

Pommernlied

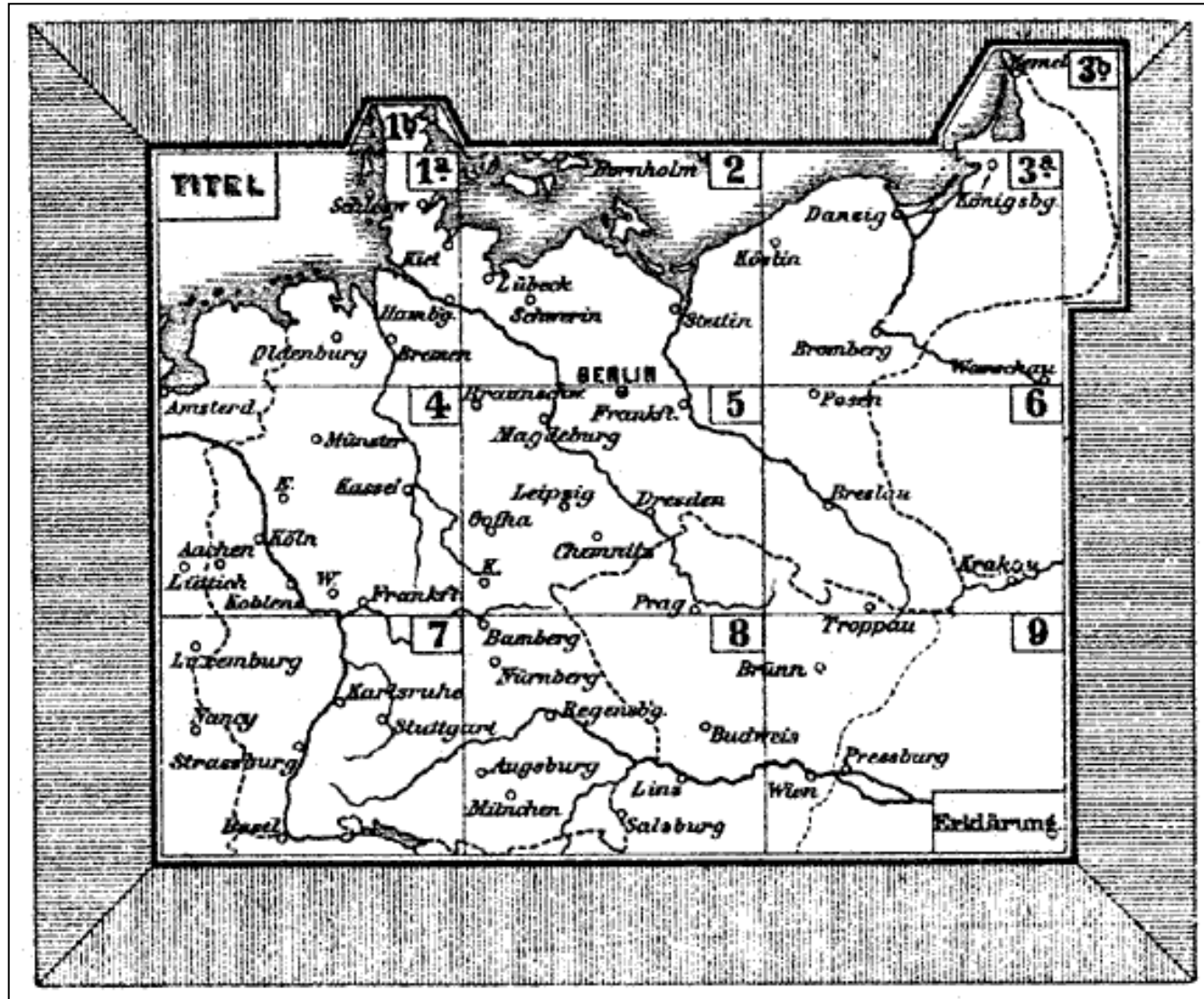
<http://www.heimatkreis-stargard.de/Pommernlied/Pommernlied.htm>

Pommern Heimat

**Pommern Homeland:
Wisconsin & Iowa**

Irmgard Hein Ellingson
irmgardellingson@yahoo.com

German Lands in Europe



Pomerania / Pommern Today



After the 30-Years-War (1618-1648)

“Pommern” included:

