

The following material is a sample of German printing and writing which may be of help to beginners of German research .

The selected vocabulary is limited. Handwriting in records is as varied as individual handwriting is today. Different regions of Germany had their own systems and their own vocabulary.

For further help, it is suggested that you use some of the books recommended in the bibliography. Their coverage is more comprehensive.

German Genealogy Group

Deutsche Schrift in Fraktur

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The Alphabet

<u>Latin</u>	<u>German Script</u>	<u>Antiklerik</u>	<u>Krautter</u>
A a	A a	Al a	A a A a
B b	B b	B b	B b B b
C c	C c	C c	C c C c
D d	D d	D d	D d D d
E e	E e	E e	E e E e
F f	F f	F f	F f F f
G g	G g	G g	G g G g
H h	H h	H h	H h H h
I i	I i	I i	I i I i
J j	J j	J j	J j J j
K k	K k	K k	K k K k
L l	L l	L l	L l L l
M m	M m	M m	M m M m
N n	N n	N n	N n N n
O o	O o	O o	O o O o
P p	P p	P p	P p P p
Q q	Q q	Q q	Q q Q q
R r	R r	R r	R r R r
S s	S s	S s	S s S s
T t	T t	T t	T t T t
U u	U u	U u	U u U u

V v	<i>V v</i>	<i>V v</i>	<i>V v</i>	<i>V v</i>	<i>V v</i>	<i>V v</i>	<i>V v</i>
W w	<i>W w</i>	<i>W w</i>	<i>W w</i>	<i>W w</i>	<i>W w</i>	<i>W w</i>	<i>W w</i>
X x	<i>X x</i>	<i>X x</i>	<i>X x</i>	<i>X x</i>	<i>X x</i>	<i>X x</i>	<i>X x</i>
Y y	<i>Y y</i>	<i>Y y</i>	<i>Y y</i>	<i>Y y</i>	<i>Y y</i>	<i>Y y</i>	<i>Y y</i>
Z z	<i>Z z</i>	<i>Z z</i>	<i>Z z</i>	<i>Z z</i>	<i>Z z</i>	<i>Z z</i>	<i>Z z</i>

Additional letters:

ß = Double s or tz

Ä ä Ö ö Ü ü --Vowels with umlauts. Also written ae, oe, ue.

ÿ = y

̄m Double m

̄n Double n

f ending s (Schluss s)

Problem Letters and Combinations:

<i>n</i>	<i>n̄</i>	<i>ü</i>	<i>und</i>	<i>ü.</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>m̄</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>
n	nn	u	und	u.	m	mm	a	o
<i>e</i>	<i>i</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>ck</i>	<i>ck</i>	<i>ck</i>
e	i	g	p	q	z	ck	ch	sch
<i>v</i>	<i>w</i>	<i>x</i>	<i>y</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>l</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>f</i>
v	w	x	y	z	d	l	t	f

<i>E</i>	<i>H</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>St</i>	<i>N</i>
<i>K</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>G</i>	<i>Q</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>W</i>		

Ä	U	ß	Š	Đ	Đ	€	ß	Ŕ	Ŕ
A	U	G	S	D	O	E	G	K	R
ƒ	Ɔ	Ɔ	Ɔ	Đ	Đ	ß	ß		
F	I	J	T	H	Y	M	W	V	B
ı	ı	ƒ	ƒ	ll	ll	ll	ll	ı	ı
i	j	f	s	n	u	m	w	r	x
								h	b

Some Symbols Used in German Records

* asterisk = born (*) = born illegitimate +* = stillborn

~ = christened or baptized

o = engaged oo or x = married o-o = illegitimate union olo = divorced

+ = died □□ = buried +X = died of wounds (battle) X = died in battle

++ = line extinct

X for Christ, as in Xopher, Xian, Xina, Xmas

Some Abbreviations used in German Genealogy

Wwer. (Witwer) = widower

ref. (reformiert) = Reformed

ev. (evangelisch) = Evangelical

menn. (Mennonistisch) = Mennonite

geb. (geboren) = born

gest. (gestorben) = died

verh. (verheiratet) = married

S.v (Sohn von) = son of

d. J. (der Jüngere) = the younger (Jr.) d.A. (der Alte) = the older (Sr.)

