



**For the SGGEE Convention  
July 29 - 31, 2016 in  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

# **The Changing Map of Europe 1773 to 2014**



**“How the Map of Europe Has  
Changed in Recent Times  
with Emphasis on Eastern  
Europe”**

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# **SEMINAR NOTES**



## **Background to the Geography**

It is the continent of Europe where many of our ancestors, particularly from 1840 onward originated. These ancestors boarded ships to make a perilous voyage to unknown lands far off across large oceans.

Now, you may be wondering why one should know how the map of Europe evolved during the years 1773 to 2014. The first reason to study the manner in which maps changed is that many of our ancestors migrated from somewhere. Also, through time, the borders on the map of Europe including those containing the places where our ancestors once lived have experienced significant changes. In many cases, these changes as well as the history that led to them, may help to establish and even explain why our ancestors moved when they did. When we know these changes to the map, we are better able to determine what the sources of family information in that place of origin may be, where we may search for them, and even how far back we may reasonably expect to find them.

A map of the travels of German people lets me illustrate why it has become necessary to acquaint yourself with the history and the changing borders of Eastern Europe. Genealogy in this large area becomes much more difficult without this knowledge. (See map at [https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-services-us-east-1-914248642252/s3/research-wiki-elasticsearch-prod-s3bucket/images/thumb/a/a9/Germans\\_in\\_Eastern\\_Europe5.png/645px-Germans\\_in\\_Eastern\\_Europe5.png](https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-services-us-east-1-914248642252/s3/research-wiki-elasticsearch-prod-s3bucket/images/thumb/a/a9/Germans_in_Eastern_Europe5.png/645px-Germans_in_Eastern_Europe5.png))

In my case, the Hamburg Passenger Lists gave me the name of the village of origin of my grandmother, her parents, and her siblings. The Hamburg Passenger Lists are significant as they are relatively complete from 1850 and 1934. As well, they should include the actual place of origin. Hamburg is a port that people from many nations used. The Halifax Passenger Lists added further details. I knew that her family's village of origin was "Antonow, Galicia, Austro Hungarian Empire." That, however, didn't tell the whole story. The information provided by period maps enhanced my understanding of certain family events.

In 1938, my grandmother's brother, Mike sent overseas for his birth/baptism certificate. He did not get that certificate from Austria as one would have expected but rather from Poland as it had gained the territory including their village of origin through the treaties which followed the war. An examination of the changing European map chronicles this story. This document even managed to even cause some debate about just what the ethnicity of the family was.

When my grandmother migrated in 1902, her family's village of origin was within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After World War I, it became a part of Poland where Uncle Mike obtained the copy of his Baptism record in 1938. Just six years later, it was a part of the USSR. And after the disintegration of the USSR in the 1990's, it was a part of Ukraine. (See map at <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/0f/c8/14/0fc81451bc8e88f8a214ac82ed9227ee.jpg>)

I will take some snapshots of the map at a number of specific times. First, I will set the scene for the map by providing a brief summary of Germany. Then, I will take a quick look at the map at points where the map of Eastern Europe experienced significant change - after the Partitions of Poland, after the Napoleonic Era, in 1860 to 1871, 1900, post World War I, map of 1930 to 1939, post World War II map, and the map after the fall of the wall. All a person needs to do to see how much the European map has changed is to look at the map of 1760 alongside of a current map of Europe. As you will see later, the 1760 map does not accurately represent certain things as they were then most notably Germany and Italy. (Compare maps <http://xenohistorian.faiithweb.com/europe/images/EuropeMap1770.gif>

and <http://www.westernjournalism.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/europe-2-SC.gif> )

## Understanding Germany

If one is going to understand our German ancestors in Eastern Europe and the border changes through history, it is essential to first develop a few basic understandings of Germany. Prior to 1773, Europe was definitely different from the way we know it today! There were a few large and powerful states France, Spain, Russia, Sweden, and Britain. At the same time, there also many small states. What is now Germany and Italy consisted of a patchwork of these mini-states. (See map at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d9/EB1911\\_Germany\\_-\\_after\\_the\\_Peace\\_of\\_Westphalia,\\_1648.jpg/800px-EB1911\\_Germany\\_-\\_after\\_the\\_Peace\\_of\\_Westphalia,\\_1648.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d9/EB1911_Germany_-_after_the_Peace_of_Westphalia,_1648.jpg/800px-EB1911_Germany_-_after_the_Peace_of_Westphalia,_1648.jpg) or [http://www.pantel-web.de/bw\\_mirror/maps/d1789.jpg](http://www.pantel-web.de/bw_mirror/maps/d1789.jpg))

The powerful states liked having these tiny states at their borders as they did not place powerful nations “directly at their door.” In addition, if a war did break out between two of the powerful nations, it could be fought outside of either of their nations on the soil of the tiny kingdoms that lay between them.

This becomes significant in the histories of both my paternal Althaus family and maternal Sattler family. At the outbreak of the Thirty Years War, the villages of origin for these families Ershausen, Eichsfeld, Saxony (now in Thuringia) and Büches, Isenburg-Büdingen (now in Hesse) were largely depopulated by the war and the disease which followed it. In fact, so many of the residents of these villages and their surrounding areas died that they needed to be repopulated after the war. It is only several decades after the war that I am able to find members of either of my respective families in their village of origin. This makes me wonder if they may not have been a part of that repopulation of the area. If so where were they before that? Perhaps, a good reason for me to look into DNA.

The Treaty of Westphalia of 1648 at the end of the war did a few important things. It set the borders not only of many of the German states but of much of Europe as well. It determined which rulers would rule and control which lands, e.g. for a time the King of Sweden was given control of Pomerania (now northern Poland). It also solved (I use the term loosely) the religious question for Germany. The rulers would determine the religion not only for themselves but also for all the subjects who dwelt in their area(s).

The entity known as the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) had its origins in 800 when Charlemagne was designated its Emperor by the Pope. This entity would endure for just over 1 000 years. However, it was a case of name not living up to reality. It was not “Holy,” “Roman,” or really even an “Empire.” More correctly, it was German, religiously divided, and lacked any real power except in the few instances where the Emperor designated possessed personal charisma and power. It was otherwise a loose connection of mainly culturally German states who each fiercely protected their independence and individuality. A chapter in an excellent recent history of Germany shows this diversity through the coinage used in the German States. The states of the HRE came together only in times of common peril, and regretfully not too well even at those times. (HRE see map at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d7/Map\\_of\\_the\\_Imperial\\_Circles\\_\(1560\)-en.svg/2000px-Map\\_of\\_the\\_Imperial\\_Circles\\_\(1560\)-en.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d7/Map_of_the_Imperial_Circles_(1560)-en.svg/2000px-Map_of_the_Imperial_Circles_(1560)-en.svg.png))

The large nations in Europe began looking outside Europe and developing colonies. The smaller states could not compete in the race for colonies. But they also needed an outlet for their people as land allotments became ever smaller. This was a problem that the German states experienced. Their solution was to look eastward in Europe where they founded numerous agrarian villages and practiced their German culture in many locales. These migrations were often as the result of the beckoning of a monarch from the country where they settled. The small size of Germany also led to it remaining reliant on “cottage industries” for much longer than other places in Europe and delayed its entry into the Industrial Revolution.

## **Change Begins: The Three Partitions of Poland**

The major changes in European borders begins with the three Partitions of Poland. In these partitions, the once powerful nation of Poland is cleaved in part on three separate occasions 1773, 1793 and 1795. Each time parts of its territory are awarded to its three most powerful neighbours Austria, Russia, and Prussia, until Poland as a nation is completely erased from the map for about 120 years.

