

# **Pommernlied**

**<http://www.heimatkreis-stargard.de/Pommernlied/Pommernlied.htm>**

# Pommern Heimat

**Pommern Homeland:  
Wisconsin & Iowa**

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# Pomerania / Pommern Today



**After the 30-Years-War (1618-1648)**

**“Pommern” included:**

**a western area called  
*Schwedisch-Pommern*,  
ruled by Sweden,**

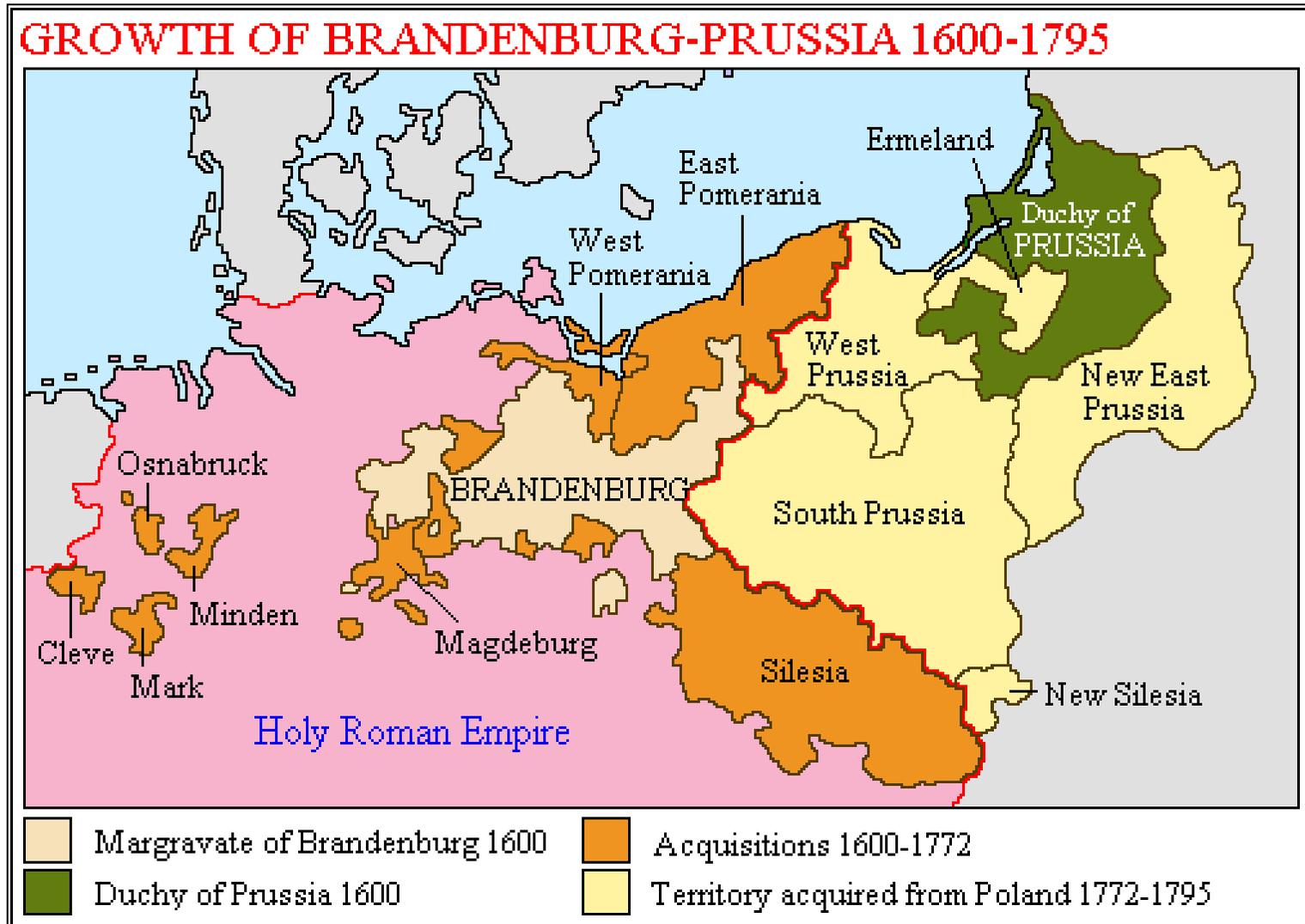
**and an eastern area,  
ruled by the Brandenburg Electors.**

