

*Definition:* A **Familienbuch** (German, literally "Family-book") was a genealogical summary that was issued by the local civil registry upon marriage and contained data on birth, marriage and death of the couple as well as the birth data of any children stemming from this marriage.

Since January 1, 2009 *Familienbücher* have no longer been issued.

In order to use the church records, **you must know the town** the ancestor came from, at least a name and an exact date of the event. With my father's name, birth date and town, I found the correct entry for his baptism. Baptisms list the parents, mother's maiden name, father's occupation and sponsors.

Starting in 1808, pastors were required to keep Family Books (Familienbücher). These are wonderful records; they are similar to the family group sheets we use. When you order a microfilm from the LDS for a town, look to see if there are Familienbücher for that town. If you are looking for a person who was born, died, or married after 1808, order the Familienbücher film first. Each Family Book page is numbered and may list referral numbers to other Family Books.

Each Family Book page has four main sections.

1. The names of the married couple
2. Parents' section
3. Notes section
4. Children's section

*Overviews:*

- A. [http://www.proz.com/kudoz/german\\_to\\_english/law\\_general/988431-familienbuch\\_lx.html](http://www.proz.com/kudoz/german_to_english/law_general/988431-familienbuch_lx.html)
- B. <http://familytreetours.blogspot.com/2013/10/familienbuch-burgerbuch-and.html>
- C. <http://narafriends-pittsfield.org/gechurch.htm>
- D. [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany\\_Town\\_Genealogies\\_and\\_Parish\\_Register\\_Inventories\\_on\\_the\\_Internet](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Town_Genealogies_and_Parish_Register_Inventories_on_the_Internet)

*Lists:*

Q. For a particular town in Germany I am researching, the LDS have some films labeled "Familienbuch." What kind of information will I find on these films?

Dennis M. Kowallek kowa...@iglou.com

- A. A family bible includes a list of all families in an alphabetical order from a place. This is: Father and mother with children and on the whole available the data and the sources. bye, Josef Gietzen
- A. Hi Dennis, I think there's been a mix-up. A "Familienbuch" has nothing to do with family bible. Instead, it's usually an extract of the parish registers of a town or village, with the entries listed by family; i.e., the data for wife and all children of "Adam Schmidt" will be listed under his name. If one of his sons married, there'll be a separate entry for that new family. I've seen this type of extract called Kinship or Heritage Book in English. To see what one looks like on-line go here, and click on a town name: <http://db.genealogy.net/ofb/map.cgi?land=deutschland>

Heritage books are in general reliable sources, but, like all extracts and transcriptions, may contain errors. Happy Hunting. George Meister

- A. Lucky you! I've only seen one of these, but it's a compilation of family lines by alphabet, as somebody else mentions, each son getting a new page. My guess is that these were compiled from the church records, but sometimes with additional information from the family as side notes (as in, "gone to America"--I've seen that). Priests were required to keep track of such things as close consanguinity when approving banns (no small

matter in villages that might include a total of 150 inhabitants) and I suspect this was part of the reason for keeping the information in this form. Brendan R. Wehrung

*Examples:*

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Familienbuch\\_Mettlach\\_und\\_Umgebung](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Familienbuch_Mettlach_und_Umgebung)

*Resources:*

1. [http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Regionale\\_Forschung\\_im\\_deutschsprachigen\\_Raum#Deutschland](http://wiki-de.genealogy.net/Regionale_Forschung_im_deutschsprachigen_Raum#Deutschland)
2. [http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger\\_local\\_histories.htm](http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_local_histories.htm)
3. [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany\\_Genealogy](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Genealogy)
4. <http://www.germanroots.com/outline.html>
5. <http://www.shopfamilytree.com/the-family-tree-german-genealogy-guide-group>

The next to two handouts will highlight the information found in a Family Book using Dr. Tom Montgomery's Weber family book from Önsbach (Baden), Germany. Working with such a resort, Tom was able to trace back six more generations from his great grandfather, Josef Weber.