In the First Partition in 1773, Austria, Russia, and Prussia all took territory from Poland. Austria takes Zator and Auschwitz (Oświęcim), part of Lesser Poland embracing parts of the counties of Kraków and Sandomir and the whole of Galicia, less the city of Kraków. Russia takes possession of Livonia that had remained in Commonwealth control, and of Belarus embracing the counties of Vitebsk, Polotsk and Mstislavl. Prussia takes most of Royal Prussia (without Danzig) that stood between its possessions in the Kingdom of Prussia and the Margraviate of Brandenburg, as well as Ermland (Warmia), northern areas of Greater Poland along the Noteć River (the Netze District), and parts of Kuyavia (but not the city of Toruń). (See map at <https://kurdistanland.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/poland-after-the-first-partition.gif>)

The Second Partition in 1793 continued the dismemberment. This time two nations Russia and Prussia made the major gains. Austria takes nothing. Russia takes a good deal of land along its border with Poland including Volhynia. Prussia takes more land on the west side of Poland extending its possessions further southward including Poznan. (See map at <http://polishjews.org/maps/partit2.gif>)

The Third Partition comes just two years later in 1795. Austria takes the territories of Western Galicia and Southern Masovia. Russia takes the remainder, including the city of Vilnius. Prussia takes Podlachia, the remainder of Masovia, and Warsaw. (See map at <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-8HoNhEUcGuM/UFGVsbwug7I/AAAAAAAAFEU/4bnRSLCxc78/s1600/Map+of+Poland+-+Partitioned+in+1795+for+the+third+time.gif>) With the third partition, they have absorbed all the land of Poland, and the nation of Poland as physical entity ceases to exist. One more nation that acted as a buffer between the great powers of the day was removed, placing these great powers with more border areas that abutted directly on the border of another great power, and this would lead to problems.

There are three major results of the partitions:

1. All of the lands that had belonged to Poland were divided between Austria, Russia, and Prussia.
2. Poland ceased to exist as an independent nation until after World War I.
3. Poland appeared on some maps as an area in Russia.

## **Catalyst for Change Napoleon and Europe**

After the Partitions, Europe remains relatively quiet aside from a few isolated wars. One war in the 1750s and 1760s had set German people on the move again. The people of Hesse were particularly desolate. There were two routes open to them – finding new farmland elsewhere or joining the military. The war does influence many in the German people to move to Russia and elsewhere in the 1760's when Catherine the Great “invites” them. Aside from this, things remain relatively quiet for the rest of the later 18th Century. It is not until Napoleon comes to power in the 1790 that things really begin to change.

Napoleon wants to bring the ideals of the French Revolution to all of Europe (well at first at least). He does a number of fairly radical things if you consider the norms of the time: 1.Led to the Dissolving of the Holy Roman Empire, 2.Separated church and state, 3.Took over much of Europe and changed borders, and 4.Attempted to implement civil service and bureaucracy. These are not things that are well-received by many of the European .

monarchies. That coupled with Napoleon's desire for greatness result in a war embroiling all of Europe and even spilling beyond it. There is, however, one big misconception about Napoleon and the Germans. Not all Germans fought against him. Some kingdoms like Saxony were actually allied to him and fought with him in major campaigns like the Peninsular Campaign fought in Spain and Portugal. The King of Saxony saw the folly of opposing Napoleon and allied with him in order to maintain his power. His troops fought alongside of Napoleon's army. So, contrary to popular belief, not all German soldiers fought against Napoleon. The French army with the aid the Saxons pushed southward into Spain in the Peninsular Campaign. One Althaus from Ershausen, a member of the army of Saxony dies in Spain during that campaign. Names of places on the maps then do not necessarily equate with where places by the same name are now located. (For Napoleon's Empire see <http://go.grolier.com/map?id=mh00056&pid=go>)

In 1789 on the eve of Napoleon, we still have the traditional powerful nations with a belt of small largely powerless nations running through the centre of Europe separating France from Austria, Prussia, and Russia while the English Channel places a physical separation between France and Britain. Even well before Waterloo, the map is beginning to change. Napoleon secures power in the small buffer states to the east. He does not incorporate all states directly into his realm.

Eventually, Napoleon reached too far; extending his lines well into Russia. He was defeated there and eventually was totally defeated. The nations that opposed him gained territory and influence from his defeat. Prussia particularly extended its influence especially in many of the small German states. However, although he had lost, he actually had set many forces in action which would lay dormant again for a while but then would awaken to change the shape and nature of Europe.

The simple seeds for future discontent that Napoleon plants are:

1. A new balance of power.
2. Bureaucracy on hold.
3. Church and state separate.
4. Nationalities aroused.
5. HRE is dead (by its own hand).
6. Borders shift.
7. Old order becomes obsolete.

These lead to shifts in the way of doing things and ultimately culminate in rebellions in the 1840's, a difficult time in Europe.

## **Conditions in Europe Before 1860**

In 1860, a number of factors originating in the past determined the shape of the map of Europe. The year 1860 was within the historic period known as "the Age of Empires". The most powerful nations created massive empires covering large areas. These empires were mainly "multinational" in character. That is, these empires were made up of people of a number different ethnic groups. Many of these ethnic minorities were subjugated by their rulers, in essence, second class citizens. The ruling group strictly controlled the empire. For example, maps show the Austro Hungarian Empire at this time to be a mix of many ethnic groups. .

The Ottoman Empire which at its height was a formidable nation was in decline. Its tentacles had once spread out around the Mediterranean Sea. In the 15th Century, these tentacles had almost reached completely around it

strangling it. This Empire was well into its decline by 1860. As the Ottoman Empire continued to decline, her voracious neighbors rushed in to take up the lands that ebbed from Ottoman control or people had risen hoping to achieve their autonomy. The great powers of Europe in 1860 were Great Britain, Russia, the Austro Hungarian Empire, and France. There also was a new star in the wings of power in Europe. Especially after the Napoleonic Wars, Prussia had begun to assume its primacy and had emerged as the leader of the patchwork quilt of German states. They would win a couple of wars in the 1860's one with Denmark and another with Austria which would provide them with significant territorial gains.

In 1860, the nations of Germany and Italy as we know them today, simply did not exist. Both were collections of small states and principalities. The loose union of German states once rather pretentiously known as the Holy Roman Empire had simply ceased to exist in the early 1800s. Italy would unite in the early 1860 under the leadership of Garibaldi. It would be created largely out of what had been the Papal States. The Papacy would retain the small sliver of territory in Rome which became the Vatican.

While there was no Germany in 1860, Prussia was beginning to emerge as a power. Their role in vanquishing Napoleon had established Prussia as a power on the continent. The Prussians began adding territory to their realm largely by annexing a number of smaller German states. Their allies changed. In the early 1860s, they went to war with the Austro Hungarian Empire against Denmark. Less than five years later, they fought against the Austro Hungarian Empire. The area of Alsace Lorraine had long been contested between France and the German States. Its ownership had changed several times in history. In 1870-71, the Franco Prussian War flared and when the dust cleared Prussia was victorious winning Alsace Lorraine. This victory solidified Prussia as a European power on the international stage.

## **Conditions in Europe in 1871**

By 1871, the maps reveal that much had changed in Europe in just a little over one decade. These were the major changes to the map:

1. Germany had unified under the leadership of Prussia,
2. Italy had unified and finally assumed the form which we are now familiar with, and
3. The Austro Hungarian Empire had made inroads into the former lands of the Ottoman Empire in the Balkans.

After the Prussian victory in the Franco Prussian, the Prussians completed the process of unifying Germany. The remaining German States of what is referred to as "the Small Germany" all united under a single national government although they retained vestiges of their separateness for years. It is essential to realize this when you are looking for Family History Records within Germany as they are often more likely to be found in regional archives rather than the national ones. They also secured the former French Territory of Alsace Lorraine. (See map of united Germany at [https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/sMI9u-FuP2xLeoxY5xvsd6ZysJabVeB1DBn9cO4xuMt2STy4oKT-OHeWJTcwBc6ouNbWoJxFXkOQDkfoAdj\\_DizlmajU2m7mOA7M1avlYuOKU6Awqno49ky6M-7vwS4xbQ4Yjw4](https://lh6.googleusercontent.com/sMI9u-FuP2xLeoxY5xvsd6ZysJabVeB1DBn9cO4xuMt2STy4oKT-OHeWJTcwBc6ouNbWoJxFXkOQDkfoAdj_DizlmajU2m7mOA7M1avlYuOKU6Awqno49ky6M-7vwS4xbQ4Yjw4))

Germany overcame many problems by unifying. These were:

1. Weak as individual states.
2. Battle ground for European wars.
3. Lands devastated and people killed.

There was a problem that remained: What should be unified “Greater Germany” (including Austria) or “Lesser Germany” (not including Austria)?

There were also reasons why their neighbours did not favor Germany’s unification. These were:

1. Small German states were no longer buffers between European powers.
2. Could no longer fight their wars in these kingdoms.
3. Placed a powerful nation right at the borders of the other great powers.
4. Less able to contest disputed territories.

