

Deciphering Records in German

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Agenda

- Language
- Dates & Times
- Handwriting Script
- Church Records

Ecclesiastical Vocabulary

- Blend of Ecclesiastical Latin & German
- Specialized Idioms & Words
- Reflect Local Dialect & Word Usage
- Adapted by Individual Priests
- Changed in Different Time Periods
- Lutheran & Reformed records limited Latin

Dictionaries

- German-English Genealogical Dictionary
- German-English Dictionary
- Latin-English Dictionary
- Specialty Dictionaries
- Your Own Lists

Online Translation Services

- Babel Fish Translation
 - <http://babel.altavista.com/tr?>
- InterTran
 - <http://www.tranexp.com:2000/Translate/result.shtml>
- Free2Professional Translation
 - <http://www.freetranslation.com/free/>

Sample Words & Phrases

ignotus	unknown (i.e. miles ignotus - unknown soldier)
huic/hujus/huius	of this (e.g. of this month, etc.)
N.B. (nota bene)	note well!
ex nono fonte	from the ninth well (being interpreted it may mean) from a very uncertain or distant source
eodem	on/at the same (i.e. eodem loco - at the same location)

Online Vocabulary Lists

- <http://austrianfamilyhistory.org/Vocabulary.htm>
- <http://www.faqs.org/faqs/genealogy/german-faq/part3/section-6.html>
- <http://thorin.adnc.com/~lynnd/vuword.html#7>
- http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/rg/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=G1&Aid=&Gid=&Lid=&Sid=&Did=&Juris1=&Event=&Year=&Gloss=&Sub=&Tab=&Entry=&Guide=WLLatin.ASP

Alphabetic Nuances

- Additional Letters
- Interchangeable Letters
- Spelling Variations
 - Given Names
 - Surnames
 - Localities

Additional Letters

Öö	Üü	ß
Ůů	Úú	Ÿÿ
Ææ	Åå	ā ī ō

Interchangeable Letters

Dd	Tt	Weidenauer	Weittenauer
Ff	Vv	Feucht	Veicht
Gg	Kk	Granser	Krantzer
Hh	Kk	Hainitz	Kainiz
Kk	Cc	Kreuzer	Creuzer
Öö	Ee	Ödlesberg	Edlesberg

Interchangeable Letters cont.

Pp	Bb	Plessberger	Blessberger
Yy	li	Peÿrl	Peirl
Ab	Ib	Abraham	Ibrahim
Am	Ham	Amesder	Hameseder
An	Un	Anteusch	Unteusch
Gro	Grie	Grossmeier	Greismayr

Given Name Variations

Latin	German
Carolus	Karl
Georgius	Georg
Gertrudis	Gertraud(t)
Joannes	Johann(es)
Laurentius	Lorenz
Mathildis	Mathilde
Vitus	Veit(h)

Surname Variations

Frühwald	Friwalt
Hainitz	Kainiz
Kernstog	Kernstock
Nagl	Nägel
Pehm/Pöhm	Behm/Böhm
Payr/Peyrl/Peyerl/Peurl	Bayr/Bayrl/Beyerl/Beurl
Pösenböck	Besenbeck
Stiz	Stütz

Locality Name Changes

Dumling	Thumling
Foirantz	Voirans
Hannagschmais	Annagschmais
Penatshof	Bernhardshof
Pertholz	Kleinpertholz
Praunöck	Braunegg
Roikenreid	Roggenreith
Wihalben	Wiehalm

Language Patterns

- Latin Word Endings
- Other Patterns
- Multiple Given Names
- Genealogical Symbols

Latin Word Endings

-a, -am, -æ, -ā	singular female
-us, -e, -um, -ī, -ō, -o	singular male
-ī, -ōs, -ōrum, -īs	plural male or mixed gender
-æ, -ās, -ārum, -īs	plural female

Other Patterns

Name with line above a letter	Double letter (\bar{e} = ee)
Name with line above last letter	Missing ending . . . Adā = Adam Hofmā = Hofman
Name with "b" added after last letter	"b" is dropped & previous letter is doubled
-in	Ending often added to female surnames

Multiple Given Names

- When an individual was baptized with two given names (i.e. Johann Georg, Maria Magdalena, etc.), emphasis was generally given to the second name.
- You will find the second given name used more frequently in subsequent record entries for that individual.
- Exceptions do exist to this rule, such as "Johann Baptist," which you would never see referenced later as "Baptist."

