



"A German Genealogy Group for Poland and Volhynia"

Standards for the locations in family data for the Master Pedigree Database (MPD)

(Released on May 31, 2012)

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1. General Remarks

The SGGEE letter of January 9, 2009 on "Submittal standards for family data" gives initial guidelines for locations. However, those guidelines only hint at the need and reason to format location names. We need location names to be in a common format for the following reasons:

- So that they can be easily combined during merges of data.
- So that the village can be easily found on maps of both today and the past and that consistent counties, states and countries can be used.
- So that the village names used by our ancestors before 1918/1945 are included.

We strongly recommend and endorse the use of the Legacy genealogy program because it facilitates the use of these guidelines. Only with Legacy are you able to use coordinates, short name locations, Geolocator and the integrated map system called Bing from Microsoft.

In recommending the Legacy genealogy program to SGGEE members, we declare that apart from maintaining the location integrity of the Master Pedigree Database (MPD), we do not have any other vested or pecuniary interests in that program.

We spent months preparing this guideline and believe that we found a good and acceptable solution. We welcome all comments, suggestions and corrections for future revisions.

2. Summary

We ask all submitters of data to adopt three important and mandatory rules:

- Always record all government levels of administration separated by commas and consistently use **three** commas even if you do not know all levels.
- All present-day names shall be recorded in the language of the present-day Country, except that the alphabet is always Roman letters and Country name is in English and any non-Roman characters are converted into Roman characters without accent marks. For necessary transcriptions of present-day names use the English method (refer to Appendix B). Diacritical marks are not permitted, as members in most countries cannot use such marks in a web search.
- Use (with the exceptions noted on next page) location names according to the table below (refer to Chapter 5 for details).

	(1) VILLAGE	(2) COUNTY	(3) STATE	(4) COUNTRY
	Present-day name alternate name inside (),	Present-day name,	Present-day name,	Present-day name
Austria	Dorf/Ort/Stadt,	Bezirk,	Bundesland,	Austria
Canada	Village/Place/Town,	,	Province,	Canada
Czech Republic	Obec/Misto/Mesto,	,	Kraj,	Czech Republic
United Kingdom	Village/Place/Town,	County,	England/Scotland/ Wales/Northern Ireland,	United Kingdom
France	Commune/Lieu/Ville,	Departement,	Region,	France
Germany	Dorf/Ort/Stadt,	Kreis,	Bundesland,	Germany
Poland	Wies/Miejsce/Miasto,	Powiat,	Wojewodztwo,	Poland
Russia	Derevnja/Mesto/Gorod	Raion,	Respuplica/Oblast/K rai,	Russia
Ukraine	Selo/Mistse/Misto	Raion,	Oblast,	Ukraine
USA	Village/Place/Town,	County,	State,	United States

We stress that all commas must be entered, even when there is no information. The use of the 3 commas is advisable and necessary because then you may **easily sort** in Legacy according to one of the 24 combinations of the four levels and by doing that you can easily find errors in spelling and also find the locations that need merging.

We advise and indeed urge you to **add the geographic coordinates for each location** as it will resolve once and for all which location is the location you are referring to. These coordinates uniquely determine each location. Please use the Geo Locator function in Legacy genealogy software to add the coordinates for each location in your database. Legacy is the only genealogy program we know that allows such entry of coordinates and additionally shows your location on a map that is part of Legacy.

Exceptions from the above rule are as follows:

1. In the **Russian Empire** (refer to maps 1 and 2 below, plus areas beyond the maps- places like Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan) many of the old villages no longer exist, and it would be impossible to show their location without using the German name. Most of the records we have are in the German language. So we decided to use the German village name first in this area, if it exists. If the German name does not exist, we take the Russian village name used by our ancestors transcribed into German. The present-day village is written in the parenthesis with the transcription into English.

Note that the part of Poland that was inside the Russian Empire (**Congress Poland**) is treated differently for the reasons stated below, here we write the Polish village name first as for all Non-Empire villages.

2. In the areas of the **German and Austrian Empire** (refer to maps 1 and 2 below), the villages have German names which were retained for more than one hundred years. These German names are the likely names that your family has passed down from generation to generation. Even though, for the most part, those village names now have names given by the present-day countries, the original pre- 1918 or 1945* records that we seek are still almost entirely in the German language. So, for those areas which had German names (not including the Nazi era names, which we want relegated to notes in each record), we want to reverse the order and list the German name before the present-day village name, since the German name is the more important genealogical name, and the present-day name will not lead you to any records, except perhaps to an archive that houses the German language records in that present-day country.

**Up to 1945 for Eastprussia, Westprussia, Pomerania, Silesia and a part of Brandenburg.*

Refer to Chapters 4 and 5 for details on naming in each present-day country.

