. 'y' is a very uncommon letter in German. /i/ is usually used instead, especially in older writing. 'Y' was introduced to the language from Latin & Greek through the spread of Christianity, as was 'Ch-' as [k], as in "Jesus Christus." Otherwise 'Ch' at the start of a name is usually /sh/ as in "Charlotta"
- i. 'v' is pronounced [f] in all instances. This can be very difficult to discern in a name that's been anglicized. Example: anglicized "Ferris" could be *Vers*. Watch out for possible 'w' substitutions or transcription errors!

Those Pesky Pairs: t / d, p / b, k / g

- ii. At the **beginnings** of most words, /t/, /d/, /p/, /b/, /g/, /k/, and /f/ sound as we would expect them to in English, with some minor differences
 - a. [d] as in “Dienst” [labor, service] is made by touching the tongue slightly farther back on the roof of your mouth than in English; /t/ as well (slightly above the alveolar ridge above your teeth)
- iii. At the ends of words, they can act quite differently:
 - a. ‘d’ will often sound more like [t]
 - b. ‘b’ will often sound more like [p]
 - c. ‘-g’ as a suffix can do multiple things: it may sound something like [k], as in “weg” [path], but it will most often instead sound like the -ch in Ich [ç], or in “richtig” [“correct”]

“Ach, Ich . . . ich verstehe nicht!” Learning to Embrace the Unique -ch/-g Sounds in German

Probably the most difficult sound for English speakers, that distinctly German -ch is what we call a **fricative**, which is when we force air through a mostly closed spaced (around the palate) in our mouths.

In British and American English, the only places we tend to find this sound are in the Scottish dialect, like “Loch” and “Broch.”

German actually has *two* different versions of this sound. The first is what we find in words like German “Bach” [creek], “Recht” [law/right], “doch” [but], “Buch” [book], and “macht” [does].

- i. To perform the first correctly, start by making an [a] vowel sound. Now, make a /h/ sound in the back of your throat and raise the back of your tongue until it almost completely blocks the passage of air. Try recreating this with the vowels [a], [e], [o], and [u]!
- ii. To perform the second sound, like what we get in “Ich,” and the second part of “richtig,” first start by positioning your lips as if to say the [ɪ] in “lips.” Holding that position [lips pursed, teeth close together], try making the same voiceless /h/. It should sound like you’re trying to make a /sh/ sound without your vocal cords vibrating!

If you think saying this is hard, imagine what a 19th-century census taker or court clerk might have thought they were hearing!

“THEIR R’S ARE NOT OUR R’S!”

American English diverges from many, many languages [including British English] in its pronunciation of /r/. On one hand, American English uses a hard-‘r’ not often heard elsewhere, as in “See you later, Alligator!” On the other hand, many AE dialects are

distinguished by *dropping* /r/ from words (think certain Southern accents; also, Boston/Old New England).

Most European languages use what we call a flapped-‘r’: an /r/ sound made with the tongue rolled quickly off the roof of the mouth (often trilled). This might sometimes sound like an /l/ sound to your ears!

The German /r/: Two Options

- i. German and many dialects of French both use what is referred to as a guttural /r/: an /r/ sound made in the back of the throat by vibrating the uvula. To master this sound, imagine you are gargling water: try to make the same sound as you move toward a vowel!
- ii. It is also acceptable to use the flap /r/ found in other languages like Spanish and French.

NOTE: /r/ at the ends of most German words is a schwa- sound, like a cross between the sound -uh and -err. Often, in some dialects, that -uh might sound more like an -ah!

CONSONANT CLUSTERS

Yet another distinctively Germanic and Slavic feature, German boasts the ability to cram as many consonant sounds as possible into words with minimal use of vowels. Here are the greatest hits:

- i. /th / = always a [t] sound in German, never English th- (voiced) or -th (unvoiced)
- ii. /dt/ = [t]
- iii. /pf/ = both the /p/ and /f/ are pronounced (*note: many central and southwestern dialects of German do not pronounce the /f/!)
- iv. /kn/ = both the /k/ and /n/ are pronounced
- v. /-tsch/ = a -ch sound, as in English “chair” (German ex: “Deutsch”)
- vi. /Sch-/ and /-sch/ = a sh- sound, as in English “share”
- vii. /St-/& /Sp-/ = a sht- and shp- sound (main examples in English are German and Yiddish loan words like “Spiel” or “stumm”)
- viii. /qu/ = /k/ + /v/. The name “Quirin” sounds like KUH-VEE-REN

APPLYING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED TO YOUR RESEARCH

Surnames: Translation Issues, Corruptions, and Misspellings, Oh My!