The process to unify Italy took almost a decade. An “Italian” king was crowned in 1861. However, the last of the small states to form the united Italy were not brought into the fold until 1870. By this time, all that remained of the once extensive Papal States was the small territory of the Vatican.

There were a number of empires composed of people who were separate and distinct nationalities, different from the people who ruled these empires. These people were beginning to recognize this distinctness. This led to the re-emergence of a new sense of nationalism, a sense of being a separate, distinct people with its own language, culture, and way of life. At the same time, the governments and militaries of such empires continued to expand. The larger these empires became, the more difficult it became to govern and defend the far reaches of these empires.

The Ottoman Empire continued to dissolve. The adjoining empires quickly rushed in to take up the lands as the Ottomans withdrew. The primary benefactor of this was the Austro Hungarian Empire which incorporated within its boundaries former Ottoman lands in the Balkans. Also, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, and a proliferation of states in the Balkans would emerge from the ashes of the Ottoman which would eventually be reduced to having a mere foothold of land in Europe.

## **As the Century Turns 1900**

The dawn of the new century brought an atmosphere of hope and promise for the future. Would this optimism be realized? The tensions within Europe and in their colonial possessions suggested that there might be need to worry.

The beginning of this new century was marked by a number of distinct features. There was a scramble of the European powers for additional lands within Europe and in the colonies as well. Nationalism continued to rise among the minority people who lived within the large multinational empires. Cracks were beginning to develop in part as a result of this in both Austria and Russia, and continued at an unprecedented rate in the Ottoman Empire. The powers continued to be Great Britain and Germany, and France had returned to this fold. In an effort to protect themselves, the nations aligned themselves with other powers through a series of treaties. The signs of war were apparent on the horizon. This led many wary people to abandon their homes in Europe for new homelands across the oceans in the early decades of the 1900s.

The map of 1900 appears rather tranquil showing few signs of the upheaval that would soon descend on the continent, extend outward to engulf nations throughout the world. (See map of Europe 1900 - 1914 at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd/europe\\_1911.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd/europe_1911.jpg))

Russia extended their possessions eastward into Siberia which was rather marginal land, largely unsuited for productive agriculture. This eastward push caused tensions between Japan and China, and Russia. This would eventually flare up as a war in which the unfathomable result happened an Asian nation defeated a European power in quick order.

Nationalism continued to rise as the aspirations of the suppressed minority people of the large empires of Europe

were not only ignored but also blatantly oppressed. This would eventually provide the spark that would plunge Europe into a prolonged and costly war which would involve all the great powers. Great Britain, France, Germany, Austro Hungary, and Russia, the powers at the time, would all be drawn in through the web of treaties that had been negotiated by that time for protection from war.

The Ottoman Empire was also drawn into the war but by this time, it had ceased to have any real power. This in essence was a death gasp, one last futile attempt to regain at least in part the glories of their empire of the past, and for a time delay what appeared to be inevitable.

Once events were set in motion, the treaties drafted to provide security to nations instead dragged nation after nation into a war, the scope of which the world had never seen before this. The treaties aligned Britain, France, and Russia against Germany, Austria Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire. There were also many other less powerful countries involved on one side or another. It would even draw troops from across oceans. The scope and the effects of such a war could not be adequately comprehended at the start, but eventually would be felt by all. (For alliances leading to World War I see [http://static1.squarespace.com/static/51ee9cdf4b053d3fee5ca65/t/5228978ee4b0e8fb2cfb0e4b/1378391959836/Europe\\_1914.png](http://static1.squarespace.com/static/51ee9cdf4b053d3fee5ca65/t/5228978ee4b0e8fb2cfb0e4b/1378391959836/Europe_1914.png))

At the war's end, much of Europe lay in ruins. Innumerable people soldiers and civilians alike were counted as casualties. There was a desire to receive retribution for the war costs by the victorious Allies at the expense of their defeated enemies. Part of these reparations were in the form of land ceded either temporarily or permanently from the enemy nations to the Allies. This led again to the European map being redrawn yet again. Upon the new map were a number of new European nations along with several that reappeared upon the map after an absence of over a century. This realignment of boundaries would create wounds that would fester for another two decades before leading the darkest hours of Europe and the world.

### **All Remains Static Until 1917-23**

The negotiations of the Treaty of Versailles and related negotiations shaped this new map of Europe at the expense of the defeated nations. All the major Axis Powers lost significant amounts of territory.

Russia had a most tragic war effort. In the chaos that followed, the Communists eventually seized power in the country and pulled their nation from the war. This would cost Russia which would soon become the USSR a significant amount of land. The Austro Hungarian Empire was cleaved up at the treaty table. What resulted was more accurately supposed to match the ethnic divisions within that nation. It certainly improved the situations but simply did not go far enough. Germany also lost land on both its east and west. New nations along the Baltic Sea and the nations of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, and for a short time Ukraine appeared upon the map. The Ottoman Empire would also disintegrate, lose lands in the Middle East, and soon after become the nation of Turkey.

Austria was converted from an empire to a small state in the centre of Europe. Hungary would form another such nation. Poland would re-emerge on lands surrendered by Russia to the east of Poland when she withdrew from the war as well as from Germany to the west of Poland as a result of losing the war. This new Poland included lands from the northern edges of the Austro Hungarian empire. New nations of Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia that once consisted of lands within the old Austro Hungarian Empire. Romania and Bulgaria also benefited profitably from their war participation and receiving parcels of land in response. See map of New Europe Post World War I (1922) at <http://users.humboldt.edu/ogayle/hist111/Europe1922.jpg>

Russia although one of the Allies during the war lost a significant amount of territory in the settlements that followed. A good deal of that land was the land ceded when Russia withdrew from the war and went to re-establish the nation of Poland. Other areas were also cleaved from Germany and Austria. The Russian war effort was a disaster from the start. The inability of the Russians to muster supplies and to succeed at the front hastened the fall of the Tsar, leading to his abdication. A number of factions vied to occupy the void left by his abdication with the Bolsheviks led by Lenin emerging as the eventual successors. The Russians withdrew from the War. In the Treaty of Brest Litovsk which formalized their withdrawal, they also ceded large amounts of territory. (See map of Russian loses at <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/68/66/fb/6866fbb2ca01845d7f027f0f96771041.jpg>)

Likewise Germany lost significant amounts of territory. In the west, Alsace Lorraine was returned to France and the Rhine Valley lands were demilitarized. Schleswig returned to Denmark. In the east, significant real estate once held by Prussia was surrendered. Much of it went into the re-formed state of Poland. (See map of German territorial losses at <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/19/fb/e8/19fbe8486bbf9eb03cdda7d9ea760432.jpg>)

Since Poland needed a link to the sea. A large piece of territory called “the Polish Corridor” was sliced from Prussia separating it from the rest of Germany after the War. This piece of reassigned territory would prove to be a particularly contentious point through the next few decades. (See map of Polish Corridor at <http://www.yourdictionary.com/images/main/A4polcor.jpg>)

The Ottoman Empire lost most of its European lands at the end of World War I. Only a sliver remained. The Balkan States emerged as either new or greatly expanded states. Finally, after significant unrest, Turkey, a new nation, emerged from the ashes of the remaining Ottoman lands under the leadership of Kamel Ataturk in the early 1920s See Ottoman territorial losses at <http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-wZuQallPhhs/VPYd1rwKEFI/AAAAAAAAAHk/syzCWXQiwDQ/s1600/4790-004-441AB07A.jpg>.

The problem of minority nationalities was not fully solved by the treaties of WW I. A few of the new states such as the new state of Yugoslavia contained multiple ethnic groups often hostile to each other as history would later show. See Balkans 1920 at [http://img01.deviantart.net/79c9/i/2013/126/a/f/balkans\\_1920\\_by\\_cjr413-d63urw8.png](http://img01.deviantart.net/79c9/i/2013/126/a/f/balkans_1920_by_cjr413-d63urw8.png)

Poland re-emerged as a visible independent state upon the map of Europe once again. It was created from lands once held of the Germans, Russians, and Austro Hungarians. (See map of the new Poland with sources of territory at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/poland/GeoRegionsMap.jpg>)

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/c0/93/eb/c093eb8f3e098cd3abd9e0327443cb52.jpg>

For a short time after the war, Ukraine enjoyed a period of independence. It was something the Ukrainian people had not experienced for centuries. Woefully, it was short lived as the new Ukraine was quickly absorbed by its powerful neighbor the USSR. See division in 1919 Ukraine at <http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Ukraine/UKR%201919-20.JPG>

Ukraine composition today see <http://serbianna.com/analysis/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Ukraine-RegionsEngl4.jpg>

## **1930 - 1939**

A tranquil Paris café scene of the 1930s is deceptive as the World was deadlocked in an economic crisis the Great Depression, and the political situation in Europe and the World was becoming increasingly chaotic with each succeeding year.