VILLAGE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTRY
German or Austrian name followed by the Present-day name inside (),	Present-day name,	Present-day name,	Present-day name

“**German or Austrian name**” means the name the Germans and Austrians used as long as they lived there. That means for the Russian Empire (with the noted exception of Congress Poland) to use the Russian village name of that time transcribed into German or the village name the Germans gave to their colony. Take the Russian town Троицк: we write Troizk (Troitsk). Troizk is the German and Troitsk the English transcription of the Cyrillic letters and only the first was used by the Germans living there.

In comparison to the first published guideline we mainly simplified the naming of the country to just the Present-day name, thus we are not naming any more the Austrian-, German- and Russian Empires. It will not be as easy as before to find the Empire to which the village belonged. You will, however, get guidance from the first maps mentioned on page 17, the two internet addresses for the German Empire, and from Wikipedia.

We ask you to be diligent in location naming in the areas where you do have family records.

Refer to Appendix A for examples on how to name locations and how to find coordinates. Please consult also our **six gazetteers of locations** that we have found and named according to this guideline.

3. History and maps

Almost all locations in Eastern-Europe have alternative names in another language because there had been several long lasting changes of the rulers and languages used - from German to Polish, Russian to Ukraine, Russian to Lithuanian and so on, but our ancestors consistently used the German village names and these names were also used in the church books that recorded their birth, marriages and deaths. Therefore it is a must to include these German language names at a dominant position.

In order to understand the **special nature of East European locations**, it is useful to look at the history of that area. Commencing with the year 1795: Poland was divided for the 3rd time (the Third Partition of Poland) between the three Middle European Superpowers - **Austrian Empire** (the south and extending up to Lublin, refer to MAP 4), **Prussia** (the North and the West including Warsaw)



and the **Russian Empire** (in the east) and as a result, **Poland ceased to exist.**

The European map changed again in 1806 when Napoleon defeated the Austrian Empire and Prussia. Finally, Napoleon lost at Waterloo and in 1815 the Vienna Congress created new boundaries by taking away areas from Prussia and the Austrian Empire and adding to the Russian Empire. After the German-French war of 1870-1871, the many German entities were united in the **German Empire.**

MAP 1 shows the result of the Vienna Congress of 1815.

MAP 1: Middle- and East Europe from 1815 to 1918 (German Empire since 1871)

From 1795 until today the boundaries between the three empires and later between the countries that evolved from the empires changed many times, so that a proper naming of a location according to the time of the event would be extremely difficult, since most of the maps for the time of the events in the 1800s are not precise enough for a definition of the boundaries of the counties and states. In addition, naming a village based on a timeline, would generate many different locations, and simply confuse everybody wanting to find that village on a map. The outer boundaries of these three empires remained stable for more than 100 years from 1815 until the end of WWI. The changes after 1918 and later, during and after WWII, were considerable. Finally, the changes came to an end with the end of the Soviet-Union in 1991. **Map 2** shows in blue outline the boundaries of the countries existing today.



MAP 2: MIDDLE-EUROPE of 1910 with countries of today in blue

4. General rules for all locations not inside the Empire areas

We discuss how to name villages inside the Empire areas in Chapter 5.

4.1. Village/Town/City, County and State names: All Village/Town/City, County and State names should be entered in the words (language) of the Country. Cyrillic and other non-Roman alphabets are transcribed by using the English method of transcription into the Roman alphabet (refer to Appendix B). Except where the present-day village is unknown, we propose that everyone should use the **village, county, state and country names of present-day** because they are easily found.

There are genealogists who want to use the location names as at the time of the event. That may be possible for some countries, but this is almost impossible for any of the locations in Eastern Europe. The naming of locations according to the time of the event also creates great confusion about whether or not one location is the same as another, and also makes an enormous mess of the locations in the MPD.

4.2. Country names: The revision of the location guideline now uses only the present-day country names for all locations, refer to MAP 2 above.

4.3. No additions or variations: The use of the 3-comma system for all locations without any addition before the village name or after the country name is universal and vital if we are to merge data records. Any variations or exceptions to this format will create merging problems with the MPD. Information of a subset of that location, such as a church for baptism/marriages, a hospital for death location, or a cemetery for burials or cremations, must be entered in the Notes and **not** be appended to the standard location.

4.4. Alternative village names, the () and the / sign: An alternative spelling of a village should be entered inside (). Additional alternatives should be separated by a / inside the ().

Some examples:

VILLAGE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTRY
Soultz-Sous-Forets (Hohwiller),	Bas-Rhin,	Alsace,	France
Bodaczow (Wodachow),	Chelm,	Lubelskie,	Poland
Bulkowo (Mariental),	Plock,	Mazowieckie,	Poland
Chrusciki (Adelhof),	Slupca,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Willow Creek (Twp 159 R76),	McHenry,	North Dakota,	United States
Drazen (Drazynek/Drozyn),	Konin,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland

For further examples of locations inside the Empires, refer to Chapter 5.

4.5. Location with no alternative in () or after /: Germany villages often show an addition such as Nienburg (Weser), Neustadt (Saale) or Halle/Westf. in order to specify where that village is located. Weser and Saale are rivers and Westf. is the abbreviation of the region Westfalen. These additions are not alternatives in the () or after the / and they conflict with the rule 4.4. We ask you **not** to enter the "(Weser)" as it is not necessary because the county name is sufficient to determine the location.