**In 1815, after the defeat of Napoleon,  
Sweden renounced all claims  
to German areas, including Pommern.**

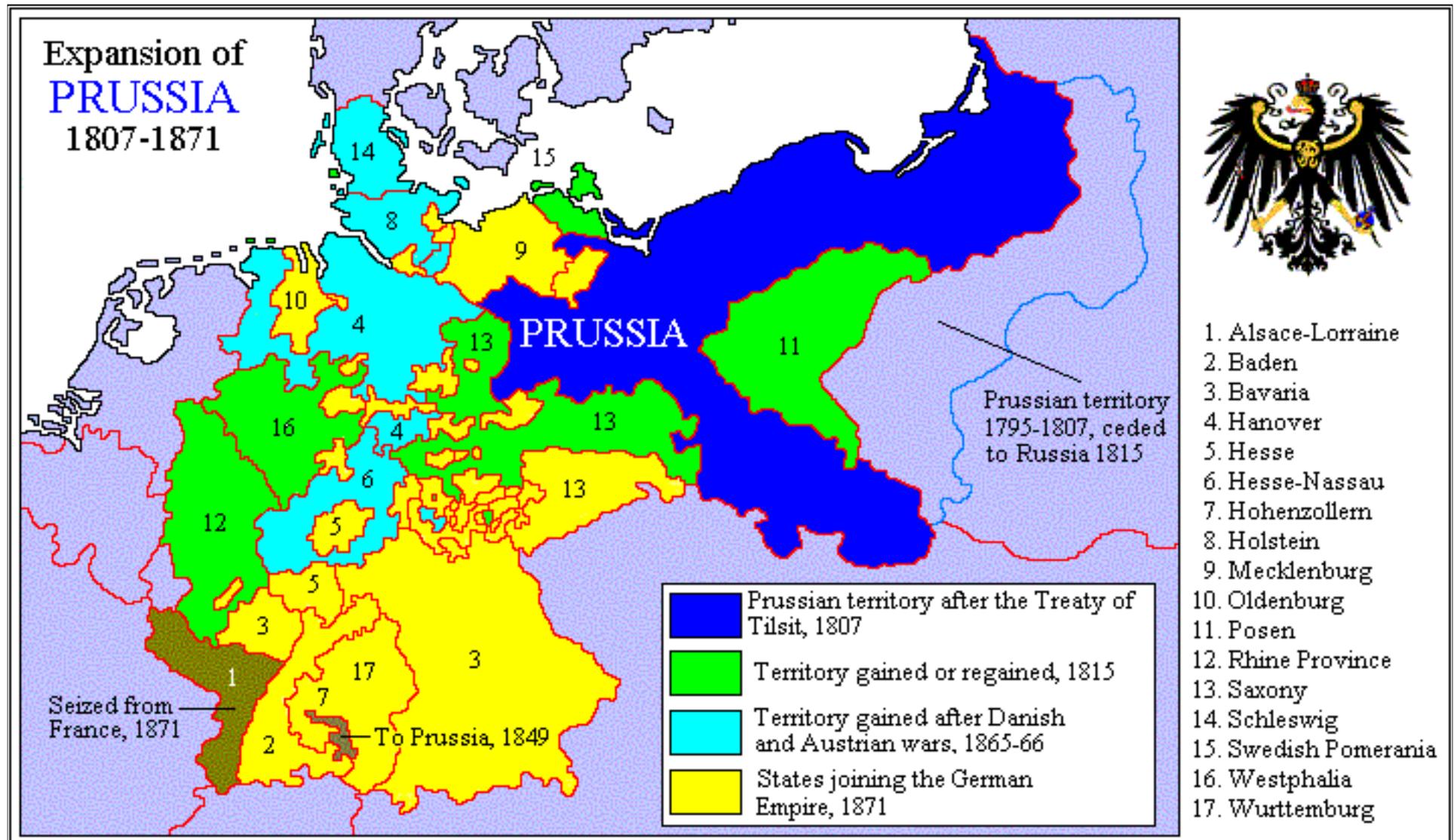
**West of the Oder River is  
Vorpommern  
or Cis-Pomerania.**

