

Basic Starter Guide to Using the RootsChat Database

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Creating a RootsChat Account

You can view RootsChat threads and the database without a Rootschat account, but in order to edit/add to the database, post on threads or contact other members you will need an account. It's free to join and easy to set up.

Go to: <http://www.rootschat.com/>

Click on the 'Register' link in the top left corner

Read the Registration Agreement and click 'I accept the terms of the agreement' (if you do) at the bottom of the agreement.

Enter a username, email address, password and confirm the password in the appropriate boxes. Also scroll down and answer the verification questions. Then click 'Register'.

You will be sent a confirmation email. Click on the link provided in it to fully activate your account.

Introduction to the database

The database is an ever growing collection of names of Germans who came to Britain and became pork butchers. The database contains only records of individuals born in Germany who came to Britain and became pork butchers. It doesn't have individual records on their lineage or their descendants.

Go to:

http://surname.rootschat.com/lexicon/dbsig/index.php?dbsig_name=German+Pork+Butchers

Scroll down the screen until it looks like this:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL http://surname.rootschat.com/lexicon/dbsig/index.php?dbsig_name=German+Pork+Butchers. The page features a navigation bar with several links: 'DBSIG - Home Page', 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Add Record', 'Edit Record', 'Others with my Interests', and 'Help Page'. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled 'Growing your Family Tree Database for Special Interest Groups DBSIG'. This section includes a search form with a dropdown menu set to 'German Pork Butchers' and a 'Select Special Interest Group' button. Below the search form, there is a heading 'German Pork Butchers' and a paragraph stating: 'Many german pork butchers emigrated to Britain in the 19th Century. The main settlement areas were the North of England and London.' Further down, there is a paragraph explaining the database's search capabilities: 'In this database you can search by Surname, County, or Place names for german pork butchers and their (1st. Generation) descendants. You can also find out which other "Pork Butcher" families RootsChatters are researching.' At the bottom of this section, there are instructions: 'Click on **Quick Search** to see surnames and variations. Click on **Advanced Search** for more possibilities. Click on **Add** to add your ancestors to the Database. Click on **Edit** to correct or add new data to your entries. Click on **Others with my Interests** to find others who are researching the same names as you.' To the right of the main content, there is a section titled 'The "Top Ten" German Pork Butchers (Re-Calculated hourly)' with a list of names and counts: #1: WAGNER (35), #2: KANTENWEIN (27), #3: STRECKER (27), #4: BAUER (25), #5: SCHMIDT (24), #6: LANG (22), #7: EGNER (22), #8: SCHONHUT (21), #9: SCHNEIDER (19), #10: PFISTERER (18). Below this list is another section titled 'The latest Updates and Additions ...' with a list of names and counts: #984 ABELE, #985 ALBRECHT, #987 ANDRASSY, #990 ANDRASSY, #989 ANDRASSY, #986 ANDRASSY, #988 ANDRASSY, #2060 LUDWIG, #2059 HOFER, #2061 HOFER.

The coloured circles match to the explanations below.

‘DBSIG - Home Page’

This is the page in the picture above. This option, along with the menu, will appear on all the pages you visit, so you can return to this page at any point.

‘Help Page’

This is a help page that gives more detail guides into the database, or click here to view them:

http://surname.rootschat.com/lexicon/dbsig/dbsig-help.php?dbsig_num=1

'Quick Search'

Probably the function you will use the most. Click on it and this page appears:

The screenshot shows the website interface for 'Quick Search'. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the RootsChat logo and the date 'Thursday 16 October 14 16:14 BST'. Below this, there are several news items and a section titled 'The RootsChat Reference Library' with various links like 'Reference Library: Help Page', 'RootsChat Lexicon', etc. The main section is for the 'Database for Special Interest Groups DBSIG', featuring a search menu with options like 'DBSIG - Home Page', 'Quick Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Add Record', 'Edit Record', 'Others with my Interests', and 'Help Page'. Below the menu is a list of letters 'A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z' and a count of '0 Entries'.

You still have the menu with the options highlighted in the previous picture. You also have a list of letters below it, entitled 'Surnames starting with'. By clicking on a letter you bring up a list of all the individuals in the database whose surname starts with that letter.

As an example I have clicked on 'S', which brings up this screen:

The screenshot shows the search results for the letter 'S'. The page features a navigation menu at the top and a table of search results. The table has the following columns: ID, Name, (anglicised), DOB, Place of Abode (1) (birth, origin), Place of Abode (2,3,4), and Researchers. The results list individuals such as SAHM, SAHN, SAILE, SAIZMAN, SALZMAN, SAMET, and SAMET, with their respective birth dates and locations.