4.5. Small villages with the same base village name, the & sign: Mainly in Poland do we encounter villages with a base name and various additions in pairs such as Dolne / Gorne, Krolewskie / Lazowskie, Mostowe / Srednie, Niemieckie / Polish, Lewe / Prawe, Stara or Stare/ Nowe or Nowa, Mala or Male/ Wielka or Wielkie or Duza. Examples:

Goren Duzy and Goren Male	is translated to	Big Goren and Little Goren
Grabina Mala and Grabina Wielka	is translated to	Little Grabina and Big Grabina
Lubki Stare and Lubki Nowe	is translated to	Old Lubki and New Lubki

Sielce Lewe and Sielce Prawe is translated to Left Sielce and Right Sielce
Very often a church register only shows the base name, and where we cannot find a village in the proper area with just the base name, we propose to join the two or more different locations into one and use the & sign. We do this when the two are close to each other and both unimportant. We cannot use the () sign as the two villages are not alternatives. The above examples would then be written as in the table below. Also, because we want to be able to search for the base name of the village, always name the village with a suffix, and never a prefix to the base name.

VILLAGE	COUNTY	STATE	COUNTRY
Goren Duzy&Male,	Wloclaw,	Kujawsko-Pomorskie,	Poland
Grabina Mala&Wielka,	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Lubki Stare&Nowe,	Plock,	Mazowieckie,	Poland
Sielce Lewe&Prawe,	Skierniewice,	Lodzkie,	Poland

4.7. Villages taken over by bigger cities: for a location that is incorporated today in a bigger unit, we put the former village name into (). Example:

Konin-Czarkow (Czarkow),	Konin,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
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Exception: Many small Germany villages are today incorporated in a Gemeinde (municipality) and the name is changed to Gemeinde with the small village added like:

Halle-Doelau,	Halle,	Sachsen-Anhalt,	Germany
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Here we propose to use solely the name of the small village when it is not incorporated physically which can be determined by Google- or Legacy maps:

Doelau,	Halle,	Sachsen-Anhalt,	Germany
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4.8. Some village names are more than once in the same county: This occurs in Poland and we propose to add the commune/municipality name as (gmina). Example:

Mala Wies (Klodawa gmina),	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
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In this case, the name inside the () is not an alternate name, but a clarification as to where the village is located. Refer to Appendix A for assistance in finding the gmina.

4.9. Villages no longer existing, (NE of ...): when a village does not exist anymore, one can enter into the parentheses the direction to the next existing village. It is necessary to write the known village in the first position as no present-day name is known. For Volhynia and Eastern Galicia, we write the Polish name before the Ukrainian name inside the (). Examples:

Nicpon (NE of Krzykosy),	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Cezaryn (Cesarin/N of Vorotniv),	Lutsk	Volyn	Ukraine

4.10 Villages not found, (not found): when a village is not found on any map, add (not found). Note: if you do not know the county or state in which the village is located, just add commas. Examples:

Gora (not found),	Turek,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Chonowo (not found),	,	,	Poland

4.11. Village not found but a likely village is possible, the “could be”: when there is a likely possibility for the village name found, we propose to add “could be” between the two villages. Like:

Naumborn could be Namborn,	St. Wendel,	Saarland,	Germany
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Note that we do not place the “could be” inside (), because that would confuse the fact that the village name following “could be” is what is driving the rest of the village description, and not the village name in the first position that could not be positively identified.

4.12. Many villages with the same name, (many found): when there is more than one possibility for the village found in the church register or elsewhere, than we add (many found). Example:

Borki (many found),	,	,	Poland
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Note the missing county and state between the , ,! This is necessary, since we cannot determine which of the many Borki is correct.

4.13. Residences in marriage certificates, we purge the (of) sign: There are locations that are not attached to the event into which they are entered in the genealogical program. This happens when in a marriage certificate it is written that the bride came from a village (for example from Borki, Leczyca parish), but did not state that she was born there. One possibility is to put that information into the Notes or Events and describe it as residence at the marriage date. But then the website version of the MPD will not show that information, and it will not be immediately visible in Legacy except by viewing the notes or the event fields. We had earlier proposed to enter that location under birth location and add an (of) after the village, thus enabling sorting according to the village name. That procedure proved not to be manageable so we decided to purge that option as the incomplete birth date always associated with such a place clearly shows the insecurity of the location found in the marriage certificate.

4.14. The use of “or”: A location in your file should **not** contain an “or” between two alternative locations. When there are possible alternatives they should be entered into the events under alt. birth- or death-place best with naming of the source.

4.15. Not common letters in European Countries: In most European countries letters are used which cannot be found on an English keyboard. It is possible to write them but not every program can handle them. Therefore we are not using them and enter the location names as if they were without the diacritical marks or change them as noted below.