**East of the Oder River is  
Hinterpommern  
or Trans-Pomerania.**

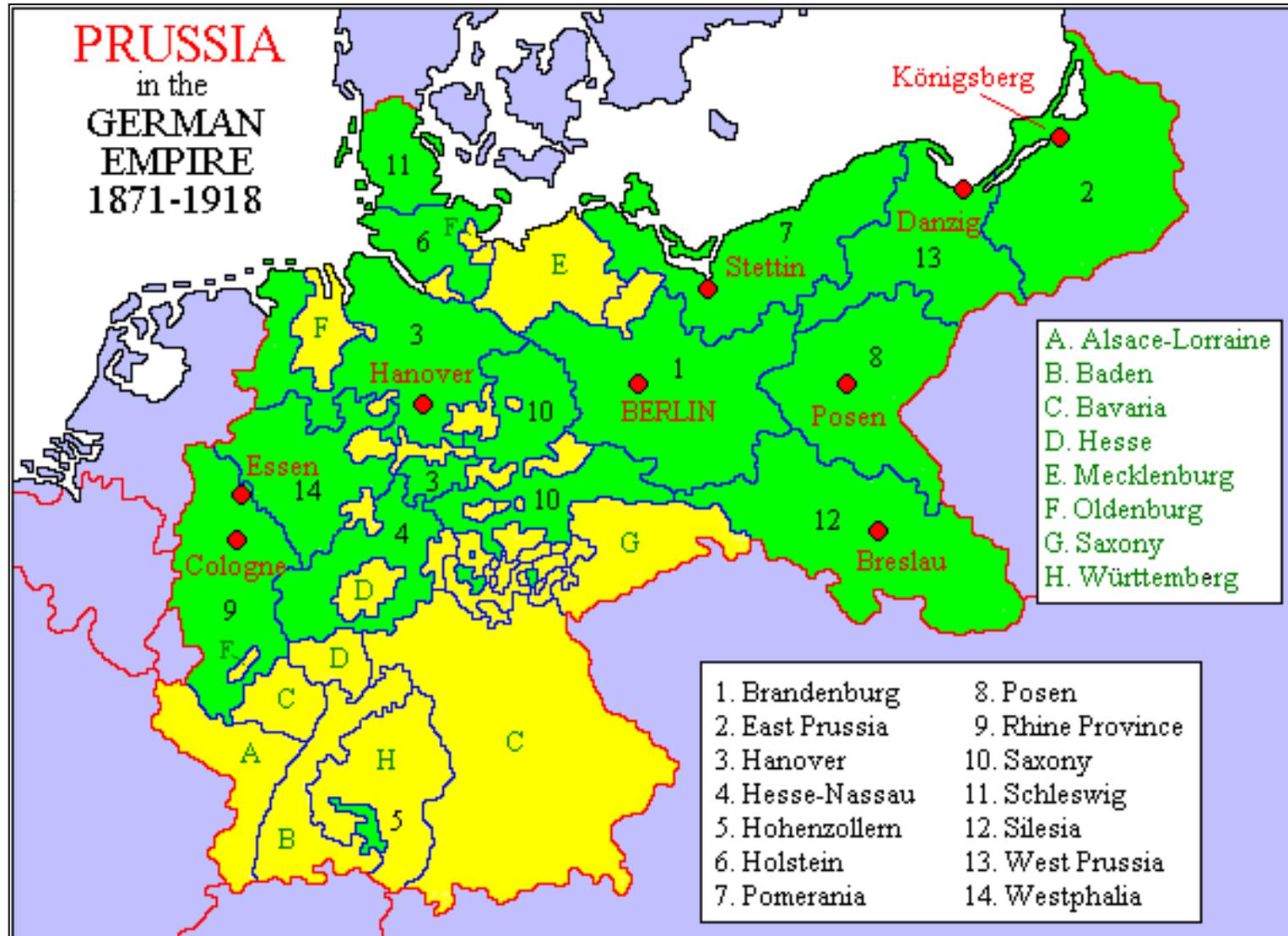
# Pommern, or Pomerania



# 19<sup>th</sup> century Prussia with Pommern



# Pommern in unified Germany



# ***Willkommen in der Heimat!***



# ***Rapsfeld* near Schwennenz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**



# House for Sale!

## Schwennenz, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in Schwennenz, Vorpommern



# Barnimslaw, Pommern now Barnislaw, Poland



# **Gartz a.d. Oder** **formerly Pommern, now Brandenburg, Germany**



**the former Lutheran Church in Batzwitz,  
*Kreis Greifenberg, Pommern***



# **Witzmitz, now Wicimice, *Kreis* Regenwalde, Pommern**

Top:

**1914 – 1918**

**Im Weltkriege starben den  
Heldentod  
für König und Vaterland  
aus der Kirchengemeinde  
WITZMITZ**

Below:

**Niemand hat größere Liebe  
denn die dass er sein Leben  
lasset für seine Freunde.**



**Simötzel, *Landkreis* Kolberg-Körlin,  
Pommern  
now Siemysl, Poland**

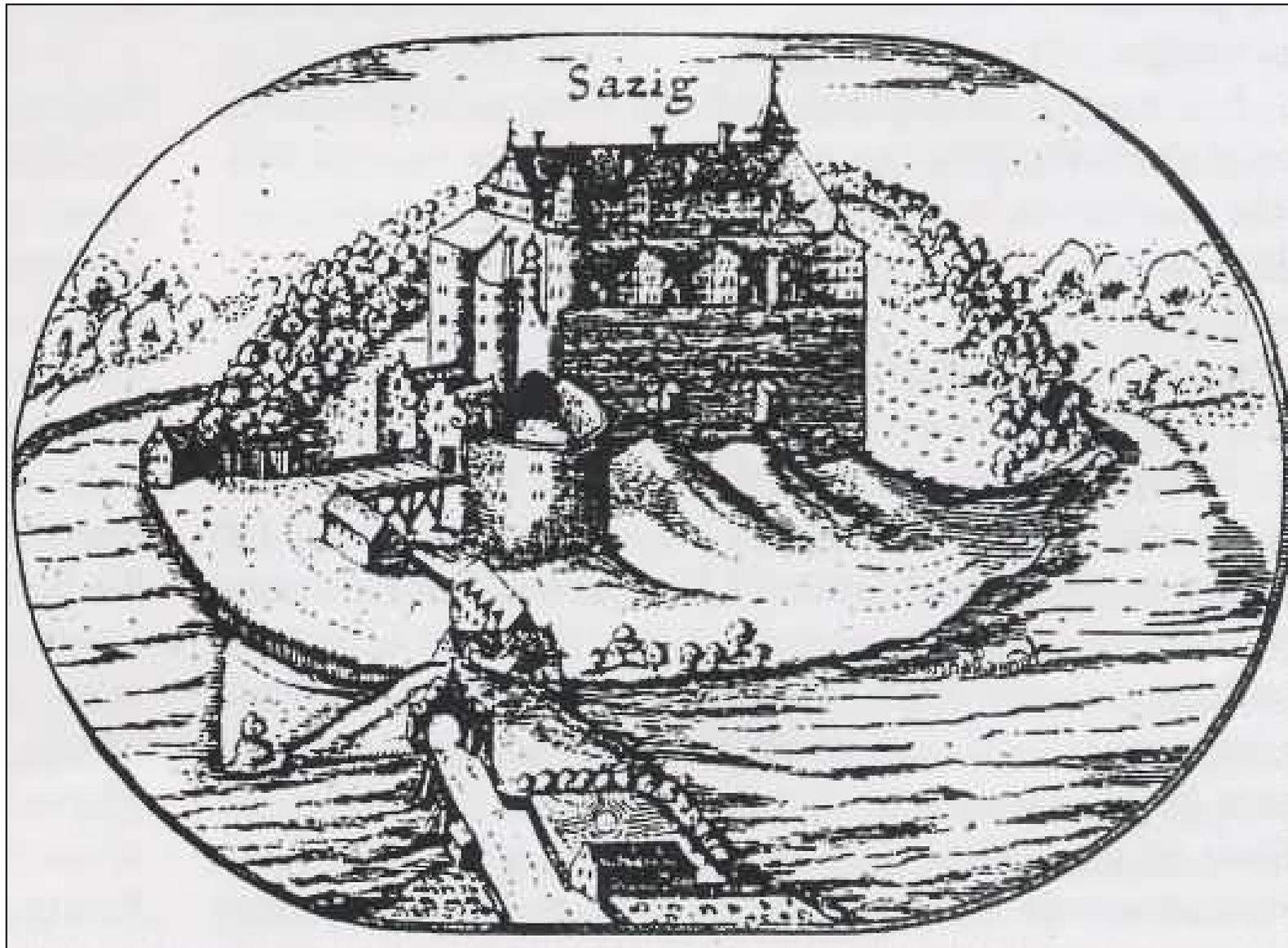


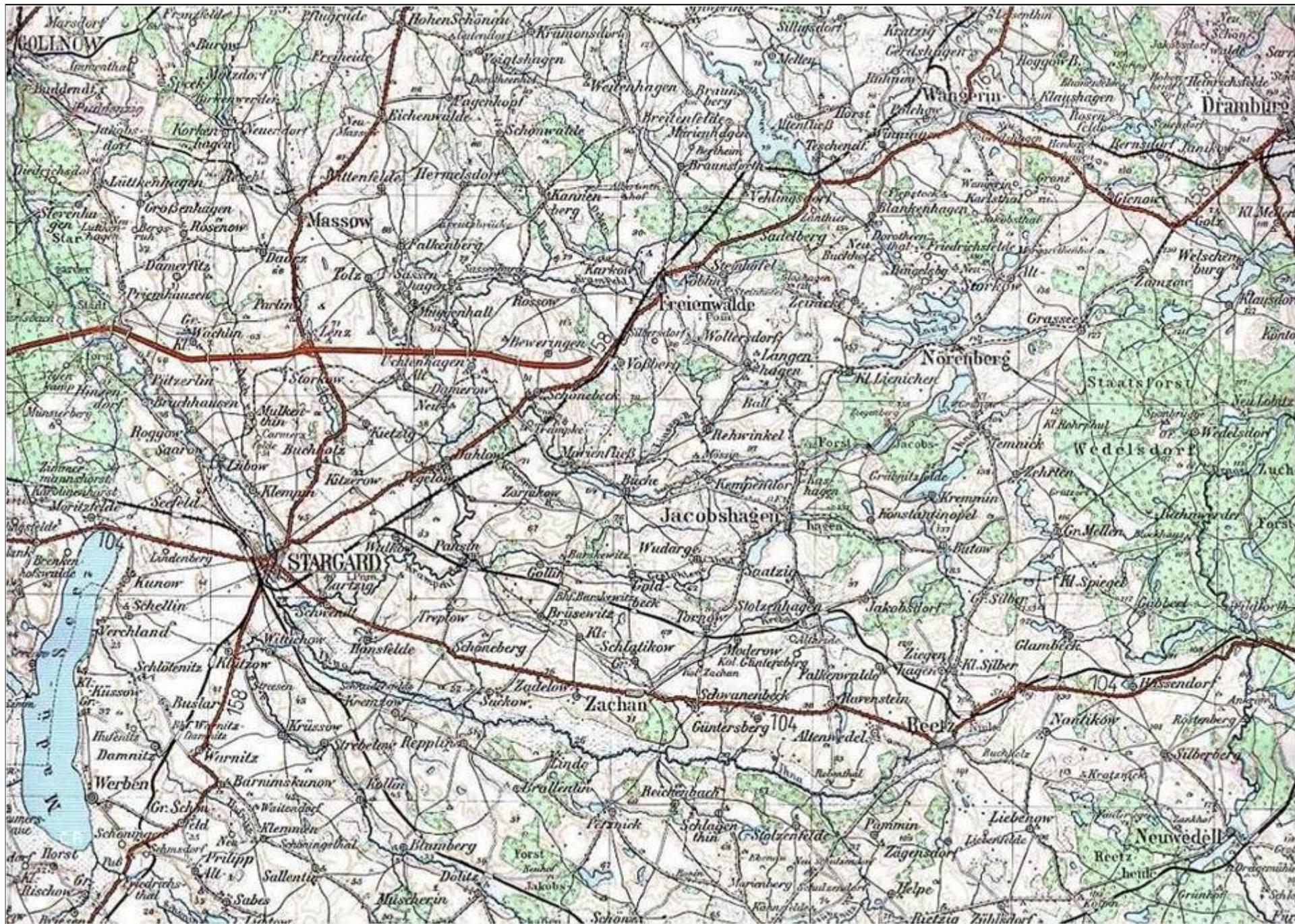
# The Ruins of a Church at Tarnówko, once Lüttkenhagen



