

Maps Answer German Research Questions

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I. **What Genealogical Questions can be Answered by Maps?**

A. Maps commonly are used to locate:

1. Towns, streets, land, plot size and shape,
2. Neighbors, businesses and shops,
3. Other nearby facilities.

B. Maps can also address unique issues and problems in the U.S.

1. Which was the ancestor's church?
2. Was there an error in the record?
3. How could an unlikely couple have known each other?

C. Or Overseas:

1. Was the ancestor's home always in Bavaria or another state?
2. Ancestor's U.S. friends arrived in a chain and clustered together. Were they also neighbors in Germany?
3. Which of several same-name towns was in the ancestor's parish?

II. **Example 1: Which was the Ancestor's Church?**

A. Google doesn't help.

B. Answered with Panorama map from Library of Congress (LOC.)

III. **Was the Ancestor's Home always in Bavaria?**

A. 1782 Germany Map from LOC.

B. Franconia was not part of Bavaria in the 1700s.

IV. **Was an Error Made on the Landowner Map?**

A. St. Louis County Landownership maps from LOC cite a different spelling of the ancestor's name in the expected place. Is it the correct person or another person of a similar name?

B. Deed Records from County suggest map maker made the error.

V. **How Could an Unlikely Couple have Known Each Other?**

A. More information on each person from census and deeds.

B. Then landownership maps from LOC.

C. Doesn't prove but supports they could have known each other.

VI. **Ancestor's U.S. Friends Lived Nearby. Were They Nearby in Germany?**

A. Landowner map of the U.S. county showed friends nearby.

- B. Genealogy research on each family member/neighbor including census, deeds, and church records led to each origin village.
- C. Calcmaps.com plotted all German origin places within a 5-mile radius, supporting knowing each other in Germany too.

VII. Which of Several Same-Name Swiss Towns was in the Same Parish?

- A. Baptism in Swiss parish mentioned a new village, Ebnit or Äbnit, in the parish.
- B. Marriage in same parish supported that new village as in parish.
- C. Google map defined present town/parish limits, but didn't show the new village within limits present town limits or nearby.
- D. A Swiss Gazetteer yielded many same-name places, but none in the correct parish. Others were too far to be likely origins in early 1700s.
- E. More gazetteers listed one village of correct name in correct parish.
- F. "Swisstopo" Map online shows new village in the correct parish.

VIII. Summary

- A. Maps locate ancestor's land, street, or town, and
- B. With some additional genealogical research,
- C. Also answer or support many other genealogical questions.
- D. Seek maps on all major genealogical websites and in repositories.
- E. Use maps more!

SELECTED MAP RESOURCES ONLINE—U.S. AND GERMANY

U.S.

US Geographic Survey <https://www.usgs.gov/us-board-on-geographic-names/>

National Archives II

https://www.archives.gov/research/cartographic?_ga=2.6410932.725915213.1668039358-120684772.1658769870

Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov/maps/>

David Rumsey <https://www.davidrumsey.com/>

Perry Castenada Collection U TX

https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/united_states.html

Randy Majors <https://www.randymajors.org/>

Bureau Land Management <https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/default.aspx>

History Geo <https://www.historygeo.com/v3/viewers/>

Newberry Library Atlas of County Boundaries <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/>

Calc Maps Tool <https://www.calcmaps.com/>

Family Search https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Maps

Also: State Archives, Historical Society, Universities, Local Libraries, Societies.

Germany

Meyers Gaz <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>

Ravenstein's Atlas <https://search.library.wisc.edu/digital/ARavenAtlas>

Kartenmeister <http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp>

German Historical Institute Maps <https://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/>

CompGen <https://www.compgen.de/> or <https://wiki.genealogy.net/Hauptseite>

University Mainz <https://www.ieg-maps.uni-mainz.de/>

Posselt (Historical) Landkarten <https://www.posselt-landkarten.de/>

Historic Places <http://gk.historic.place/>

Old Maps of Germany <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Germany>

Foundation for Eastern European Family History Studies

<https://feefhs.org/resource/directory-map>

Map Room <http://www.maproom.org/c/index.php>

Historic Places <http://gk.historic.place/>

FS-Ger https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Historical_Geography

FS Map room <http://www.maproom.org/c/index.php>

More: Staats- or LandesArchiv, Universities, local archives, libraries, and societies.