**­Kolping Genealogy**

One of the best things I ever did for my genealogy research was to organize my genealogy information, the events of my ancestors’ lives, on a timeline. Then look at major historical events for that relative and the time he/she lived. We are viewing the *Historical Timeline for Germany* in our example.

Do you use timelines for your family history research? Genealogy timelines provide a visual representation of your research that makes it easier for you to examine information you have collected on where your ancestor was, and what they were doing, at various points in their life. No matter how you put together your genealogy timeline (whether via a genealogy software program or simply using a chart in a word processing document or plain paper and pencil), they are an important research tool for tracking your ancestor and for understanding their place in history.

There are two ways to create a Timeline. *Manual* and *Automatic*.

1. **Manual**: Two tools to use when you start creating a timeline for an ancestor are plain paper and pencil. Sometimes old school is best way to start. This one is simple, quick and requires no learning curve.

2. **Computer Software Programs**: Online tools will often have this feature built in. We will demonstrate how to generate the Timeline Report in the popular desktop software, *Family Tree Maker.* Then also learn to do the same in an online program, *Ancestry.*

*Other resources to share*