

## Introduction to East & West Prussia and Danzig

The *Map Guide to German Parish Registers* series has five volumes devoted to this region, #44 through #48. The first two cover West Prussia, with #44 devoted to the Regierungsbezirk Danzig and #45 the RB Marienwerder. The last three are for East Prussia, and deal with RB Allenstein, RB Königsberg and RB Gumbinnen, respectively.

A note from Mark F. Rabideau on OW-Preussen-L for 1 June 2015:

As for the broader situation regarding Pommern records, I would guess there is a about a 80-90% record loss due to WW2. It is truly bleak. Westpreussen fared somewhat better; the record loss there is more on the order of ~40% across that former region. The bottom line is that the LDS records are most likely your best record source (currently). It may be that Archion will eventually provide (in the future) some currently unavailable records (but that is hard to know for certain). See:

<http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Archion>

## Region-wide Resources

### Online

Research in former (pre-1945) German lands — <http://www.heimat-der-vorfahren.de>

[O/W] Prussian Antiquarian Society (German) — <http://www.prussia-gesellschaft.de>

Society: Verein für Familienforschung in O/WPr. — <http://www.vffow.de/default.htm>

[To enter the online databases, Login Name = "Gast" & Passwort = "vffow".]

(former) East German Gen. Assoc. (German) — <http://www.agoff.de>

German-Baltic Gen. Soc. (German) — <http://www.dbgg.de/index.htm>

Researching Germans in today's Poland — <http://www.unsere-ahnen.de>

Forum on former areas — <http://forum.ahnenforschung.net/archive/index.php/f-43.html>

Forum topics organized by Kreis — <http://www.deutscheahnen.de/forum/>

Placename listings — [http://www.schuka.net/FamFo/HG/orte\\_a.htm](http://www.schuka.net/FamFo/HG/orte_a.htm)

<http://www.schuka.net/FamFo/HG/Aemter-OWP.htm>

Placenames, translations from German to present-day Polish

— [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste\\_deutscher\\_Bezeichnungungen\\_polnischer\\_Orte](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_deutscher_Bezeichnungungen_polnischer_Orte)

Family names — <http://forum.naanoo.com/freeboard/board/index.php?userid=21893>

Scots in E. & W. Prussia — <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/prussia/index.htm>

Mailing Lists (for all German regions, plus German-speaking areas in Europe)

— <http://list.genealogy.net/mm/listinfo/>

but specifically for E/W Prussia — <http://list.genealogy.net/mm/listinfo/ow-preussen-l>

### Books

Archive - Library of the German East's Catalog of Holdings (German, 1982)

Atlases - Prussia Experienced (German, 1985)

Baltic Seacoast Travel Atlas (German/Polish)

Gazeteer of Parish & Civil Jurisdictions in E. & W. Prussia (English, 1991)

German Civil Registration Books and Status Entries of Germans in Poland

German Place Names & Their Polish Equivalents

Church - Reference for Eastern German Church Registers (German, 1962)

Holdings Index of the German Center for Genealogy Leipzig - Part I (1994)

## Ost- u. WestPreußen Resources (including Danzig) at the IGS Library

- History - The Hansa: History and Culture (English translation, 1985)  
The German Order: Twelve Chapters from its History (German, 1981)
- How - Genealogical Guide to E. & W. Prussia (English, 2003 edition)
- Index - DAGV Genealogical Queries, Eastern Regional List (1993)
- Travel - The German Order of Knights and their Castles (German, 1943)  
On the Other Side of the Oder and Neisse Rivers (German, ca. 1963)

### Periodicals

- Ostdeutsche Familienkunde* — We have various issues & indexes, 1967-1996.
- Archiv ostdeutscher Familienforscher* — various indexes and issues, 1968-1996  
Note: Adalbert Goertz was a regular contributor to the above journal!
- Herder aktuell*, Herder Institut-Marburg — various issues, 2001-current
- “Friend of the Kashubian People” — various issues, 1997-2012
- East European Genealogist* — 1992 (vol. 1, No. 1) - current
- Soc. for German Gen. in Eastern Europe, *SGGEE Journal* — 1999-current
- Fed. of East European Family Hist. Soc., *FEEFHS Journal* — 1996-2008