Germany had again become militarized in direct opposition to the provisions of the treaties of the WW I settlement. Germany also began to move into areas adjacent to its borders while the other nations of the World including the World Powers of the day initially did little or nothing. Neville Chamberlain met with Hitler in Munich to check this advance. They negotiated a deal, and Chamberlain returned to Britain with a piece of paper stating that such advances would stop. As with so many pieces of paper, this one would prove a worthless promise. (See map of German expansion at [http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/images/Map\\_1\\_english\\_for\\_bh-edit.jpg](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/images/Map_1_english_for_bh-edit.jpg))

## **Re-alignment 1939 - 45**

A sudden attack on Poland in September 1939 proved to be the point of no return. Britain and France declared war on Germany. Once again, the obligations negotiated through treaties gradually drew nations around the globe into another major conflagration – World War II. Once again, the nations of the world were at war. This war would directly impact civilians like no previous war had ever done. The civilian death toll would be unprecedented.

At the start of the War, Germany and the USSR had a non-aggression pact. Both Germany and Russia who had begun their expansion prior to the war continued annexing the lands of other nations and peoples until they shared a long common border which as one would suspect eventually led to hostilities between those two nations. This resulted on Germany having to fight a war on two fronts – eastern and western. At this time, the Communist government of the USSR also began to move into adjoining states. She engaged in a brief war with Finland. The USSR would also once again pull the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into their fold. (See acquisitions by German and Russia in the early years of the War at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4d/World\\_War\\_II\\_in\\_Europe,\\_1942.svg/2000px-World\\_War\\_II\\_in\\_Europe,\\_1942.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/4d/World_War_II_in_Europe,_1942.svg/2000px-World_War_II_in_Europe,_1942.svg.png) and [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7b/EasternBloc\\_BorderChange38-48.svg/2000px-EasternBloc\\_BorderChange38-48.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/7b/EasternBloc_BorderChange38-48.svg/2000px-EasternBloc_BorderChange38-48.svg.png))

When World War II ended, once again, the map of Europe was significantly altered. Not only was Germany significantly reduced in size losing most of its eastern lands, but it was also split into two separate nations – East Germany and West Germany. The former was under Communist control while the latter was under Allied control. The borders of Poland were once again redefined. The entire nation moved significantly to the west, moving into lands surrendered by Germany while Russia moved into former Polish lands to the east. Russia set up a series of Communist buffer states behind “the Iron Curtain” in most of eastern Europe. This alignment provided the USSR with a more secure position in Europe and fanned “the Cold War”. This was a horrific period for the Germans in Eastern Europe.

Germany as mentioned was again reduced in size. Now, not only the Polish Corridor but almost all of what once formed the eastern section of Germany held by Prussia was lost as German territory. In addition, Germans in many nations of Eastern Europe were expelled from these their former homelands. This is a chapter of European history of which few people outside those groups are even aware. (See map on division of German lands at <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/60/Germanborders.svg/2000px-Germanborders.svg.png>)

Germany as mentioned was split into two nations: one under the control of the USSR. This section of Germany was then known as the German Democratic Republic (GDR). While the section to the west was controlled by Britain, France, and the United States. This was West Germany or the German Federal Republic (GFR). As the nation of Germany had been split between the victorious Allies of the War, so was the former German capital city of Berlin. See Germany post World War II at <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6f/Map-Germany-1945.svg/3492px-Map-Germany-1945.svg.png>

The borders of Poland also shifted significantly without much actual loss of total area. The map listed below shows the final configuration of Poland after WW I. The map to the right illustrates the shift in the borders after WW II. The borders as they were after WW I are shown with a blue line while those in existence after WW II are shown with a red line instead. The additions to Polish territory after WWII are shown in yellow, the areas surrendered by Poland after the war are shown in blue. (See revised borders of Poland as indicated above at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/75/Map\\_of\\_Poland\\_\(1945\).png/450px-Map\\_of\\_Poland\\_\(1945\).png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/75/Map_of_Poland_(1945).png/450px-Map_of_Poland_(1945).png) and <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/93/49/db/9349db850290f280197aaaaac558d7f2.jpg>

These changes to the map like most others took an unknown human toll. In this particular case, this is a toll that everyone in this room could tell me much about. The historic chapter that much of the world remains totally unaware of is the displacement of millions of people, many of German heritage forced from their former homelands at the end of World War II. I was one of those when I started doing family history research. I did not even realize that a family that married into our were from Volhynia. This story, a story many of you know or even have lived, needs to be gathered, chronicled and retold so the world does not forget it! No one else will. Who will retell this forgotten chapter of history? You will discover that this will be a recurring message in my presentations at this conference. (See map of Europe 1946-1990 at <https://partneringwitheagles.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/map-europe-after-1945.jpg>

## **The Fall of the Wall 1989**

There was little significant change in European borders for over 40 years. Things began to change in the Communist nations of Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The rise of opposition of groups such as Solidarity in Poland, a new leadership element within the Communist Party, and a new openness all promoted the fall of Communist states and even the eventual break-up of the Soviet Union into its constituent republics. The most visible metaphor of this change was the destruction of the Berlin Wall. By 1990, most of Eastern Europe had begun charting a new course.

At first a loose federation of the states within the former USSR known as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) under the leadership developed, but this creation quickly dissolved and the old republics began charting their own course as independent nations. For map of the CIS see <http://www.russiamap.org/images/full/political-cis.jpg>

This break up also resulted in the Eastern European Communist nations behind the former Iron Curtain pursuing independent courses. Some of the old entities like Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia even broke to form several new states more reflective of national lines. Germany was re-unified although it did not regain the lands taken at the wars end. The former East and West Germany once again formed a single nation. Many former republics such as Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were once again independent nations and were visible again on the European map. See former Yugoslavia after break up at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/static.history.state.gov/milestones/yugoslavia.jpg> To provide a sense of the division of the population see map at <http://www.srpska-mreza.com/library/facts/map-NatGeogr-1990.jpg>

For a map of the division the former Czechoslovakia see <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c1/Czechoslovakia.png> and for the composition of the population see [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6a/Czechoslovakia\\_1930\\_linguistic\\_map\\_-\\_created\\_2008-10-30.svg/2000px-Czechoslovakia\\_1930\\_linguistic\\_map\\_-\\_created\\_2008-10-30.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6a/Czechoslovakia_1930_linguistic_map_-_created_2008-10-30.svg/2000px-Czechoslovakia_1930_linguistic_map_-_created_2008-10-30.svg.png)

The former Communist states began to pursue both an independent and largely democratic course. Germany was re-united with its capital again in Berlin.

Other republics of the former USSR also formed along largely ethnic lines. Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Moldavia, Belarus, and others developed along roughly ethnic lines. However, some areas such as Chechnia remained within the orb of Russian control leading to rebellion and violence from the nationalists there.

After all the adjustments of territory and borders over time, we now have a European map which takes this form. However, I am certain that this map at some point and in some manner will also be changed to some extent. It appears that borders tend to change very often. These changing borders need to be known by the genealogist when he or she sets out in search of family records. The genealogist must know where to look for them. (See map of the current borders of Europe at [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe/europe\\_pol98.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe/europe_pol98.jpg)

## **A Caldron of Change Eastern Europe**

The one area of Europe which has probably undergone the most significant change over time. It is here where many of our ancestral families originated and here that we need to return in order to locate the documents that reveal the past of our families. To illustrate the scope of the changes here, I have used the case of one place “Dubno.” In just over a thousand years, it has been a part of 14 different territories and governed by at least that many authorities. Within Volhynia, it has been at various times within Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, USSR, and even occupied by Germany for a short time.

If you plan to search for antique / historical maps on the internet using Google. Here are a few tips that may aid your search:

1. DO NOT search Google Maps, MapQuest, etc.
2. Instead search “Google Images”
3. Construct a search line using the name of the place +map +the date e.g. “Galicia +map +1858”
4. Select maps from the images called up
5. Go to the website showing the map to determine if the map that you have found is indeed what you were actually looking for...