Examples:

German:	ä, ö, ü, ß	are changed to	ae, oe, ue, ss
French:	à, â, ç, è, é, ê, ô, oe, ù, û	are changed to	a, a, c, e, e, e, o, oe, u, u
Polish:	ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, ż	are changed to	a, c, e, l, n, o, s, z, z
Czech:	á, č, é, ě, í, ň, ó, ř, š, ú, ů, ý, ž	are changed to	a, c, e, e, i, n, o, r, s, u, u, y, z

There are more special characters than the above-mentioned in other countries. Russian and Ukraine Cyrillic letters will be transcribed into Roman letters, refer to appendix B.

4.15. Note on the use of parenthetical signs and other punctuation: Only the above-mentioned parenthesis signs and punctuation marks may be used and only according to the rules. **To avoid any incompatibility with the MPD, no other signs may be invented,** thus **no** (=village), (=?village) or other signs. The reasons that the two noted symbols cannot be used is that the = adds yet another symbol when there already enough symbols, and the “?” cannot be used for searches, because it is a wildcard.

4.17. There cannot be two or more locations for the same set of coordinates. We formulated the location naming rules in such a way that for one set of coordinates only one location name is possible. When we find two or more locations that have the same coordinates then it should be apparent that we should merge them. Refer to Section 5.5 for the exception to this rule.

Notes:

- Locations outside East-Europe can easily be found and named according to the above rules by using the Geolocator of the Legacy Deluxe Edition. Bing, part of the Deluxe Legacy Edition, is excellent at displaying a location on a map when you have entered the coordinates and is also good at finding locations. Locations in East-Europe might sometimes prove extremely difficult to find. Please consult the links written on page 17 and the gazetteers on our homepage.

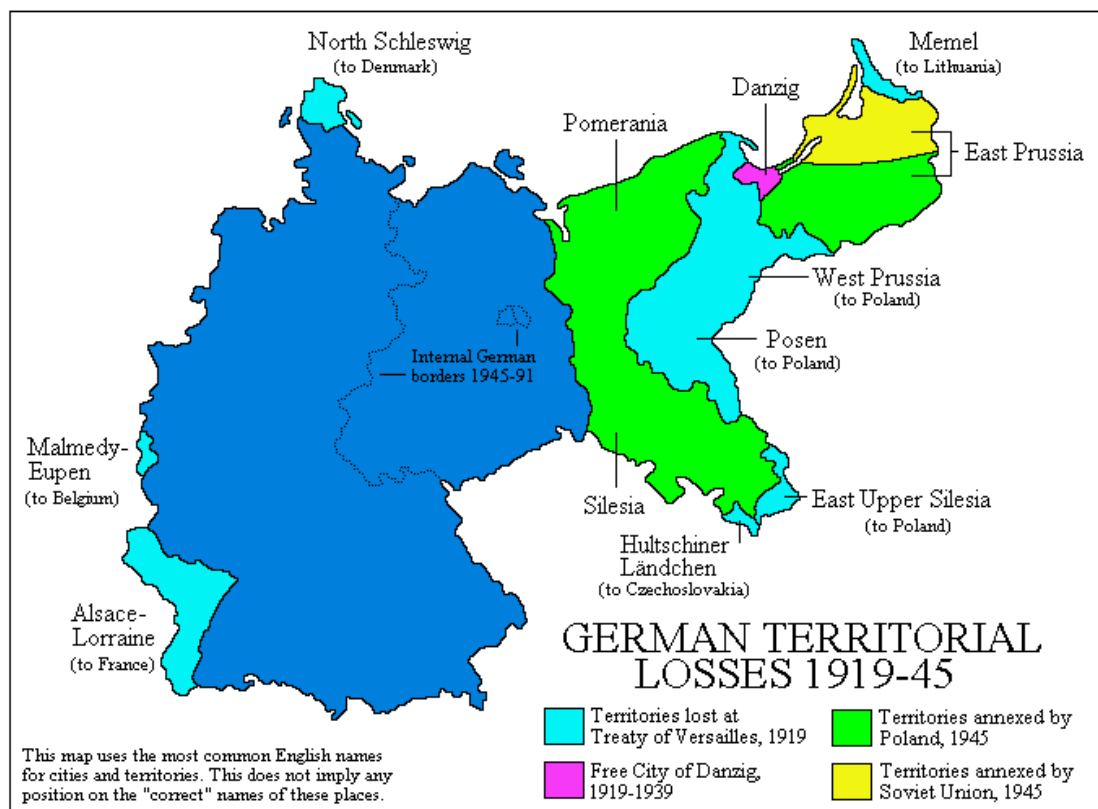
5. Locations inside the Empire areas

General remarks

Most locations in East-Europe were named for more than a century with another name in another language than the one used today. Take the well-known German villages of Königsberg, Danzig and Breslau. They are named today Калининград (Kaliningrad), Gdańsk and Wrocław. For reasons noted in Chapter 2 we decided to reverse the normal order for all these villages in placing the German names first and the Present-day names in the parenthesis as if they are alternatives. As part of the naming guidance for this area, we give a short historical introduction for each of these East-European areas so that you will better understand the naming of these locations.

