



"A German Genealogy Group for Poland and Volhynia"

## Standards for the locations in family data for the Master Pedigree Database (MPD)<sup>1</sup>

(Released on October 10, 2013)

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### 1. Introduction

The SGGEE letter of January 9, 2009 on “Submittal standards for family data” gave initial guidelines for locations. However, those guidelines only hint at the need and reason to format location names. The MPD is becoming larger and larger and, the many naming variations of the same village are becoming a huge problem.

With the standardization we would like to:

- unify the location names in the MPD
- facilitate the mergers of persons in the MPD
- facilitate the finding of a village on present and old maps.

As SGGEE uses the **Legacy genealogy program**<sup>3</sup> for the MPD, it seems sensible to adapt our location-standard to that program. The choice of that program was (long ago) determined by the properties of the program, which are not only suitable for the many large mergers we have to

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<sup>1</sup> The MPD is a big Legacy file with extractions from polish church-books and the personal data of members of the SGGEE. The file contains 530,000 persons and 43,000 locations. A search is only permitted to SGGEE-members.

<sup>2</sup> **Main-Events** are birth, baptism, death, burial and marriage; many other events/facts can be added with description, date, **location** and notes.

<sup>3</sup> You will find more on Legacy Family Tree software with [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legacy\\_Family\\_Tree](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legacy_Family_Tree)

perform but also for the treatment of sources and locations. Only with Legacy can you use coordinates, location short names, the Geo-locator<sup>4</sup> and the integrated map-system “Bing” of Microsoft. We declare that apart from maintaining the integrity of the Master Pedigree Database (MPD), we do not have any vested or pecuniary interests in the Legacy program.

**While everyone can name villages as they prefer, SGGEE requires that you not do so with data submitted to us, since it is then not possible to merge data.** While it may make sense to deviate from the standard we propose when you want to print personal reports or family trees (since you might need much shorter village names in limited space) you can still base your shortening on the village naming we propose.

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

## 2. Short version of the guidelines

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

**1. Name the locations according to the so-called “Three-Comma” principle<sup>5</sup> (exceptions will be given on the next page and you will find more details in chapter 5).**

	(1) “VILLAGE”	(2) “COUNTY”	(3) “STATE”	(4) “COUNTRY”
	Present-day name (alternate name),	Present-day name,	Present-day name,	Present-day English name
<b>Australia</b>	Town/City	,	State or Territory, <sup>6</sup>	Australia
<b>Austria</b>	Dorf/Ort/Stadt,	Bezirk,	Bundesland,	Austria
<b>Canada</b>	Village/Place/Town/City,	,	Province,	Canada
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Obec/Misto/Mesto,	,	Kraj,	Czech Republic
<b>France</b>	Commune/Lieu/Ville,	Departement,	Region,	France
<b>Germany</b>	Dorf/Ort/Stadt,	Kreis,	Bundesland,	Germany
<b>Poland</b>	Wies/Miejsce/Miasto,	Powiat,	Wojewodztwo,	Poland
<b>Russia</b>	Derevnja/Mesto/Gorod	Raion,	Respublica/Oblast/ Krai,	Russia
<b>Ukraine</b>	Selo/Mistse/Misto	Raion,	Oblast,	Ukraine
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Village/Place/Town/City,	County,	England/Scotland/ Wales/N.Ireland,	United Kingdom
<b>USA</b>	Village/Place/Town/City,	County,	State,	United States

**2. All present-day names must be recorded in the language of the present-day Country, but always in Roman letters. Only the country name is in English. Any Non-Roman characters are converted into Roman characters without accent marks.** For necessary transcriptions of present-day names use the English method (refer to Appendix B for Cyrillic). Diacritical marks (f.e. Ł, ę, ą, ó) are not permitted, as members in most countries cannot use such marks in a web search.

<sup>4</sup> The Geolocator helps with finding and naming of locations. It is well suited for North-American towns & villages but not so good for other parts of the world, especially Eastern Europe.

<sup>5</sup> The Three-Comma principle describes the method to name a location with four administrative units (see table above). The Legacy program allows sorting these four units in 12 different combinations. This allows an easy check of the spelling of the county -, state - and country names.

<sup>6</sup> short form only

**Important: all commas must be entered**, even when there is no information on the village, county or state.

**Advice:** It is important to **add the geographic coordinates** for each location as it will resolve once and for all which location is the location you are referring to, since the location will then be unique.

**Exceptions from the above rule are as follows:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 3. General rules for all locations

(We discuss in detail how to name villages in East-Europe in Chapter 5.)