**a western area called
Schwedish-Pommern,
ruled by Sweden,**

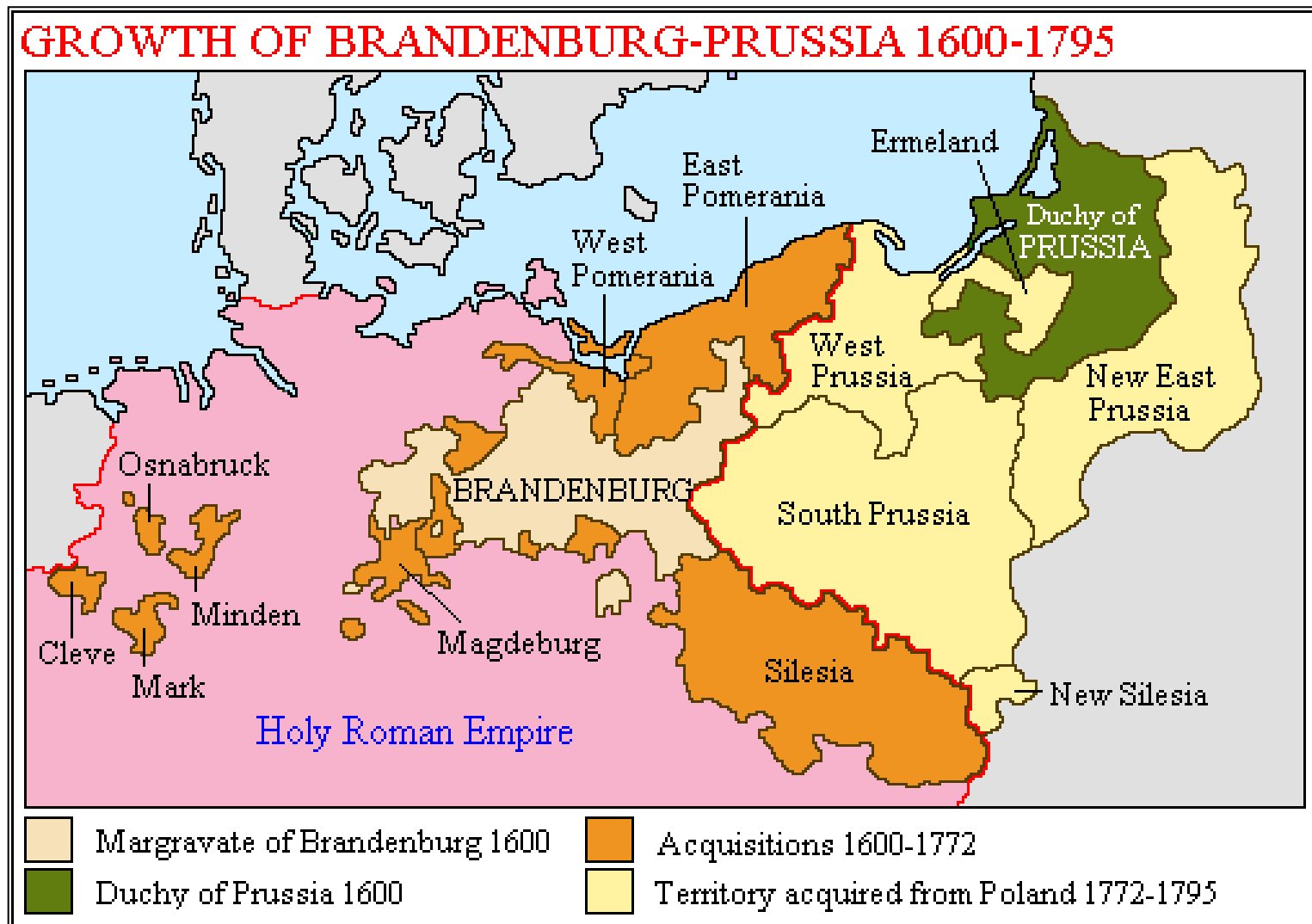
**and an eastern area,
ruled by the Brandenburg Electors.**

**In 1815, after the defeat of Napoleon,
Sweden renounced all claims
to German areas, including Pommern.**

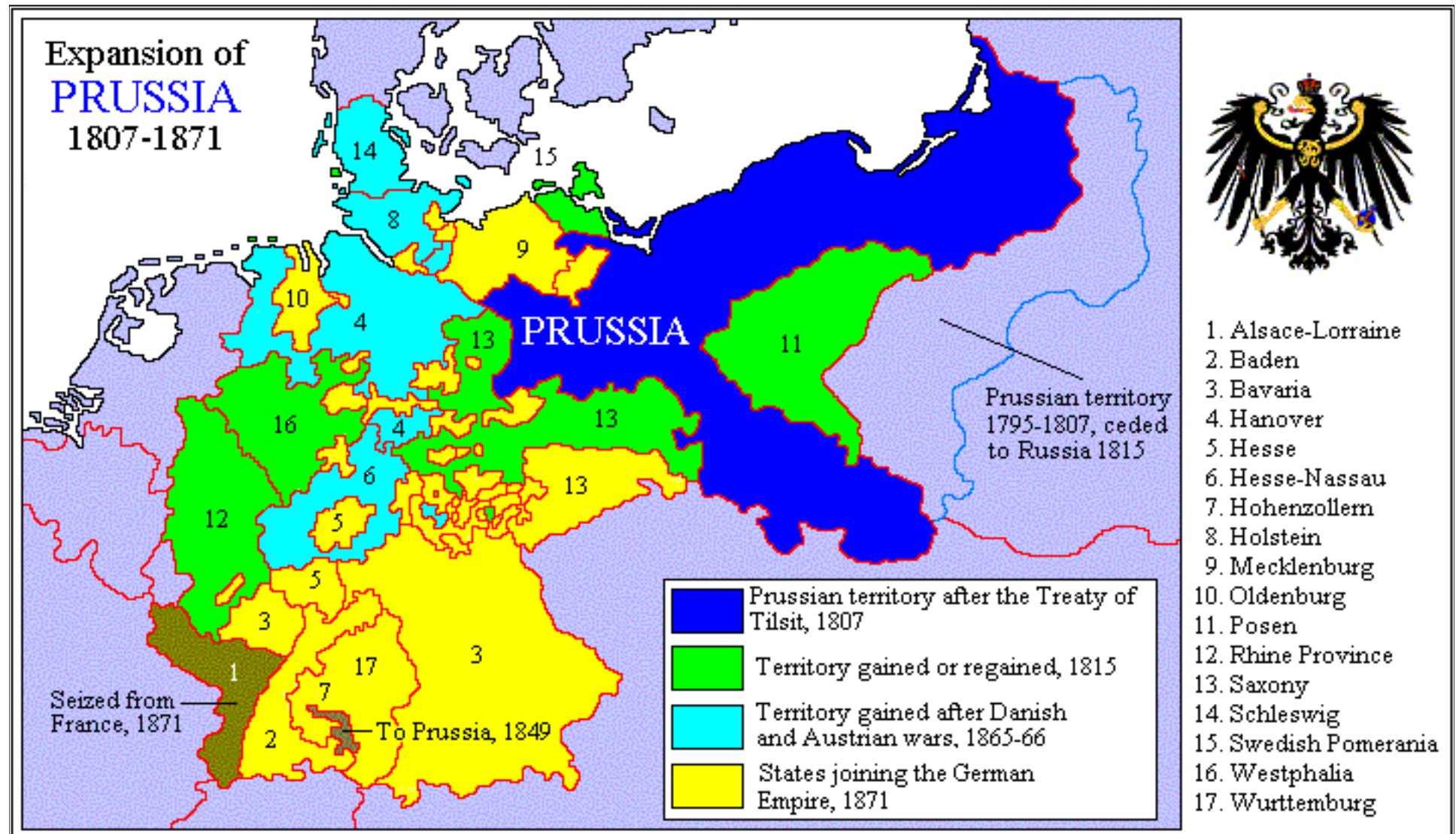
**West of the Oder River is
Vorpommern
or Cis-Pomerania.**

