



*Using Ortssippenbücher to
Research Your German Ancestors*

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OBJECTIVES

- What they are
- How to find them
- How to use them

WHAT ARE ORTSSIPPENBÜCHER?

- Translation
- Specifics
- Secondary source
- Availability by region

PLACE OF ORIGIN

- Must know town
- SLCL virtual classroom (www.slcl.org/genealogy/virtual-classroom): “Jumping the Pond: Discovering Your German Ancestral Village”

WHERE TO FIND

- GenWiki website (wiki.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Ortsfamilienbuch)
- SLCL History & Genealogy OSB list (www.slcl.org/content/ortssippenbuecher-familienbuecher-held-history-and-genealogy-department)
- Lookup service (www.slcl.org/content/lookup-request)
- SLCL catalog (www.slcl.org)
- Worldcat.org (www.worldcat.org)

HOW ORGANIZED

- Usually alphabetical
- Common symbols
- Osga.us (www.osga.us/cpage.php?pt=8)

• EXAMPLE: THE KOLB FAMILY

- Sources, index
- Start with the immigrant or most recent ancestor, work backward
- Learn how organized
- Tracing the Kolbs from 1865→1670

• TRANSLATION TIPS

- Google translate
- *German English Genealogical Dictionary* by Ernest Thode
- FamilySearch wiki German Genealogy Word List (www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/German_Genealogical_Word_List)
- Deepl.com (www.deepl.com/translator)

• ONLINE OSB'S

- Genwiki: (wiki.genealogy.net/Kategorie:Online-Ortsfamilienbuch)
- Similar to print version

• SIMILAR RESOURCES

- Hofgeschichten, hausergeschichten, bürgerbücher
- In print and online
- SLCL History & Genealogy PastPorts newsletter article (www.slcl.org/content/pastports)

• CONCLUSION

- Great resource for German genealogy
- Won't find for all towns
- Good luck!



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