Be careful to search intelligently! Changing borders can also lead to changes in the place name itself. Websites are becoming more prevalent that deal with place name variations and changes in various areas of Eastern Europe. When searching for your place of origin in Eastern Europe, look for all the possible variations of the name. A search using one name may not yield any material of value, but using one or another of the variants may!

A great resource for historic and very detailed maps of Eastern and Central Europe are the Austrian military maps of 1910 which is about the time that many of our families immigrated. These maps can be found online and downloaded free of charge by searching for “Lazarus Maps” and then zeroing in on and selecting the map or maps of your choice for downloading.

I always had a problem aligning these maps to modern ones. In a genealogy special interest group, I discovered why. These maps do not use Greenwich but Ferro in the Canary Islands as the Prime Meridian (17° + difference). Yes, there are benefits in belonging to a society! (See the site for Lazarus Maps at <http://lazarus.elte.hu/hun/digkonyv/topo/3felmeres.htm>)

While both Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia broke up into a number of smaller nations. The process by which this happened in each case was quite different. Czechoslovakia divided into two nations “The Czech Republic” and “Slovakia”. This was a very peaceful break up known as “the Velvet Revolution”. The former Yugoslavia possessed a number of ethnic groups within its borders. These groups had a long history of antagonism between them. To further complicate matters, these people were spread in a rather patchwork manner across the length and breadth of the former nation, making difficult to clearly define new borders that conformed to include all of one national group. The process of defining borders and establishing control became anything but peaceful.

There are a number of great sites for historic maps online. Here are just a few:

David Runsey Map Collection @ <http://www.davidrumsey.com/>

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection @ [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map\\_sites/hist\\_sites.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html)

Old Maps Online @ [http://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Texas#bbox=-105.76141400000006,27.14934800000001,-91.39129607983398,36.006676999999999&q=&date\\_from=0&date\\_to=9999&scale\\_from=&scale\\_to=](http://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Texas#bbox=-105.76141400000006,27.14934800000001,-91.39129607983398,36.006676999999999&q=&date_from=0&date_to=9999&scale_from=&scale_to=)

Kartenmeister @ <http://www.kartenmeister.com/preview/databaseuwe.asp>

Almost every genealogical and heritage society including the SGGEE dealing with Eastern Europe has map and other geographic resources and don't overlook the Jewish genealogy sites. The latter have charted Eastern Europe extremely well.

There are some great new online tools related to German genealogy which are being developed online. These two have great potential and will be invaluable once they have been properly completed. As well, I have listed the address for a site where you will find a newsletter on German genealogical topics which is free. A new issue will come available every two months.

## **RUSSIAN GERMAN VILLAGES SITE**

TUTORIAL @ <https://germans-from-russia-settlements.blogspot.ca>

MAIN SITE @ <https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zFmiOKDRna9c.kQytbv16tO3g>

## **MEYERS GAZETTEER IN ENGLISH SITE**

<http://www.meyersgaz.org/index.aspx>

## **FREE DOWNLOADABLE NEWSLETTER**

Alberta Genealogical Society Edmonton Branch @ <http://www.agsedm.edmonton.ab.ca/>

Right side: “Special Interest Groups,” CLICK; then “Germany,” CLICK; and then issue “Vol. & No.” CLICK. Appears as a pdf file.

There are a number of ways in which knowing border changes over time can be beneficial to genealogists. These include:

1. **Can provide a key to what documents exist and where they are.**
2. **Can suggest where alternates may exist.**
3. **Can give you a snapshot of your place of origin.**
4. **Can provide an understanding of the historic factors leading to immigration.**

In 2006, the little Antoniówka church in east central rural Saskatchewan celebrated its centennial. The fact that a group of settlers from the Ukraine who settled in the area including my Great Grandparents decided to name the area and church after their home village perhaps was also helpful in determining my ancestral village. Sometimes, the answers we need are right there in front of us!

If you study vintage or historical maps especially for the area surrounding your ancestral village and learn the events and factors that shaped that map, they may lead you to that village where your family once lived, toiled, and gave thanks to God for the little they had. Historic maps in essence provide a window to our past, taking you to an ancestral home that you have never visited or present as you have never known it. They enable us to arrive at a more complete understanding of that place, our ancestors, and ultimately of ourselves.

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As promised at the conference, I have assembled my notes on “The Changing Map of Europe.” I have added a number of quick reference guides at the end of the notes (after this page) which may assist you in navigating the changing borders of Eastern Europe more easily. Here, I have to confess, I relied on Wikipedia to supplement my information. As an image is often worth numerous words, I have provided numerous URLs for maps online that will illustrate many of the changes mentioned. They also suggest a number of resources that may be helpful to you in locating those elusive places of origin once you have a place name for it.

Now, lines drawn, often quite arbitrarily on a map by representatives of governments do not tell the whole story in human terms. These lines reduce life to a geometric exercise. They do not tell the story in terms of suffering, loss, and even death. This is the story of many of the people who once regarded places in Eastern Europe as their home. It is a history that you have come to know either directly or indirectly. It is a history that some of you have even lived; it is a history and the heritage connected to it that many outside our cadre of members does not know. I implore you to keep this history and heritage alive by gathering, recording, and preserving these little known stories of the past. Only if you do this will future generations come to know of their ancestral past. Hopefully, this resource may assist you in your search for your family story which you will develop and save for future generations. May that search be one that enriches you and provides you with a deeper understanding of who you are.

Yours truly,

***John Althouse***

Presenter at the SGGEE Convention, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, July 2016

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

# POLAND

Current detailed map @ <http://www.rymaszewski.iinet.net.au/images/land.gif>

Current with internal divisions @ <http://www.rymaszewski.iinet.net.au/images/mapnew2.jpg>

Polish Village List @ <http://jri-poland.org/town/> OR <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgw/towns-a.html>

German-Polish Place Name Variations @ <http://www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html>

**Historical Border Changes and Maps** [http://www.staypoland.com/images/mapa-historyczna\\_en.jpg](http://www.staypoland.com/images/mapa-historyczna_en.jpg)

1667 - the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth @ <https://www.agawa.pl/opisy/zdjecia/40892.jpg>

1772 - the First Partition of Poland

1793 - the Second Partition of Poland

1795 - the Third Partition of Poland @ <https://uzar.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/partition.gif>

1807 - Duchy of Warsaw and Free City of Danzig [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d8/Duchy\\_of\\_Warsaw\\_and\\_Republic\\_of\\_Danzig.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d8/Duchy_of_Warsaw_and_Republic_of_Danzig.JPG) 1809 - the Duchy of Warsaw won the Battle of Raszyn

1815 - partitioned between Prussia and Russia at the Congress of Vienna

1831 - after the November Uprising, Congress Poland lost its status as a sovereign state

1846 - In the aftermath of the unsuccessful Kraków Uprising, the Free City of Kraków was annexed by the Austrian Empire

1848 - the Grand Duchy of Posen comes under the control of Prussia

1918 - The West Ukrainian People's Republic was proclaimed on November 1, 1918, with Lviv as its capital. The Republic claimed sovereignty over Eastern Galicia, including the Carpathians up to the city of Nowy Sącz in the west, as well as Volhynia, Carpathian Ruthenia and Bukovina.