**East of the Oder River is
Hinterpommern
or Trans-Pomerania.**

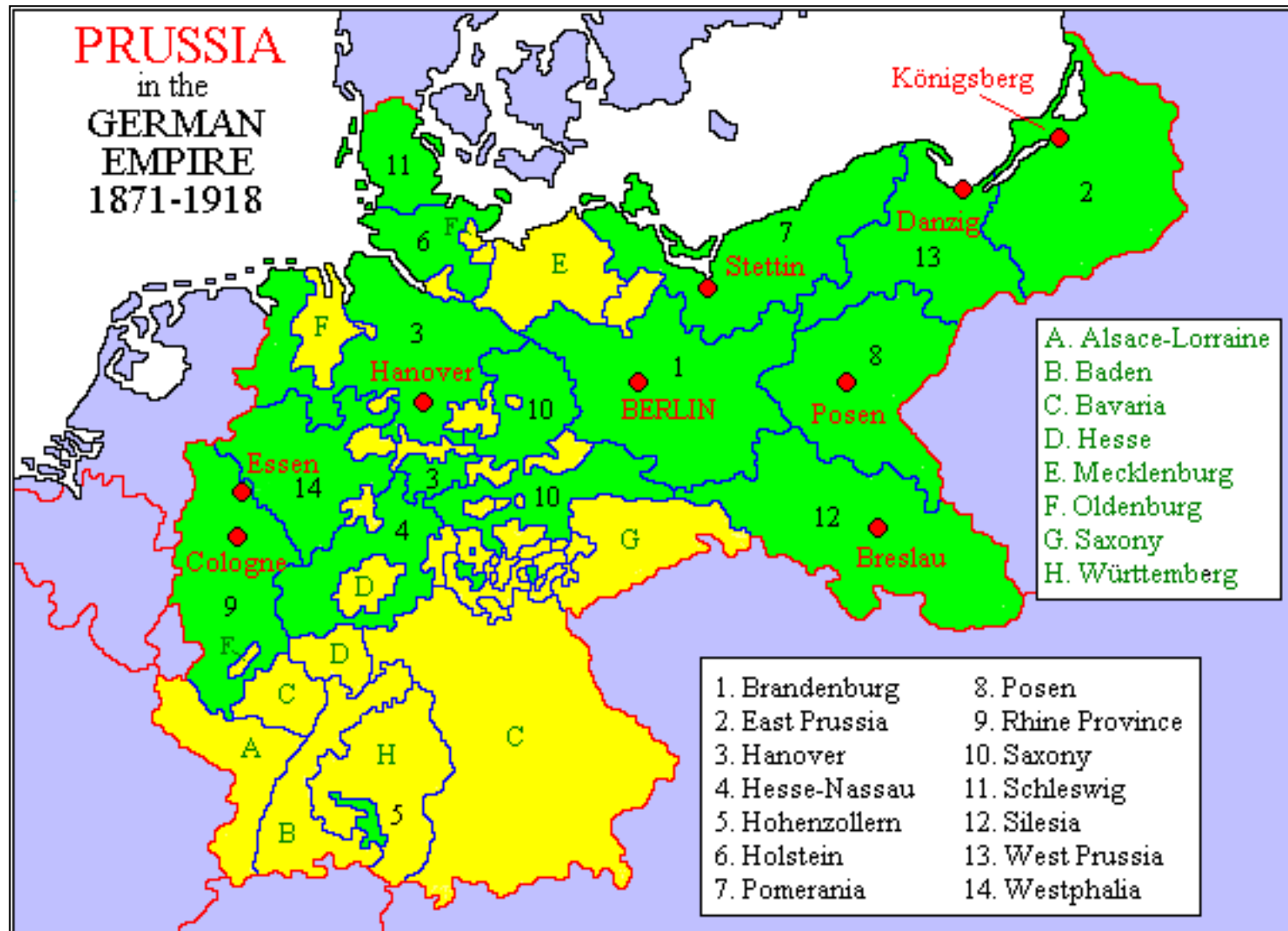
Pommern, or Pomerania



19th century Prussia with Pommern



Pommern in unified Germany



Willkommen in der Heimat!



***Rapsfeld* near Schwennenz Mecklenburg-Vorpommern**



House for Sale!

Schwennenz, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Schwennenz, Vorpommern



Barnimslaw, Pommern now Barnislaw, Poland



Gartz a.d. Oder

formerly Pommern, now Brandenburg, Germany



**the former Lutheran Church in Batzwitz,
*Kreis Greifenberg, Pommern***



Witzmitz, now Wicimice, *Kreis* Regenwalde, Pommern

Top:

1914 – 1918

**Im Weltkriege starben den
Heldentod
für König und Vaterland
aus der Kirchengemeinde
WITZMITZ**

Below:

**Niemand hat größere Liebe
denn die dass er sein Leben
lasset für seine Freunde.**



**Simötzel, *Landkreis* Kolberg-Körlin,
Pommern
now Siemysl, Poland**

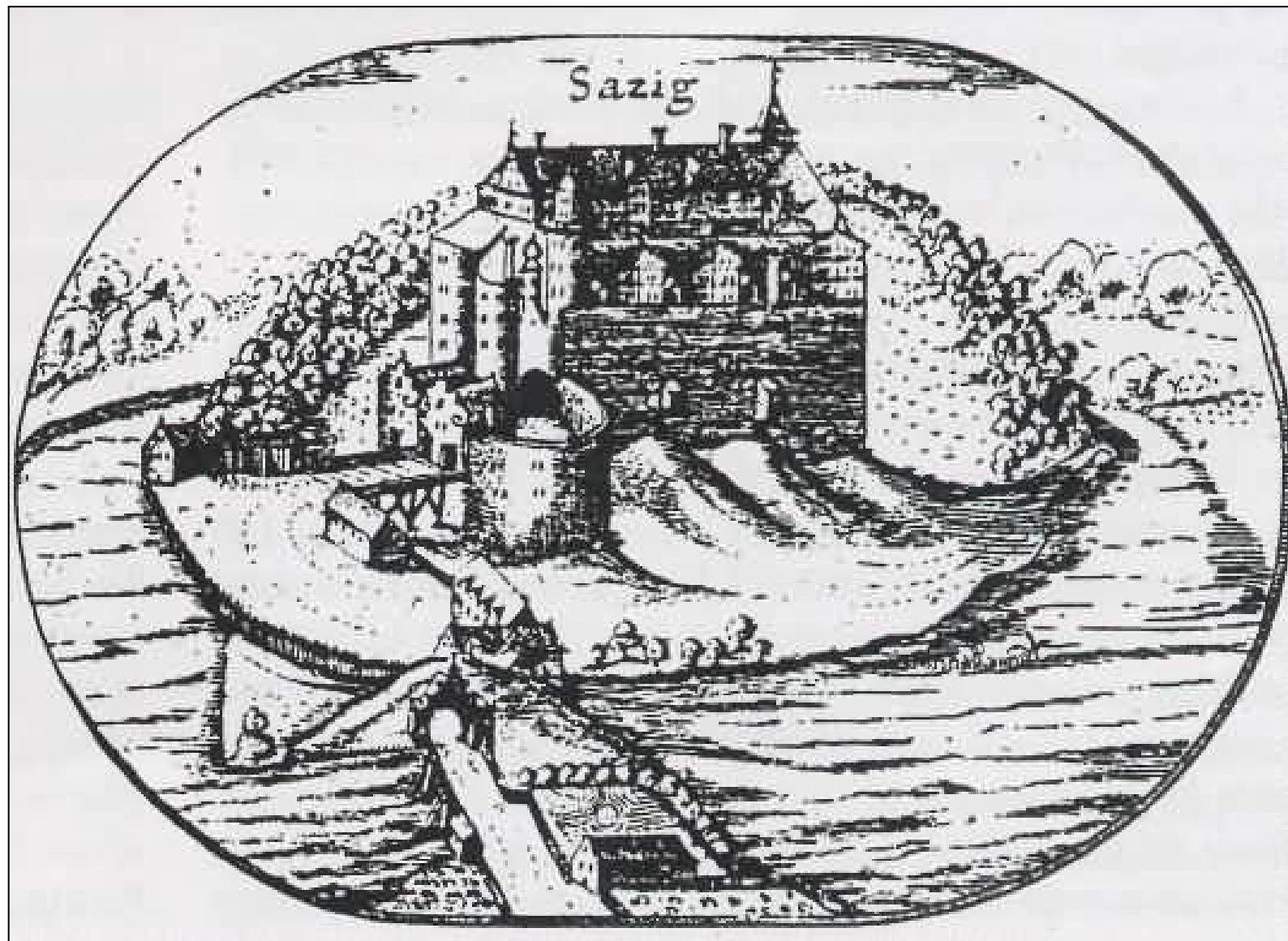


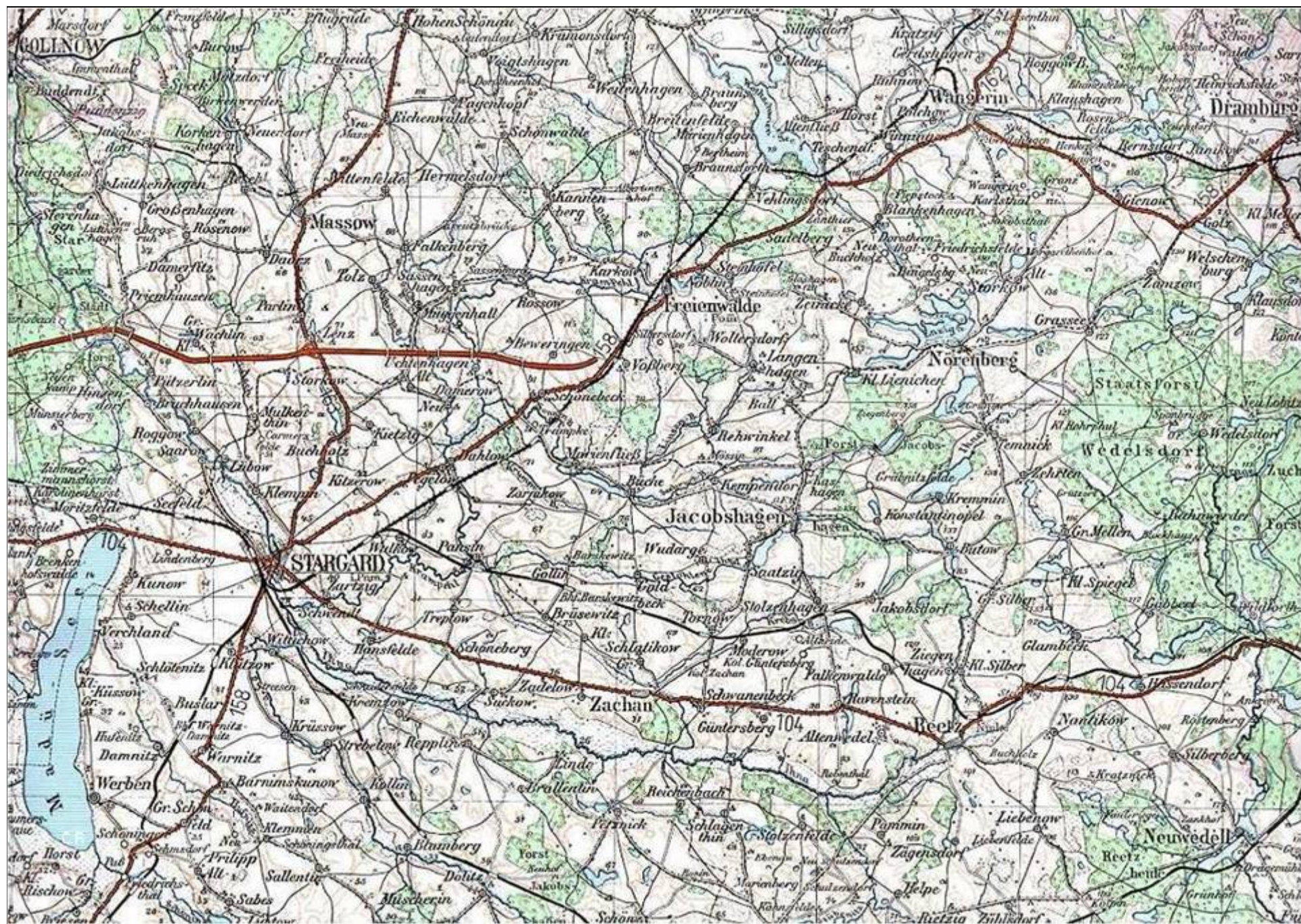
The Ruins of a Church at Tarnówko, once Lüttkenhagen