In U. S. historical documents, the struggle of non-German speakers to transcribe German sounds is everywhere you look.

Sometimes the struggle is subtle and appears in the tendency to anglicize easily translated names (e. g. Schmidt < Smith, Weber < Weaver) or to simplify German spelling rules that wouldn't stump many Americans (e. g. Schneider < Snider, Zimmermann < Zimmerman).

More often, the name you may be researching (or struggling to) is not your Schmidts, Schwartzes, or Webers. It might instead be something like Tochtermann, Jahnke, Zitßelberger, Nothnagel, Gschwendtner, Brügelmann, Buchheit, Rothhaar, Zumstein, Lautenschläger, Jäcki, or my personal favorite, Pfaffenberger.

If the Ancestry search engine can't handle a simple name like Weber, what chance does it stand against *Schimmelpfennig*?

When in despair, remember: you have an ear for English, and you can use that to diagnose and backwards engineer any spelling problems!

Here are some common spelling shifts you'll see in moving from German sounds to American English spellings:

VOWEL SOUNDS

- ö names = *Simplification* (König < Konig)
Long-'a' replacement (Köehne < Cain, Höhmann < Hayman)
Long-'e' replacement (Böhme < Beem, Beam)
[ε] replacement (Höß < Hess)
Long - 'o' replacement (Löwenstein < Loewenstine, Lewenstein)
- ü names = *Lengthening* (Kühne < Keener)
Shortening to [ɪ] (Müller < Miller, Württemberg mistranscribed to 'Wittenburg')
Simplification: (Müller < Muller")
Vowel flipping: (Bühler < Beuler)
- ä names = *Phonetic translation* (Bähr < Bayer, Bair, Bear)
Simplification: (Jäger < Jager)
Vowel narrowing: (Schäfer < Schiffer)

- -eu and -äu names = *Phonetic trans.* (Euler = Oiler)
Long - 'i' replacement (Kreuzer < Krietzer, Kreytser, Reuter < Rider)
Substitution (Batholomäus < Bartholmew, Neugebauer < Newbower)
- -ei names = *Phonetic trans.* (Stein < Stine)
Vowel Flipping (Geissler < Giessler)
-ay subbing (Steinbrück < Stainbrook)
**Dutchification* (Beier < Boyer)
**Term coined by historian Don Yoder*

DIFFICULT CONSONANTS

- Pf - = *Clipping* (Stumpf < Stump)
Simplification (Pfortner = Portner, Pfohlmann = Folman)
- Kn - = *Phonetic Translation* (Knopf < Kunoff)
Simplification (Knorr = Norr)
- Sch - = *Simplification* (Schwartz = Swartz, Schuhmacher = Shewmaker)
- Z- = *'s' subbing* (Würtz < Wurts, Wirts)
- ß = *Clipping* (Schultheiß < Shuldheis)
'z' - subbing (Groß < Grosz)
'c' - subbing (Penzl < Pencil)

ENDINGS

- -ach endings, as in *-bach* = "-baugh," "-baw," "-bosh," "-bock," "-back," "-pack," "-pah"
- -ig, -eck, & -ich suffixes = *'sh' subbing* (Hartwig < Hartwish)
[k] - subbing (Kirchner < Kirkner)
- -erger endings, as in *-berger* = *Simplification* (" -barger," "-burger,")
'r' -deletion (" -burga," "-baga", "-baker")
'p'-subbing (" -sperger")
[k]-subbing (" -booker," "-bucher")
- -li, -le, -tsche, & -ke suffixes = *Overcorrection* (Roethke < Rodkey)
Clipping (Heinle < Hein, Fritsche < Fritch)

EXERCISES FOR WORKING WITH NAMES

Let's try the following exercise. Using these original German names and the rules we learned for pronunciation (as well as common anglicizations), try to come up with as many plausible American English spellings of each name listed. Think carefully about the choices you make (and even subtle variants worth considering!)