ID	Name	(anglicised)	DOB	Place of Abode (1) (birth, origin)	Place of Abode (2,3,4)	345 Entries Researchers
1741	?	SHY			ENG, YKS, Blyth	
1445	SAHM, Karoline Wilhelmina		c.1877	D__,	ENG, NBL, Newcastle area	
1446	SAHN, Wilhelm		c.1883	D__,	ENG, DUR, Gateshead	
1771	SAILE, Emil Josef	SAILE	1867	D__, BWU, Stuttgart	ENG, LND, Bermondsey ENG, LND, Camberwell ENG, LND, Bermondsey	limehouse79
1727	SAILE, Karl Adolf	SAILE	1871	D__, BWU, Stuttgart	ENG, LND, Bermondsey ENG, LND, Greenwich	limehouse79
1962	SAILE, Rosina Wilhelmine		1869	D__, BWU, Stuttgart	ENG, LND, West Ham ENG, LND, East Ham	limehouse79
1447	SALZMAN, Margaretha D. Rosine		c.1858	D__, BWU, Kesselfeld	ENG, YKS, Bradford ENG, LAN, Nelson	
691	SALZMANN, Rosine			D__, BWU, Belsenberg		
692	SAMET, Christian			D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz		
1452	SAMET, Gottlieb		c.1891	D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz	ENG, LAN, Manchester	
693	SAMET, Heinrich C.			, Hoßlinsülz Manchester?		
1451	SAMET, Henry		c.1879	D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz	ENG, LAN, Manchester	
1450	SAMET, Louis		Elizabeth) (c.	D__,	ENG, LAN, Manchester	
694	SAMET, Louisa			D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz		
695	SAMET, Marie			D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz		
1455	SAMET, Marie		c.1877	D__,	ENG, LAN, Manchester	
696	SAMET, Mary			D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz		
1448	SAMET, Mary		c.1881	D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz	ENG, LAN, Chorlton	
697	SAMET, Rosine			D__, BWU, Hoßlinsülz		

This screen gives basic information about individuals whose surname starts with 'S'. Aside from their name it gives (if known) date of birth, place of birth, abode in Britain and who is researching the individual.

The words that are highlighted in blue are can be clicked on, which will bring up all individuals who have matching details in that field. For example, 'SALZMAN, Margaretha D. Rosine'. By clicking 'SALZMAN' the database will bring up any individuals with the surname Salzman. If you clicked on 'Kesselfeld', it would bring up any individual born in Kesselfeld. Likewise 'Bradford' would bring up anyone who resided in Bradford.

To view an individual record, click the button to the left of the individual's surname (**highlighted above**). The individual record will appear:

DBSIG - Home Page		Quick Search	Advanced Search	Add Record	Edit Record	Others with my Interests	Help Page
Name	ID 1447: SALZMAN, Margaretha D. Rosine (c.1858-)						
Variations							
Anglicised Name							
Father / Mother							
Place of Abode (1) (Place of birth / Notes)	Germany , Baden-Württemberg , Kesselfeld						
Place of Abode (2)	England , Yorkshire , Bradford				-77 Grafton Street, Horton (Worker) - 1882 -59 Scotland Road, Nelson (Wife) - 1891 -22 Manchester Road, Nelson (Wife) - 1901 -350 Leeds Road, Nelson (Wife) - 1911		
Place of Abode (3)	England , Lancashire , Nelson						
Place of Abode (4)							
Comments	-Married Friedrich RETZ (c.1859) -Sister of Mary WALTER (c.1873)						
Sources	-1882 (Marriage) -Census data						
Submitter Editor	RichardFunk						
Researchers (family links)							<input type="button" value="ADD me to researcher links"/>
<p>If you have more information about this person, you can add it here (max 500 characters). (Web links, e-mail addresses, '<', '>', and '@' are not allowed)</p>							

Again here you can see the general information from the previous page. There is also more detail. It shows the street address of where the individual lived, when they were there and what their status was there:

'Worker' means they were employed in the shop

'Shop' means they owned it

'Wife' means they were the wife of the owner of the shop

'Home' means their residence if not above the shop

In the 'Comments' section there is information on which individuals they link to within the database. You might want to do a 'Quick Search' for 'Friedrich RETZ', her husband.

