



1. IGGP– ResearchDialogue

Introduction Freya Rosan



General meeting of the
VFFOW

- ▶ Board member of the VFFOW (public relations and promotion of young talents)
- ▶ Chairperson (provisional) DIE MAUS, Gesellschaft für Familienforschung e.V. Bremen
- ▶ Secretary of Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände e.V. (DAGV)
- ▶ „Die Familienforscher– Familiengeschichte erlebbar machen“ (The family researcher – making family history tangible) together with Timo Kracke <http://www.familienforscher.info>

Functions

Family research in East and West Prussia – Finding roots among borders



Research area of the VFFOW



The „Deutsche Reich“ 1871–1918
(Source: www.wikipedia.org)

The area within the borders from
1815 (Congress of Vienna) to 1920
(Treaty of Versailles)

First important questions for the search

- ▶ WHERE can I find general information about East and West Prussia?
- ▶ WHEN did my ancestors live?
- ▶ WHERE did my ancestors live?
- ▶ HOW were my ancestors called?
- ▶ WHAT do I remember ?
- ▶ WHERE can I get further information?
- ▶ WHO else can help me?

WHERE can I find general information?

- ▶ Website of VFFOW
- ▶ <https://www.vffow.org>
- ▶ Publications of VFFOW
- ▶ <https://vffowbuchverkauf.de>
- ▶ Gen Wiki
- ▶ http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Ostpreu%C3%9Fen/Genealogische_Quellen
- ▶ <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Westpreu%C3%9Fen>
- ▶ Familysearch
- ▶ [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/West_Prussia_\(Westpreussen\),_German_Empire_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/West_Prussia_(Westpreussen),_German_Empire_Genealogy)
- ▶ [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/East_Prussia_\(Ostpreussen\),_German_Empire_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/East_Prussia_(Ostpreussen),_German_Empire_Genealogy)
- ▶ Old maps
- ▶ <http://igrek.amzp.pl/index.php>
- ▶ <https://kartenforum.slub-dresden.de/>

WHEN did my ancestors live?

(before 1875 = time of the church books)

WHERE do I find church books?

- ▶ Ancestry
- ▶ <https://www.ancestry.de>
- ▶ Archion (protestant church books)
- ▶ <https://www.archion.de/de/browse>
- ▶ Matricula (catholic church books)
- ▶ <https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/>
- ▶ Familysearch
- ▶ [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/East_Prussia_\(Ostpreussen\),_German_Empire_Church_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/East_Prussia_(Ostpreussen),_German_Empire_Church_Records)
- ▶ [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/West_Prussia_\(Westpreussen\),_German_Empire_Church_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/West_Prussia_(Westpreussen),_German_Empire_Church_Records)
- ▶ Saxon state archives
- ▶ <https://www.archiv.sachsen.de/archiv/bestand.jsp?oid=13.01&bestandid=21962>

WHEN did my ancestors live?

(after 1875 = time of the registry offices)

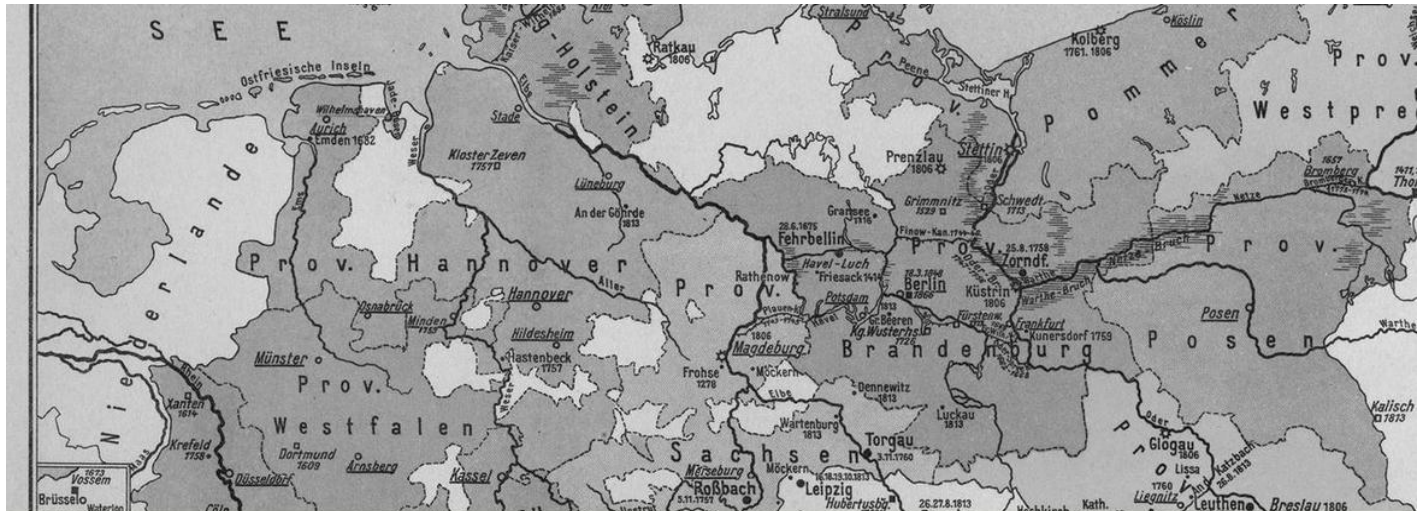
WHERE do I find documents of the registry offices?