Stuckow in *Landkreis* Cammin, Pommern







Neu-Damerow in *Kreis* Saatzig



**former Evangelical Lutheran Church
Klein Schlatikow, Pommern
Słodkówko, Pommern**



**the former Lutheran Church in
Gross Schlatikow, Pommern
now Słodkowo, Poland**



the former Lutheran Church Schwanenbeck, Pommern now Suchanówko, Poland



Klein-Lienichen, Pommern



Guntersberg, Pommern



Goldbeck, Pommern



Schönebeck, Pommern



The Mill in Wudarge, Pommern



Wudarge, Pommern now Odargowo, Poland



Konstantinopel, Pommern



Marienfließ, Pommern



Zachan, Pommern now Suchań, Poland



© Jerzy Tatoń

**former Lutheran Church
in Saarow, Pommern
now Zarowo, Poland**



© Jerzy Taton

Jacobsdorf, Kreis Saatzig



Jacobsdorf, Kreis Saatzig



World War I Memorial Jacobsdorf, Pommern, now Błotno, Poland



© Jerzy Taloń

***Wir gedenken der ehemaligen Einwohner
Rehwinkels (now Lutkowo) - 2.Juni 2007***



Former Lutheran Church in Barskewitz, Pommern now Barskowice-Gollin, Poland



Pyritz, Pommern



**The *Evangelisch-Lutherische
Landeskirche Mecklenburgs* and the
Pommersche Evangelische Kirche (2009)**



Landeskirchliches Archiv PEK Greifswald



Family History

<http://www.kirche-mv.de/Familiengeschichte.1311.0.html>

If you know the parish address, write to it. You can find the addresses at www.kirche-mv.de or at the parish's website.

You may direct questions to the following address:

**Landeskirchliches Archiv
Rudolf-Petershagen-Allee 3
D 17489 Greifswald**

Telefon: +49 3834 5725 33

Fax: +49 3834 5725 36

E-Mail: archiv@pek.de

<http://www.pommersches-kirchenarchiv.de/>

Evangelisches Zentral Archiv in Berlin (EZAB)



Questions about the former German territories in the east may be directed to the Landeskirchliche Archiv in Greifswald or to:

Evangelisches Zentralarchiv in Berlin

Bethaniendamm 29

10997 Berlin

Telefon: +49 30 22 50 45 - 0

Fax: +49 30 22 50 45 - 40

E-Mail: archiv@ezab.de

<http://www.ezab.de/>

Two tips:

- 1. The more specific your information, the easier the search will be.**
- 2. If you want to seek out a parish office yourself for family history information, please make a reservation by telephone before going there to assure that time will be available for you.**

EZAB

The *Evangelisches Zentral Archiv* in Berlin – EZAB – was founded as a result of the joining of the Archive of the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) and the Archive of the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU).

The Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) is itself a union of all the Protestant churches in the several German states, creating an alliance of independent churches of the various Protestant denominations.

The Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU) is the successor organization of the Prussian State Church.

EZAB Holdings

It administers and maintains about 7000 parish registers from *Evangelische*, or Protestant, parishes of the former eastern provinces of the Protestant Church of the Old Prussian Union. These areas today belong to Poland, Russia, and Lithuania.

It holds about 763 military church records of the military church registers of the former Prussian army and the German *Wehrmacht*.

It also holds about 70 parish registers from German-speaking congregations outside of Germany.

Historic East Territory

EZA Berlin

The historic German East Territories, now belonging to Poland and Russia, also belonged to the Church Provinces of the *Altpreußischen Union* or ApU (Old Prussian Union).

The EZA maintains the ecclesiastical-historical tradition of these territories as archives of the EKU. It keeps all church archives including liturgical instruments which once belonged to the former eastern church provinces of the ApU and came into possession of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Among them, ecclesiastical books, parish registers (RG 507) and *vasa sacra* (RG 503) from East German congregations are of special value. Furthermore the EZA collects parish seals (RG 501).

**If your ancestors came from
the former eastern provinces
but were Roman Catholic,
direct your inquiries to the**



**Bischöfliches Zentralarchiv - Regensburg
Postfach 110228
93015 Regensburg
Germany**

The Prussian Union



- One year after he ascended to the throne in 1798, Frederick William II of Prussia, in his role as the Supreme Governor of the Protestant Churches, decreed a new common liturgy and service book to be published, for use in both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations.

