# *Kartenmeister* Gazetteer Online

## Germany "How to" Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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## GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the online gazetteer found at www.kartenmeister.com.

## INTRODUCTION

*Kartenmeister* is an online gazetteer that focuses on areas of the German Empire now in Poland, Russia, and Lithuania. These areas were all part of the Kingdom of Prussia, and were made up of the provinces of East Prussia (Ostpreußen), West Prussia (Westpreußen), and Posen, and parts of the provinces of Brandenburg, Pomerania (Pommern), and Silesia (Schlesien).

*Kartenmeister* contains a wealth of information, including former German town name and German Empire jurisdictions, current Polish/Russian/Lithuanian town name and jurisdictions, Lutheran and Catholic parishes, civil registration office, and map location on Google maps.

## HOW TO

To access *Kartenmeister*, go to the website www.kartenmeister.com. To learn about *Kartenmeister*, read through the first page. It contains information on what areas are covered and how to search the gazetteer.

### Searching the gazetteer

The gazetteer *Kartenmeister* can be searched by historical German town name or by current Polish town name. The search boxes are at the bottom of the site; scroll down until you see the blue boxes, each next to a possible search type. These tips will help you conduct a search:

- Partial name search – enter in a partial name of a town, and the website will return results beginning with the letters entered. The partial name search cannot be used together with a wildcard.
- Wildcard search – there are two types of wildcards:
  - Question marks – this wildcard takes the place of one letter. Thus, a search for **A??n** will return results including Arun and Aton, but not Ammern. A search for **??nigs** will return the result Königs.
  - Asterisks (**\***) – this wildcard takes the place of multiple letters, and multiple asterisks may be used. Thus, a search for **\*nigs\*** will return results including Bönigshof, Hönigsdorf, and Königsberg. A search for **\*t\*r\*g** will return results including Altenburg and Bertelskrug.

- Using umlauts – *Kartenmeister* requires the use of umlauts. To return the entry for Königsberg, the ö must be typed. The English version oe will not work. You may enter these letters on an English keyboard. Simply hold down the Alt key and type in the three number code, then release the Alt key: **ä** = Alt+132; **ö** = Alt+148; **ü** = Alt+129
- Polish special characters – these characters, such as ą and ł, are not used in Polish locations in *Kartenmeister*. Use normal characters in place of the special characters.
- You may select how many results you see per page, from 10 to 100. The default is set at 10.
- County-wide searches – if you only enter the name of a German county or *Kreis*, a list of all locations within that county will appear in alphabetical order.

## Viewing the results

The results screen shows, in alphabetical order, the entries that match the search terms. It also lists the German Empire county or *Kreis*. To view the next results, click on "Next 10" under and to the right of the list of entries. Click on the desired entry to view the individual entry screen.

The individual entry screen shows a great deal of information about each location. It can provide the following:

- **German Name** is the main historical spelling, with alternate names listed underneath. These alternate names may be German or Polish.
- **Polish/Russian Name** listed is the *current* name of the location in Poland or Russia.
- **Kreis/County** is the county jurisdiction under the German Empire.
- **German Province** is the province under the German Empire.
- **Today's Province** is the name of the current modern province. If the location has the word "Oblast" after it, it is currently in Russia. Otherwise, the place is in Poland.
- **Google Map** has a clickable link to the online Google Map, with a red map marker indicating the location of the place. This map marker may be slightly off; to locate the place, zoom out and search the nearby area for the Polish version of the place name.
- **Lutheran Parish** lists the location of the parish church as of 1905.
- **Catholic Parish** lists the location of the parish church as of 1905.
- **Standesamt/Civil Registry** lists the location of the civil registration office covering the town as of 1905.

Underneath the information section of the webpage, there is a section that allows you to view the email addresses of people who have expressed interest in the location. You can also add your own email address, as well as family surnames, so others can contact you about the place.

## Further information

For a video explaining how to use *Kartenmeister*, go to the class in the FamilySearch Learning Center, found at: https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/kartenmeister-com-finding-places-in-the-former-german-area-of-poland.

# PRACTICE

Go to the website www.kartenmeister.com, and follow these steps:

1. Scroll down to the bottom of the page. In the "German City Name" box, enter the location **Adamsdorf**, and click on "Submit". There are eight results. Click on the Adamsdorf located in the Kreis/County Graudenz.

2. Look at the place entry. Notice that Adamsdorf has had multiple alternate names: Adamowo, recorded in 1789; Adamsdorff, recorded in 1820, and Rudnik, recorded in 1820. Adamsdorf was in the Kreis/County of Graudenz in the German province of Westpreussen in the German Empire. It is now called Maly Rudnik, in the province of Kujawsko-Pomorskie. Because the current province is not followed by the word "Oblast", this indicates that the town is in Poland.

3. Click on the Google Map link to pull up the online map. A new website tab should open. On the map, zoom out until you see the town name of Mały Rudnik. It is located approximately 1000 feet east north-east of the red map marker.

4. To return to *Kartenmeister*, click on the *Kartenmeister* tab. It may show the words "Information on German…". Look for information about the Lutheran and Catholic parishes, as well as the Standesamt/Civil Registry. The website states that Lutheran residents of Adamsdorf belonged to the parish of Pisaken, Rudnick, while Catholic residents belonged to the parish of Sarnau in Kreis (County) Kulm. The civil registration office was located in Rondsen. This information was correct as of 1905.

5. Underneath the results, locate and click on "View Emails of Interested People". Here you will see email addresses of three people interested in the town of Adamsdorf. If this were your town, you could add your own email address to *Kartenmeister* so others could contact you for collaboration purposes.

6. Click on the back button on your website browser to get back to the town entry for Adamsdorf. To return to the main search page, click on "Home" at the top left of the website.

7. Scroll down to the bottom of the page. Under "German City Name", type in **\*dorf**. Under "County/Kreis", type in **Graudenz**. Click on "Submit".

8. Now, look at the results. There are eleven matches, all ending in –dorf and all in the county of Graudenz. Click on Hermannsdorf.

9. Scan over this entry. Notice that under "Polish/Russian Name", it states "More Research Needed". Look further at the entry. Under "Population By Year" it states that in 1905, there were 11 individuals living in the village. This could explain why the Polish name has not been identified. Look under Lutheran and Catholic parishes as well as the Standesamt/Civil Registry. Even though the village only has 11 residents, these jurisdictions have been identified.

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.