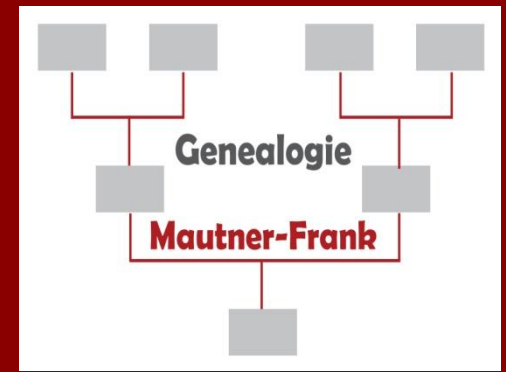




Genealogical Research in Bavaria

Historical overview and
Research possibilities

GGG - May 22, 2025

Geography & history – Bavaria today

Bavaria today...

- About 500 km (310 miles) long in the **diagonal**
- But: Bavaria's shape changed over time



Geography & History: Bavaria in the high medieval period

Territorial changes over time

- Bavaria with large territories in the south and east including northern parts of today's Italy and Austria
- close connection to Italy between Bavaria and Italy still today
- Pfalz / Palatine since 1214 part of Bavaria

*First 4 dioceses already existing:
Regensburg, Passau, Freising, Salzburg*



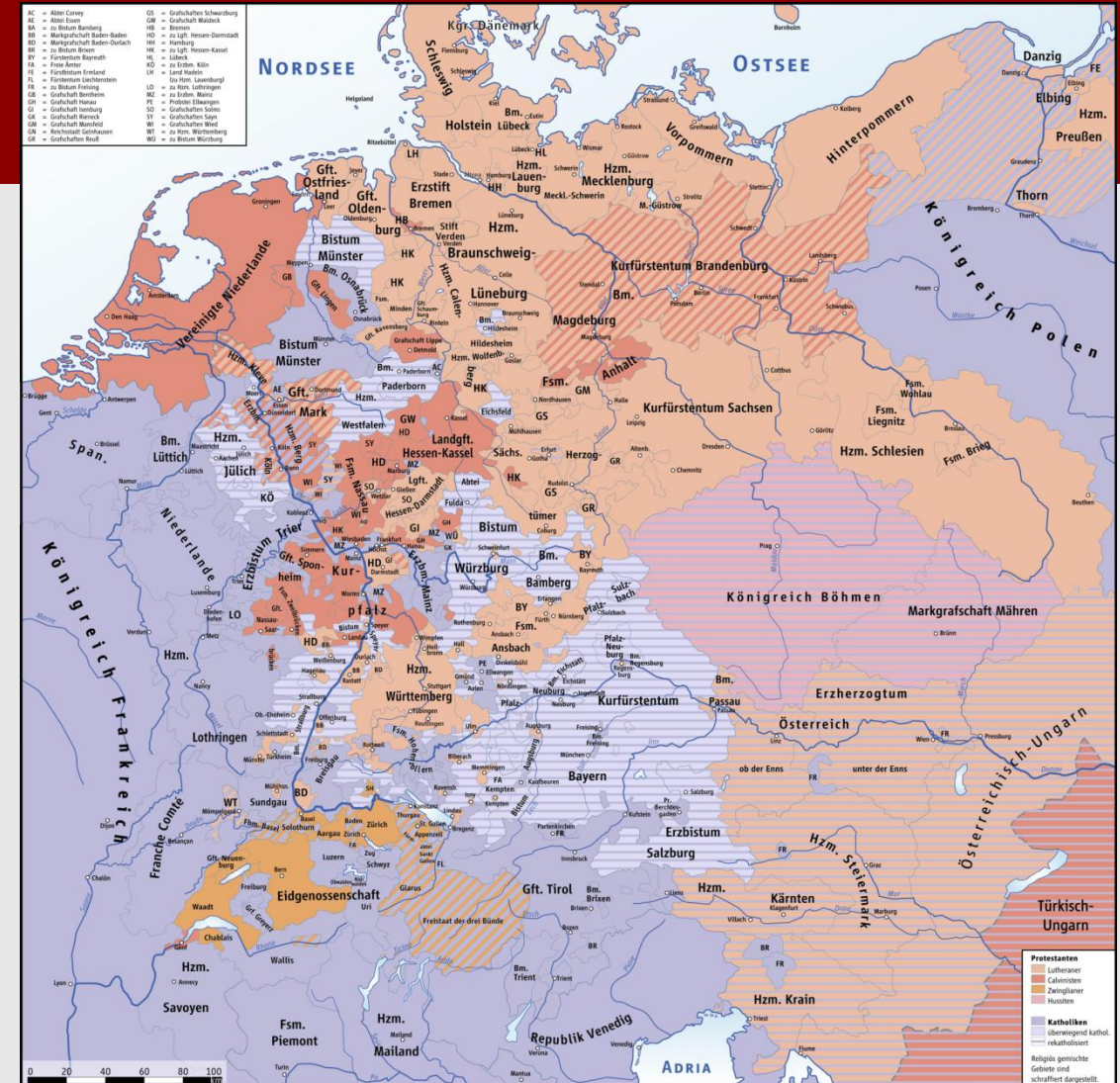
Quelle: [Karte Herzogtum Bayern im 10. Jahrhundert - Geschichte Bayerns – Wikipedia](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geschichte_Bayerns#/media/Datei:Karte_Herzogtum_Bayern_im_10._Jahrhundert.png)
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geschichte_Bayerns#/media/Datei:Karte_Herzogtum_Bayern_im_10._Jahrhundert.png