If you are researching the individual you can add yourself to the researchers by clicking 'ADD me to researcher links'. This allows other people who are also interested in the individual to contact you.

If you have more information on an individual than is listed, you can contact the submitter and ask them to add the extra information you provide. You can do this by sending a personal message or by clicking the 'Request to Edit' button.

You have now completed a 'Quick Search'.

'Advanced Search'

Useful for finding people from a certain place. Once you click on 'Advanced Search' this screen will appear:

The first box allows you to search by 'Surname' or 'Forename'. The search options are explained if you scroll down the page on the database.

It should also be possible to search the 'Comments' field. This is the field containing data on an individual's links to others on the database.

The 'Place of Abode' section is similar to that in the 'Add Record' section of this guide. The first section 'Place of Abode (1)/ birth, origin', allows you to search by country, in the case of German pork butchers this will always be Germany. Select 'Germany' from the drop-down menu and click 'Confirm Country 1'. It will jump to the top of the screen, so you'll have to scroll down again. A new box will appear directly below called 'Region', again select the appropriate German state from the drop down menu, again this will usually be Baden-Württemberg. The next category, 'Place' allows you to search for all the individuals from a certain village/town/city.

The 'Place of Abode (2,3,4)' works on the same method as the 'birth, origin' section, except you can search by 'Place' in Britain. As an example you could enter Morsbach in the 'birth, origin' section and 'Sheffield' in the second section, which would tell you who in the database was born in Morsbach and lived in Sheffield.

Once you have entered your search details, click 'Show Search Results' and see the individual records it brings up.

You have now completed an 'Advanced Search'.

'Add Record'

This function is only available to RootsChat members. Once you have searched the database to check if a certain individual is there, and found that they aren't, you can add them to the database.

Click 'Add Record' and scroll down until it looks like this (I have extended this image for ease of explanation):

surname.rootschat.com/lexicon/dbsig/dbsig-add.php?dbsig_num=1

DBSIG - Home Page Quick Search Advanced Search Add Record Edit Record Others with my Interests Help Page

Name

Surname: Forename: dob: dod:
 or:
 or:

Anglicised name

Surname: Forename:

Parents

Father: Mother:

Place of Abode (1) / Place of Birth

Country: » Confirm Country 1
Choose country and click 'Select ...' button

Region: [No regions available for this country]
(County, State, Territory, etc)

Place:
(Max. 40 Chars.) e.g. Town, Village or Parish

Address / Notes:
Where they lived or worked

Place of Abode (2)

Country: » Confirm Country 2
Choose country and click 'Select ...' button

Region: [No regions available for this country]
(County, State, Territory, etc)

Place:
(Max. 40 Chars.) e.g. Town, Village or Parish

Address / Notes:
Where they lived or worked

Place of Abode (3)

Country: » Confirm Country 3
Choose country and click 'Select ...' button

Region: [No regions available for this country]
(County, State, Territory, etc)

Place:
(Max. 40 Chars.) e.g. Town, Village or Parish

Address / Notes:
Where they lived or worked

Place of Abode (4)

Country: » Confirm Country 4
Choose country and click 'Select ...' button

Region: [No regions available for this country]
(County, State, Territory, etc)

Place:
(Max. 40 Chars.) e.g. Town, Village or Parish

Address / Notes:
Where they lived or worked

Comments

(Max. 1200 Chars.)

Sources

(Max. 40 Chars.)

Family Links

: I have links to this family
 : I do not have links to this family

This screen allows you to enter all the information you have about an individual. Not all the fields have to be filled in, just put in as much information as you have.

The first three sections ('Name', 'Anglicised Name' and 'Parents') are straightforward. Just enter the data you have.

'Place of Abode' is split into four sections. The first section 'Place of Abode (1)/ Place of Birth', will be somewhere in Germany. Select 'Germany' from the drop-down menu and click 'Confirm Country 1'. It will jump to the top of the screen, so you'll have to scroll down again. A new box will appear directly below called 'Region', again select the appropriate German state from the drop down menu (if known). In the 'Place' box enter the village, town or city they came from. If you know the street address enter that in the 'Address/Notes' box.