Genealogical Symbols

* o	Born
∞	Married
+	Died

- http://wiki.genealogy.net/index.php/Genealogische_Symbole_und_Zeichen
- <http://www.faqs.org/faqs/genealogy/german-faq/part3/section-7.html>

Deciphering Dates & Times

- Months of the Year
- Times & Dates
- Additional Vocabulary
- Feast Days

Months of Year

German	Latin
Januar	Januarius
Februar (Horning/Hornung)	Februarius
März	Martius
April	Aprilis
Mai	Maius
Juni	Junius
Juli	Julius
August	Augustus
September (7ber)	September (7th month in old Roman Calendar)
Oktober (8ber)	October (8th month in old Roman Calendar)
November (9ber)	November (9th month in old Roman Calendar)
Dezember (10ber/Xber)	December (10th month in old Roman Calendar)

Times & Dates

German	Latin	English
Sekunde	secundus	second
Minute	minutus	minute
Stunde	hora	hour
Tag	dies	day
Woche	septimus	week
Monat	mensis (mense)	month
Jahr	annus/annor	year

Time & Date Vocabulary

Alter	age
auch	also ("18 auch" = 18 also [of previous month])
circa	approximately, about
circiter	approximately on, on about
die	(on the) day
die quo supra	on the day which is above/earlier
ditto	the same
eodem	on the same date
eodem quo supra	on the same date which is above/earlier
ersten	in the first (i.e. in the first day of April)

Time & Date Vocabulary cont.

hora	hour, time, season
heri	yesterday
huig/hujus (huius)	of this (i.e. of this month)
letzten	in the last (i.e. in the last day of April)
mane	morning
meridies/meridiem	noon
Post	after
Soma	abbreviation used for the month of June
vespera	evening
wieder/wider	again ("19 wider" = 19 again [of previous month])

Feast Days

- Sacraments performed on Feast Days
- No Date Recorded
- Reference to Feast Day
- Movable & Fixed Feast Days
- Feast Day Calendars
- Modern Feast Day Calendar
 - <http://www.cwo.com/~pentrack/catholic/romcal.html>

Deutsche Kurrent Schrift

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ed Ff Gg Hh Ii

Ji Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr

Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz Öö Üü ß

Published Tutorials

- *Deutsche Schreibschrift: Lesen und Schreiben Lernen*
 - Harald Süß
 - ISBN 3-426-66726-6
- *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records*
 - Edna M. Bentz
 - ISBN 0-9615420-0-4

Online Tutorials & Resources

- <http://austrianfamilyhistory.org/Kurrent%20Script%20Tutorial.htm>
- <http://moravianchurcharchives.org/germanuscript.html>
- <http://www.kurrent.de/index.htm>

Instructional Seminar

The Moravian Archives

German Script Seminar

<http://moravianchurcharchives.org/germanscript.html>

Church Records

- Indexes
- Original Order & Content
- Finding Aids
- Samples

Indexes

- Incorporated within Record
- Separate original index Volume
- Separate secondary Indexes
 - Published
 - Manuscript

Original Order & Content

- May provide important Clues
- Order of record Entries
 - Chronological
 - Geographical
- Combined vs. separate Records
 - Tauf (Baptism)
 - Trauung (Marriage)
 - Sterbe (Death/Burial)

Finding Aids

2	<u>Matrikenbücher</u>	
2-1	Copulationes	1619 - 1630
2-2	Tauf-, Trauungs- und Totenbuch über die Pfarr Cottaß, Purckh und Kürchs Schlag	1647 - 1668
2-3	dto.	1669 - 1687
2-4	dto.	1704 - 1722
2-5	Taufbuch Kottes t.1	1771 - 1784
2-6	Taufbuch Kottes t.2	1784 - 1825
2-7	Taufbuch Kottes t.3	1825 - 1847
2-8	Taufbuch Kottes t.4	1848 - 1866
2-9	Taufbuch Kottes t.5	1867 - 1881
2-10	Trauungsbuch Kottes t.1	1722 - 1784
2-11	Trauungsbuch Kottes t.2	1784 - 1829
2-12	Trauungsbuch Kottes t.3	1829 - 1847
2-13	Trauungsbuch Kottes t.4	1847 - 1873
2-14	Sterbematric t.1	1727 - 1784
2-15	Sterbematric t.2	1784 - 1829
2-16	Sterbematric t.3	1830 - 1845
2-17	Sterbematric t.4	1846 - 1862
2-18	Sterbematric t.5	1863 - 1883

History of the Parish

- When do parish records Begin?
- Are there additional Records?
- From which parish did it Originate?
- Does that parish have older Records?
- Where are they Located?