5.1. German Empire

The German Empire was created in 1871 by Bismarck out of about 300, often very small, entities inside the perimeter of the German Empire. From 1919 up to 1945 it lost big areas mainly in the east. Map 4 provides a good overview of the German Empire which is found today in seven countries:



MAP 3: GERMAN TERRITORIAL LOSSES 1919-1945

5.1.1. Germany of today. The locations are entered in the following format.

Ort/Stadt,	Kreis,	Bundesland,	Germany
Marburg,	Marburg-Biedenkopf,	Hessen,	Germany
Siedenburg,	Diepholz,	Niedersachsen,	Germany
Staufenberg,	Giessen,	Hessen,	Germany
Hamburg-Harburg	Hamburg	Hamburg	Germany

5.1.2. Poland (partial): the **German Empire Provinces Brandenburg (partly), Ostpreussen (partly), Pommern, Posen, Schlesien and Westpreussen**. The provinces **Brandenburg, Southern Eastprussia, Pommerania, Posen, Silesia and Westprussia** became part of Poland after 1945; the provinces Posen and a small part of West-Prussia already in 1918.

German village name (Polish village name),	Polish Powiat,	Polish Wojewodztwo,	Country
Bohnsack (Sobieszewo),	Gdansk,	Pomorskie,	Poland
Braknitz (Brzekiniec),	Chodziej,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Dembowa (Debowa),	Kedzierzyn-Kozle,	Opolskie,	Poland
Driesen (Drezdenko),	Strzelce Krajenkie,	Lubuskie,	Poland
Blandau (Bledowo),	Ketrzyn,	Warminsko-Mazurskie,	Poland

5.1.3. Russia (partial): the northern part of the **German Empire Provinz Ostpreussen (East-Prussia)** became part of Russia after 1945.

German village name (Russian village name),	Russian Rayon,	Russian Oblast,	Country
Girnen (Rjazanovka),	Gusev,	Kaliningrad,	Russia
Pruszischken/Preussendorf (Brjanskoje)	Gusev,	Kaliningrad,	Russia

When there was a change of name after 1935 then it is shown separated by a “/”.

5.1.4. Lithuania (partial): a small part of the **German Empires Provinz Ostpreussen (East-Prussia)** became part of Lithuania after 1945.

German village name (Lithanian village name),	Present-day county,	Present-day state,	Country
Heydekrug (Silute),	,	Klaipeda,	Lithuania

5.1.5. Czech Republic (partial): a small part of the **German Empire Provinz Schlesien (Silesia)** became part of the Czech Republic after 1945.

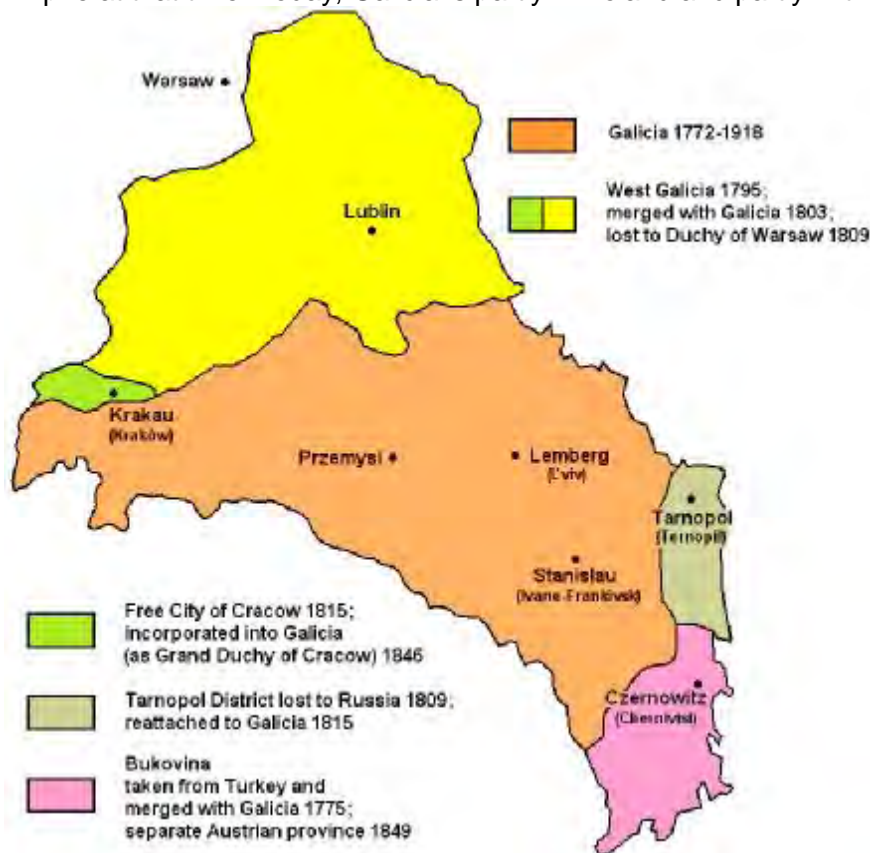
German village name (Czech village name),	Present-day county,	Present-day state,	Country
Hultschin (Hlucin),	Opava,	Moravskoslezsky,	Czech Republic

5.1.6. During WWII the German Army invaded Poland in 1939 and parts of the Soviet-Union in 1941. We will treat the location renaming that occurred during that period in Chapter 5.3.2.