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

Note: When only the German county or the province is known, you will have to enter that name as there is in all cases no exact equivalence with the present administrative units. The former German province Posen will not become Wielkopolskie because they do have the same boundaries.

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

**3.2. Country names:** Generally use only the present-day country names for all locations, refer to MAP 2.

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

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

Some examples:

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

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

**3.5. Location with no alternative in ( ) or after /:** German villages often show an addition such as Nienburg (Weser), Neustadt (Saale) or Halle/Westf. in order to specify where that village is located. Weser and Saale are rivers and Westf. is the abbreviation of the region Westfalen. These additions are not alternatives in the ( ) or after the / and they conflict with the rule 3.4. We ask you **not** to enter the "(Weser)" as it is not necessary because the county name is sufficient to determine the location.

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

Examples:

Goren Duzy and Goren Male	means	Big Goren and Little Goren
Grabina Mala and Grabina Wielka	means	Little Grabina and Big Grabina
Lubki Stare and Lubki Nowe	means	Old Lubki and New Lubki
Sielce Lewe and Sielce Prawe	means	Left Sielce and Right Sielce

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**3.9. Villages no longer existing, (lost):** when a village does not exist anymore, one should enter in parentheses the word “lost”. We do not need any direction to the next village (last version of the guideline) as we have the coordinates that best define the position of the location. Examples:

Nicpon (lost),	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Cezaryn (Cesarin/lost),	Lutsk	Volyn	Ukraine

**3.10 Villages not found, (not found):** when a village is not found on any map, add (not found).

**Note:** if you do not know the county or state in which the village is located, just add commas.

Examples:

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

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

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

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

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

**3.13. Residences in original or family records, we do not use the word “of” :** There are locations that are not attached to the event into which they are entered in the genealogical program. This happens when, for instance, in a marriage certificate it is written that the bride came from a village (for example from Borki, Leczyca parish), but did not state that she was born there. Do not enter the word “of” anywhere in the location name, as that simply adds clutter to the already long list of locations in the MPD. Instead, simply enter the village name mentioned in the record as the place of birth, marriage or death. The incomplete date always associated with such a place clearly shows the lack of certainty of the location found in the original record.

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

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

Examples:

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

There are more special characters in other countries. Russian and Ukrainian Cyrillic letters must be transcribed into Roman letters, refer to appendix B.

**3.15. Note on the use of parenthetical signs and other punctuation:** Only the above-mentioned parenthesis signs and punctuation marks may be used and only according to the rules. **To avoid any incompatibility with the MPD, no other signs may be invented**, thus never (=village), (=?village) or other signs. The reasons that the two noted symbols cannot be used is that the = adds yet another symbol when there are already enough symbols, and the “?” cannot be used for searches, because it is a wildcard.

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

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

#### 4. History and maps dealing with the East-Europe problem

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

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



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

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

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

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



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



## 5. Locations in East-Europe

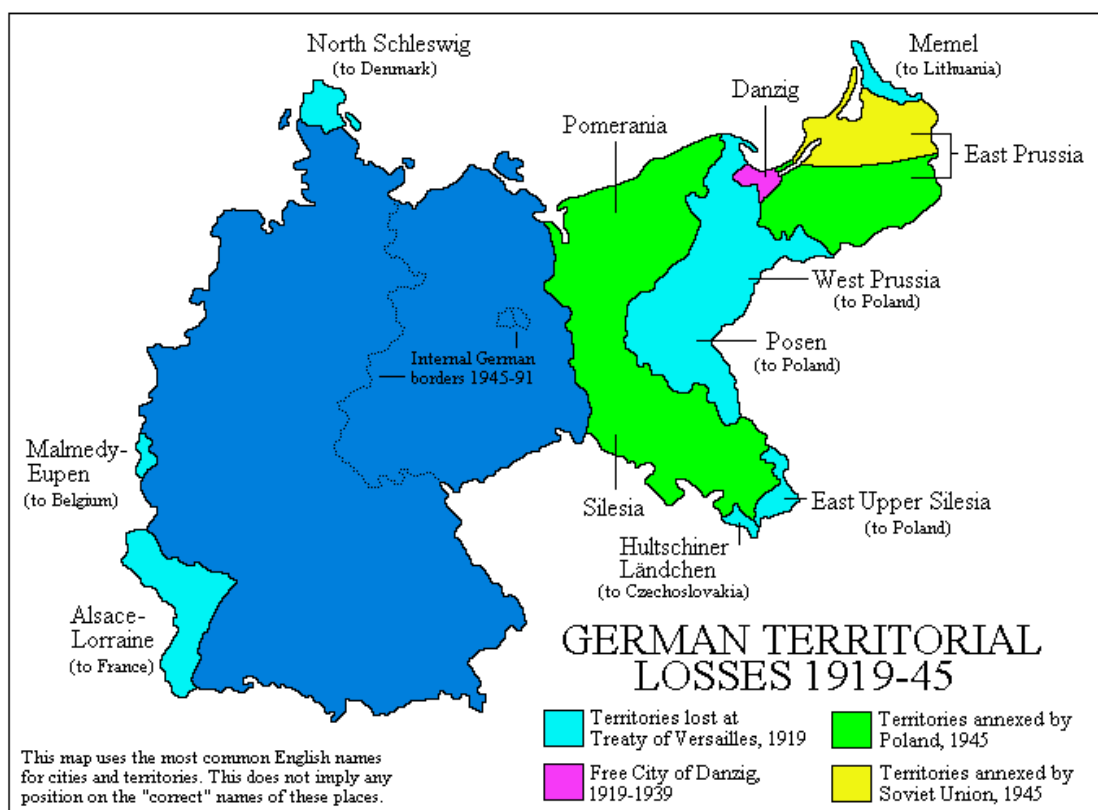
As the working area of SGGEE is East-Europe and as furthermore the naming in this area is extremely difficult, we will pay particular attention to that area.