### Vertical Files

- 232 links of the “ManyRoads” German/Prussian Mega-Search Engine (2015)
- Print copy of Mark Rabideau’s PowerPoint presentation on researching Prussia
- Print copy of the “ManyRoads” pages for “So you think your ancestor was Prussian”  
and “Researching ‘Lost’ Eastern German Provinces”
- OW-Preussen-L discussion of online maps in current Poland (2014)
- Heritage Quest article on research in former Prussia (1990)
- Be sure to look for the folder on “Former Prussia,” as there are too many items to list....

## **West Prussian Resources** (excluding Danzig-specific items)

### Online

- Westpreußen GenWiki (German) — <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Portal:Westpreußen>
- Familienforschung Westpreußen (German) — <http://www.westpreussen.de/index.php>
- Heimatkreise Elbing (German) — <http://www.elbing-land-familienforschung.de>
- Kashubian research — <http://members.shaw.ca/lipinsky/index.html>
- Kashubian Assoc. — <http://feefhs.org/links/Poland/kashubian/frg-kana.html>  
— <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wigreen/>
- Instytut Kaszubski (Polish) — <http://www.instytutkaszubski.pl>
- Polish page for KB’s, Danzig & Köslin, etc. — <http://metryki.genbaza.com>

### Books

- Church - Church Registers in the Province of West Prussia (German, 1908)  
Marriages in the Zempelburg, Kr. Flatow, Protestant Church, 1825-44
- Geneal - Old Residents of German Farming Families, Kr. Zempelburg & Kr. Wirsitz

### Vertical Files

- Article about West Prussian place name research in *German Genealogical Digest*, 1998
- Heritage Quest 2004 article on the Kassubic people, a remnant of the Slavic tribes
- Historic note on the Polish Corridor (Pojezierze Kaszubskie)

## Ost- u. WestPreußen Resources (including Danzig) at the IGS Library

Translation of a West Prussian baptismal register's column headings (1851)  
Offer of DVDs for sale covering various church registers for West Prussia (2015)  
There are a few more items of interest in the vertical file for West Prussia....

### Danzig Resources

#### Online

Danzig Forum — <http://forum.danzig.de>

Free registration page to see Danzig records — <http://tinyurl.com/q579lk6>

#### Books

Archive - Family History Guides, Volume 6: The Free City of Danzig (German, 1937)

History - Danzig Recorded in Pictures (German, 1928)

How to See Danzig (bilingual, 1929)

The Important Sights of Danzig (German, 1927 & English, 1930)

The Political Status & Economic Importance of Danzig (ditto, 1927 & 1929)

Travel - Beautiful Danzig, Pearl of the East (German, 1995)

#### Vertical Files

Note on an Adalbert Goertz article on surnames of Danzig's St. Elizabeth Reformed Ch.

### East Prussian Resources

#### Online

General pages on East Prussia — <http://www.ostpreussen.net>,

<http://www.portal-ostpreussen.de>

<http://www.ostpreussen.de/startseite/>

East Prussian research page (German) — <http://www.ahnen-gesucht.de>

Digitized churchbooks, northern East Prussia — <http://tinyurl.com/zxwcasey>

Former East Prussians (German) — <http://www.ostpreussen.de/lo.html>

Ostpreußen GenWiki (German) — <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Portal:Ostpreußen>

Placename listing — <http://home.arcor.de/fritigern/onfenster.htm>

Family names — <http://www.ostpreussenforum.de/FamFo/Namenskunde.htm>

Kreis Pr.-Eylau & etc. research blog (German) — <http://www.genealogie-tagebuch.de>

Kreis Wehlau — <http://www.kreisgemeinschaft-wehlau.de>

Research S of Königsberg (German) — <http://www.natangen.de>

Researcher working in the above two areas — <http://www.gegner-suenkler.de/index.htm>