5.2. Austrian Empire

The Austrian Empire (after 1867 Austro-Hungarian Empire, also named k.u.k. Monarchy) can be seen in MAP 2: Middle- and East-Europe around 1910. After WWI the Austrian Empire was completely dissolved into many countries, of which 5 are of particular interest to us:

MAP 4 shows the Koenigreich Galizien (Kingdom of Galicia) a province of the Austrian Empire. Note how far the Austrian Empire extended to the north into present-day Poland after the 3rd Partition of Poland in 1795. The present-day Polish province of Lubelskie was part of the Austrian Empire at that time. Today, Galicia is partly in Poland and partly in the Ukraine.



**MAP 4: Kingdom Galicia
1772-1918**

5.2.1. Austria of today: The locations are entered in the following format. Refer to Chapter 4.

Austrian village name	Bezirk,	Bundesland,	Country
Wagrain	St. Johann im Pongau	Salzburg	Austria

5.2.2. Czech Republic (partial): the **Austrian Empire Province Boehmen and Maehren (Bohemia and Moravia)** became part of the Czech Republic after 1918.

Austrian village name (Czech village name),	Okres,	Kraj,	Country
Hainspach/Hanschbach (Lipova),	Decin,	Usti,	Czech Republic

5.2.3. Poland (partial): the **Austrian Empire Province West-Galizen (West-Galicia)** became part of Poland after 1918:

Austrian village name (Polish village name),	Powiat,	Wojewodztwo,	Country
Reichau (Basznia Dolna&Gorna),	Lubaczow,	Podkarpackie,	Poland

5.2.4. Slovak Republic: former part of **Koenigreich Ungarn - part of the Austrian Empire** - became part of the Slovak Republic after 1918:

Austrian village name (Slovak village name),	Okres,	Kraj,	Country
Kremnitz (Kremnica),	,	Banska Bystrica,	Slovak Republic

5.2.5. Ukraine (partial): the **Austrian Empire Province Ost-Galizen (East-Galicia)** became part of Poland after 1918, part of the Sowjet-Union after 1945 and finally part of the Ukraine 1991. The naming format and example is as follows:

Austrian village name (Polish village name/Ukrainian village name),	Raion,	Oblast,	Country
Falkenstein (Falkenstein/Sokolivka),	Pustomyty,	Lviv,	Ukraine
Berdikau (Berdychow/Berdykhiv),	Yavoriv,	Lviv,	Ukraine
Kolomea (Kolomyja/Kolomyia),	Kolomyia,	Ivano-Frankivsk,	Ukraine

Between 1918 and 1939 that area belonged to Poland similar to the western part of Volhynia (refer to 5.3.5) and therefore there are Polish village names we will enter first in the parenthesis. Very often the Polish name seen on the map of 1930 is identical with the Austrian name.

5.3. Russian Empire

The **Russian Empire** existed until WWI and extended from the westerly boundaries of Congress Poland in the West to the Pacific Ocean in the East. The South bordered with the Austrian Empire, Romania, the Ottoman Empire, Persia, Afghanistan and China. In 1914 about 2.4 million Germans were living in the Russian Empire. The main settling areas of Germans were: Vistula in Poland, Volga, Black Sea, Crimea, Caucasus and Volhynia.

Ellis Island records show the country of origin as Russia when in fact it should be Russian Empire. For more information check:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans_in_Russia .

The **Soviet Union** was formed in 1922 following the 1917 Russian Revolution. The boundaries of the Soviet Union corresponded approximately to those of late Imperial Russia with the notable exclusion of Poland (refer to 5.3.2). It consisted of 15 "union republics".

In 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved and the union republics became independent countries. They are: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.**

Until WWI Germans were mainly settlers. During and between the two World Wars many Germans were deported to eastern Russia: Siberia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and the Far East. The naming of Russian locations is difficult as this requires the transcription of Cyrillic letters. This may be done into German or into English, refer to Appendix B.

5.3.1. Russian Republic

In the Volga area, Volga Germans gave their villages (most of which no longer exist) pure German names which we will enter in the first place of the location name, followed by the Russian name inside the (). In the first place we will alternatively enter the Russian name transcribed to German when there is no German village name known. Where a village disappeared, we will enter the German name and either the direction to the next existing village (refer to Chapter 4.9.) or not found inside the (). The naming format and examples are as follows (very often counties are missing):

German name (Present-day village),	Rayon,	Oblast,	Country
Troizk (Troitsk),	,	Chelyabinsk,	Russia
Samara (Kuybyshev),	,	Samara,	Russia
Rosenheim (Podstepnoye),	,	Saratov,	Russia

The example of Samara shows there are also alternative names that are not German, Kuybishev was used 1935-1991.