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

In comparison to the earlier versions we made an important change in 2012: we do not name the former Empires any more, in which the village was laying in the 19th century. Thus not any more "German Empire (Poland)" or "Russian Empire (Ukraine)", but only "Poland" or "Ukraine". This produced a shorter village name, but it is much less conclusive in which Empire the village was lying that belongs today to Poland.

### 5.1. German Empire

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



**MAP 3: GERMAN TERRITORIAL LOSSES 1919-1945**

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

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

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

German village name (Polish village name),	Polish Powiat,	Polish Wojewodztwo,	Country
Bohnsack (Sobieszewo),	Gdansk,	Pomorskie,	Poland
Braknitz (Brzekiniec),	Chodziej,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Dembowa (Debowa),	Kedzierzyn-Kozle,	Opolskie,	Poland

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **5.2. Austrian Empire**

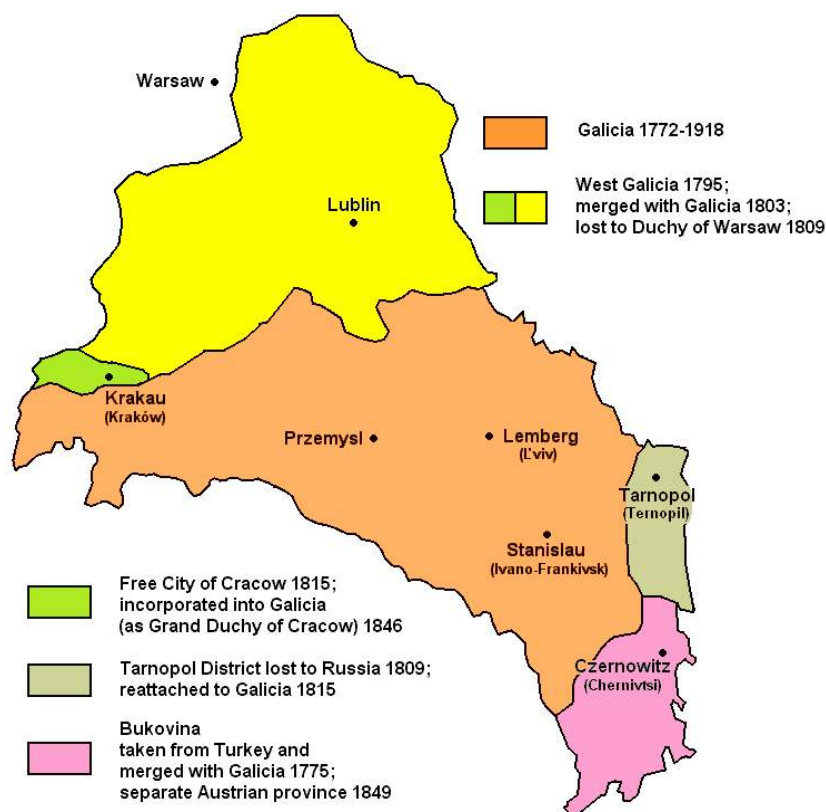
The Austrian Empire (after 1867 Austro-Hungarian Empire, also named k.u.k. Monarchy) can be seen in MAP 2: Middle- and East-Europe around 1910. After WWI the Austrian Empire was completely dissolved into many countries, of which 5 are of particular interest to us:

**5.2.1. Austria of today:** The locations are entered in the following format. Refer to Chapter 3.

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

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

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



**MAP 4:**  
**Kingdom Galicia 1772-1918**, a province of the Austrian Empire. Note how far the Austrian Empire extended to the north into present-day Poland after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Partition of Poland in 1795. The present-day Polish province of Lubelskie was part of the Austrian Empire at that time. Today, Galicia is partly in Poland and partly in the Ukraine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **5.3. Russian Empire**

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

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

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian\\_Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans\\_in\\_Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans_in_Russia) .

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

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

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

#### **5.3.1. Russian Republic**

In the Volga area, Germans gave their villages (most of which no longer exist) pure German names which we will enter in the first place of the location name, followed by the Russian name inside the parenthesis ( ). In the first place we will alternatively enter the Russian name transcribed to German when there is no German village name known. Where a village disappeared, we will enter the German name and “**lost**” inside the ( ). The naming format and examples are as follows:

German name (Present-day village),	Rayon,	Oblast,	Country
Troizk (Troitsk),	<sup>7</sup> ,	Chelyabinsk,	Russia
Samara/Kuibyschew (Samara),	,	Samara,	Russia
Rosenheim (Podstepnoye),	,	Saratov,	Russia
Heinrichsdorf (lost),	,	Volgograd,	Russia

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

<sup>7</sup> Very often counties are missing in Russia.

### 5.3.2. Poland (partial)

In 1815 the **Kingdom of Poland or Congress Poland** was created as a **province of the Russian Empire**. The SGGEE Polish maps and the index by Jerry Frank are based on this area.

**Note:** Not all of that area is still in present-day Poland as the North-East province Suwalske went mostly to Lithuania. We propose to name those Lithuanian locations in the same manner as the Volhynian locations, see Chapter 5.3.4. Example:

German- (Polish- /Lithuanian village name),	Rajono saviv.,	Aprinkis,	Country
Wilmsdorf (Zubrzyki/Zubriai),	Sakiai,	Marijampole,,	Lithuania

Despite the fact that the Kingdom of Poland was a part of the Russian Empire, it remained Polish, and the village names were **not** changed to Russian names. This is in contrast to the German - and Austrian - villages of those two Empires that now lie in Poland and now have Polish names.

Germans migrated to Poland as settlers, merchants and industrial workers. To very few of the Polish villages, German settlers gave a new German name, which later was often changed into a Polish name. In most cases, the Polish name was maintained and used by the German settlers. The naming format follows **the General rules of Chapter 3** and examples are as follows.

Present-day village,	Powiat,	Wojewodztwo,	Country
Adamowo,	Konin,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Augustopol (Wilhelmsthal <sup>8</sup> ),	Kutno,	Lodzkie,	Poland
Lodz-Augustow (Augustow <sup>9</sup> ),	Lodz,	Lodzkie,	Poland
Chelm-Malowane (Malowane),	Chelm,	Lubelskie,	Poland
Chmielewo,	Plock,	Mazowieckie,	Poland
Dabie,	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
Dab Wielki (Dab Niemiecki),	Wloclawek,	Kujawsko-Pomorskie,	Poland
Gabin,	Plock,	Mazowieckie,	Poland
Gostynin,	Gostynin,	Mazowieckie,	Poland

**In 1939 Hitler-Germany invaded Poland** and created the provinces of Danzig-Westpreussen, Warthegau, an extended Ostpreussen and the "Generalgouvernement". They not only changed the names of the provinces but also changed many villages to new German or Germanized versions of the Polish names. The best known example is Litzmannstadt for Lodz. As the occupation ended in less than 6 years, **we ask you not to use 1939-1945 names but instead to enter these names into the general notes. Examples:**

Present-day village,	Powiat,	Wojewodztwo,	Country
Bierzwienna Długa,	Kolo,	Wielkopolskie,	Poland
<i>In the General notes: Bierzwienna Długa was named Dornhecken between 1940 and 1945</i>			
Lodz,	Lodz,	Lodzkie,	Poland
<i>In the General notes: Lodz was named Litzmannstadt between 1940 and 1945</i>			

**Note:** It is difficult to find these 1939-1945 village names. We included those we found in the Congress-Poland gazetteer.