1919 - the recreation of the nation of Poland

1919 - Poland seizes West Ukrainian People's Republic

1919 - 21 - the Polish - Soviet War

1920 - Poland seizes West Ukrainian People's Republic

1921 - the Silesian Uprisings. Poland map 1921 @ <http://info-poland.buffalo.edu/classroom/maps/map39.jpg>

1938 - seize land from Czechoslovakia recently taken over by Germany

1939 - Germany and the Soviet Union invaded Poland and partitioned it pursuant to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. See <http://www.gilmerfreepress.net/images/uploads/WWIIIGermanyToPoland.jpg>

1945 - The Polish territories east of the Curzon Line, which the Soviet Union had occupied in 1939 along with the Białystok region, were permanently annexed. Poland received former German territory east of the Oder-Neisse line, consisting of the southern two thirds of East Prussia and most of Pomerania, Neumark (East Brandenburg), and Silesia. The German population was expelled. @ <https://patriceayme.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/poland-deportation-1945.gif>

1948 - 2002 - Poland makes minor border adjustments with neighbouring states. [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Poland\\_administrative\\_divisions\\_-\\_de\\_-\\_colored.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Poland_administrative_divisions_-_de_-_colored.svg)

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

# UKRAINE

**Current detailed map @ [http://www.vidlani.com/maps/maps\\_of\\_europe/maps\\_of\\_ukraine/large\\_detailed\\_road\\_map\\_of\\_ukraine\\_with\\_all\\_cities\\_and\\_airports\\_for\\_free.jpg](http://www.vidlani.com/maps/maps_of_europe/maps_of_ukraine/large_detailed_road_map_of_ukraine_with_all_cities_and_airports_for_free.jpg)**

**Current with internal divisions @ [http://www.ukraine-insight.com.ua/Map\\_Ukraine\\_in\\_English.jpg](http://www.ukraine-insight.com.ua/Map_Ukraine_in_English.jpg)**

**Areas within Ukraine @ <http://vignette1.wikia.nocookie.net/althistory/images/9/96/1983ddukrainemap1.png/revision/latest?cb=20120924113405>**

**Ukraine Village List @** There appears to be no complete list but a GOOGLE search will yield several lists of villages in areas or oblasts. If all else fails, use the JewishGen Gazetteer at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp> You can search by place name or latitude and longitude. This will not always locate the smallest villages. If you now that the place you seek is near a major city like Czortkow, do a radius search from the major city and that may well locate the elusive village. For places in Galicia, the best source is the book **Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia by Brian Lenius**. For further information see <http://www.halgal.com/gggenius.html>

**Ukrainian - Polish - German Name Variations @ <http://www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html>**

## **Historical Border Changes and Maps**

**1386 - the Polish - Lithuanian personal union include much of Ukraine and Belarus @ <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/e6/e5/fb/e6e5fbaa08531b2f8116cec21ed05853.jpg>**

**1569 - both within Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.**

**1700 - See map at <http://www.geocurrents.info/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Ukraine1700PoliticalMap-1024x683.png>**

**1740 - See map at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/uk/c/cd/Map\\_of\\_Ukraine\\_\(1740\).jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/uk/c/cd/Map_of_Ukraine_(1740).jpg)**

**1772 - Galicia is partitioned to Austria. See map @ <http://polishjews.org/maps/partit1.gif>**

**1793 - Eastern Volhynia partitioned to Russia. See map @ <http://polishjews.org/maps/partit2.gif>**

**1795 - Western Volhynia partitioned to Russia. See map @ <https://uzar.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/partition.gif>**

**1918 - West Ukrainian People's Republic is formed @ <http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-ZB1upNaxj3c/UF65cYNhEdI/AAAAAAAAABi0/U7G4uzLsqS4/s1600/Ukraine+1919.jpg>**

**1921 - Borders after the Peace Treaty of Riga with all Galicia and Western Volhynia in Poland. Eastern Volhynia is in Russia @ [http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Ukraine/UKR%201920\\_21.JPG](http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/Ukraine/UKR%201920_21.JPG) OR [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/Polen\\_Galizien\\_Wolhynien.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/Polen_Galizien_Wolhynien.png)**

**1939 - Polish held Galicia and Volhynia are given to Ukraine SSR @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/77/Ribbentrop-Molotov\\_Pact.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/77/Ribbentrop-Molotov_Pact.jpg)**

**1944 - Romanian territories given to Ukraine.**

**1945 - Czechoslovak Ruthenia given to Ukraine.**

**1948 - Romanian Islands given to Ukraine.**

**1954 - Russian Crimea given to Ukraine.**

**1990 - Independent Ukraine @ [http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/tarutyne/Tarutino\\_files/Map3.jpg](http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/tarutyne/Tarutino_files/Map3.jpg)**

**2015 - Crimea and Eastern Ukraine seized by Russians. Territorial Additions. See map at [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cc/Simplified\\_historical\\_map\\_of\\_Ukrainian\\_borders\\_1654-2014.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cc/Simplified_historical_map_of_Ukrainian_borders_1654-2014.jpg) For more detail and maps see [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas\\_of\\_Ukraine](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Atlas_of_Ukraine)**

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

# PRUSSIA

Pre-1905 detailed map @ [https://www.college.columbia.edu/core/sites/core/files/images/Prussia\\_political\\_map\\_before\\_1905.jpg](https://www.college.columbia.edu/core/sites/core/files/images/Prussia_political_map_before_1905.jpg)

Prussia within Poland @ <http://static-numista.com/forum/images/574b2fb5ddc95.png>

Prussia Village List @ [https://www.sggee.org/research/Gazetteer\\_German\\_Empire.pdf](https://www.sggee.org/research/Gazetteer_German_Empire.pdf)

German-Polish Place Name Variations @ <http://www.atnotes.com/other/gerpol.html>

## Historical Border Changes and Maps

1454-1466 - the Second Peace of Thorn, two Prussian states were established. (See map @ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Teutonic\\_state\\_1466.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Teutonic_state_1466.png))

1525 - Grand Master Albert of Brandenburg-Ansbach secularised the Order's remaining Prussian territories into the Duchy of Prussia.

1618 - Brandenburg and Prussia were unified, but consisted of geographically disconnected territories in Prussia, Brandenburg, and the Rhineland lands of Cleves and Mark.

1701 - Frederick III, upgraded Prussia from a duchy to a kingdom.

1720 - Acquired half of Swedish Pomerania. (See map @ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Acprussiamap2.gif> )

1760 - Through a series of wars Prussia gains full control of Silesia from Austria Hungary.

1772 - The First Partition of Poland provided land that geographically connected the Brandenburg territories with those of Prussia proper.

1793 - The Second Partition of Poland

1795 - The Third Partition of Poland (See partitions @ <https://uzar.files.wordpress.com/2008/04/partition.gif> )

1807 - Under the Treaties of Tilsit, Prussia lost about one third of its area, including the areas gained from the second and third Partitions of Poland, which now fell to the Duchy of Warsaw.

1815 - At the Congress of Vienna was the recovery of her lost territories, as well as the whole of the Rhineland, Westphalia, 40% of Saxony and some other territories. In exchange, Prussia withdrew from areas of central Poland to allow the creation of Congress Poland under Russian sovereignty. Prussia became part of the German Confederation.

1865 - Prussia took over the administration of Schleswig while Austria assumed that of Holstein.

1866 - Prussia annexed four of Austria's allies in northern and central Germany—Hanover, Hesse-Kassel (or Hesse-Cassel), Nassau and Frankfurt. Prussia also won full control of Schleswig-Holstein. (See map @ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Ac.prussiamap3.png> )

1870 - Regain Alsace-Lorraine by defeating France in the Franco-Prussian War/

1871 - Under Prussia's leadership Germany is finally unified with William of Prussia being proclaimed "German Emperor." (See map @ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Prussiamap.gif> )

1918 - Wilhelm II abdicated as German Emperor and King of Prussia. Prussia was proclaimed a "Free State" within the new Weimar Republic. Almost all of Germany's territorial losses were areas that had been part of Prussia. Many of the areas which Prussia had annexed in the partitions of Poland went to the Second Polish Republic. Danzig became the Free City of Danzig under the administration of the League of Nations. The creation of the Polish Corridor which separates Prussia from the rest of Germany creates a problem.

1947 - the Allied Control Council formally proclaimed the dissolution of Prussia. Most of Prussia is awarded to Poland within its revised borders and a small amount of territory is given to Russia. Map showing German land losses post WW II @ <https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-v2NreWGMX1o/UNqkBGaAcu/AAAAAAAAABDY/KBH37pKcPUE/s1600/Germany-lost-territory-ww2-map.jpg> For more details and maps see @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFrv1rCLC7E>

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

Detailed map @ <http://www.volhynia.com/graphics/h97300.jpg>

# VOLHYNIA

Map with internal divisions @ <https://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/russia/gvolhynia2.gif>

Western Volhynian German Village List @ <http://www.volhynia.com/dai.html>

All Volhynian Villages @ [https://www.sggee.org/research/Gazetteer\\_Volhynia.pdf](https://www.sggee.org/research/Gazetteer_Volhynia.pdf)

Location Map @ <http://vignette1.wikia.nocookie.net/althistory/images/9/96/1983ddukrainemap1.png/revision/latest?cb=20120924113405>

German-Polish Place Name Variations @ <http://www.atsnotes.com/other/gerpol.html>

## Historical Border Changes and Maps

1340 - the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania divided the region between them, Poland taking Western Volhynia and Lithuania taking Eastern Volhynia (1352–1366). See map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Polska\\_1333\\_-\\_1370.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Polska_1333_-_1370.png)