Geography & History: Reformation and 30-years war

16th and 17th century – reformation and religious wars

Important for researchers:

- *Council of Trient 1563 → Initiation of church records*
- Religious wars already in 16th century – for more than 100 years including the 30-years war (1618-1648)
- Bavaria (Upper + Lower Bavaria) mostly catholic
- Franconia with catholic and protestant population
- Pfalz / Palatine mostly protestant



Quelle: Ziegelbrenner, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Konfessionen in Zentraleuropa im Jahr 1618 Quelle: [Reformation – Wikipedia](#)

Geography & History: Bavaria after Napoleon

Territorial changes during and after Napoleon era

- In 1799 Pfalz / Palatine occupied by Napoleon
- *Introduction of registry offices in the left Rhine regions*

After Napoleon

- Bavaria with territorial gains in the north and west as compensation for the loss of Tirol and Salzburg to Austria
- → Bavaria almost in today's shape
- Pfalz/Palatine (left side of Rhine) back to Bavaria
- Protestant regions of Franconia now part of Bavaria



Quelle: File:Deutscher Bund.svg - Wikimedia Commons

ziegelbrenner, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

Geography & History: Bavaria on its way to becoming a modern state

Bavaria in the 19th century

- Bavaria almost in today's borders
- Since 1871 Bavaria part of Germany
- Introduction of Oktoberfest
- Time of Ludwig I and Ludwig II („Märchenkönig“)

Important for researchers:

- *Since 1876 – recording of civil status data by civil authorities
→ „Standesämter“*
- Pfalz / Palatinate remaining Bavarian until 1945
- After 1945 Bavaria within the current borders –
without Pfalz / Palatinate part of federal state
Rheinland-Pfalz



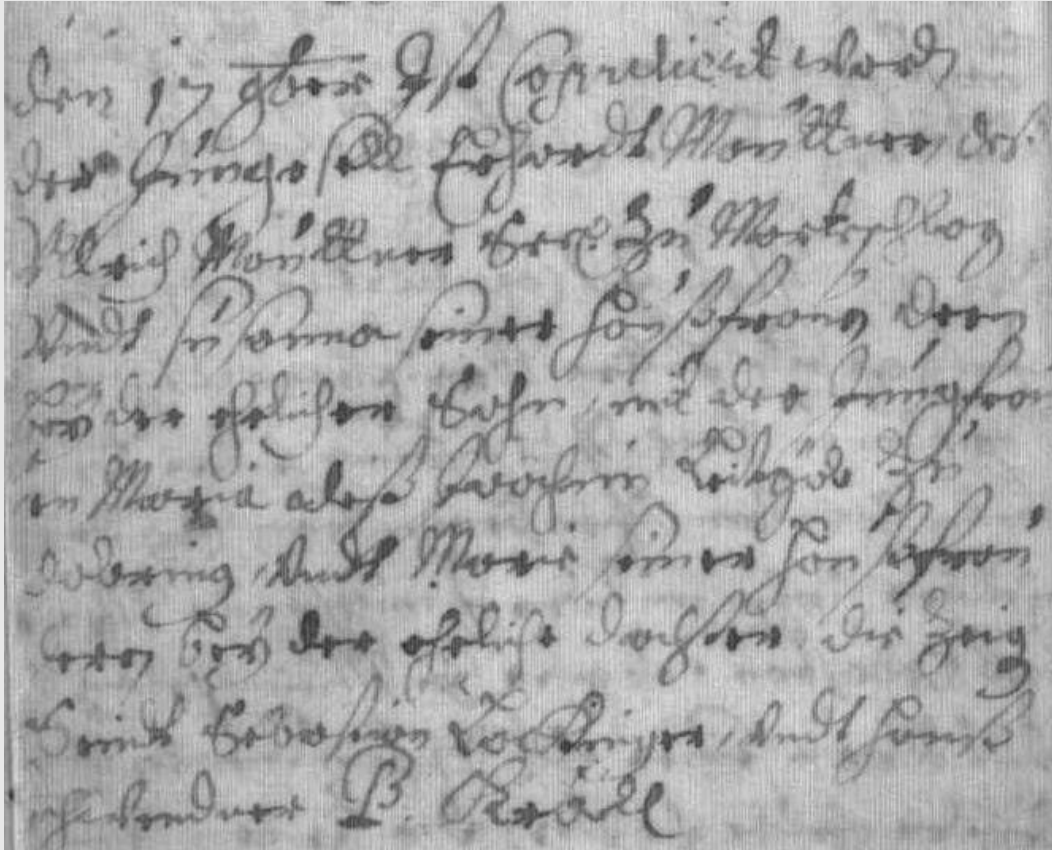
Von Milenioscuro - Eigenes Werk, basierend auf: File:Deutsches Reich (Karte) Bayern.svg,
CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=35265354>

Research Possibilities



Research in Bavaria: Church Records / Church Books

Example church record



Bohemia 1671: Marriage entry

Start of church records in the 16th century

- 1533 Brandenburg-Nuremburg church regulation for protestants / evangelical-lutheran
- Council of Trient 1563
 - Marriage registers had to be kept
 - not registered marriages regarded as not valid
 - Council's decision was based on the assumption that baptism registers already exist

Remember:

- *Catholic records → Latin language*
- *Protestant records → German language*

Research in Bavaria: Church Archives – Catholic and Protestant Church

Catholic church records

Locking or restriction periods for researchers

- Baptisms - 120 years in Germany, 100 years in Austria + Czech Rep.
- Marriages - 100 years in Germany, 75 years in Austria + Czech Rep.
- Deceases - 100 years in Germany, 30 years in Austria + Czech Rep.
- **Data accessible** via [Matricula](#) → free – main source for all information on catholic church records

