

# Searching for Your Elusive Prussian Ancestors: A Case Study

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### I. WHAT WAS HISTORICAL PRUSSIA?

- Mainly portions of modern Germany & Poland
- For most of its history, Prussia was a duchy, a kingdom & a free state
- Boundaries of Prussia shifted frequently over time

### II. PRUSSIA'S EVOLUTION OVER TIME: A SIMPLIFIED TIMELINE

- **PRE-1226** OLD PRUSSIANS
- **1226-1525** TEUTONIC MONASTIC STATE
- **1525-1618** DUCHY OF PRUSSIA
- **1618-1701** BRANDENBURG-PRUSSIA
- **1701-1772** KINGDOM IN PRUSSIA
- **1772-1918** KINGDOM OF PRUSSIA  
❖ (1871 GERMAN UNIFICATION)
- **1918-1947** FREE STATE OF PRUSSIA

### III. SEARCHING FOR YOUR PRUSSIAN ANCESTORS

- If you have German roots, you may have Prussian roots as well
- Search for the ancestral location *first*, especially before German Unification
- Become familiar with the basics of Prussian geography and history
- Use gazetteers for historical, jurisdictional info. in the pursuit of records
- Focus on church records, especially before German Unification
- Apply examples from the Prussian case study to your own research

### IV. ONLINE GAZETTEERS (COMMON SITES)





 **Meyers Gazetteer**

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

 **Kartenmeister**

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





## V. ONLINE RECORDS (COMMON SITES)

-  **Family Search**  
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/>
-  **Ancestry**  
<https://www.ancestry.com/>
-  **Archion (Protestant records)**  
<https://www.archion.de/>
-  **Matricula (Catholic records)**  
<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

## VI. ONLINE RESOURCES

-  **Prussian Genealogy & Heritage Facebook Group**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prussiangenealogy>
-  **Prussian History**  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia>
-  **Provinces of Prussia**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces\\_of\\_Prussia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_of_Prussia)
-  **Prussian Genealogy Resources & Research Help**  
<https://www.prussiangenealogy.com>

## VII. BOOK/ARTICLE RECOMMENDATIONS

-  Beidler, James M. *The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2019.
-  Clark, Christopher. *Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia, 1600-1947*. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006.
-  Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1992.
-  Wendt, Stephen. "Prussia's Territorial Changes: What They Mean (Plus Tools for Tracking Them)." *Family Tree Magazine* (August 2022) ; e-magazine (<https://familytreemagazine.com/heritage/prussian/prussia-territorial-changes/> : accessed 2 August 2022).