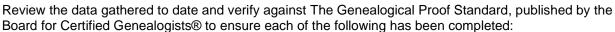
# Ancestral Village Nancy Lee Waters

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Now that the ancestral village of your ancestor has been located, how do you find out more information? This lecture explores the next steps in researching in the ancestral homeland and overcoming barriers such as language and an ocean.

To be successful, you need to know basic information such as:

- Surname and all variant spellings
- Country of origin
- Village or town of origin
- Religion
- Keep an open mind



- a reasonably exhaustive search
- complete and accurate source citations
- analysis and correlation of the collected information
- resolution of any conflicting evidence
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

There are lots of resources available for locating ancestral villages. Some obvious ones are:

- Birth, marriage, death certificates
- Naturalization records
- Cemeteries / funeral records / headstones
- Churches (place of destination)
- · Family documents or memories
- Immigrants, family, and friends
- Land records
- Obituaries
- Social Security Application (SS-5)
- U.S. Census (from 1900, 1910, or 1920) or Canadian Census
- U.S. port of entry records (ship manifests)
- Wills

## Problems that may need resolving:

- Spelling
  - Name of village is misspelled
  - Name of village only spoken, never written
  - Translation into another language
  - Poor penmanship, difficult to read
- Duplicates
  - Same or very similar village names
  - Need to narrow it down





- Former versus current village name
  - Names change over the years
  - Borders change
  - Governments change
  - Impact of wars
  - Language changes
- Where did my village go?
  - Wars, pogroms, and construction cause villages to appear and disappear
  - One village is incorporated into a larger, adjacent municipality
  - Changes to village name prefix or suffixes

# Look up the ancestral village on maps:

- Google, Yahoo, any internet mapping website
- Mapquest.com
- · Look up in a gazetteer
- Detailed maps

Once the location of the ancestral village has been found, the door to discovery is wide open. The next steps should include:

- Google name of town or village
- Write to the local universities, archives, historical and genealogical societies
- Write to the mayor
- Write to the local churches
- Access current telephone directories
- Write, write, write

# When writing, be sure to include:

- Self-addressed, stamped return envelope
- Translation, if possible
- · Money to pay for research or the offer of
- All the information you have on your ancestor (include this as a separate document referenced in your letter)

### Ask for:

- Any information they may have on your ancestor
- Names of any researchers in the area
- Copies of any town or village anniversary brochures
- Names and addresses of local churches
- Names and addresses of any local residents with the same surname
- Pictures
- Anything else you believe significant to your research and ancestor

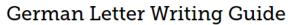


### Writing for Records:

Civil registration records from many towns and states are available on microfilm or online.

However, many civil registration records, especially those created in 1876 or later, are still only available in the local civil registration office or archive in Germany that has the originals. Civil birth, marriage, and death records may be found by contacting or visiting the local civil registration office or archive.

Sample letters can be found on www.family search.org





When writing to a county where the primarily language is NOT English, there are several options available from no translation to full translation. The following are available resources for translating your information:

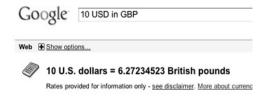
- Translations software not so good
- Person better
- Local schools or colleges check for students of your language for assistance. They will probably be glad for the learning opportunity and earning a few dollars.



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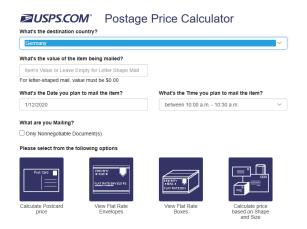
- Professional researchers they may be expensive but often worth the cost when compared to travel
  expenses not to mention obtaining the much coveted ancestor information
- On-line services May be free or charge a fee
- Translation services May be free or charge a fee

Currency Converters – There are many currency converters available on the internet. Google has an easy-to-use converter. If you need to send foreign currency, U.S. dollars can be exchanged at some banks and some AAA offices. Be sure to call ahead, and be specific in your requirements.



Postage – If you are unsure as to the postage requirements, again there are several resources on the internet; among them is the U.S. Postal Service. If in doubt, call or visit one of their offices.

http://postcalc.usps.gov/



# What you may get back:

- Nothing!
- Form letter
- Names and addresses
- Referrals
- Brochures, books
- Pictures
- Website links
- Complete family registries
- Maps

### On-line resources

http://www.worldgenweb.org/ www.irelandgenweb.com www.familysearch.org www.irishgenealogy.ie www.nli.ie www.irishorigins.com ddd.dda.dk/ddd en.htm www.arkivalieronline.dk/



www.cyndislist.com/germany.htm
http://map.geohive.ie
http://ddd.dda.dk/ddd\_en.htm
https://www.sa.dk/en/
http://www.rhd.uit.no/folketellinger/folketellinger\_
e.aspx
https://forebears.io/wales