Protestant church records

Locking or restriction periods:

- Baptisms - 90 years
- Marriages - 70 years
- Deceases - 30 years
- **Data accessible** via [Archion](#) → with costs – main source for all information on protestant church records; digitization of church books ongoing
- But: many church books still in the parishes of origin

Upper and Lower Bavaria mostly catholic, Franconia and Swabia mixed



Research in Bavaria: Catholic Church – Church Archives

Catholic archives in Bavaria and beyond – records accessible via matricula

- **Archive of Archdiocese München – Freising** - digitization ongoing
Church books *newly digitized*, online on [own platform](#) via [Matricula](#) (link)
- **Archive of Diocese Passau**
Church books *newly digitized* and online accessible via [Matricula](#)
- **Episcopal Central Archive Regensburg**
Church books *newly digitized* and online accessible via [Matricula](#)
- **Archive of Diocese Eichstätt**
Church books digitized and online accessible via [Matricula](#) – until 1876
- **Archive of the Archdiocese Bamberg**
Church books digitized and online accessible via [Matricula](#) - until 1876
- **Archive and Library of Diocese Würzburg** – *not yet completely online*
Church books digitized, but only accessible [on site in the reading room](#) - until 1876
Online ordering is planned for the next years; first 184 parishes
(letter A-G + Schweinfurt + Würzburg) already online via [Matricula](#) since end of 2024
- **Archive of Diocese Augsburg**
Church books digitized and online accessible via [Matricula](#) until to 1876



Church archive in former Bavaria (Pfalz / Palatinate)

- **Archive of Diocese Speyer**
Parts of church books newly digitized and only partially online (and with costs) accessible via [Archion](#)
Good to know: during Napoleon era church books handed over as civil registers to the municipalities
Parts can also be found at [Landesarchiv Rheinland-Pfalz](#)

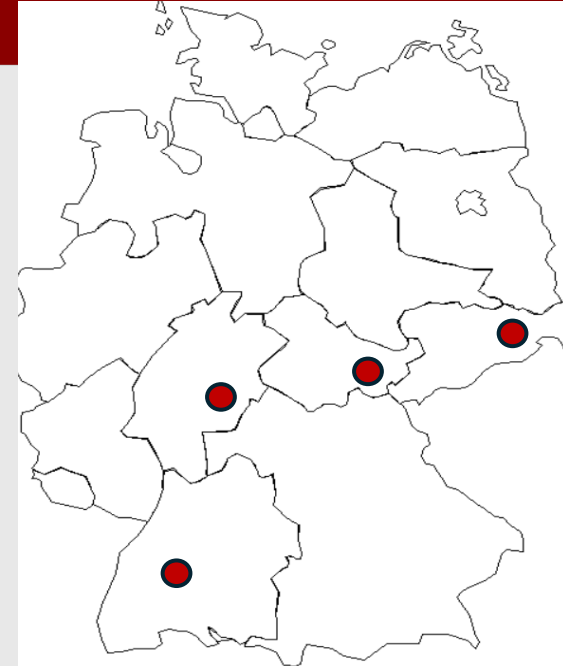
Research in Bavaria: Archives in Neighbor Federal States and Neighbor Countries

Catholic archives in neighbor federal states in Germany

- **Archive of Diocese Dresden-Meißen**
Church books digitized and online accessible via [Matricula](#) until 1875
- **Diocese Archive Erfurt**
Church books mostly on microfilms, NOT online accessible - [no own website](#)
- **Archive of Diocese Fulda**
Church books digitized and online accessible via [Matricula](#) until 1876
- **Diocese Archive Rottenburg**
Church books digitization ongoing, will be accessible via [Matricula](#); church books that are still in parishes: available on [microfilms](#) (link to list of parishes) in the reading room

Catholic archives in neighbor countries → Austria

- **Vorarlberg Landesarchiv Bregenz, Austria**
Digitized microfilms, online accessible via [Matricula](#) until 1938 (according to the protection periods)
- **Tirolean Landesarchiv Innsbruck, Austria**
Digitized microfilms, online on [own platform](#) via [Matricula](#) accessible until 1938 (according to the protection periods)



Source: d-maps.eu

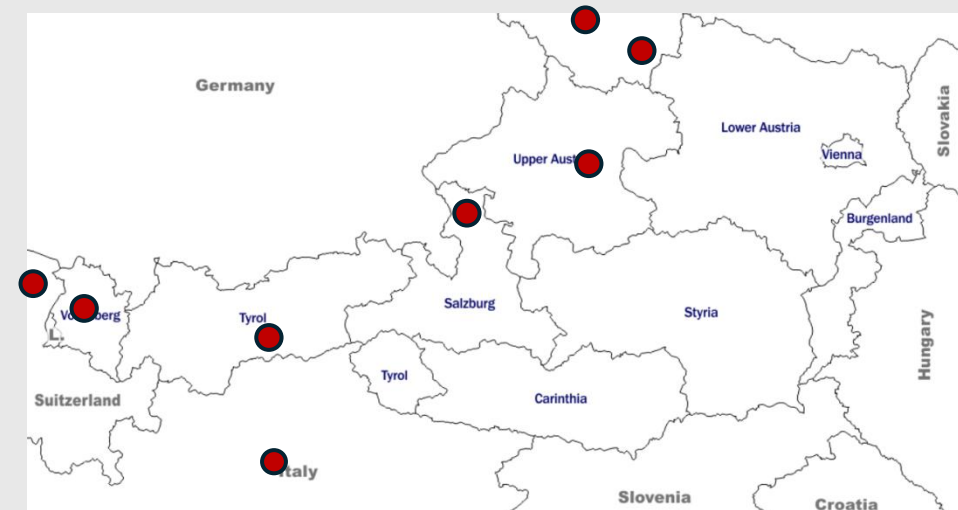
Research in Bavaria: Archives in Neighbor Countries