Sample Church Records

- Baptism Records
- Marriage Records
- Death/Burial Records

Sample Baptism Record 2

September.
Leopold: P: Gregorius Hofmann: Gledberg
Justina etc: Catharina Josannab. digne
von Hirschberg Elisabetha etc: =

October 6:
Paul: P: Martinus Schickel: Hirschberg
El: Ferdinandus & Justina etc: Catharina Paulus
vfr: Burgel & Münsfeldt Elisabetha
Eodem
Ladonna. G: Paulus Ringler: Hirschberg
Sophia etc: Catharina Maria Isabella
v: Judenpfleger Co. Lemm;
Ladonna. G: Martinus. Bräuer. Mon
Münsfeldt G: Georg Hengstlerger
v: Weydenpfleger. Elisabetha etc:

Sample Baptism Record 3

Maïus

7. Magdalena. Parentes Adam Danks v. Haffm, Pfalz
M^r Maria Vxor. Patrina Magdalena Vxor
v. Haffm, Pfalz.

8. Urbang. P^r Joanes Wactinger v. Diswurberg, Magdalena Vxor
Patring Mathias v. Haffm.

15. Maria Ana. P^r Urbang grinz Incolam. D^r Augustin
Margareta Vxor. Patrina Anna Kristina
v. Haffm, Pfalz. Vidua.

code³ Joanes Baptista. P^r Philippo D^r v. Haffm, Pfalz.
Elisabetha Vxor. Patri: Jacobo D^r v. Diswurberg.

29. Eva Maria. P^r Paulg glafner v. Haffm, Pfalz. Eva Vxor,
Patrina Anna Haffm v. D^r Augustin.

Sample Baptism Record 4

17
Catharina Kate. Joseph Robenschiden
als ihr m. m. Anna Matrima
Magdalena Baimb. Arion
von Loiben Stadt

18^o Johann Kate. Barbara Wimpf von
Schneidmühl Ring Magdalena
Kate. Matrima Maria
Anna y. m. v. Coignuxid

19^o Joseph Kate. Johann Ring Breyer
von Ort Anna Maria
Kate. Martinus Joseph Lagler
von Weizen Stadt

20^o Johann Kate. Philipp Wypeniggen
von Ort Anna Kate. Martinus
Lida Säibel von Weizen
Stadt

Sample Marriage Entry 1

aprilis
Anno 1525. die 10. m. B. Mauritius Brey
apud nos nuptus habuit Barbara
C. B. de Philipp von der Welt
Wijew Magdalena deffen Pfaffen
Schiffen C. B. mit Elisabeth von
Matthia p. b. a. m. von Pfaffen
Adama deffen Pfaffen p. b. a. m.
Pfaffen C. B.
Testes Gonsi Michae Pfaffen von
Eintracht mit Freund y. d. s. von
awidm. y.

Sample Marriage Entry 2

1680

Ich habe die Hochzeit der Anna Populiers Witwe des Bürgermeisters
Joachim Populiers und der Anna Mariae Tochter des Bürgermeisters
im Hause des Herrn, als das die Bürgermeister Daniel Populiers
1990 Bürgermeisters Meisters und Herrscher, Assessor des Hofes
Christen Tode noch in dem Hofe des Hofes, die
des Bürgermeisters Populiers des Bürgermeisters Leonhard
Populiers Bürgermeisters zu dem noch in dem Haus
des Hofes des Hofes des Hofes des Hofes.
Herr Populiers der Hofes als Johannes Müllerberger von
Laimberg und Johannes Dreyer Hofes.
Herr Populiers der Hofes des Hofes des Hofes
Laimberg Hofes des Hofes des Hofes
also, dem auf der Hofes Johannes
des Hofes des Hofes zu dem Hofes.