T.v. (Tochter von) = daughter of

männ.(männlich) = male

v. (von) = from (If part of a name, it usually denotes nobility)

err. (errechnet) = approximated

i. R. (in Ruhestand) = retired

Kr. (Kreis) = county

ebd.(ebenda) = at the same place

s. (siehe) = see

Bd. (Band) = volume

Jo'es (Johannes) = Johann (John)

p.m. = deceased

N.N. = Nicht Benannt – not known

Wwe. (Witwe) = widow

kath. (katholisch) = Catholic

luth. (lutherisch) = Lutheran

get. (getauft) = christened

led. (ledig) = unmarried

gesch. (geschieden) = divorced

u.d. (und der) and of (wife)

heir. (heiraten) = marry

weibl.(weiblich) = female

z.B zum Beispiel = for example

a. D. (ausser Dienst) –not currently employed

Bez. (Bezirk) = district

eod. or ejud. (ejusdem) = the same

S. (seite) = page

KB (Kirchenbuch) = church book, parish register

M. (Maria) = Maria

Rufname-underlined name-what person was called

in= feminine ending (Meyerin)

Some Words Commonly Found in Records

Time of day:	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>	<u>Forenoon</u>	<u>Midday</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
Zeit	Morgens	Abends	Vormittag	Mittags	Nachmittag
	<i>Morgens</i>	<i>Abends</i>	<i>Vormittag</i>	<i>Mittags</i>	<i>Nachmittag</i>
	Morgens	Abends	Vormittag	Mittags	Nachmittag
	<i>Morgens</i>	<i>Abends</i>	<i>Vormittag</i>	<i>Mittags</i>	<i>Nachmittag</i>

Day of Week:	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
(Tag)	Sonntag	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag
	<i>Sonntag</i>	<i>Montag</i>	<i>Dienstag</i>	<i>Mittwoch</i>	<i>Donnerstag</i>
	Sonntag	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag
	<i>Sonntag</i>	<i>Montag</i>	<i>Dienstag</i>	<i>Mittwoch</i>	<i>Donnerstag</i>

<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Freitag	Samstag	Sonntag
<i>Freitag</i>	<i>Samstag</i>	<i>Sonntag</i>
Freitag	Samstag	Sonntag
<i>Freitag</i>	<i>Samstag</i>	<i>Sonntag</i>

Month:	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>
(Monat)	Januar	Februar	März	Abril	Mai	Juni	Juli	August
	<i>Januar</i>	<i>Februar</i>	<i>März</i>	<i>Abril</i>	<i>Mai</i>	<i>Juni</i>	<i>Juli</i>	<i>August</i>
	Januar	Februar	März	Abril	Mai	Juni	Juli	August
	<i>Januar</i>	<i>Februar</i>	<i>März</i>	<i>Abril</i>	<i>Mai</i>	<i>Juni</i>	<i>Juli</i>	<i>August</i>

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
September	Oktober	November	Dezember
<i>September</i>	<i>Oktober</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Dezember</i>
September	Oktober	November	Dezember
<i>September</i>	<i>Oktober</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Dezember</i>

Activity:	<u>Born</u>	<u>Baptized/Christened</u>	<u>Married*</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Buried *'</u>
	geboren	getauft—taufen	copuliert/verheiratet	gestorben	beerdigt
	<i>geboren</i>	<i>getauft taufen</i>	<i>copuliert/verheiratet</i>	<i>gestorben</i>	<i>beerdigt</i>
	geboren	getauft taufen	copuliert/verheiratet	gestorben	beerdigt
	<i>geboren</i>	<i>getauft taufen</i>	<i>copuliert/verheiratet</i>	<i>gestorben</i>	<i>beerdigt</i>

*Other terms:

* Vermählt

** Beisetzung, Begräbnis,

Relationships:	<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Brother</u>	<u>Sister</u>	<u>Parents</u>	<u>Grandparents</u>
	Vater	Mutter	Kind	Bruder	Schwester	Eltern	Grosseltern
	<i>Vater</i>	<i>Mutter</i>	<i>Kind</i>	<i>Bruder</i>	<i>Schwester</i>	<i>Eltern</i>	<i>Grosseltern</i>
	Vater	Mutter	Kind	Bruder	Schwester	Eltern	Grosseltern
	<i>Vater</i>	<i>Mutter</i>	<i>Kind</i>	<i>Bruder</i>	<i>Schwester</i>	<i>Eltern</i>	<i>Grosseltern</i>

Son	Daughter	Wife	Grandchild	Widower	Widow
Sohn	Tochter	Frau/Ehefrau	Enkel	Wittwer	Wittwe
<i>Boşu</i>	<i>Toçhlar</i>	<i>Fravü/ Efravü</i>	<i>Eufal</i>	<i>Wittwar</i>	<i>Wittwar</i>
<i>Boşu</i>	<i>Toçhlar</i>	<i>Fravü/ Efravü</i>	<i>Eufal</i>	<i>Wittwar</i>	<i>Wittwar</i>
Sohn	Tochter	Brau/Ehefrau	Enkel	Wittwer	Widow

Marital Status:	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed
	ledig	verheiratet/vereh	geschieden	verwitwet/hinterlassen
	<i>ledig</i>	<i>verheiratet/vereh</i>	<i>geschieden</i>	<i>verwitwet/hinterlassen</i>
	<i>ledig</i>	<i>verheiratet/vereh</i>	<i>geschieden</i>	<i>verwitwet/hinterlassen</i>
	ledig	verheiratet/vereh	geschieden	verwitwet/hinterlassen

Occupations: Farmer (Beruf)	Bauer	<i>Bavur</i>	<i>Bavur</i>	Bauer
	Ackerer	<i>Ackur</i>	<i>Ackur</i>	Ackerer
	Landwirt	<i>Landvur</i>	<i>Landvur</i>	Landwirt
<u>Carpenter</u>	Zimmermann	<i>Zimmurmann</i>	<i>Zimmurmann</i>	Zimmermann
<u>Cabinet Maker</u>	Tischler	<i>Tischlar</i>	<i>Tischlar</i>	Tischler
<u>Shoemaker</u>	Schuhmacher	<i>Schumacher</i>	<i>Schumacher</i>	Schumacher
	Schuster	<i>Schustlar</i>	<i>Schustlar</i>	Schuster
<u>Tailor</u>	Schneider	<i>Schneider</i>	<i>Schneider</i>	Schneider
<u>Servant/Farm hand</u>	Knecht	<i>Knecht</i>	<i>Knecht</i>	Knecht
<u>Smith</u>	Schmied	<i>Schmied</i>	<i>Schmied</i>	Schmied
<u>Cooper</u>	Küfer	<i>Küfer</i>	<i>Küfer</i>	Küfer
<u>Beer brewer</u>	Bierbrauer	<i>Bierbrauer</i>	<i>Bierbrauer</i>	Bierbrauer
<u>Weaver</u>	Weber	<i>Weber</i>	<i>Weber</i>	Weber
<u>Tanner</u>	Gerber	<i>Gerber</i>	<i>Gerber</i>	Gerber
<u>Innkeeper</u>	Wirt (Gastwirt)	<i>Wirt</i>	<i>Wirt</i>	Wirt
<u>Mayor</u>	Bürgermeister	<i>Bürgermeister</i>	<i>Bürgermeister</i>	Bürgermeister
<u>Day laborer</u>	Tagelöhner	<i>Tagelöhner</i>	<i>Tagelöhner</i>	Tagelöhner
<u>Teacher</u>	Schullehrer	<i>Schullehrer</i>	<i>Schullehrer</i>	Schullehrer
<u>Magistrate</u>	Amtmann	<i>Amtmann</i>	<i>Amtmann</i>	Amtmann
<u>Clergyman</u>	Pfarrer	<i>Pfarrer</i>	<i>Pfarrer</i>	Pfarrer
<u>Shopkeeper</u>	Kaufmann	<i>Kaufmann</i>	<i>Kaufmann</i>	Kaufmann
<u>Gardener</u>	Gärtner	<i>Gärtner</i>	<i>Gärtner</i>	Gärtner
<u>Coachman</u>	Kutscher	<i>Kutscher</i>	<i>Kutscher</i>	Kutscher
<u>Printer</u>	Drucker	<i>Drucker</i>	<i>Drucker</i>	Drucker
<u>Doctor</u>	Arzt	<i>Arzt</i>	<i>Arzt</i>	Arzt
<u>Sadler</u>	Riemer	<i>Riemer</i>	<i>Riemer</i>	Riemer