Archives in neighbor countries → Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland

- **Archive of Archdiocese Salzburg, Austria**
Digitized microfilms, online free of charge via [Matricula](#) until 1938 accessible
- **State archive Oberösterreich Linz, Austria**
Digitized microfilms, online free of charge via [Matricula](#) until 1938 accessible
- **Regional state archive Wittingau (Státní Oblastní archiv v Třeboni), Czech Rep.**
Digitized church books, online on [own platform](#) accessible
- **Regional state archive Pilsen (Státní Oblastní archiv v Plzni), Czech Republik**
Digitized church books, online on [own platform](#) accessible (DE+ CZ)
- **State archive St. Gallen, Switzerland**
Records partially digitized, online on [own platform](#), [microfilms](#) available in reading room

Archives in Italy

- **South-tirolean archive Bozen, Italien**
Digitized microfilms, online on [own platform](#), via [Matricula](#) accessible until 1923
- **For the rest of Italy → ask professional [genealogist](#) (APG)**



Source: d-maps.eu

Research in Bavaria: Civil Data - Local and Municipal Archives

Start of civil data recording – civil registers

In 1876 in Germany – and in Bavaria as a part of it – civil registry offices were introduced

→ Information on births, marriages, deceases are recorded in these offices and - in most cases - in church books as well

Authorities/offices are obliged to **keep the records for the locking periods** -

- Birth data → 110 years
- Marriage data → 80 years
- Death data → 30 years

After locking periods data is transferred to the archives, accessible for everybody

→ In Austria the civil registration offices were introduced later – starting from 1939

How to retrieve information

- **Cities / municipalities are responsible for providing information from the registry offices**
- Larger municipalities have their own archives, smaller cities or towns keep the data in the registry offices
→ *check this via the Internet* → List of [Archives in Bavaria](#)

Research in Bavaria: Civil Data - Local and Municipal Archives

Example: [Stadtarchiv München](#) (DE + EN)

Winzererstraße 68, 80797 München

Reading room open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

10:00 – 18:00 and Wednesday 10:00 – 13:00

- Index of names online, files only partially (only birth data older than 130 years)
- Visits possible without reservation during opening hours
- Orders (e-mail) have to be placed at least 1 day before
- max 5 archive material units accessible per day

→ [How to research in the online archive catalogue](#) (DE + EN)

→ [How to research civil status books](#) (DE only)



Foto: Michael Mautner

Register of residents – „Meldekarten“ & „Meldebögen“

Local register offices and local archives responsible

am		Familien-Bogen für							
der Familienhäupter Name		Stand, Gewerbe, Beschäftigung, bürgerlicher Ver- band u. s. w.	Ledig, ver- heiratet oder Witw.	Reli- gion	Geboren				
Geschlechts	Vor-				w o ?	Tag	Monat	Jahr	
K	Müller								
Ehe geschlossen zu	am	II. Ehe geschlossen zu							
Standesamt	Register Nr.	Standesamt				Register Nr.			
Wohnungen									
Strasse oder Platz Hausnummer und Stockwerk		Strasse oder Platz Hausnummer und Stockwerk		Strasse oder Platz Hausnummer und Stockwerk					
Alte viele Auf.									
Pöppelstr. 15/1									
Z. 6. O.S. Hingebau.									
O.S. Hingebau.									
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Research in Bavaria: State Archives

Bavarian State Archive and Regional Archives

State Archives in Bavaria

- **Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv; *Abt. IV Kriegsarchiv***
Responsible authorities for whole Bavaria
- **Staatsarchiv München**
Responsible for Upper Bavaria (Isarkreis)
- **Staatsarchiv Landshut**
Responsible for Lower Bavaria (Unterdonaukreis)
In former times located at Burg Trausnitz – until fire in 1961 →
many documents damaged or destroyed
- **Staatsarchiv Amberg**
Responsible for Upper Palatinate (Regenkreis)
- **Staatsarchiv Nürnberg**
Responsible for Middle Frankonia (Rezatkreis)