Old Lutherans

(Alt Lutheraner)

This name was applied to Lutherans who refused to join in the Prussian Union. There was a similar reaction against unionism and rationalism in Saxony. “Old Lutherans” continued in Germany and Poland under various names including

- **Altlutheraner**
- **Breslauer Synode**
- **Verein der evangelisch-altlutherischen Kirchengemeinden**
- **Evangelisch-lutherische Kirche in Westpolen**
- **Evangelische Kirche in Preussen**
- **Evangelisch-lutherische Kirche in Altpreussen**
- **Evangelisch-lutherische (altlutherische) Kirche**

The name **Old Lutherans** was also applied to the confessional Lutherans who emigrated to America 1838 – 1848, led by J.A.A. Grabau and M. Stephan.

Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III united the Reformed (Calvinist) and Lutheran churches in 1817, the 300th anniversary of the Reformation.

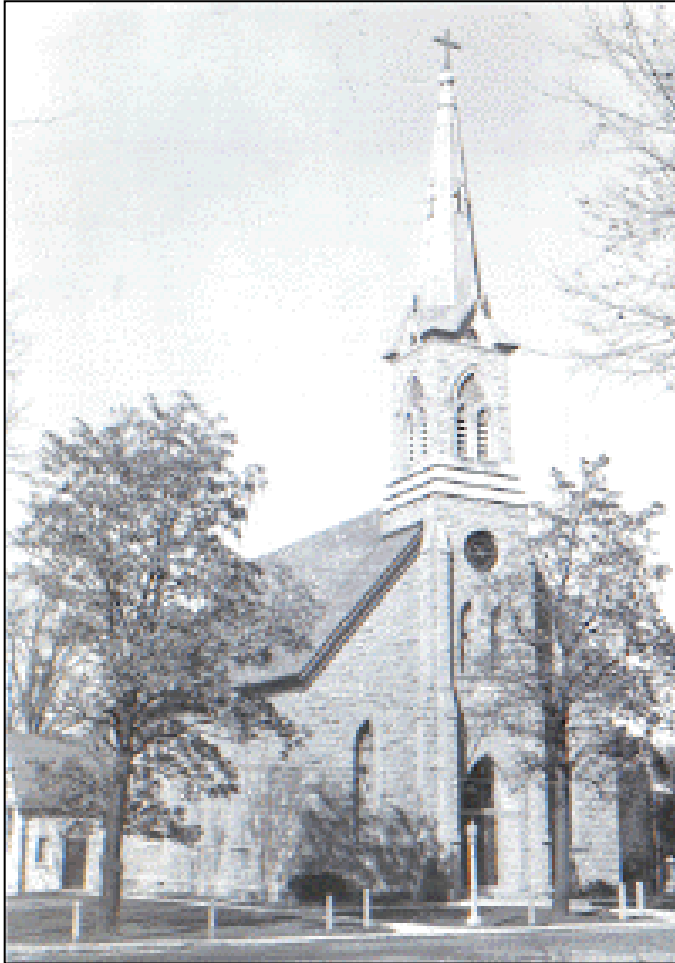
A new church liturgy was introduced in 1827, and by 1829 a fine was to be levied if this liturgy was not used in Pommern churches.

In the Lutheran-dominated areas of Saxony, Mecklenburg, and Pommern, it was feared that Lutheran beliefs were being replaced by Reformed doctrines. Lutheran church services were banned, and clergy not accepting the Union liturgy were dismissed or arrested. Children were to be sent to Union schools, and money was to be paid to support Union pastors even if they didn't attend Union services. Secret Lutheran services were held in homes, barns, etc.

In 1835 a group of dissenters took refuge in *Kreise* Cammin, Stolp, and Greifenberg of Pommern. They discussed emigration to the U.S. to have religious freedom. The Prussian government became more lenient in 1842 but the first Old Lutherans decided to emigrate in 1843.

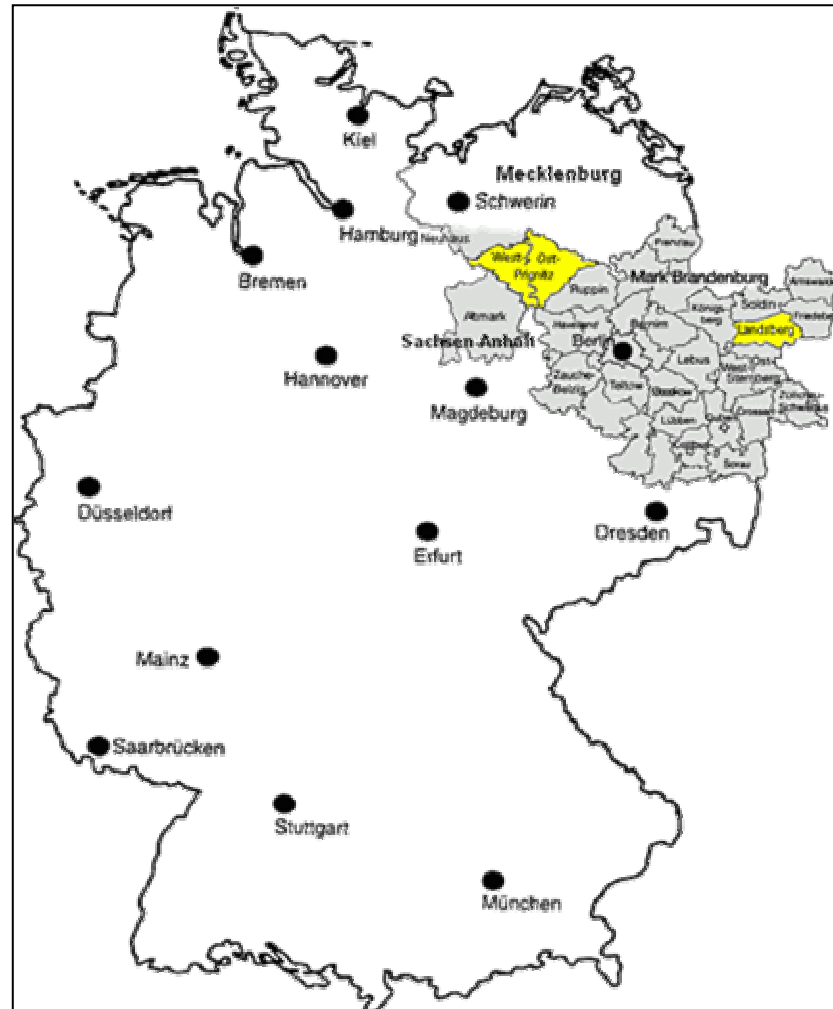
In 1837, other Old Lutherans from *Kreis* Naugard and *Kreis* Cammin in Pommern left for the U.S. An 1838 decree stated that the Old Lutherans could emigrate only if they were accompanied by a like-minded pastor.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Freistadt Mequon, Wisconsin