Some Regional German Terms

Ackersleute—farm couple
Artmann/Artmeier—farmer
Bansbove—harvest worker
Beilieger—tenant farmer
Bergarbeiter---miner
Bolsmann—farmer with full-sized farm
Boschulte—farm manager
Büdner—small farmer
Colon—farmer with a full-sized farm
Erbkötter—farmer with rights to inherit land
Einspanner—farmer with one horse
Freibauer—free farmer
Gärtner (No. Ger.)—cottager (or gardener)
Grossgüttner—holder of a large estate (Gut)
Hacker—vineyard worker
Helfer—helper; a worker in a malt brewery
Heucrling-cottager who works part-time for a landlord
Höfner - farmer with a full-sized farm
Holländer—dairy farmer (or Dutchman)
Kathermann-regional term for cottager
Kötter- North German term for Cottager
Meier—rent collector for the local lord
Meyer—dairy farmer
Öchsner—farmer with oxen but no horse
Pachtbauer—tenant farmer
Pfannebecker—maker of roof tiles
Salzmesser (Salzbelehnter)—salt weigher
Schäfer—shepherd
Schalbelehnter—scale master, weigh master
Schreiner—carpenter
Schröder—tailor
Schultheiß—mayor
Seefahrer—sailor
Ziergärtner—landscaper

Numbers

eins *ain* = one
zwei *zwei* = two
drei *drei* = three
vier *vier* = four
fünf *fünf* = five
sechs *sechs* = six
sieben *sieben* = seven
acht *acht* = eight
neun *neun* = nine
zehn *zehn* = ten
elf *elf* = eleven
zwölf *zwölf* = twelve
dreizehn *dreizehn* = thirteen
zwanzig *zwanzig* = twenty
dreißig *dreißig* = thirty
hundert *hundert* = hundred
tausend *tausend* = thousand

Document Terms

Zuname = surname
Vorname = given name
Geschlecht = gender—sex
Männlich = male
Weiblich = female
Alter = age
Familienstand = family status
Verheiratet = married
Geschieden = divorced
Getrennt = separated
Ledig = single
Verwitwet = widowed
Beruf = occupation
Stellung = position
Ort = town
Staat = state or country
Staatsangehörigkeit = citizenship, nationality
Bishörriger wohnort = previous residence
Ziel der Umwanderung = destination

Some Common First Names in German Script and Fraktur

Abraham, Ana, Andreas, Agatha, August, Adam, Angelika, Anastasia
 Abraham, Ana, Andreas, Agatha, August, Adam, Angelika, Anastasia

Balthasar, Barbara, Berthold, Bettina, Bernhard, Beata, Bruno
 Balthasar, Barbara, Berthold, Bettina, Bernhard, Beata, Bruno

Carl, Catharina, Casper, Carolina, Christian, Charlotte, Clemens
 Carl, Catharina, Casper, Carolina, Christian, Charlotte, Clemens

David, Dorothea, Daniel, Dagmar, Dominicus, Dieter, Dolores
 David, Dorothea, Daniel, Dagmar, Dominicus, Dieter, Dolores