Sections two to four of 'Place of Abode' are used to give the place/s the individual lived in Britain. Again select a country from the drop down menu (eg: England) and click on 'Confirm Country'. Then enter a 'Region' (eg: Yorkshire). Enter the village/town/city in 'Place' (eg: Sheffield). In the 'Address/Notes' box enter any addresses that the individual lived at in the above mentioned 'Place'. (eg: An individual may have had lived at two addresses in Sheffield 11 Something Road and 44 Madeup Lane). Enter both in the box. Also enter what their position was at the address in brackets:

(Worker) - Employed by the head of the family
 (Shop) - Head of the family, running it as a shop
 (Wife) - Wife of the head of the family
 (Home) - Domestic residence, not a shop
 (Visitor) - Visitor

Then add the known date they were at the address. It should look something like this:

-11 Something Road (Worker) - 1891
 -44 Madeup Lane (Shop) - 1901

If the individual moved to another place later (eg: Lived in Sheffield then moved to Manchester), you can record this by adding a second and third village/town/city ('Place') in 'Place of Abode' sections three and four, adding all their known addresses in those places. I can't imagine there are many individuals who lived in more than three village/town/cities.

The 'Comments' box allows you to put any other relevant information in. The main thing we encourage is for you to add any link to other German pork butchers you know about. This might be who they married, who their siblings were, who their friends were. The standard format for this is:

Relationship to other individual + Name of other individual + Date of birth of other individual
 Eg: Brother of Johann Fakenamer (c.1863)

For relationships involving children born in Britain use this as an example format:
 Son, George (1882), married Louisa (1885), daughter of Johann Fakenamer (c.1863)

The next box is 'Sources'. It can be used to enter any historic sources you have used. These are usually censuses, marriage records and sometimes family history.

The final box 'Family Links' allows you to state whether or not you are related to the individual. You have the choice of two options.

Once you are happy with the data you have entered click 'SAVE Record'.

You have now added a record.

'Edit Record'

This allows you to edit individual entries you have already created. Clicking 'Edit Record' brings up this page:

657 Entries						
ID	Name	(anglicised)	DOB	Place of Abode (1) (birth, origin)	Place of Abode (2,3,4)	Researchers
1470	, Katharina		c.1858	D___	ENG, YKS, Hull ENG, YKS, Sheffield ___, Colorado	Edit =
1229	, Konrad Leonhard		c.1861	D___	ENG, DUR, Sunderland ENG, DUR, Durham area	Edit =
1471	, Marie		c.1861	D___, Sonnhofen	ENG, YKS, Sheffield	Edit =
1153	???, Katherine		c.1833	D___	ENG, YKS, Sheffield	Edit =
1133	???, Lena		c.1856	D___	ENG, YKS, Sheffield	Edit =
1272	???, Margaret Maria Barbara			D___, Gütbach/ Gerabronn	ENG, NBL, Newcastle ENG, DUR, Sunderland	Edit =
1525	???, Margaretha		c.1845	D___, Dünsbach?	ENG, YKS, Bradford ENG, YKS, Middlesborough ___, Newcastle-Sund	Edit =
1473	???, Rosa		c.1879	D___, BWU, Gutenberg	ENG, YKS, Bradford	Edit =
1438	???, Susannah		c.1840	D___	ENG, YKS, Bradford	Edit =
983	ABEL, Friedrich		c.1874	D___	ENG, DUR, Hartlepool	Edit =
984	ABELE, Lisette Caroline		c.1865	D___	ENG, YKS, Bradford ENG, YKS, Sculcoates	Edit =
985	ALBRECHT, Johann		c.1884	D___	ENG, YKS, Keighley	Edit =
987	ANDRASSY, Adolph Carl Lorenz		1854	D___	ENG, YKS, Bradford ENG, YKS, Keighley	Edit =
990	ANDRASSY, Augustus		1872	D___, BWU, Künzelsau	ENG, YKS, Wakefield ENG, YKS, Keighley ENG, YKS, Rotherham	Edit =
991	ANDRASSY, Charles Henry		1866	D___, BWU, Braunsbach	ENG, YKS, Wakefield ENG, YKS, Keighley	Edit =

You can see all the individual records that you have entered on this page. If there is some extra information to add or changes that need to be made to one of your records you can do so by clicking on the edit icon in the right hand column (highlighted above). This will then take you to the screen where you created the entry and you can make any amendments. When you have finished click 'SAVE Record'.

If you want to delete the record, maybe due to it being a duplicate, there is a 'Delete Record' button at the bottom of the page in red.

'Others with my Interests'

Clicking this brings up a list of contributors who have added surnames to the database that you have selected as being related to you. It's a fast way to see if you have any immediate overlap with other contributors.