- Trinity is the oldest Lutheran congregation in Wisconsin. on Oct. 8-10, 2009, it will celebrate its 160th anniversary.
- In 1839, 40 emigrant families from Pommern bought more than 1,000 acres of land in the western part of the Town of Mequon. This area was given the name *Freistadt*, (literally "free city").
- These people came in search of religious freedom and held their initial church service that same year.

Brandenburg and the Neumark



the Neumark past and present



***Kopfweiden*, pollarded willows,
near Woxfelde, Oststernberg**



Woxfelde in the Neumark now Głuchowo, Poland



- This may have been the Evangelical Church in Woxfelde,
- Woxfelde was the ancestral village of the Schloesser and Adrian families who emigrated to Farmington, Wisconsin.
- They intermarried with Pommern emigrants and moved to Grafton, Iowa, in the 1870s.

**abandoned Lutheran church in
Woxhollaender in the Neumark
now Okhsa, Poland**



Lossow in the Neumark



Netzbruch church in the Neumark



A Call to Peace

The monument in the back of the photo was placed in the Jacobshagen cemetery by the community's German homeland association to commemorate World War I.

The stone in the foreground was placed by the German homeland association in 1995.

The German and Polish inscription:

*Sorgt Ihr,
die Ihr noch im Leben steht,
daß Frieden bleibe,
Frieden zwischen den Menschen,
Frieden zwischen den Völkern!
Den Toten zum Gedenken*

Take care,
You who are still living,
To preserve peace,
Peace between men,
Peace between the peoples!
honor the dead.



Pommern Refugees, 1945



House for Sale: about US \$75,000
Strzépowo, Poland
former Strippow, Pommern



Thiersheim, Bavaria



Ev. Kirche – St. Ägidius Thiersheim, Bavaria



Evangelical Lutheran Altar Pilgramsreuth, Bavaria



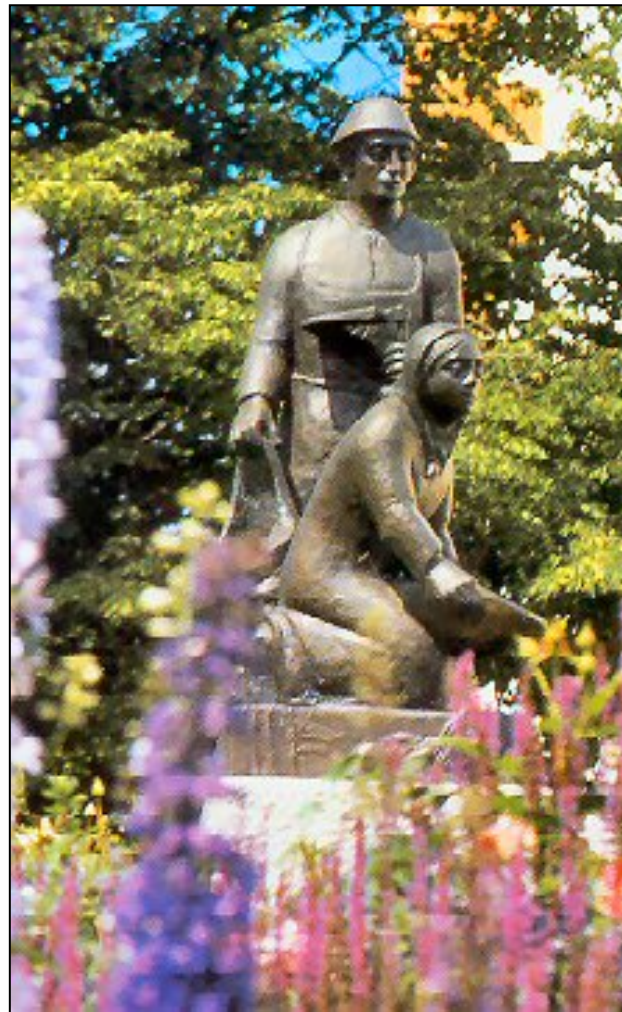
The Moses Pulpit, Pilgramsreuth, Bavaria



