Anna's Origins - Following the stories to find an immigrant's birthplace and family

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Anna Elisabeth Mohrmann immigrated from Germany to Ohio in 1864 and quickly married. But her husband was not the man she had intended to marry. For years her origins in Germany and her parentage were a mystery. Learn how one record broke through her brick wall pointing to where she was born. Careful analysis then led to learning the names of her parents and grandparents.

Blog posts about Anna.
- Story of finding her village with footnotes: https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/2021/09/annas-origins
- Story with more village and occupation information: https://findingthestoriesofyourancestors.blogspot.com/2022/

Topics covered:
- Using family stories
- Mining all the information in available records
- Research strategies for breaking through a brick wall
- Verifying information
- Continuing the research and including local information and social history

Research strategies for breaking through a brick wall:
- FAN Club research
- Offline research
- Continuing education
- Source Lists, Bibliographies & Footnotes

German Immigrants In American Church Records books: https://familyrootspublishing.net/collections/german-immigrants-in-american-church-records

Meyers Gazetteer of German place names: https://www.meyersgaz.org/

German Church Records
- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Church_Records
- https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/
- https://www.archion.de/en/

Learning to read old German Handwriting
- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Handwriting
- https://www.familysearch.org/en/help/helpcenter/lessons/old-german-script-part-1
- https://germanologyunlocked.com/
- Roger P. Minert, *Deciphering handwriting in German documents* (GRT Publications, 2013).
- Edna Bentz, *If I Can, You Can Decipher Germanic Records* (Edna Bentz, 2006).
- Ernest Thode, *German to English Genealogical Dictionary* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2008).

Using local information and social history
- German Wikipedia: https://www.wikipedia.de/
  - Using Google, right click and select "Translate to English.
- Raboldshausen village:
  - http://www.raboldshausen.net/
  - https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raboldshausen_(Neuenstein)
- Linnen Weaving in Germany:
  - http://www.maggieblanck.com/Blanck/Linen.html
- Village Life
  - Teva J. Scheer, *Our Daily Bread: German Village Life, 1500-1850* (Teva J. Scheer, 2010). https://tevajscheer.com/our-daily-bread/

Other Resources
- FamilySearch wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Genealogy
- Translation help: https://www.deepl.com/translator
- Learning how a work looks in different old German fonts: https://www.deutsche-handschrift.de/adsschreiben.php
- Word and Occupation Lists
  - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/German_Genealogical_Word_List
  - http://www.stemwedegenealogy.com/terminology.htm#4
  - https://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/germanoccs.htm
  - https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~george/oldgermanprofessions.html

Continuing Education
- https://magsgen.com/
- https://iggp.org/
- https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Online_Learning
- https://germanologyunlocked.com/blog/
- https://www.compgen.de/