5.3.2. Poland (partial)

In 1815 the **Kingdom of Poland or Congress Poland** was created as a **province of the Russian Empire**. The SGEE Polish maps and index by Jerry Frank are based on this area. Not all of that area is still in present-day Poland as the North-East province (województwo) Suwalske went mostly to Lithuania and a little to Belarus. On the other hand, the area around Bialystok is now a part of present-day Poland. Despite the fact that the Kingdom of Poland was a part of the Russian Empire, it remained Polish, and the village names were **not** changed to Russian names. This is in contrast to the German and Austrian villages of those Empires now lying in Poland and now having Polish names.

Germans migrated to Poland as settlers, merchants and industrial workers. To very few of the Polish villages, German settlers gave a new German name, which later was often changed into a Polish name. In most cases, the Polish name was maintained and used by the German settlers. The naming format follows **the rules of Chapter 4** and examples are as follows.

Present-day village,	Powiat,	Wojewodztwo,	Country
Adamowo,	Konin,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Augustopol (Wilhelmsthal),	Kutno,	Lodzkie,	Poland
Lodz-Augustow (Augustow),	Lodz,	Lodzkie,	Poland

Note: Wilhelmsthal is one of the few German colonies founded at the beginning of the 18th century. We retain the chapter 4 order of the naming for these German villages which is in contrast to our naming all other villages in Eastern Europe.

In 1939 Hitler-Germany invaded Poland and created the provinces of Danzig-Westpreussen, Warthegau, an extended Ostpreussen and the "Generalgouvernement", refer to Wikipedia for more detail. They not only changed the names of the provinces but also changed many villages to new German or Germanized versions of the Polish names. The best known example is Litzmannstadt for Lodz. In Litzmannstadt were resettlement camps for Germans from Volhynia who resettled in the beginning of 1940 after Russia occupied the eastern part of Poland. Most of these "Nazi"-village names are forgotten and very difficult to find but they appear in the EWZ files, which are valuable sources of family history. As the occupation ended in less than 6 years, **we ask you not to use 1939-1945 names but instead to enter these names into the general notes. Examples:**

Bierzwienna Długa,	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
<i>In the General notes: Bierzwienna Długa was named Dornhecken between 1940 and 1945</i>			
Lodz,	Lodz,	Lodzkie,	Poland
<i>In the General notes: Lodz was named Litzmannstadt between 1940 and 1945</i>			

Poland of today is composed of Congress Poland and of areas which belonged in the 19th century to the German Empire, the Austrian Empire and to Belarus, part of the Russian Empire. The two maps below explain the main changes of Poland up to today.



MAP 5 Kingdom of Poland or Congress Poland 1815-1921

The thick green line shows the boundaries of the three Empires. The frontier of the Kingdom of Poland or Congress Poland is west of the dotted green line and east of the solid green line. Refer to MAP 1. All shaded areas north, west and south of the solid green line had as the official language German.

In comparing MAP 5 and 6 you can realize the areas Poland gained in the West after WW I, mainly great parts of the provinces Posen and West Prussia and parts of southern East Prussia.

The grey area on both maps shows Present-day Poland.



MAP 6 Independent Poland 1921-1939

The dotted line shows the Independent Poland between 1921 and 1939. After World War II, the borders of Poland shifted west, taking Pomerania, Silesia and parts of Brandenburg, West Prussia and East Prussia. Poland had to give up parts of Grodno, Volhynia and Wilno (Vilnius) to Russia. Poland lost more in the East than it gained in the West and North.

Note: Please be aware that the boundaries of the Polish provinces (Wojedztwo) and also those of the counties (Powiaty) changed considerably. On MAP 5 you see the 10 provinces of 1907. Today Poland has 16 provinces.

5.3.3. Other former Russian Union Republics – New Republics

As mentioned in Chapter 5.3., there are many new countries that have evolved out of the Russian Empire. The naming of the country would be as follows using two example countries:

Kazakhstan, Ukraine, etc., etc.