Sample East Prussian estate — <http://www.paradeningken.de>

Re: East Prussian Salzburgers (German download) — <http://tinyurl.com/mtc5ur9>

Prussian Lithuania as a border region (German) — <http://tinyurl.com/qjn3stp>

Forum on "Little Lithuania" — <http://www.network54.com/Forum/5317>

Lithuanian family names guide — <http://www.familie-loyal.de/?q=node/10>

Old Prussians (Wikipedia) — [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_Prussians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Prussians)

More on Old Prussians — <http://home.alphalink.com.au/~wolf/prussia/>

— <http://www.ostpreussenforum.de/Geschichte/Prussen/index.htm>

East Prussian Protestantism (German) — <http://www.gemeinschaft-ev-ostpreussen.de>

Königsburg Society (German) — <http://www.stadtgemeinschaft-koenigsberg.de>

Museum Re: City of Königsburg — <http://www.kant-immanuel-online.de/Impressum.html>

## Ost- u. WestPreußen Resources (including Danzig) at the IGS Library

Historical Masuria — <http://www.historische-masurische-vereinigung.de>

More Masuria — <http://www.raymondorra.info/ahnen/Masuren/holzhaus/holzhaus.html>

Memories of Kreis Johannisburg (German) — <http://tinyurl.com/odwgwv2>

Marc Plessa's links page — <http://www.marc-plessa.de/privat/adressen.html>

newspapers for exiles — <http://ermland-masuren-journal.de> <http://kaliningrad-domizil.ru>  
<http://www.zsnwim.eu/index.php?lang=2>

Allenstein State Archives (on Many-Roads) — <http://tinyurl.com/pkp68ax>

Allenstein State Archives digitization main page (direct) — <http://allenstein.draschba.de>

Records from Former German East (on Many-Roads) — <http://tinyurl.com/o3fcbaj>

North Masuria databank (Angerburg/Oletzko/Lötzen) — <http://tinyurl.com/p6g8bdz>

### Periodicals

*Der Blumenbaum*, Jan.-March 2014, East Prussian dialect words, pg. 128

### Books

Atlases - Cities Atlas of East Prussia (German, 1994)

Church - Family Register of East Prussian Salzburgers (German, 1933)

Emigrants - Nassau Farmers and Other German Settlers in E. Prussia (German, 1967)

Emigrants from Kreis Insterburg, 1855-1875 (extractions from citizen book)

History - We East Prussians (German, 1980)

Merian: East Prussia, the Region (German, 1951)

East Prussians from Russia (English, 1979)

Northern East Prussia Today: We Come from Königsberg (German, 1986)

Bittersweet Memories of Königsberg (German, 1949)

Travel - Masuria in 144 Pictures (German, 1984)

The Curonian Spit in 144 Pictures (German, 1978)

The Samland/Sambia in 144 Pictures (German, 1986)

In the Home Area (German, 1938)

### Vertical Files

Note on a digitized newspaper that covers years for which records are often missing.

Note on Civil War-era Lithuanian immigrants self-identifying as from East Prussia.

List of the parishes of Memel, with modern names and counties.

Note on Salzburger settlement maps for East Prussia, for 1735.

List of emigrants from Insterburg to America, 1853 to 1875.

Index of family names in online collection for Heilsberg, Rössel, Seeburg, Mehlsack & Braunsberg. List of Turners in Tilset, 1861-1911.

Note on the formation of a German society for emigrants from Niedenburg & Ortelsburg

Note on the borders and places of Prussian Lithuania, to 1736

Notes on the records for Landsberg-Land in East Prussia

Guide to decrees in the Secret State Archives of the Prussian cultural heritage collection

Guide to topographical maps for Prussia

Detailed information about Amtsbezirk Heinrichsdorf/Soldau

Guide to E. Prussian church records digitized by the Mormons

Guide to search options in looking for East Prussian ancestors (2016)

This only lists a portion of the items available in the vertical file for East Prussia!!