Eberhard, Erika, Eduard, Elisabetha, Ernst, Eva, Erich, Eleonora, Eugen
 Eberhard, Erika, Eduard, Elisabetha, Ernst, Eva, Erich, Eleonora, Eugen

Franz, Franciscus, Friedrich, Franziska, Ferdinand, Friederika
 Franz, Franciscus, Friedrich, Franziska, Ferdinand, Friederika

Georg, Gustav, Gertraud, Gerhard, Gisela, Gottfried, Gunther
 Georg, Gustav, Gertraud, Gerhard, Gisela, Gottfried, Gunther

Heinrich, Hedwig, Hans, Helga, Hermann, Heidi, Helena
 Heinrich, Hedwig, Hans, Helga, Hermann, Heidi, Helena

Isaac, Ingeborg, Isidor, Irene, Ina
 Isaac, Ingeborg, Isidor, Irene, Ina

Johann, Julia, Josef, Johanna, Jürgen, Justina, Jakob, Joachim
 Johann, Julia, Josef, Johanna, Jürgen, Justina, Jakob, Joachim

Karl, Katharina, Klaus, Klara, Konrad, Klemens, Kaspar
 Karl, Katharina, Klaus, Klara, Konrad, Klemens, Kaspar

Leopold, Ludwig, Louise, Lorenz, Leonora, Leonhard
 Leopold, Ludwig, Louise, Lorenz, Leonora, Leonhard

Martin, Maria, Manfred, Margaretha, Michael, Martha
 Martin, Maria, Manfred, Margaretha, Michael, Martha

Nicholaus Nora Napoleon Nathan
Nicholaus Nora Napoleon Nathan

Oskar Ottilia Otto Ophelia Oscar
Oskar Ottilia Otto Ophelia Oscar

Peter Paul Paulina Philipp Philippina
Peter Paul Paulina Philipp Philippina

Quirinus Quira
Quirinus Quira

Reinhardt Rosa Richard Rebecka Rosalinde Rudolph
Reinhardt Rosa Richard Rebecka Rosalinde Rudolph

Samuel Sarah Sebastian Sibilla Sophia Salomea Sylvia
Samuel Sarah Sebastian Sibilla Sophia Salomea Sylvia

Thomas Theresia Theodor Theodora
Thomas Theresia Theodor Theodora

Urban Ursula Uwe Udalrico
Urban Ursula Uwe Udalrico

Valentin Veronika Viktor
Valentin Veronika Viktor

Wilhelm Werner Wolfgang Walburga Walter Wilhelmina
Wilhelm Werner Wolfgang Walburga Walter Wilhelmina

Xavier Yolanda Zacharias
Xavier Yolanda Zacharias

Yves Yager Yoder Siegl Eberhardt Eckhardt Gebhardt Gahn
Yves Yager Yoder Siegl Eberhardt Eckhardt Gebhardt Gahn

Yess Klein Kofler Wagner Wüller Schiller Schmidt Schneider
Yess Klein Kofler Wagner Wüller Schiller Schmidt Schneider

Yschke Stein Weingaerten Wulff Zimmermann
Yschke Stein Weingaerten Wulff Zimmermann

Typical Civil Document - Birth Record
Translation on following page

N. Krummholz am *2. Oktober* 1858

Vor dem unterzeichneten Standesbeamten erschien heute, der Persön-
lichkeit nach _____

_____ *Er* kannt,
den Eingesessenen Adam Kagerer,

wohnhaft zu *Karlsruhe* in der *Frankenstraße*,

_____ evangelischer Religion, und zeigte an, daß von der

Charlotte Kagerer geborene Schrammer,

früher Lepsius, geborene Junck,

_____ evangelischer Religion,

wohnhaft zu *_____*

zu *Karlsruhe* in *früher Pöfgenstraße*

am *vierten* und *zwanzigsten* September — des Jahres

tausend acht hundert *achtzig* und *acht*, *Montag* —

um *_____* *halb* *acht* — *Uhr* ein *Kind* *von* *_____* *Ungarn*

Geschlechts geboren worden sei, welches *_____* *Namen*

erhalten habe

Vorgelesen, genehmigt und unterschrieben

Adolf Krummholz

Der Standesbeamte.