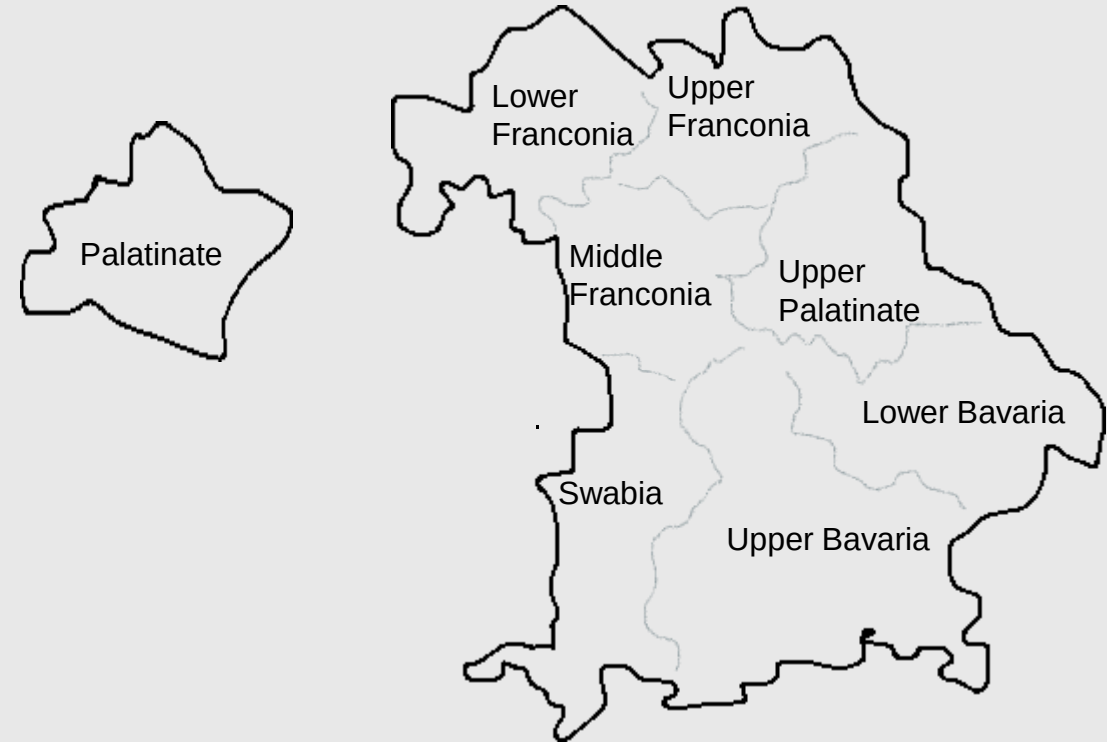
Hauptstaatsarchiv
Kriegsarchiv München
Fotos: Michael Mautner

Research in Bavaria: State Archives

Bavarian State Archive and Regional Archives

...more Archives in Bavaria and Palatinate

- **Staatsarchiv Bamberg**
Responsible for Upper Franconia (without Coburg-Obermainkreis)
- **Staatsarchiv Coburg** - responsible for Coburg region
- **Staatsarchiv Würzburg**
Responsible for Lower Franconia (Untermainkreis)
- **Staatsarchiv Augsburg**
Responsible for Swabia (Oberdonaukreis)
- **Landesarchiv Speyer**
Responsible for Palatinate (Rheinkreis)