# Stuckow in *Landkreis* Cammin, Pommern







# Neu-Damerow in *Kreis Saatzig*



*Neudamerow*



*Postfach*

**former Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Klein Schlatikow, Pommern  
Słodkówko, Pommern**



**the former Lutheran Church in  
Gross Schlatikow, Pommern  
now Słodkowo, Poland**



# the former Lutheran Church Schwanenbeck, Pommern now Suchanówko, Poland



# Klein-Lienichen, Pommern



# Guntersberg, Pommern



# Goldbeck, Pommern



# Schönebeck, Pommern



# The Mill in Wudarge, Pommern



# Wudarge, Pommern now Odargowo, Poland



# Konstantinopel, Pommern



# Marienfließ, Pommern



# Zachan, Pommern now Suchań, Poland



© Jerzy Tatoń

**former Lutheran Church  
in Saarow, Pommern  
now Zarowo, Poland**



# Jacobsdorf, Kreis Saatzig



# Jacobsdorf, Kreis Saatzig



# World War I Memorial Jacobsdorf, Pommern, now Błotno, Poland



***Wir gedenken der ehemaligen Einwohner  
Rehwinkels (now Lutkowo) - 2.Juni 2007***



# Former Lutheran Church in Barskewitz, Pommern now Barskowice-Gollin, Poland



© Jerzy Tatoń

# Pyritz, Pommern



**The *Evangelisch-Lutherische  
Landeskirche Mecklenburgs* and the  
*Pommersche Evangelische Kirche* (2009)**



# Landeskirchliches Archiv PEK Greifswald



# Family History

<http://www.kirche-mv.de/Familiengeschichte.1311.0.html>

If you know the parish address, write to it. You can find the addresses at [www.kirche-mv.de](http://www.kirche-mv.de) or at the parish's website.

You may direct questions to the following address:

Landeskirchliches Archiv  
Rudolf-Petershagen-Allee 3  
D 17489 Greifswald

Telefon: +49 3834 5725 33

Fax: +49 3834 5725 36

E-Mail: [archiv@pek.de](mailto:archiv@pek.de)

<http://www.pommersches-kirchenarchiv.de/>

# Evangelisches Zentral Archiv in Berlin (EZAB)



Questions about the former German territories in the east may be directed to the Landeskirchliche Archiv in Greifswald or to:

## **Evangelisches Zentralarchiv in Berlin**

**Bethaniendamm 29**

**10997 Berlin**

**Telefon: +49 30 22 50 45 - 0**

**Fax: +49 30 22 50 45 - 40**

**E-Mail: [archiv@ezab.de](mailto:archiv@ezab.de)**

**<http://www.ezab.de/>**

**Two tips:**

- 1. The more specific your information, the easier the search will be.**
- 2. If you want to seek out a parish office yourself for family history information, please make a reservation by telephone before going there to assure that time will be available for you.**

# **EZAB**

**The *Evangelisches Zentral Archiv* in Berlin – EZAB – was founded as a result of the joining of the Archive of the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) and the Archive of the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU).**

**The Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) is itself a union of all the Protestant churches in the several German states, creating an alliance of independent churches of the various Protestant denominations.**

**The Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) is the successor organization of the Prussian State Church.**

# **EZAB Holdings**

**It administers and maintains about 7000 parish registers from *Evangelische*, or Protestant, parishes of the former eastern provinces of the Protestant Church of the Old Prussian Union. These areas today belong to Poland, Russia, and Lithuania.**

**It holds about 763 military church records of the military church registers of the former Prussian army and the German *Wehrmacht*.**

**It also holds about 70 parish registers from German-speaking congregations outside of Germany.**

# Historic East Territory

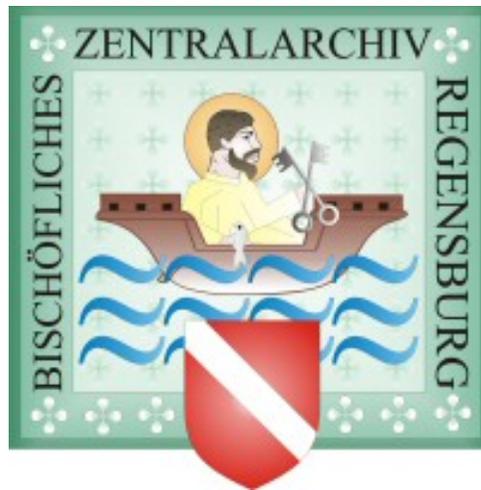
## EZA Berlin

The historic German East Territories, now belonging to Poland and Russia, also belonged to the Church Provinces of the *Altpreußischen Union* or ApU (Old Prussian Union).

The EZA maintains the ecclesiastical-historical tradition of these territories as archives of the EKV. It keeps all church archives including liturgical instruments which once belonged to the former eastern church provinces of the ApU and came into possession of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Among them, ecclesiastical books, parish registers (RG 507) and *vasa sacra* (RG 503) from East German congregations are of special value. Furthermore the EZA collects parish seals (RG 501).