- ▶ Website of VFFOW
- ▶ <https://www.vffow.org/content/datenbanken/>
- ▶ Family research in West Prussia
- ▶ www.westpreussen.de
- ▶ „Allensteiner Indexierungsprojekt“ (Indexing Project)
- ▶ <https://namensindex.org/>
- ▶ State Archive Berlin
- ▶ https://landesarchiv-berlin.de/standesaemter-der-ehemaligen-deutschen-ostgebiete-neu?fbclid=IwAR3MMPt8yzomP6hPz6SCJQHBI0Ee_RQIGjtkmrgmlrLb9S72wWsJwJY85KA
- ▶ Metryki Genbaza (polish site)
- ▶ <http://metryki.genbaza.pl/index/list>
- ▶ Genetka (polish / english)
- ▶ <https://genetka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?lang=eng>
- ▶ Polish Central Archive Server
- ▶ https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/de/strona_glowna

WHERE did my ancestors live?

- ▶ Location search via the VFFOW website

<https://www.vffow.org/content/forschung/grundlagen/ortssuche-in-ost-und-westpreussen/>



Ortssuche in Ost- und Westpreußen

Sie sind hier: [VFFOW - Über Grenzen hinweg Wurzeln finden](#) » [Forschung](#) » [Grundlagen](#) » [Ortssuche in Ost- und Westpreußen](#)

HOW were my ancestors called?

- ▶ Register search in the VFFOW publications
 - ▶ <https://register.vffow.de/>
- ▶ Website of VFFOW (Allenstein Index, Danzig genealogical tables, Masuria database, Metryki, West Prussian database, local family books ...)
 - ▶ <https://www.vffow.org/content/datenbanken/>
- ▶ CompGen
 - ▶ <https://meta.genealogy.net/>
 - ▶ <https://nvk.genealogy.net/map>
- ▶ Local family books “Ortsfamilienbücher“ (OFB)
 - ▶ <https://ofb.genealogy.net/>
- ▶ GlobalGenSearch
 - ▶ <http://ggs.spdns.eu/index.php?ref=JanssenArend1666>
- ▶ Ancestry, MyHeritage, Familysearch, Kartenmeister

WHAT do I remember ?

- ▶ Real estate, professions, church, school...
 - ▶ https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/en/strona_glowna
 - ▶ <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/search>
 - ▶ <https://namensindex.org/suchen.php>
- ▶ Military, World War I / II, escape, persecution
 - ▶ <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/search/>
 - ▶ <https://wwii.germandocsinrussia.org/de/nodes/1-bestand-500>
 - ▶ http://www.denkmalprojekt.org/covers_og/ostpreussen.htm
 - ▶ <https://www.volksbund.de/graebersuche.html>
 - ▶ <https://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>
 - ▶ <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/DE/Content/Meldungen/20181221-integration-wast.html>
- ▶ Important! Family stories always contain a core of truth! 😊

WHERE can I get further information?

- ▶ Google !!! 😊
- ▶ Photos (private, online)
- ▶ <https://www.bildarchiv-ostpreussen.de/index.html.de>
- ▶ Archives, libraries
- ▶ <https://www.vffow.org/content/forschung/archivinformationen/>
- ▶ <https://www.vffow.org/content/forschung/die-grossen-helfer---archive-bibliotheken-museen-.html>
- ▶ District communities „Kreisgemeinschaften“, regional associations and their websites
- ▶ <https://www.vffow.org/content/forschung/wichtige-websites-und-adressen/>
- ▶ Newspapers (PAZ, Library of Congress)
- ▶ <https://www.ostpreussen.de/textarchiv/chronologisches-archiv.html>
- ▶ <https://www.loc.gov/newspapers/?dl=all&fa=language:german>

WHO else can help me?