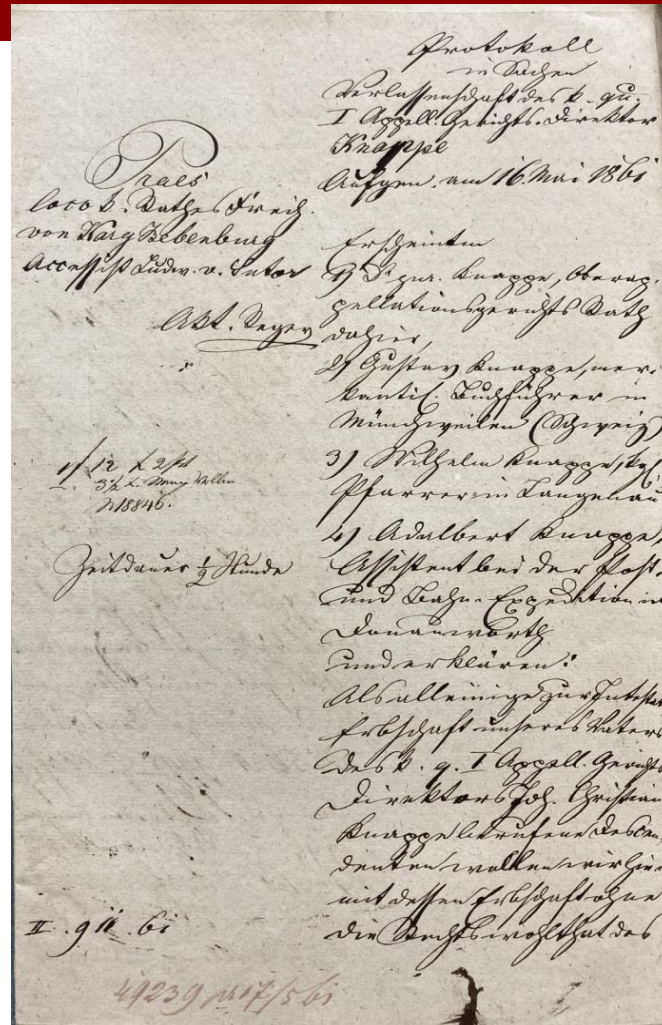


Research in Bavaria: State Archives

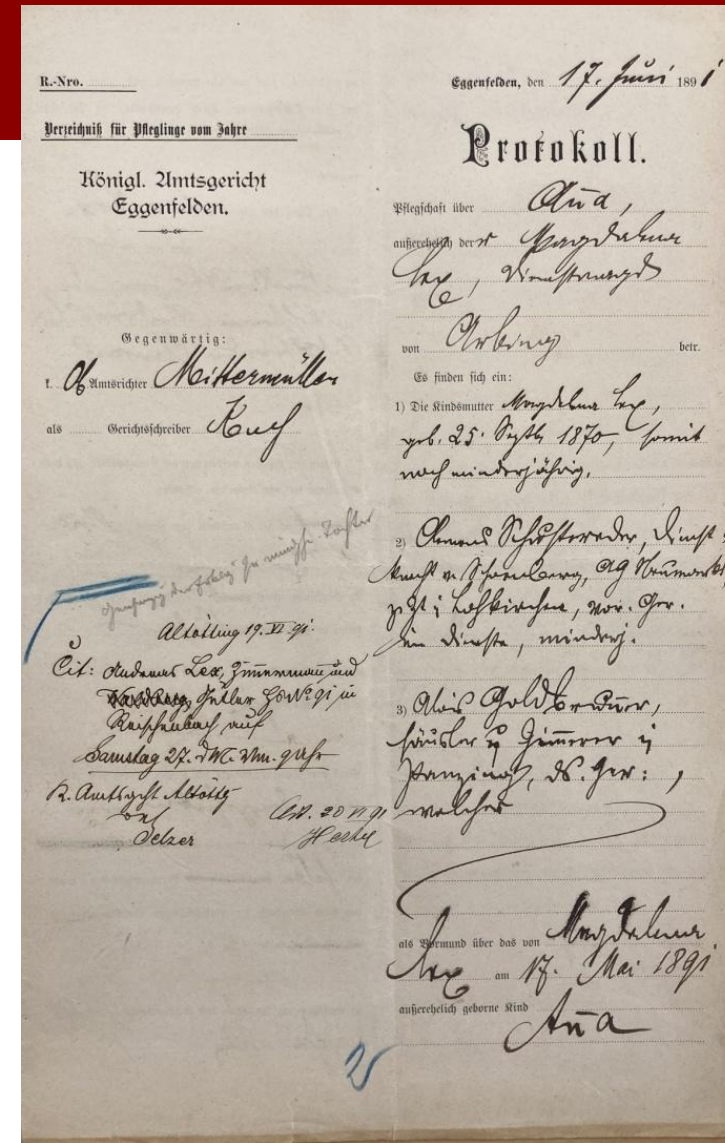
Other Sources - Examples

- Estate records / Inheritance records
- Guardianship records

State archives responsible



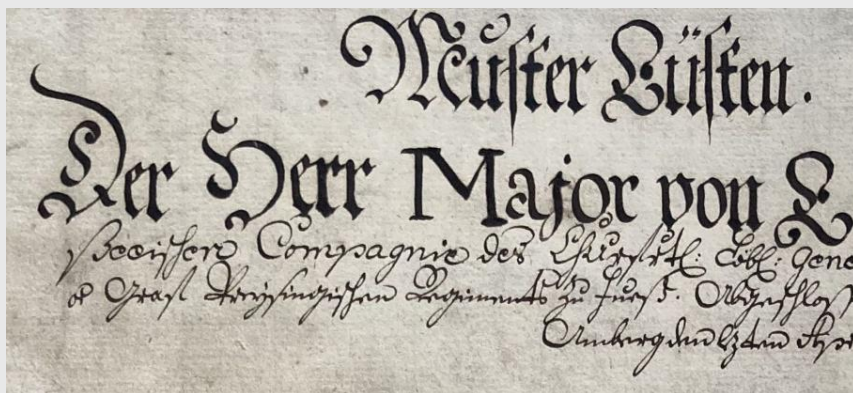
StAM NR AG München1861/911



Sources. Staatsarchiv München

Research in Bavaria: State Archives

- Military muster lists
- War master lists („Kriegsstammrollen“) of World War I online and indexed on [Ancestry](#)



State archives, local /municipal archives responsible

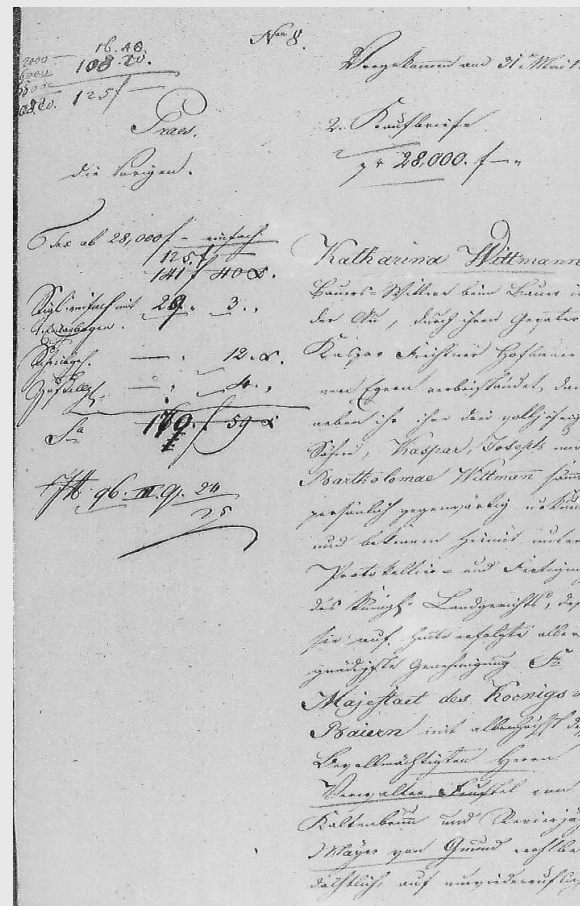
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Sources: BayHStA 10. Inf.rgt. (F) Bund 80