**If your ancestors came from  
the former eastern provinces  
but were Roman Catholic,  
direct your inquiries to the**



**Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv - Regensburg  
Postfach 110228  
93015 Regensburg  
Germany**

# The Prussian Union



- One year after he ascended to the throne in 1798, Frederick William II of Prussia, in his role as the Supreme Governor of the Protestant Churches, decreed a new common liturgy and service book to be published, for use in both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations.

# Old Lutherans

## *(Alt Lutheraner)*

This name was applied to Lutherans who refused to join in the Prussian Union. There was a similar reaction against unionism and rationalism in Saxony. “Old Lutherans” continued in Germany and Poland under various names including

- **Altlutheraner**
- **Breslauer Synode**
- **Verein der evangelisch-altlutherischen Kirchengemeinden**
- **Evangelisch-lutherische Kirche in Westpolen**
- **Evangelische Kirche in Preussen**
- **Evangelisch-lutherische Kirche in Altpreussen**
- **Evangelisch-lutherische (altlutherische) Kirche**

The name **Old Lutherans** was also applied to the confessional Lutherans who emigrated to America 1838 – 1848, led by J.A.A. Grabau and M. Stephan.

## **Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III united the Reformed (Calvinist) and Lutheran churches in 1817, the 300th anniversary of the Reformation.**

A new church liturgy was introduced in 1827, and by 1829 a fine was to be levied if this liturgy was not used in Pommern churches.

In the Lutheran-dominated areas of Saxony, Mecklenburg, and Pommern, it was feared that Lutheran beliefs were being replaced by Reformed doctrines. Lutheran church services were banned, and clergy not accepting the Union liturgy were dismissed or arrested. Children were to be sent to Union schools, and money was to be paid to support Union pastors even if they didn't attend Union services. Secret Lutheran services were held in homes, barns, etc.

In 1835 a group of dissenters took refuge in *Kreise* Cammin, Stolp, and Greifenberg of Pommern. They discussed emigration to the U.S. to have religious freedom. The Prussian government became more lenient in 1842 but the first Old Lutherans decided to emigrate in 1843.

In 1837, other Old Lutherans from *Kreis* Naugard and *Kreis* Cammin in Pommern left for the U.S. An 1838 decree stated that the Old Lutherans could emigrate only if they were accompanied by a like-minded pastor.

# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Freistadt Mequon, Wisconsin



- Trinity is the oldest Lutheran congregation in Wisconsin. on Oct. 8-10, 2009, it will celebrate its 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- In 1839, 40 emigrant families from Pommern bought more than 1,000 acres of land in the western part of the Town of Mequon. This area was given the name *Freistadt*, (literally "free city").
- These people came in search of religious freedom and held their initial church service that same year.

# Brandenburg and the Neumark



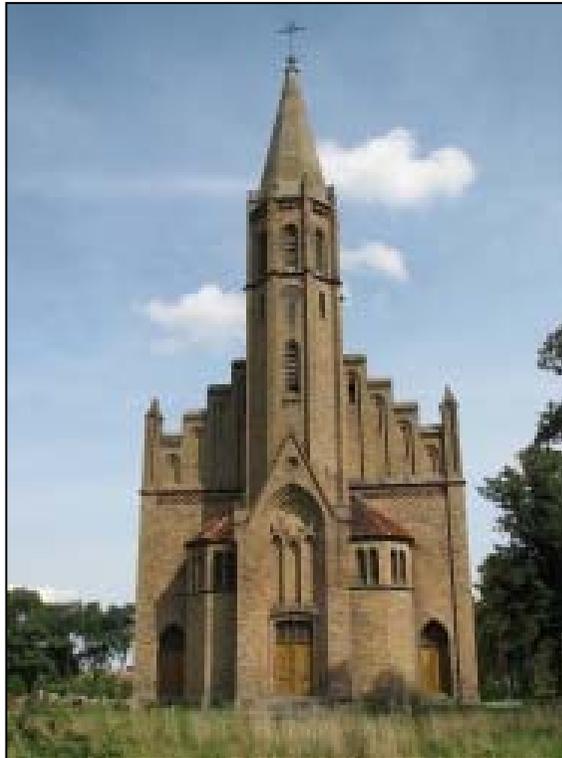
# the Neumark past and present



***Kopfweiden*, pollarded willows,  
near Woxfelde, Oststernberg**



# Woxfelde in the Neumark now Głuchowo, Poland



- This may have been the Evangelical Church in Woxfelde,
- Woxfelde was the ancestral village of the Schloesser and Adrian families who emigrated to Farmington, Wisconsin.
- They intermarried with Pommern emigrants and moved to Grafton, Iowa, in the 1870s.