1569 - Volhynia formed a province of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. See map @ <http://www.rymaszewski.iinet.net.au/images/polfree2.jpg>

and <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/lrp1569.jpg>

1795 - Volhynia was annexed as the Volhynian Governorate of the Russian Empire. See map @ [https://www.google.ca/search?biw=1242&bih=566&site=webhp&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=Volhynia+Poland+within+Russia+map&oq=Volhynia+Poland+within+Russia+map&gs\\_l=img.12...1373196.1385729.0.1412738.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.1c.1.64.img..0.0.0.R2E9B4MKVZE#imgdii=owWG\\_cMaGan-SM%3A%3BowWG\\_cMaGan-SM%3A%3BU-GhsmGKVV3HhM%3A&imgrc=owWG\\_cMaGan-SM%3A](https://www.google.ca/search?biw=1242&bih=566&site=webhp&tbm=isch&sa=1&q=Volhynia+Poland+within+Russia+map&oq=Volhynia+Poland+within+Russia+map&gs_l=img.12...1373196.1385729.0.1412738.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.1c.1.64.img..0.0.0.R2E9B4MKVZE#imgdii=owWG_cMaGan-SM%3A%3BowWG_cMaGan-SM%3A%3BU-GhsmGKVV3HhM%3A&imgrc=owWG_cMaGan-SM%3A)

1918 - the territory of Volhynia was split in half by a frontline just west of the city of Lutsk.

1921 - the Peace of Riga divided the Volhynian Governorate between Poland and the Soviet Union. Poland took the larger part and established a Volhynian Voivodeship. Most of eastern Volhynian Governorate became part of the Ukrainian SSR, eventually splitting into smaller districts. See map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/Polen\\_Galizien\\_Wolhynien.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/Polen_Galizien_Wolhynien.png)

1939 - division of Polish territories between the Reich and the USSR, the Polish part of Volhynia was occupied by the Soviet Union. In the course of the Nazi-Soviet population transfers which followed this German-Soviet reconciliation, most of the German minority population of Volhynia were transferred to Polish areas annexed by Nazi Germany. See map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a1/Rzeczpospolita\\_1938.svg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a1/Rzeczpospolita_1938.svg) and [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b8/Volhynia\\_1939\\_Poland\\_\(Wojew%C3%B3dztwo\\_Wo%C5%82y%C5%84skie\).jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b8/Volhynia_1939_Poland_(Wojew%C3%B3dztwo_Wo%C5%82y%C5%84skie).jpg)

and [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/Occupation\\_of\\_Poland\\_1941.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/Occupation_of_Poland_1941.png)

1945 - ethnic Germans in Volhynia were expelled. Volhynia was annexed to Soviet Ukraine. Most of the remaining ethnic Polish population were expelled to Poland.

1990 - Volhynia is made an integral part of Ukraine. See map @ <https://digitalempire.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/ukrainemap.jpg>

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

Detailed map @ [http://iloveromania.com/wp-content/gallery/bucovina/bucovina-map\\_1910.jpg](http://iloveromania.com/wp-content/gallery/bucovina/bucovina-map_1910.jpg)

# BUKOVINA

Internal divisions @ [https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-services-us-east-1-914248642252/s3-research-wiki-elasticsearch-prod-s3bucket/images/thumb/d/d8/Bukovina\\_Districts\\_1910.jpg/200px-Bukovina\\_Districts\\_1910.jpg](https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-services-us-east-1-914248642252/s3-research-wiki-elasticsearch-prod-s3bucket/images/thumb/d/d8/Bukovina_Districts_1910.jpg/200px-Bukovina_Districts_1910.jpg)

Bukovina Village List (with German and Romanian variations) @ <http://www.bukovinasociety.org/Bukovina-Village-Name-List.html>

## Historical Border Changes and Maps

**1768 - 1774 - the Russo-Turkish War, the Ottomans were defeated by the Russian Empire, that occupied the region**

**1772 - in the First Partition of Poland, Austria claims Bukovina. See map @ [http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/moldova/mold\\_his\\_2\\_files/image004.gif](http://www.conflicts.rem33.com/images/moldova/mold_his_2_files/image004.gif)**

**1774 - Austria occupies Bukovina**

**1775 - at Palamutka, Austrians and Ottomans signed a border convention, Austria giving back 59 of the previously occupied villages, and remaining with 278 villages.**

**1775 - 1776 - Bukovina was a closed military district of the Austrian Empire**

**1787–1849 - constituent Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria in the Austrian Empire. See map @ [http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/webpages/kuk\\_Galizien\\_u\\_Lodomerien\\_1914.jpg](http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/webpages/kuk_Galizien_u_Lodomerien_1914.jpg)**

**1849 - Bukovina became a separate Austrian Kronland 'crown land' See No. 2 on map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Austria-Hungary\\_map.svg/2000px-Austria-Hungary\\_map.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Austria-Hungary_map.svg/2000px-Austria-Hungary_map.svg.png)**

**1860 - again amalgamated with Galicia**

**1861 - reinstated as a separate province once again, a status that would last until 1918. (See map at <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Bucovina.JPG> OR @ <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/54/Bukovina1910ethnic.jpg>**

**1918 - Romanian army moves into Bukovina**

**1919 - Romanian control of the province was recognized internationally in the Treaty of St. Germain. See 1930 map @ <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4c/Bucov.png>**

**1940 - Soviet Ultimatum demanded from Romania the northern part of Bukovina. The Romanian government evacuated Northern Bukovina, and the Red Army moved into this territory. See map at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bukovina#/media/File:Bucovina\\_division.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bukovina#/media/File:Bucovina_division.svg)**

**1944 - the Red Army drove the Axis forces out and re-established the Soviet control over the territory. See map @ <https://www.ushmm.org/lcmedia/map/lc/image/eeu71020.gif>**

**1947 - Romania was forced to formally cede the northern part of Bukovina to the USSR by the Paris peace treaty. The territory became part of the Ukrainian SSR as Chernivtsi Oblast (province).**

**1990 - South remains in Romania; north in independent Ukraine. For Romania see map @ [http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_5N0QdnEZrcI/R8mZ5jyKldI/AAAAAAAAAU/pF8n9cSFowY/s320/Romania+-+Historical+Regions+Map.gif](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_5N0QdnEZrcI/R8mZ5jyKldI/AAAAAAAAAU/pF8n9cSFowY/s320/Romania+-+Historical+Regions+Map.gif) FOR Ukraine see map @ <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/Ukraine-growth.png>**

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

# GALICIA

Detailed map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/Galicia\\_1897\\_1.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/Galicia_1897_1.jpg)

Internal divisions @ <http://users.erols.com/mwhite28/images/austhung.gif> (See also article @ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions\\_of\\_Galicia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Galicia) )

Galician Village Finder @ <http://www.geshergalicia.org/galician-town-locator/> OR [https://www.sggee.org/research/Gazetteer\\_Galicia.pdf](https://www.sggee.org/research/Gazetteer_Galicia.pdf)

**Ukraine Village List and Place Name Variations** @ There appears to be no complete list but a GOOGLE search will yield several lists of villages in areas or oblasts. If all else fails, use the JewishGen Gazetteer at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp> You can search by place name or latitude and longitude. This will not always locate the smallest villages. If you now that the place you seek is near a major city like Czortkow, do a radius search from the major city and that may well locate the elusive village. For places in Galicia, the best source is the book **Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia by Brian Lenius**. For further information see <http://www.hagal.com/gglenius.html>

## **Historical Border Changes and Maps**

**1352 - the Principality of Galicia-Volhynia was split between the Polish Kingdom and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania** @

**1569 - the Union of Lublin creates the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which will last for over 200 years. Galicia is within its borders**

**1772 - in the First Partition of Poland the southeastern part of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was awarded to the Habsburg Austrian Empire and becomes known as the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria**

**1787–1849 - Bukovina constituent Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria in the Austrian Empire. See map @ [http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/webpages/kuk\\_Galizien\\_u\\_Lodomerien\\_1914.jpg](http://www.deutsche-schutzgebiete.de/webpages/kuk_Galizien_u_Lodomerien_1914.jpg)**

**1849 - Bukovina became a separate Austrian Kronland 'crown land' See No. 2 on map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Austria-Hungary\\_map.svg/2000px-Austria-Hungary\\_map.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/66/Austria-Hungary_map.svg/2000px-Austria-Hungary_map.svg.png)**