1. Pfeuffer
2. Engelbach
3. Vüllhardt
4. Stehl
5. Knauff
6. Böttcher
7. Buchholtz
8. Schäfer
9. Schlachter
10. Ahrend
11. Pfaffenberger

THINGS TO REMEMBER

ISSUES OF AUTHORITY

Given how relatively unfixed spelling was for surnames in the past, it's important to be conscientious of how you record your genealogy and why. Most commonly used sources for identifying names, for instance (birth registers, church entries, European passenger lists) can be inconsistent and even inaccurate to how a family preferred their name spelled! Finding an isolated spelling is not inherently proof.

Don't get hung up on proving a 'definitive' spelling! At the end of the day, you just need to be able to distinguish between family groups and individuals for research and documentation; if you switch between spellings, be ready to account for why (documentation isn't enough here: always form a well-reasoned, exhaustively researched argument).

ISSUES OF BILINGUALISM

Although your relatives and ancestors may have lost their connection to the German language long ago, it's important to keep track of who may have been speaking it in your family and when. Make a timeline and look for sources!

Older U. S. Census records are notoriously poor at indicating literacy, and in some instances, a 'tick' in the "Person over age of 18 who cannot read or write" box may have indicated that they were unable to write or read in *English*, not their native tongue!

Also remember that there may have been a time when your ancestors in this country could not effectively converse with their neighbors, or may have only conversed with other Germans. There is therefore a good chance you will find contemporaneous German and English spellings of your family's name.

ISSUES OF DIALECT

Dialects are everywhere if you listen. Think about words and pronunciations you use that are local to where you grew up! Dialects are defined by both their pronunciations and word usage (as well as other factors). Fun experiment: how do you pronounce caramel? With two syllables? Three? Does the first syllable rhyme with "chair" or "bar"?

Prior to the unification of 1871, the German Confederation (the Holy Roman Empire before 1806) boasted *hundreds* of different dialects at regional and community levels. *Hochdeutsch*, or standard German, mainly existed as a convention of printing. Some of these dialects were (and remain) unintelligible to one another.

- The Brothers Grimm (Jakob und Wilhelm Grimm) first published their *Deutsches Wörterbuch* in 1854 after over 16 years of research. It was one of the first efforts of its kind to create a definitive dictionary of German words.
- Konrad Duden, a philologist credited with contributing to German unification through his study of language, helped regularize German spelling with the Duden dictionary in 1880 (think the German Webster!)

In the days when education ended around age 13, if not earlier, German speakers generally learned what their families spoke. Takeaway: **your German-speaking ancestors spoke a dialect**, and that affected what a non-German speaker heard when in conversation.

Example: Pfälzisch, the dialect of the Pfalz (Palatinate) *does not pronounce* the ‘f’ in ‘pf’! The “Paltz” in New Paltz, New York, therefore, is an *accurate* rendering of that dialect!