**abandoned Lutheran church in  
Woxhollaender in the Neumark  
now Okhsa, Poland**



# Lossow in the Neumark



Gruß aus Lossow. Gasthof v. Agnes Preuss.

# Netzbruch church in the Neumark



# A Call to Peace

The monument in the back of the photo was placed in the Jacobshagen cemetery by the community's German homeland association to commemorate World War I.

The stone in the foreground was placed by the German homeland association in 1995.

The German and Polish inscription:

*Sorgt Ihr,  
die Ihr noch im Leben steht,  
daß Frieden bleibe,  
Frieden zwischen den Menschen,  
Frieden zwischen den Völkern!  
Den Toten zum Gedenken*

Take care,  
You who are still living,  
To preserve peace,  
Peace between men,  
Peace between the peoples!  
honor the dead.



# Pommern Refugees, 1945



**House for Sale: about US \$75,000**  
**Strzępowo, Poland**  
**former Strippow, Pommern**



# Thiersheim, Bavaria



# Ev. Kirche – St. Ägidius Thiersheim, Bavaria



# Evangelical Lutheran Altar Pilgramsreuth, Bavaria



# The Moses Pulpit, Pilgramsreuth, Bavaria



# ***700 Jahre Kirche Pilgramsreuth 2008***



# Pilgramsreuth & the Potato: New Hope after 30 Years War



# St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church Helenville (Jefferson Co.), Wisconsin



**Neumark emigrant Maria Elisabeth (Schultz) Schloesser,  
in Immanuel Cemetery, Town of Farmington, Wisconsin,  
died after her children moved to Mitchell County, Iowa.**



**Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery  
Town of Farmington, Jefferson County, Wisconsin**



**Dodge / Jefferson Counties  
Genealogical Society  
- D/JCGS-**

Watertown, Wisconsin

<http://www.dodgejeffgen.com/>

# **St. John's – Rock Township, rural Osage, Iowa**



# Faith Lutheran in Mitchell, Iowa



# Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton, Iowa



# German Genealogy: Pommern

<http://www.genealogy.net/reg/POM/pommern.html>

# The *Pommerscher Greif*



This Pommern genealogical society,  
has volunteer research specialists  
for many *Kreise* [counties].

**See <http://pommerscher-greif.de/englisch/index.htm>**

# Pommersche Landsmannschaft

<http://www.pommersche-landsmannschaft.de/>



***Heimatkreise*, or “homeland organizations,” for various Pommern counties in modern Germany preserve cultural heritage and historical materials.**

**They facilitate communication through regular gatherings, newsletters, and special interest groups.**

**Members were born in the respective *Kreis* or had their permanent residence there, or are their descendants.**

**Many *Heimatkreise* have homepages on the Internet (usually in German).**

**You can find them by entering “Heimatkreis + [*Kreis*/county name] “ in a search engine.**

**The *Heimatkreis* may be able to help you locate relatives or others who came from the same area as your ancestors.**

**See <http://heimatkreis-schlawe.de/index.php> for an example of a *Heimatkreis* home page.**

The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft  
Ostdeutscher Familienforscher*  
or the Work Group of East  
German Family Historians

**AGoFF**

can direct you to  
helpful links & organizations.

Whom do you seek,  
and for what event?

*ethnic group, citizenship,  
language, religion*

In what time frame?

At what location was it then,  
and where is it now?

*country / state, principality, district, county*

**Who made the record entry?**

**For what church  
or civil jurisdiction?**

**Where were the records held?**

**Where are they now,  
after two World Wars?**

# **Important!**

**Do a “place search”  
for locations, resources,  
and microfilms  
in the Family History  
Library Catalog  
at**

**<http://www.familysearch.org>!**

*Pommern and Neumark*  
*Photo Credits*

- **Jerzy Taton**

**<http://www.jerzytaton.pl/>**

- **Tomasz Duda**

**<http://www.dudowie.pl/>**

**Please visit their websites to view their work  
and search for your own ancestral villages!**

**Irmgard Hein Ellingson**

**[irmgardellingson@yahoo.com](mailto:irmgardellingson@yahoo.com)**