

## Germany Place Styles

By Carol Whitton

[Examples of RUG members' place styles were published in the January 2023 RUG Newsletter.]

### Problem:

1. 19<sup>th</sup> Century when majority of Germans immigrated to U.S. was changing from multiple independent state/countries. Some states had already allied with Prussia and standardized their administrations, adding a 6<sup>th</sup> possible administration level. Others remained independent.
2. Differing administration in each State before 1871 unification results in 3-6 administrative levels as well as differing names for each level of administration.
3. Some German-speaking ancestors immigrated from Switzerland, France, Austrian Empire, or other countries. France also had 6 administrative levels.

| Vlg. | District    | County                        | Prefecture       | Indep State/Country  |         |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Dorf | Amt         | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk |                      |         |
|      |             | Kreis                         |                  | Anhalt               |         |
|      | Amtsbezirk  | Kreis                         |                  | Baden                |         |
|      |             |                               |                  | Bremen               |         |
|      |             | Bezirksamt                    | Regierungsbezirk | Bayern (& Pfalz)     |         |
|      |             | Kreis                         |                  | Braunschweig         |         |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Bezirk           | Elsass-Lothringen    |         |
|      |             |                               |                  | Hamburg              |         |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Provinz          | Hessen-Darmstadt     |         |
|      | Amt         | Verwaltungsamt                |                  | Lippe (Detmold)      |         |
|      | Amt         | Ritteramt                     |                  | Mecklenburg-Schwerin |         |
|      | Amt         | Domaneamt                     |                  | Mecklenburg-Strelitz |         |
|      |             | Amt                           |                  | Oldenburg            |         |
|      |             | Kreis- or Amtshauptmannschaft |                  | Sachsen (Kingdom)    |         |
|      |             | Kreis                         |                  | Schaumburg-Lippe     |         |
|      | Landratsamt | Verwaltungsamt                |                  | Thüringen            |         |
|      |             | Oberamt                       | Kreis            | Württemberg          |         |
| Vlg. | District    | County                        | Prefecture       | (old Indp State)     | Country |
| Dorf | Amt         | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Provinz              |         |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Brandenburg          | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Hannover             | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Hessen-Nassau        | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Hohenzollern         | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Ostpreussen          | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Posen                | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Pommern              | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Rheinland            | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Sachsen              | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Schleswig-Holstein   | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Schlesien            | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Westfalen            | Preußen |
|      |             | Kreis                         | Regierungsbezirk | Westpreussen         | Preußen |

source: Jensen, Larry O., Pleasant Grove, UT.

### Solution for TMG Place Styles:

1. Represent all possible German administrations and adapt to Swiss, French, Austrian Empire.
2. To avoid adding to TMG editing—sentences and other output. Instead use existing TMG fields: city, county, state, country—by combining extra German fields together and listing independent country/states as States, not countries.

| TMG place fields |  |         |                            |
|------------------|--|---------|----------------------------|
| U.S.             | Germany and Austrian Empire                  | Swiss   | France                     |
| City             | Dorf, Amt (Village, District)                | do.     | Commune, Canton            |
| County           | Kreis, Regierungsbezirk (County, Prefecture) | do.     | Arrondissement, Department |
| State            | Provinz (State/Country)                      | Canton  | Region                     |
| Country          | Germany [or Aust Emp]                        | Switzld | France                     |

**Learn More about German Places over time:**

- Family Search, German Wiki page: [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany\\_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Genealogy)
- Compgen's GenWiki GOV: <http://gov.genealogy.net/search/index>
- Meyers Gazetteer: <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>