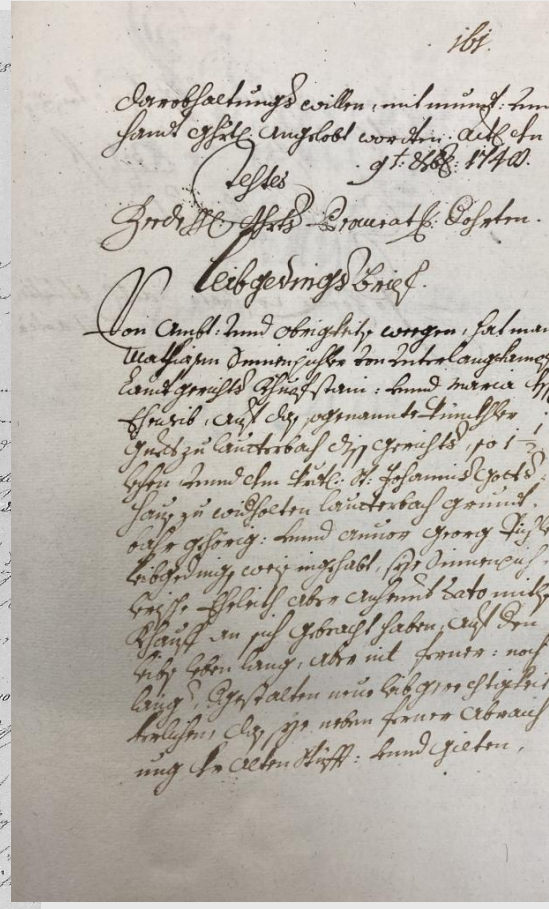
Research in Bavaria: State Archives

- Letter protocols – before Land registry offices
- in Austria sometimes called „Verfachbücher“

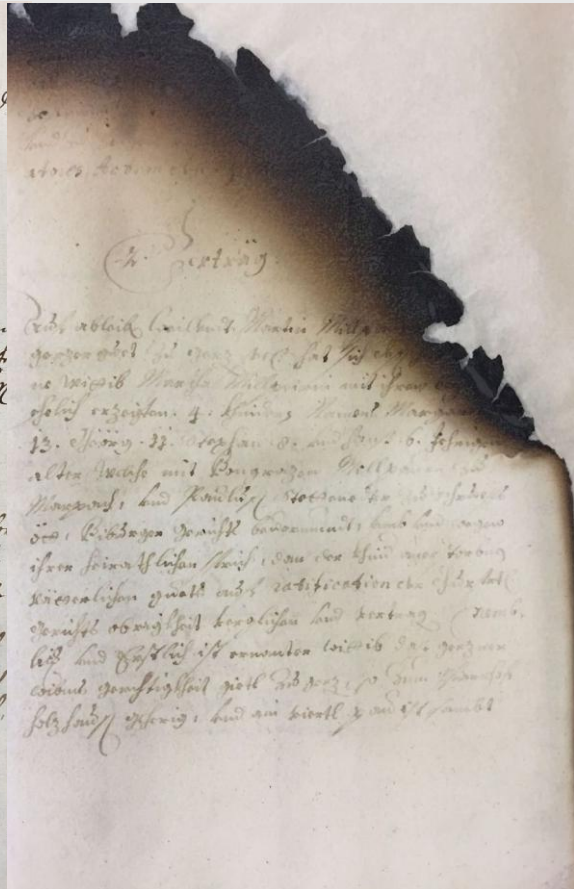
State archives responsible



Sources: StAM Briefprotokolle 10839



StAM RMA München Unterbehörden 8907



StALa Briefprotokolle P 173

- Land registry entries

State archives responsible

[illegible]

Source StAM Kataster 15282

[illegible]