700 Jahre Kirche Pilgramsreuth 2008



Pilgramsreuth & the Potato: New Hope after 30 Years War



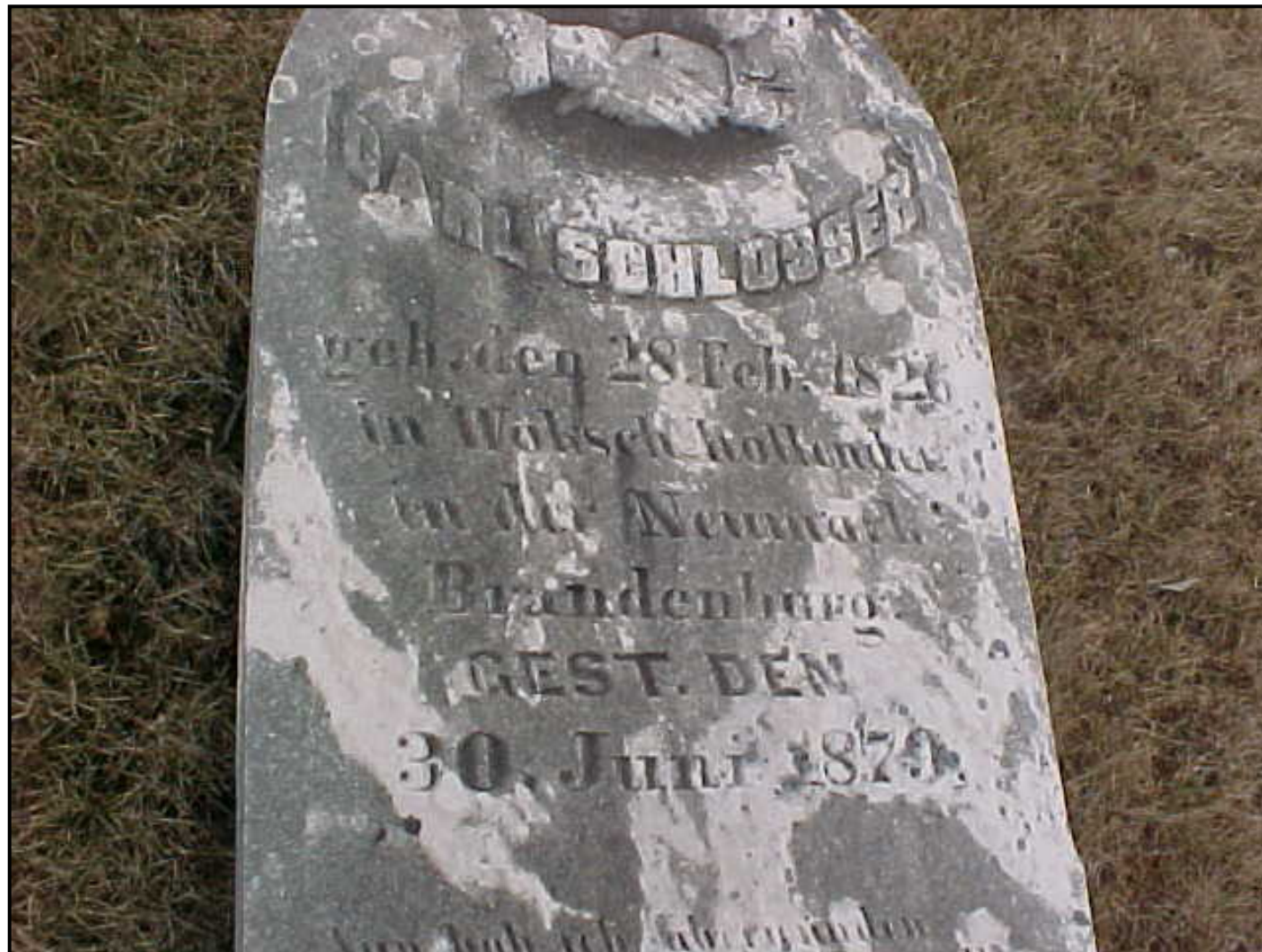
St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church Helenville (Jefferson Co.), Wisconsin



**Neumark emigrant Maria Elisabeth (Schultz) Schloesser,
in Immanuel Cemetery, Town of Farmington, Wisconsin,
died after her children moved to Mitchell County, Iowa.**



**Immanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery
Town of Farmington, Jefferson County, Wisconsin**



**Dodge / Jefferson Counties
Genealogical Society
- D/JCGS-**

Watertown, Wisconsin

<http://www.dodgejeffgen.com/>

St. John's – Rock Township, rural Osage, Iowa



Faith Lutheran in Mitchell, Iowa



Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Grafton, Iowa



German Genealogy: Pommern

<http://www.genealogy.net/reg/POM/pommern.html>

The *Pommerscher Greif*



This Pommern genealogical society,
has volunteer research specialists
for many *Kreise* [counties].

See <http://pommerscher-greif.de/englisch/index.htm>

Pommersche Landsmannschaft

<http://www.pommersche-landsmannschaft.de/>



***Heimatkreise*, or “homeland organizations,” for various Pommern counties in modern Germany preserve cultural heritage and historical materials.**

They facilitate communication through regular gatherings, newsletters, and special interest groups.

Members were born in the respective *Kreis* or had their permanent residence there, or are their descendants.

Many *Heimatkreise* have homepages on the Internet (usually in German).

You can find them by entering “Heimatkreis + [*Kreis*/county name] “ in a search engine.

The *Heimatkreis* may be able to help you locate relatives or others who came from the same area as your ancestors.

See <http://heimatkreis-schlawe.de/index.php> for an example of a *Heimatkreis* home page.

The *Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Ostdeutscher Familienforscher*
or the Work Group of East
German Family Historians

AGoFF

can direct you to
helpful links & organizations.

Whom do you seek,
and for what event?

*ethnic group, citizenship,
language, religion*

In what time frame?

At what location was it then,
and where is it now?

country / state, principality, district, county

Who made the record entry?

**For what church
or civil jurisdiction?**

Where were the records held?

**Where are they now,
after two World Wars?**

Important!

**Do a “place search”
for locations, resources,
and microfilms
in the Family History
Library Catalog
at**

<http://www.familysearch.org>!

Pommern and Neumark
Photo Credits

- Jerzy Tatoń

<http://www.jerzytaton.pl/>

- Tomasz Duda

<http://www.dudowie.pl/>

**Please visit their websites to view their work
and search for your own ancestral villages!**

Irmgard Hein Ellingson
irmgardellingson@yahoo.com