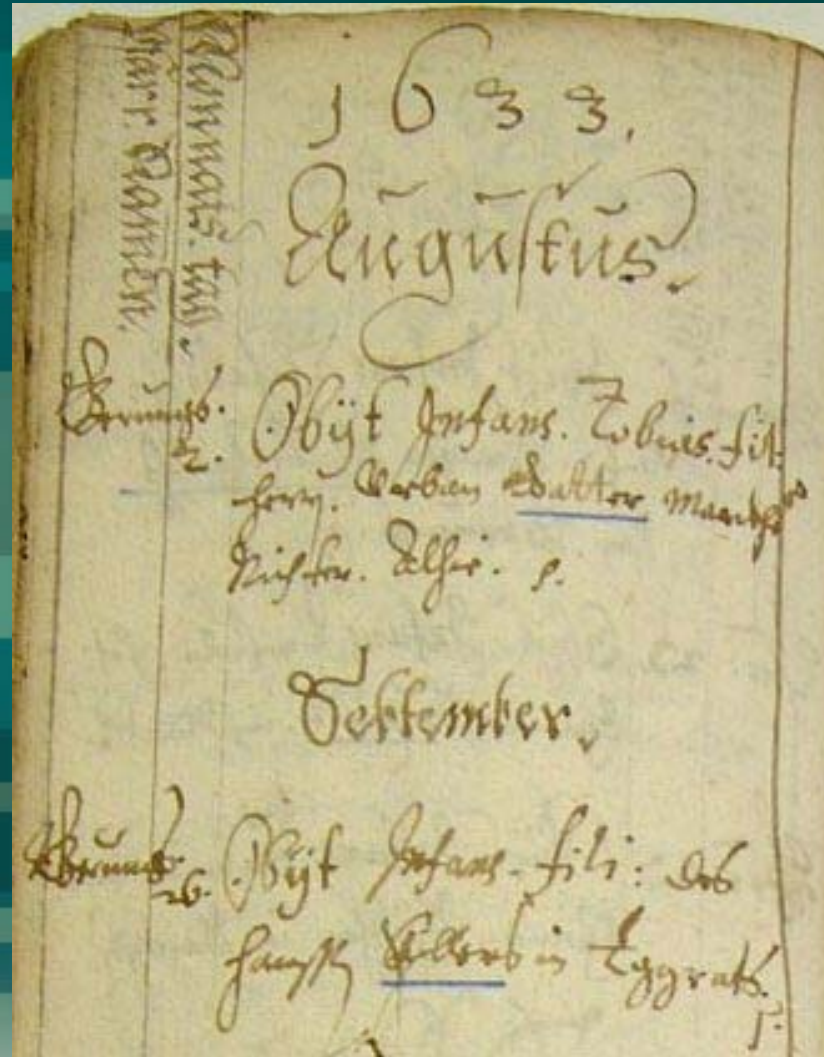
Sample Marriage Entry 3

1707
8bois
Am 9. In Martinus bey Capulin
wurde der Jacob grubow mit seiner
ilwiflag mit Catharina der Ehefrau
Herrn von auron son vordern Magdalena
wider prof. Helise Wylow
Testes Herr Michael Williger und Philipp
Robert Rode der selb
Gondie Herr von Rode mit Catharina
der Ehefrau Rode der selb

Sample Marriage Entry 5

Am 20. Novemb: ist zu Amstels, Guljel Coepel
Gering, Anthonij van der Linde, beide von
Amstels, die freilich Stichtel alle et
Anna vx: beide von in Leiden fil. Leg. mit
Eua, von Ludwig, Orando, Lot. Misael Eua,
Cecilia alle et Lucia vx: ist beide, von
in Leiden fil. Leg.
Mactia Gans
Mactia Gans alle
Mactia Gansinger
Jesse
Gijuse
Andra Gansinger
Andra Gansinger

Death Record 1



Death Record 2

Martio ⑨
3.

Mortuus et sepultus est Joannis Schmidpaur Senator et Senator in Ottes. f.

17.

Sepultus est Paulus Haderer ex Moursbach.

25.

Sepultus est filiolus Benedictus Par: Georgij Koller, Reginae Victoriae eius ex Forranz.

Aprilis

Sepulta est Maria filiola Joannis Gierocin Pastoris in Singen. Cuius Victoriae

13.

Sepulta est filia Joannis Auer Inquilini ex Künzings. f.

15.

Mortuus et sepulta est Catharina Vxor Georgij Weingartner ex Bera. f.

Majus

Mortua et sepulta fuit Anna Vxor Joannis Heer
eos Weick Sartzschlag. f. in

12.

Death Record 4

1767
Jemes
Miffare Prou in Solffachfen bey Diloib
C. D. bey 48 Jusu Suppindung in Pone
povirione ca culpa Somethicorung
Don en licentia zu Somethicorung
7 Jemes Beywaber ewend

Jon g: Jofam Prou aluf in Solffachfen
bey Diloib C. D. all 48 Jusu poviras
ewend zu Marthindrey Beywaber

510! Bey D. Anna Beywaber ewend Clara
vinedlphin von Proryng all 48 Jusu
omnibus povira

511 in D. Marthindrey Beywaber Catharina
villpauin yoweste Beywaber ewend
thorde Fabilama all 54 Jusu

Death Record 5

1787.
Monste februarii
No 4. die 24 dno craximilian genubno von
Anghandorf alt 53 Jahr.
Monste martii
No 4. die 16 dno. beyzuben Johann Dintwies,
Hinsfalten zu Hagenzhausen. alt 60 Jahr.
No 10. die 22. beyzuben megal megalburina
von Schwanau alt 89 Jahr.
No 17. die 25 dno beyzuben crumr messin,
Infang dat Joseph gewafman der Hinsfalten in
meinsel Hagenzhausen, alt 1 Jahr. 3 Monath.

Recommendations

- Find a Mentor
- Spend regular time in the Records
- Seek further Training
- Write down what you Learn
- Small consistent efforts over time yield great Dividends!

Questions



The End

Thank You!