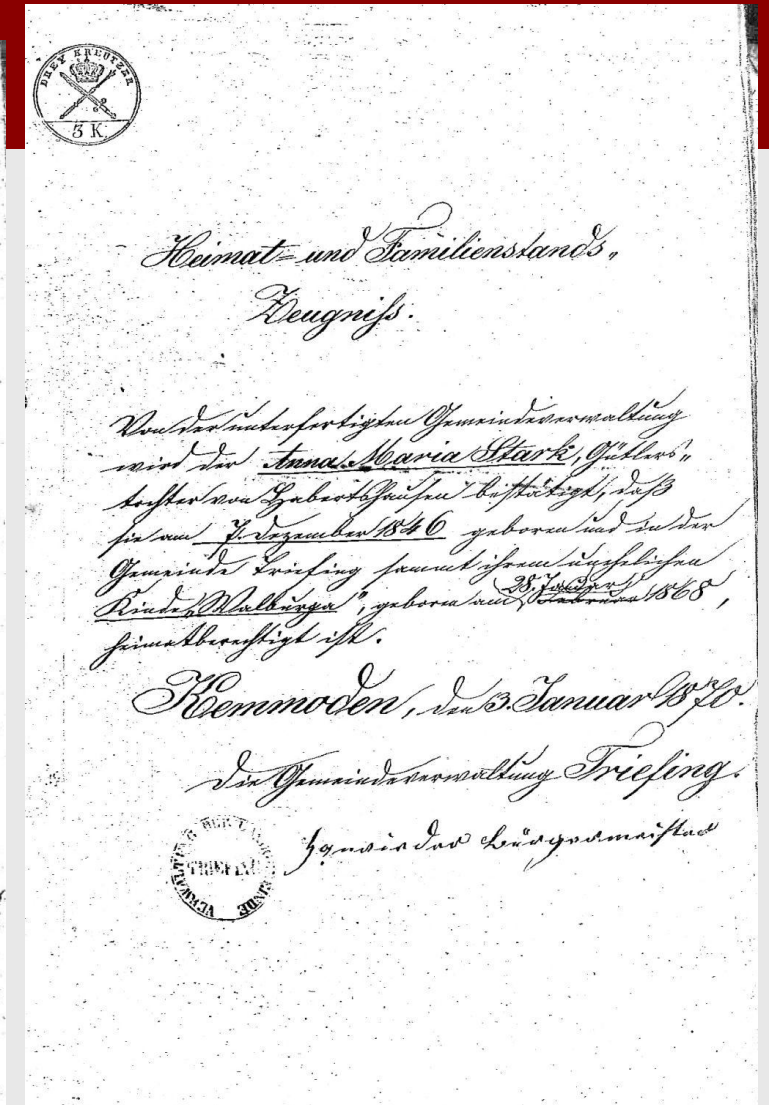
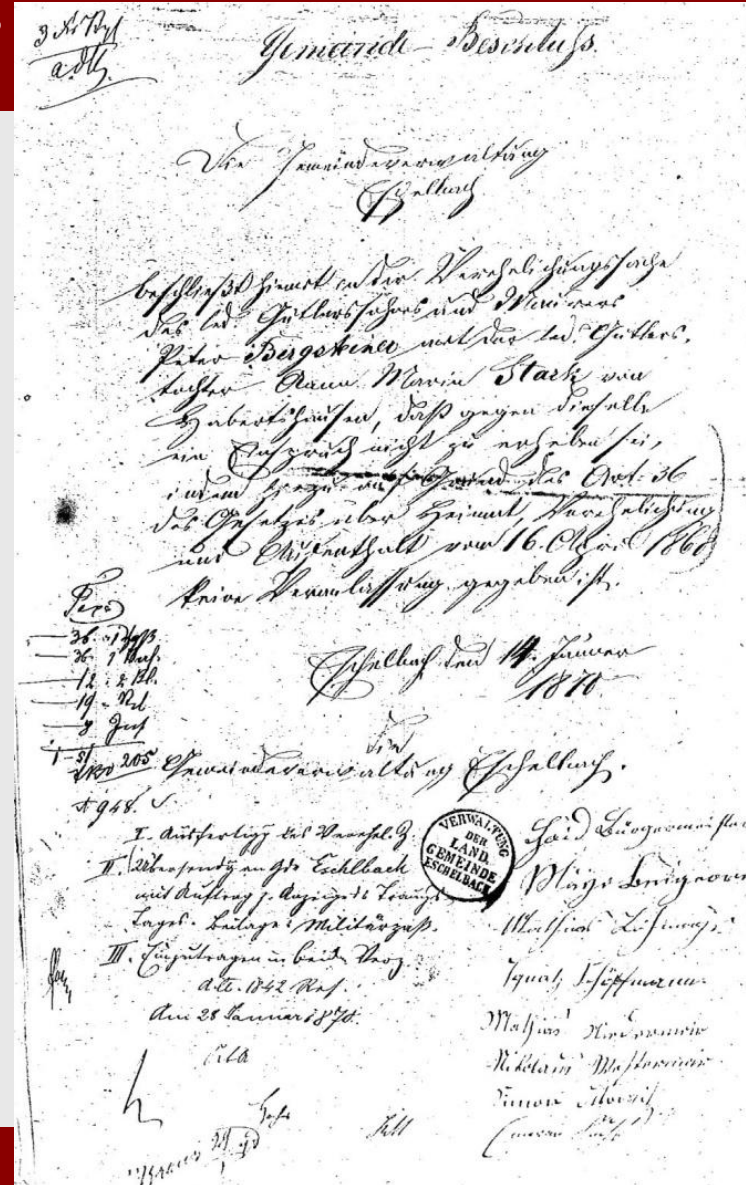
Source: StAM Kataster 12623

Research in Bavaria: State Archives

Other Sources - Examples

- Marriage licenses
- Settlement files

State archives
responsible



Sources: StAM AV Pfaffenhofen B397

Research in Bavaria: University Archives

- University and college archives
- Student lists, Doctorates, informations on (scientific) staff and work

Examples:

- [University Archive](#) of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich
- [TUM Archive](#) of Technical University Munich

Source: UAM L-I-22 Dekanatsakten 1830-1831

[illegible][illegible]

Source: TUM.Archiv.PA.Stud.Pöpel, Alois

Research in Bavaria: Archives on Jewish Life

- **Local Jewish archives** - State archives, partially [online](#) („Findmitteldatenbank“)
- [Arolsen Archives](#) - Collection of documents during NS-prosecution
- [Alemannia Judaica](#) – History of jewish life in Bavaria
- [Judith Stahl Center Würzburg](#) – Jewish history in lower Franconia
- [Haus der bayerischen Geschichte](#) - Information on jewish life in Bavaria
- Further information (+ Links) at [GenWiki](#) and [Bavarikon](#)

Bundesarchiv in Berlin – Federal Archive Berlin

Department of Personal Information (Abt. PA)

former Deutsche Dienststelle (DD) or „Wehrmachtsauskunftsstelle“ (WASst)

→ World War II

→ Requests by e-mail (download form)



Research in Bavaria: Special Sources

...like Private Archives, Aristocracy Archives, Librairies

Archive of local aristocracy, z. B.:

[Thurn und Taxis Zentralarchiv](#), Regensburg

Bavarian State Library:

[Bayerische Staatsbibliothek](#), München

Address and Telephone books, Newspapers with death announcements

Online-Portal [Bavarikon](#)

Bayerischer Landesverein für Familienkunde [BLF](#), [Projects](#) like death announcements

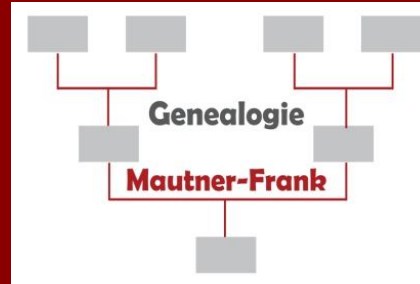
Gesellschaft für Familienforschung in Franken [GFF](#)

Gesellschaft für Familienforschung in der Oberpfalz [GFO](#)

[Cemetery project](#)

[Genealogie Kiening](#) Genealogy and house chronicles in the area northwest of Munich





**Thank you
very much
for your attention**

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<https://michael-mautner.com>