Finding your *Heimat*

Locating your *home village* is one key to success in researching your genealogy overseas. Once you capture your home city, town or village, you can research many records to trace back your ancestors.

Examples:[1]
Ravenstein's Atlas
1. Go to the home page for the atlas on University of Wisconsin's site <uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections/German/Ravenstein>. You'll likely want to begin using the atlas by keyword searching—click Search the full text. To begin browsing the atlas, skip to step 5.
2. In the search box, enter the name of the village. The default will search for all tiles included in the University's German Studies Collection, but you can narrow your search to a specific title, such as Ravenstein's atlas.
3. View your results, which are organized by title. I entered *Sprendlingen* and received two entries from Ravenstein's atlas.
4. Access the pages from the PDF at the top of the results page.
5. If you can't find information on your town (or you want to manually browse the atlas pages), return to the atlas' home page and click Browse the Atlas.
6. On the resulting browse page, choose one of the sections of the map.
7. Click the map portion's thumbnail to load a PDF of the section in your browser in your browser or right-click (PCs) or control-click (Macs) to download the file to your desktop. You can also browse each section by page in your browser, through you'll likely want to view the section's PDF to see all of the section's pages on one screen.
8. View the map's PDF and zoom in and out as needed.

Kartenmeister
1. Go to the Kartenmeister home page www.kartenmeister.com.
2. Scroll to the bottom of page to find the search box and enter a term. In this example we'll use *Niederung*.
3. View your results. Kartenmeister returns three results for *Niederung*.
4. Click on a result to bring up a grid with information about the town. You'll learn that Niederung's Polish/Russian name is Zdrojki, that it was in the German province Westpreussen, and that it was in the parish Preschlau.

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[1] Beidler, James M., Trace Your German Roots Online, Family Tree Books, Cincinnati, OH, 2016 pp. 36-38.