In Vertretung *Krummholz*

G. G. Krummholz Nr. 6 2/11933, no. 2. (15/2.33.)

H. G. Krummholz

Typical Civil Document ---Birth Record

Kreuznach.....on *2 October*.....1888

Before the undersigned Civil Registrar appeared today, the personknown as
the coachman Adam Magemer.....

.....
living in *Kreuznach in the Sprendlinger Road*

.....*evangelical* religion, and reported, that from the
Charlotte Magemer, born Schumacher,
his wife, without a trade,.....

..... *evangelical* Religion,
residing with him.....

.....
in *Kreuznach in his apartment*.....

on the nine and twentieth of September..of the year
thousand eight hundred eighty and eight, in the afternoon
at half six (5:30) o'clock, a child of the female
sex had been born, which the forename
Gertrude.....
was given.....

.....
Read, approved and *signed*.....

.....
.....*Adam Magner*.....

The Civil Registrar

His substitute, Grafes

**Roman Catholic Birth Record - In Latin
Translation below**

In anno Domini millesimo octingentesimo septuagesimo tertio
 die secundo Martii nata et die decima sextum
 ejusdem a me infra scripto baptizata est filia
 legitima Gustavi Noll aetholici et Elisabethae Kiefer
 catholicae conjugum in Bingert, cui nomen immo-
 positum est Amalia. Mater namque est Amalia Hahn
 in Bingert. *Ne testor Theodorus Hun, p[ri]est.*

Noll, Amalie
b/16
Bingert
9 VI 1954
in Bingert

<p>In the year of our Lord thousand eight hundred seventy-three the second of March born and the sixteenth of the same by me the undersigned was baptized the daughter legitimate of Gustav Noll, not Catholic, and Elisabetha Kiefer, married Catholic in Bingert, who was given the name Amalia. Godparent was Amalia Hahn in Bingert</p>	<p><i>Noll, Amalie</i> <i>n/2 Mar.</i> <i>b/16</i> <i>Bingert</i> <i>+ 9 VI 1954</i> <i>in Bingert</i></p>
<p>Attesting thereto Theodorus Hun, priest</p>	

Evangelical Birth Record Translation Below

Heute den 9^{ten} July 1843 erhielt in Feilbingert in Feil.
 durch den unterschriebenen Pfarrer und in Gegenwart der Taufzeugen *Gustav und Emil Nonnweiler* beide prot. Confession
in Feilbingert

die Witwe der heiligen Taufe *Gustav Noll.*
 geboren den 5^{ten} July 1843, legitimer Sohn von Caspar Noll, Straßenbauer, und seiner Gemahlin, Henriette, nee Nonnweiler, beide prot. Confession
in Feilbingert

Die Geburt dieses Kindes ist laut der dem unterschriebenen Pfarrer vorgelegten Bescheinigung des Civilstands-Beamten
 vom 6^{ten} July 1843 in die Geburts-Register der Gemeinde *Feilbingert* — eingetragen worden.
 Unterschrift des Pfarrers.

G. Schmitt

Evangelical

Today the 9th of July 1843 received in the prot. Church in Feil
 through the undersigned pastor and in the presence of the Godparents *Gustav and*
Emil Nonnweiler, both prot. Confession and living in Bingert

the rite of holy christening *Gustav Noll*
 born on the 5th of July 1843, legitimate son of *Caspar Noll, street paver and his wife,*
Henriette, nee Nonnweiler, both prot. Confession and living in Bingert.

The birth of this child is in accordance with, to the undersigned pastor provided
 Certificate from the Civil Registry Official of the 6th July 1843, in the Birth
 Register of the town of *Feilbingert* was entered.

Signature of the Pastor
Schmitt

Some Sources and Resources

Bentz, Edna M., *If I Can Decipher German Records*, 13139 Old West Avenue, San Diego, CA 92129-2406. #8 in our Library

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