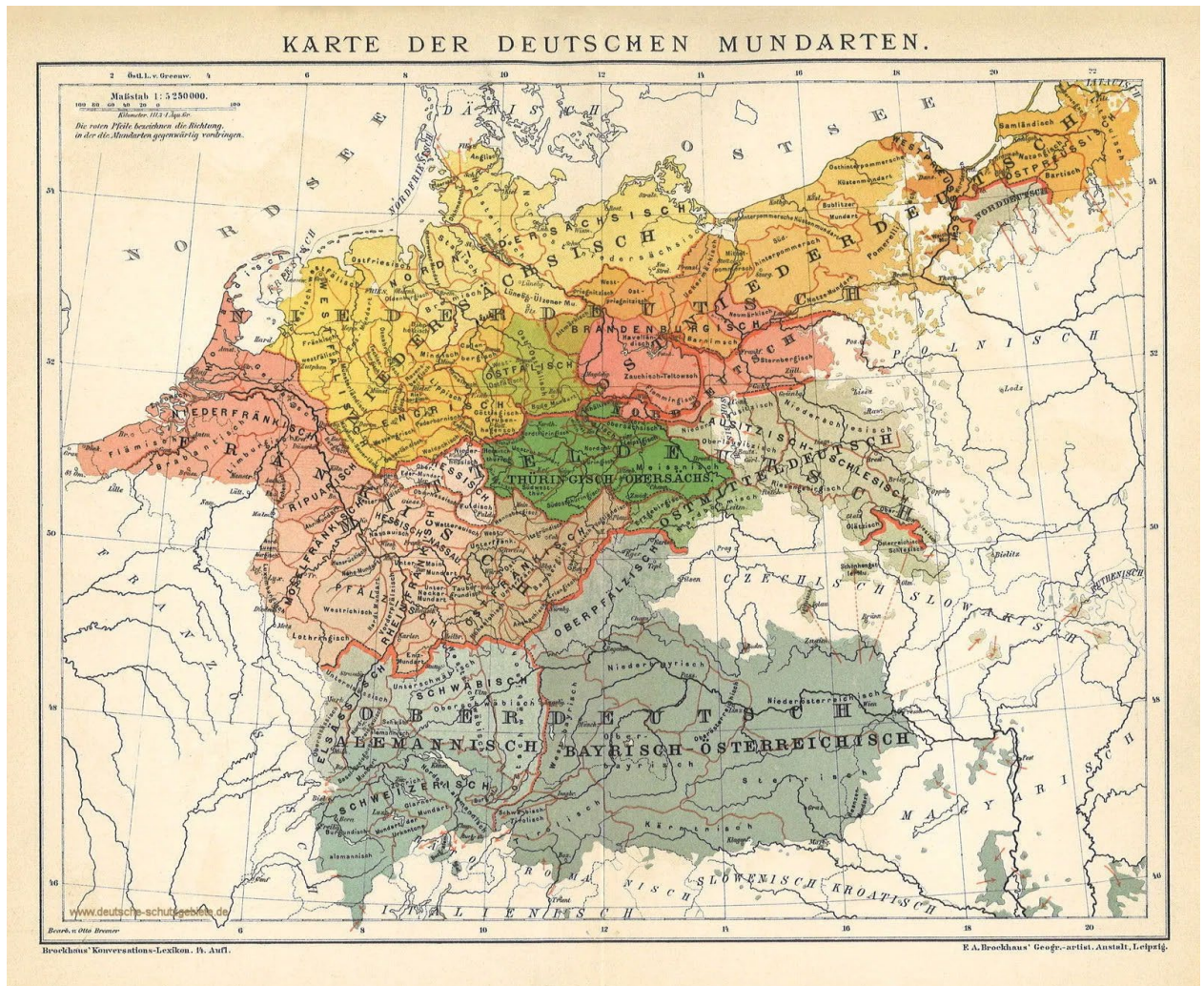
Here are the broadest categories of dialects, which you can see represented in the Brockhaus map from 1894 (public domain) on the resource page:

- i. Oberdeutsch (Upper German: includes Bayerisch, Schäbisch, and other dialects spoken near the Alps and Black Forest)
- ii. Mitteldeutsch (Middle German: includes Franconian, Pfälzisch, Hessisch, Sächsisch, Thüringisch, Schlesisch, and others)
- iii. Nieder- or Plattdeutsch (Lower German, called so because Northern German lands are low-lying near the sea); the German spoken in Hamburg is generally regarded as one of the purer *Hochdeutsch* -like dialects in terms of pronunciation.

RESOURCES TO CONSIDER

- Meyers Gazetteer of the 2nd German Empire (1871-1912) [available online!]
- [Forebears.io/Germany] (website)
 - Useful for identifying if a present-day spelling is primarily based in the U. S. or Germany
- Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary* (1996):
 - Great print book for finding spellings of regional words and phrases relevant to genealogical research; you will not always find these words in standard German Dictionaries
 - DOES NOT contain pronunciation guides for words
- Langenscheidt Dictionary Online [en.langenscheidt.com] and Collins Dictionary [www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/English-german]
 - Both have audio guides to word pronunciation; Collins also includes IPA guides
- *Easy German* YouTube Series:

- Educational, fun webseries on German language and culture that includes both subtitled German AND English simultaneously, so you can see the written forms of words as they are spoken. This will help you train your ear for pronunciation.



"Karte der Deutschen Mundarten um 1895." Brokhaus Konversationslexikon, Leipzig (1894). [Public Domain/Creative Commons: reproduced for scholarly use only]

If you enjoyed this talk, please visit my German genealogy website at <https://therheinlandamerican.wordpress.com> to see more! Thanks for attending.