We encounter the difficulty of having a Russian village name and a name in the language of the new independent state. We commence with the German village name and where there is none, we use the German transcription of the Russian name as that was normally used by the Germans living there. We place the present-day name with the English transcription inside the parenthesis. The naming format and examples are as follows (in most cases there is no county):

German village name (Present-day village name),	Present-day county,	Present-day state,	Country
Issyk (Esik),	,	Almaty,	Kazakhstan
Samarkand (Samarquand),	,	Samarquand,	Uzbekistan
Tiflis (Tbilisi),	,	Tbilisi,	Georgia
Orschiza (Orzhitsya),	,	Poltava,	Ukraine
Schopokow (Shopokov),	Sokuluk,	Chui,	Kyrgyzstan

5.3.4. Volhynia in the Ukraine

First comes the **German village name** or where there is none, the name used by the Germans which is the German transcription of the Russian village name. Next we enter in () **the Polish village name and after a “/”**, the **Ukrainian village name** of today transcribed into English. We propose to add in the first position inside the parenthesis the Polish village name as the western part of Volhynia was Polish between 1920 and 1939 and, because those names were widely used, are easily found on the Polish maps and were written in letters we can easily read (when there is no Polish name found we will enter a minus sign). By that method we will create many alternative names of the same village, which will increase the likelihood of finding a village in the gazetteer. The Volynska Oblast is changed to the shorter version of Volyn. All three jurisdictional names are given even when they are identical. When a village has disappeared we write the “German Name” first and in () first the Polish village name and the direction to the next existing village after a / , refer to Chapter 4.9.

The naming format and examples are as follows:

German village name (Polish village name/Ukrainian village name),	Raion,	Oblast,	Country
Annette (Anety/Aneta),	Novograd-Volinskyi,	Zhytomyr,	Ukraine
Luziendorf (Antoniewo/Lyutsyniv),	Hoscha,	Rivne,	Ukraine
Gruenwald/Schwarzwald (Solowin/Zabara),	Rozhysche,	Volyn,	Ukraine
Blumental (Dermanka/Dubiyivka),	Shepetivka,	Khmelnyskyi,	Ukraine
Apolonja (Apolonia/S of Kvitneve)	Rozhysche,	Volyn,	Ukraine
Dubno (Dubno/Dubno)	Dubno	Rivne	Ukraine

For more information, refer to Appendix A.

5.5 For events in the present-day use present-day village first

We will have to use two different location names for the same set of coordinates as the “special” location naming ends when the event happened at a time in an area when that area ceased to be part of any empire and became part of a present-day country.

We explain with the following examples:

One location name for those born, marrying or dying at the time of the three Empires and

one for those events happening in the present-day country.

Three examples of two different location names with the same set of coordinates are:

For a birth in Posen (Poznan)

Up to 1918: Posen (Poznan),	Poznan,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
After 1918: Poznan,	Poznan,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland

For a birth in Breslau (Wroclaw)

Up to 1945: Breslau (Wroclaw)	Wroclaw,	Dolnoslaskie,	Poland
After 1945: Wroclaw	Wroclaw,	Dolnoslaskie,	Poland

For a birth in Alma-Ata (Almaty)

Up to 1991: Alma-Ata (Almaty)	,	Almaty,	Kazakhstan
After 1991: Almaty	,	Almaty,	Kazakhstan

5. Recommended Internet addresses

- General: Wikipedia, **especially helpful in finding the administrative units of today.**
- Volhynia: **GOV** (Genealogisches Ortsverzeichnis): <http://gov.genealogy.net/>
For the English version click on "Sprache auswählen" on the left. Link to maps.
Maps by Jerry Frank (for SGGEE members only).
http://www.sggee.org/members/maps_and_villages.html
- German Empire: **1. Kartenmeister** is based on the counties and provinces of 1908, has 78,606 villages east of Oder-Neisse and a link to Google maps.
<http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp> Link to very good Russian maps (1:50 000) of 1993 for the Koenigsberg/Kaliningrad Oblast.
2. GOV, refer to above.
- Poland: Interactive Polish maps: <http://mapa.szukacz.pl/> (needs exact pronunciation but no diacritics, number of shown villages limited to 50), <http://maps.geoportal.gov.pl> (very good but needs diacritics), <http://mapy.eholiday.pl/> and recently new <http://mapa.targeo.pl/> (wins by showing all villages, no diacritics necessary, right click for coordinates).
Maps by Jerry Frank for Poland of 1905 refer to above.
- Czech Republic: List of German exonyms for places in the Czech Republic.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_German_exonyms_for_places_in_the_Czech_Republic
- Galicia: No searchable gazetteer found.
<http://www.galizen-online.de/en.html>
- Maps: Austro-Hungarian maps of around 1900 scale 1:200 000 reaching up to 49° East.
<http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>
Old maps of Poland and Central Europe in various scales
<http://igrek.amzp.pl/index.php>
Russian military maps of about 1990 scale 1:100 000 covering Ukraine.
<http://maps.vlasenko.net/map-1k.html>
Russian maps of 1867 and later with scale 1:126 000
<http://metalloiskateli-info.ru/starinnye-karty/voennaya-trexverstnaya-karta/>
U.S. Army maps 1954 scale 1:250 000 covering Eastern Europe.
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ams/eastern_europe/

To assist with the naming of the villages according to the guidelines we included six Gazetteers on the SGGEE homepage: Volhynia Location Gazetteer, Russian (Congress) Poland Gazetteer, Galicia Location Gazetteer, Austrian Empire Gazetteer, Russian Empire Gazetteer and German Empire Gazetteer. The first three contain all known villages with German inhabitants. The last three contain mainly villages found in the MPD and all are given with coordinates.

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