

***German Heritage Month  
October 2003***

***Using Church Records to Uncover Your German Roots***



***Kenton County Public Library  
502 Scott Street  
Covington, KY 41011  
(859) 962-4060***

## *Some German Churches in Northern Kentucky*

### ***Catholic***

Corpus Christi, Newport, Records available on microfilm.

Sacred Heart (now Divine Mercy), Bellevue, Records available at the Church.

Holy Cross, Covington, Records available on microfilm, Index to early Baptisms on KCPL website.

Holy Guardian Angels, Sandfortown, Records available on microfilm.

Mother of God, Covington, Records available on microfilm, Index to records available in book form, Cemetery records on microfilm.

St. Aloysius, Covington, Records available on microfilm, Index available in book form.

St. Augustine, Covington, Records available on microfilm, Index to early Baptisms on KCPL website.

St. Benedict, Covington, Records available on microfilm, Index to early Baptisms on KCPL website.

St. Bernard, Dayton (Previously St. Francis, Dayton), Records available on microfilm, Cemetery records available in book form.

St. Boniface, Ludlow, Records available on microfilm, Index to early Baptisms on KCPL website.

St. John the Baptist, John's Hill/Wilder, Records available on microfilm.

St. John the Evangelist, Covington, Records available on microfilm, Cemetery records available in book form.

St. Joseph, Covington, Records available on microfilm.

St. Joseph Camp Springs, Records available on microfilm.

St. Stephen, Newport, Records available on Microfilm, Cemetery record abstracts available in book form.

Sts. Peter and Paul, Twelve Mile/California, Records available on microfilm.



### **Protestant**

German Evangelical Reformed, Covington, Records available on microfilm.

Grace United Church of Christ/Grace Reformed, Covington, Records available on microfilm.  
Immanuel United Church of Christ/ Immanuel Reformed, Bromley, Records available on microfilm.  
St. John Congregation, West Covington, Records available on microfilm.  
St. John Evangelical, Bellevue, Records available on microfilm.  
St. John United Church of Christ/St. John Evangelical, Newport, Records available on microfilm.  
St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran, Campbell County, Records available on microfilm.

### **Researching your German Roots Using Church Records: General Resources**

Bernard, Allen W., Death/Memorial card collection of German-American communities of southern Mercer Co., Ohio, KR977.1415 B518d  
Cerny, Johni, A guide to German parish registers in the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, KR929.3 G946g  
Heisey, John W., German for genealogy: a translator's guide, KR438.242 H473g  
Jensen, Larry O., Maps of the German Empire of 1871, KR929.3 J54m  
Minert, Roger P., Deciphering handwriting in German documents, KR929.1 M664d  
Minert, Roger P., Spelling variations in German Names: solving family history problems ..., KR929.4 M664s  
Smith, Kenneth L., German church books: beyond the basics, KR 929.1 S653g

### ***Sources in Germany***

German church records are a rich source of genealogical information. These records often pre-date civil records. The main religious denominations in Germany are: Roman Catholic, Evangelical (Lutheran), and Evangelical Reformed. The Catholic Church has been active in what is today Germany since the 5<sup>th</sup> Century. The Evangelical Church (Lutheran Church) was officially established in 1531. Protestants in Germany who accepted the teachings of John Calvin belong to the Evangelical Reform Church. All three of these denominations kept detailed records of their membership.

***What do German Church Records Include?***

Most German Church records (Kirchenbucher) record Baptisms (Taufen), Marriages (Heiraten) and Burials (Begrabnisse).

***How Far Back to German Church Records Exist?***

Most Catholic Church records begin in 1563; Evangelical (Lutheran) in 1540 and Evangelical Reformed in 1550. Many old records were destroyed during the Thirty Years War (1618-1648).

***What Information Do I Need to Know to Find a German Church Record?***

Since German Church records are rarely indexed, you will need to know the exact name of the village in which your ancestor resided. This information can often be found in United States Church records, in ship passenger lists, in family diaries or Bibles, on some death certificates or in obituaries.

***Where Can I find German Church Records?***

Most original German records are maintained by the local parishes. Fortunately, many local congregations have permitted the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah to microfilm these records. To see if the Family History Library maintains a copy of the church records you are looking for, consult their webpage at <http://www.familysearch.org/> Choose the tab at the top of the page marked "Library," now choose the tab marked "Family History Library Catalog."