- ▶ Regional contact persons of VFFOW
- ▶ <https://vffow.org/content/ueber-uns/regionale-ansprechpartner/ansprechpartner-ostpreussen/>
- ▶ Researcher contacts via Kartenmeister, GEDBAS
- ▶ <http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp>
- ▶ <https://meta.genealogy.net/>
- ▶ Payment Portal „Ahnen-Spuren“
- ▶ <https://www.ahnen-spuren.de/>
- ▶ Contemporary Witnesses (via district communities)
- ▶ Genealogical associations (Pommerscher Greif, Deutsch-Baltische Gesellschaft, AGoFF, VFFOW, Ermlandforum...)
- ▶ <http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Portal:Vereine>
- ▶ Translation program (excellent in Polish)
- ▶ <https://www.deepl.com/translator>

Literature

- ▶ All publications of VFFOW (APG NF, APG FA, SO, QMS <https://vffowbuchverkauf.de/>)
- ▶ Andreas Kossert: Damals in Ostpreußen. Der Untergang einer deutschen Provinz. 2008
- ▶ Andreas Kossert: Preußen, Deutsche oder Polen? Die Masuren im Spannungsfeld des ethnischen Nationalismus 1870–1956, Harrassowitz Verlag Wiesbaden, 2001
- ▶ Hermann Pölking: Ostpreußen– Biographie einer Provinz. be.bra Verlag, Berlin 2012
- ▶ Arno Surminski: Das alte Ostpreußen. Fotografien des Königsberger Denkmalamtes von 1880 bis 1943. Ellert & Richter Verlag, Hamburg 2007
- ▶ Georg Hermanowski: Ostpreußen Lexikon . Stürtz Verlag, Würzburg 2001
- ▶ Malgarzota Jackiewicz–Garniec, Mirosław Garniec: Schlösser und Gutshäuser im ehemaligen Ostpreußen. Studio Arta, Olsztyn 2001
- ▶ Fritz Verdenhalven: Namensänderungen ehemaliger preußischer Gemeinden von 1850 bis 1942. Verlag Degener & Co, Neusadt 1999
- ▶ Ralph Giordano: Reise durch ein melancholisches Land. dtv, München 1994
- ▶ Klaus Bednarz: Fernes nahes Land. Begegnungen in Ostpreußen. Heyne Verlag 1999
- ▶ In addition, the following authors provide insights into life in former East Prussia : Siegfried Lenz, Arno Surminski, Christine Brückner, Hans Hellmuth Kirst, Walter Kempowski, Ernst Wiechert, Johannes Bobrowski, Marion Gräfin Dönhoff, Hans Graf Lehndorff, Alexander Fürst zu Dohna–Schlobitten. And in West Prussia: Günter Grass and Stefan Chwin

Questions and examples from practice

André: It is known that many places in East Prussia were destroyed during the Russian invasion in World War II. So also Follendorf and Balga in the district Heiligenbeil. Therefore the church books of Balga only exist until 1820 and the registry office registers of Keimkallen no longer exist. And my ancestor Wilhelm Hamann was born in 1846 in the middle of the gap. Are there other sources to fill the gaps between 1820 and 1874

Freya: Here you should search for forest, cadastral, land registry, tax lists, official and county records in Polish archives and the Secret State Archives Berlin:
<https://gsta.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/>

Debbie: I'm looking for Julius Gardebrecht born Nov 29, 1848 I don't know where. His wife Albertine Schoessow born June 15, 1843 in Woestentien, Germany. I seen the church records are lost or destroyed. My ggrandfather Richard Gardebrecht born sept 30, 1874 on his immigration paper it says born Schwasow or Schwessow, Germany.

Freya: The search at GOOGLE, "Kartenmeister" and at CompGen showed that the names and the places belong to Pomerania. Here the "Pommersche Greif" is the right association for you: <https://www.pommerscher-greif.de/greif-index.html>

Contact: oeffentlichkeit@vffow.org
anfragen@dagv.org

The VFFOW thanks you for your attention !



***** Über Grenzen hinweg Wurzeln finden *****