<sup>8</sup> Wilhelmsthal is one of the few German colonies founded at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We retain the chapter 3 order of the naming for these German villages which is in contrast to our naming all other villages in Eastern Europe.

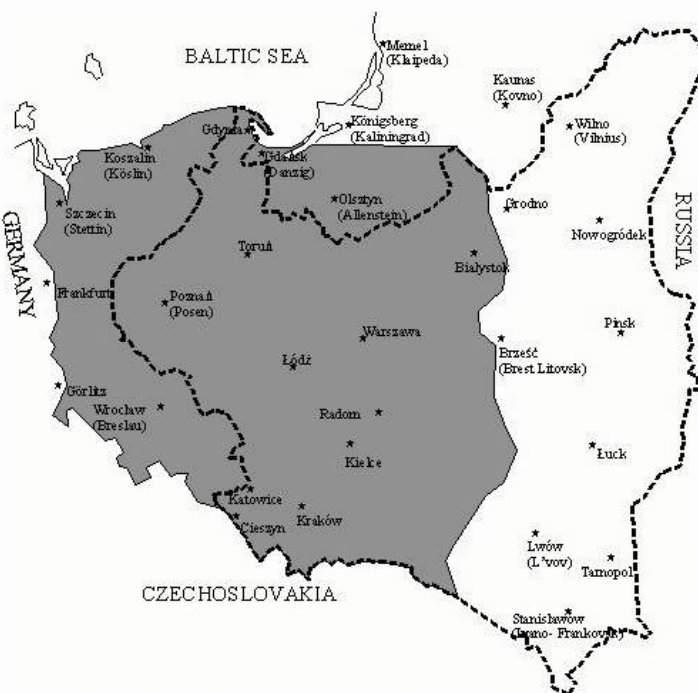
<sup>9</sup> The village Augustow became a part of Lodz.



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

**MAP 5 Kingdom of Poland or Congress Poland 1815-1921**

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



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

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

**MAP 6 Independent Poland 1921-1939**

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

**Note:** Be aware that the boundaries of the Polish provinces (called Województwo) and also those of the

counties (called Powiats) changed considerably. On MAP 5 you see the 10 provinces of 1907. Today Poland has 16 provinces.

Familysearch.org had chosen to use the boundaries existing between 1957 and 1975 and continues to use them in their descriptions of the filming they have completed. This produces difficulties with

the present-day naming for the Województwo Bydgoszcz and Poznań and with the boundaries of the Powiats (especially with Gostynin, Koło, Konin, Płock and Włocławek).

### 5.3.3. Other former Soviet Republics – New countries

As mentioned in Chapter 5.3., there are many new countries that have evolved out of the Russian Empire.

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

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

### 5.3.4. Volhynia in the Ukraine

First comes the **German village name** or where there is none, the name used by the Germans which is the German transcription of the Russian village name. Next we enter in ( ) **the Polish village name and after a “/”, the Ukrainian village name** of today transcribed into English. We propose to add in the first position inside the parenthesis the Polish village name as the western part of Volhynia was Polish between 1920 and 1939 and, because those names were widely used, are easily found on the Polish maps and were written in letters we can easily read (when there is no Polish name found we will enter dash as a place holder). All three village names are given even when they are identical (see the example of Dubno). By that method we will create many alternative names of the same village, which will increase the likelihood of finding a village in the gazetteer. The Volynska Oblast is changed to the shorter version of **Volyn**. Where a village disappeared we write the “German Name” first and then in ( ), we write the Polish village name and “lost” after a / , refer to Chapter 3.9.

The naming format and examples are as follows:

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

**For more information, refer to Appendix A.**

## 5.5 Rules for present-day events

In spite of the above rules, we will have to use two different location names for the same set of coordinates when the event happened recently (meaning after 1945 or 1991).

**One location name for those born, marrying or dying before 1945 in Europe and before 1991 in Russia and**

**another for those events happening after 1945 in Europe and after 1991 in Russia.**



## 5. Recommended Internet addresses

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

To assist with the naming of the villages according to the guidelines we included six Gazetteers on the SGGEE homepage:

**Volhynia Location Gazetteer,**  
**Russian (Congress) Poland Gazetteer,**  
**Galicia Location Gazetteer,**  
**Austrian Empire Gazetteer,**  
**Russian Empire Gazetteer and**  
**German Empire Gazetteer.**

The first three contain all known villages with German inhabitants. The last three contain mainly villages found in the MPD and all are given with coordinates.

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Ed Koeppen, Australia, SGGEE Database Committee Member