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**1918 - Western Galicia became a part of the restored Republic of Poland**

**1921 - by the Peace of Riga all of Galicia is assigned to the Second Polish Republic.**

**1939 - all territory east of the San, Bug and Neman rivers, approximating the former territory of East Galicia, was occupied and annexed by the USSR**

**1941 - the period of Sovietisation came to an end when Germany took East Galicia during Operation Barbarossa**

**1945 - Western Galicia becomes part of Poland with its new borders and Eastern Galicia becomes a part of Ukraine SSR**

**1990 - the independence of Ukraine and Eastern Galicia is a district within this nation**

# A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..

# GERMANY

Current detailed map @ <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/europe/germany.jpg>

Current with internal divisions @ <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/d2/cc/07/d2cc0706766a33c2eac0b70571271fe9.jpg>

German Town Finder @ <http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index>

German Gazetteer (1912) in development @ <http://www.meyersgaz.org/>

## Historical Border Changes and Maps

Prior to 1871, there is no Germany as we know it only a collection of numerous small states (over 600 at times). From 800 to the early 1800s, they are loosely united in an entity known as the Holy Roman Empire which has little real power except rarely when it has a very able Emperor. See map @ <http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/images/Germany%201648%20Cities.jpg> From the 1700s onward, Prussia gains power and control eventually leading the movement to make a unified German state. For details of their rise and fall see, the sheet titled "Prussia." See map @ <http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/germany/empeccles1500.gif> 1803 - the Holy Roman Empire is abolished

**1815 - Prussia are among the nations who play a role in the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. At the Congress of Vienna was the recovery of her lost territories, as well as the whole of the Rhineland, Westphalia, 40% of Saxony and some other territories. In exchange, Prussia withdrew from areas of central Poland to allow the creation of Congress Poland under Russian sovereignty. Prussia became part of the German Confederation. (See map @ <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/68/16/d9/6816d9fc289ab8da5c936b8b58a53a2d.jpg> )**

**1865 - Prussia took over the administration of Schleswig while Austria assumed that of Holstein.**

**1866 - Prussia annexed four of Austria's allies in northern and central Germany—Hanover, Hesse-Kassel (or Hesse-Cassel), Nassau and Frankfurt. Prussia also won full control of Schleswig-Holstein. (See map @ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Ac.prussiamap3.png> )**

**1870 - Regain Alsace-Lorraine by defeating France in the Franco-Prussian War/**

**1871 - Under Prussia's leadership Germany is finally unified with William of Prussia being proclaimed "German Emperor." (See map @ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prussia#/media/File:Prussiamap.gif> OR [http://sturgiswesthistory.weebly.com/uploads/9/5/2/5/9525566/384732739\\_orig.jpg](http://sturgiswesthistory.weebly.com/uploads/9/5/2/5/9525566/384732739_orig.jpg) )**

**1890 - Britain ceded Heligoland (a small German archipelago in the North Sea) to German.**

**1918 - the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Russia's new Bolshevik (communist) government renounced all claim to Finland, the future Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), Poland, Belarus, Ukraine. Most of these territories were in effect ceded to the German Empire. (See <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/68/66/fb/6866fbb2ca01845d7f027f0f96771041.jpg> )**

**1919 - Treaty of Versailles: 1. Alsace-Lorraine were restored to France, 2. Northern Schleswig including the German-dominated towns in Schleswig-Holstein, after the Schleswig Plebiscite, to Denmark (1920), 3. the Prussian provinces Posen and West Prussia were returned to reborn Poland, 4. the Hlučín Region of Upper Silesia to Czechoslovakia, 5. East Upper Silesia to Poland, 6. the area of Eupen-Malmedy to Belgium, along with the Vennbahn railroad track bed, 7. the northern part of East Prussia as Memelland under control of France, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, later transferred to Lithuania without a plebiscite, 8. area of Soldau in East Prussia (a railway station on the Warsaw-Danzig route) to Poland, 9. the southern part of East Prussia Warmia and Masuria to Poland, 10. the Saar area to be under the control of the League of Nations for 15 years, after that a plebiscite between France and Germany, to decide to which country it would belong, 11. the port of Danzig (now Gdańsk, Poland) with the delta of Vistula river at the Baltic Sea was made the Free City of Danzig (Freie Stadt Danzig) under the League of Nations, 12. Germany acknowledges and will respect strictly the independence of Austria, 13. Sudetenland despite their protests becomes part of Czechoslovakia, 14. the Upper Silesia region from Germany and join it with the Second Polish Republic.**

## **A Quick Guide to the Border Changes of..**

# **GERMANY**

(continued)

and will respect strictly the independence of Austria, 13. Sudetenland despite their protests becomes part of Czechoslovakia, 14. the Upper Silesia region from Germany and join it with the Second Polish Republic. (See map comparing borders of 1914 with those of 1923 @ <http://a.files.bbc.co.uk/bam/live/content/z3n9xnb/large> and map of the Polish Corridor @ [http://www.authentichistory.com/1930-1939/4-roadtowar/1-germany/MAP\\_The\\_Polish\\_Corridor.jpg](http://www.authentichistory.com/1930-1939/4-roadtowar/1-germany/MAP_The_Polish_Corridor.jpg) )

**1935 - the Saar's re-union with Germany was approved by the League Council.**

**1936 - Hitler sent a small expeditionary force into the demilitarized Rhineland.**

**1938 - Anschluss unify the German populations of Austria and Germany under one nation.**

**1938 - despite the Munich Agreement, the Czechoslovak government capitulated gave Germany the Sudetenland starting October 10, and de facto control over the rest of Czechoslovakia as long as Hitler promised to go no further.**

**1938 - the Treaty of the Cession of the Memel Territory to Germany in exchange for a Lithuanian Free Zone in the port of Memel.**

**1939 - Nazi armies entered Prague and proceeded to occupy the remainder of Bohemia and Moravia, which was transformed into a protectorate of the Reich. The eastern half of the country, Slovakia, became a separate pro-Nazi state, the Slovak Republic. ( See map of German expansion into Eastern Europe in 1930s @ [http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/images/Map\\_1\\_english\\_for\\_bh-edit.jpg](http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/images/Map_1_english_for_bh-edit.jpg) )**

**1939 - Germany invades Poland. Germany takes much of Poland, and the USSR takes the remainder.**

**1940 - Germany invades and annexes the three French departments that form Alsace-Lorraine.**

**1940 - Luxembourg was invaded and occupied by German Forces in June 1940. It was formally annexed to Germany.**

**1940 - the re-integration of Eupen-Malmedy (part of Belgium) into Germany.**

**1941 - Germany attacks the Soviet Union, the Białystok Voivodeship, which included the Białystok, Bielsk Podlaski, Grajewo, Łomża, Sokółka, Volkovysk, and Grodno Counties, was "attached to" East Prussia, while East Galicia was added to the General Government.**

**1945 - After the war, 1. the division of Germany and Austria respectively into four occupation zones, ( See map @ [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a9/Germany\\_occupation\\_zones\\_with\\_border.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a9/Germany_occupation_zones_with_border.jpg) ),**

**2. the reversal of all German annexations in Europe after 1937, among these were Sudetenland, Alsace-Lorraine, Austria, the western-most parts of Poland, and others, 3. Germany's eastern border was to be shifted westwards to the Oder-Neisse line, (See map showing border changes relate to this line @ <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/92/Oder-neisse.gif> ),**

**4. expulsion of the German populations remaining beyond the new eastern borders of Germany, and ethnically German denaturalised citizens of other states. See map @ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial\\_evolution\\_of\\_Germany#/media/File:Germanborders.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Germany#/media/File:Germanborders.svg)**

**1949 - the provisional transfer of 20 square kilometres (7.7 sq mi) to Belgium. Federal Republic of Germany cedes the villages Elten and Tüddern to the Netherlands.**

**1949 - the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) is formed and shortly afterwards, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) is established. ( See map of two Germany nations @ <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/9e/f7/6f/9ef76f07be6bb79552a3c8ccbfc83d28.jpg> )**

**1990 - East Germany reunites with West Germany. (See <http://www.sovereign-ancestry.com/images/germany-map-lrg.jpg> )**



**For the SGGEE Convention  
July 29 - 31, 2016 in  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada**



***“Like all walls it was ambiguous, two faced.  
What was inside it and what was outside it  
depended upon which side you were on.”***

***— Ursula K. Le Guin, The Dispossessed***