

Introduction to Family History: Beginning the Search for Your Ancestors

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How Do I Start My Family History?

Four Simple Steps:

- Write Down What You Know
- Decide What Information is Missing
- Find Out What Others Know
- Search Additional Records

Start in the Beginning

- Proceed from Known to Unknown
- Begin with Yourself
- Establish Sure Links with
Best Available Sources
- Use Genealogical Forms

Genealogical Forms: Pedigree Chart



Genealogical Forms: Family Group Sheet

Husband Karl Stütz		
Born	5 Oct 1835	Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
Chr.		Place
Died	20 Jan 1902	Place Pasadena, Los Angeles, California, USA
Buried		Place Mountain View Cem., Altadena, California, USA
Married	21 Jun 1858	Place Raxendorf, Melk, Lower Austria, Austria
Husband's father	Martin Stütz	
Husband's mother	Elisabeth Gföller	
Wife Magdalena Liedl		
Born	1 Jul 1838	Place Kleinpertholz, Martinsberg, Lower Austria, Austria
Chr.		Place
Died	29 Dec 1925	Place San Pedro, Los Angeles, California, USA
Buried		Place Mountain View Cem., Altadena, California, USA
Wife's father	Joachim Liedl	
Wife's mother	Magdalena Peyerl	
Children List each child in order of birth.		
1	F	Theresia Stütz
	Born	20 Jul 1859 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Chr.	Place
	Died	15 Jan 1955 Place San Pedro, Los Angeles, California, USA
	Buried	Place Calvary Cem., East Los Angeles, California, USA
	Spouse	
	Married	Place
2	M	Karl Baromäus Stütz
	Born	31 Aug 1861 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Chr.	Place
	Died	22 May 1871 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Buried	Place
	Spouse	
	Married	Place
3	F	Katharina Stütz
	Born	25 Nov 1863 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Chr.	Place
	Died	21 May 1865 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Buried	Place
	Spouse	
	Married	Place
4	F	Anna Maria Stütz
	Born	25 Jan 1866 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Chr.	Place
	Died	1 May 1951 Place Long Beach, Los Angeles, California, USA
	Buried	5 May 1951 Place Calvary Cem., East Los Angeles, California, USA
	Spouse	
	Married	Place
5	M	Eduard Stütz
	Born	18 Feb 1868 Place Steinbach, Raxendorf, Lower Austria, Austria
	Chr.	Place
	Died	29 Dec 1949 Place Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, USA
	Buried	3 Jan 1950 Place Inglewood Park Cem. Los Angeles, California, USA
	Spouse	
	Married	Place

Genealogical Forms: Family Group Sheet Sources

Husband	Karl Stütz
Wife	Magdalena Liedl
Notes	
CHILD 1 - Theresia Stütz Church Record: Birth Book E, 1849-1871, p. 74, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria, St. Pölten Diocese Archives; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 2 - Karl Baromäus Stütz Church Record: Birth Book E, 1849-1871, p. 91, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria, St. Pölten Diocese Archives; Steinbach 4. Church Record: Death Book E, 1863-1946, p. 44, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 3 - Katharina Stütz Church Record: Birth Book E, 1849-1871, p. 113, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria, St. Pölten Diocese Archives; Steinbach 4. Church Record: Death Book E, 1863-1946, p. 14, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 4 - Anna Maria Stütz Church Record: Birth Book E, 1849-1871, p. 133, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria, St. Pölten Diocese Archives; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 5 - Eduard Stütz Church Record: Birth Book E, 1849-1871, p. 151, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria, St. Pölten Diocese Archives; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 6 - Leopold Stütz Church Record: Birth Book E, 1849-1871, p. 180, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria, St. Pölten Diocese Archives; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 7 - Karl Stütz Church Record: Birth Book F, 1871-1920, p. 8, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 8 - Johanna Stütz Church Record: Birth Book F, 1871-1920, p. 24, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 9 - Anna Stütz Church Record: Birth Book F, 1871-1920, p. 39, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria; Steinbach 4.	
CHILD 10 - Franz Seraph Stütz Church Record: Birth Book F, 1871-1920, p. 55, Raxendorf Parish, Lower Austria, Austria; Steinbach 4.	

Document Your Sources

- Future Access to Record & Entry
- Information is Often Subjective
- Eliminates Redundant Research
- Means of Evaluating Reliability
- Makes Your Research Trustworthy

General Documentation Guidelines

- Record Sources as You Work
- Provide Sufficient Information
- Use Your Name (not “me” or “I”)
- Cite the Source You Actually Use
(e.g. published abstract vs. original)

Elements of Documentation

- Record Type
- Record Name or Title
- Page Number or Entry Identification
- Record Creator
- Record Location

See: Sample Citations

Simple Records System

- Surname Folders
- Notebooks
- Research Binders
- Contact & Research Logs

Computer & Genealogical Software

- Variety of Programs Available
- Assist with Data Management
 - Automated Organization
 - Uniform Data Fields & Documentation
 - Printing & Report Functions
 - Data Sharing

Personal Ancestral File (PAF)

familysearch.org

Order/Download Products (menu bar)

Software Downloads – Free

Personal Ancestral File 5.2.18.0

Follow Download Procedures

Genealogical Conventions

- People

- Full Names & Maiden Names of Females

- Places

- Village, County, State & Country

- Dates

- Day, Month & Year (e.g. 2 Mar 1654)

Revisit Our Research Method

Four Simple Steps:

- Write Down What You Know
- Decide What Information is Missing
- Find Out What Others Know
- Search Additional Records

Write Down What You Know

- Start with What YOU Know
- Find More Information at Home
- Contact Other Relatives
 - Share Information You Have
 - Letters & Emails, Visits, Phone Calls, etc.
 - Discover New Family Contacts
- Compile All Known Family Information

See: Home & Family Sources

Decided What is Missing

- Focus on One or Two Lines
 - Follow Pedigree Chart from Yourself
 - Proceed from Known to Unknown
- Concentrate Your Search
 - Often Based on Geography & Time Period
 - Do Not Use Shotgun Approach
- Develop Research Objectives

Basic Research Objectives

● Dates

- When was Johann Gföller Born?
- When did Martin Stütz move to Steinbach?

● Places

- Where did Georg Frühwalt live previously?
- Where were Caspar Peyerl & Magdalena Weittenaur Married?

● People

- Who was Martin Lidl's Father?
- What was Anna's Maiden Name?

Public Lists & Databases

- *Ancestry.com* (Commercial)
- *FamilySearch.org* (LDS databases)
 - Ancestral File
 - International Genealogical Index
 - Vital Records Index
- Social Security Death Index (Government)
- Independent Family Websites (Private)

Compiled Histories

- Published Family Histories
- Manuscript Family Histories
- Local & Regional Histories
- Ethnic & Religious Histories
- Genealogical Periodicals & Newsletters

Locating Compiled Histories

- Historical Societies & Associations
- Libraries
 - Public
 - Private
 - Institutional
- Commercial Outlets
 - Genealogical Publishing Houses
 - Internet Sources
 - Private Publishers

Research Aids

- Maps
 - Overview Maps – 1:150,000 scale
 - Detail Maps – 1:100,000 scale
 - Extreme Focus Maps – 1:50,000 scale
- Gazetteers
- Research Outlines
- Commercial Publications

Primary vs. Secondary Sources of Information

- Primary Sources

- Original Records
- Document an Event or Transaction

- Secondary Sources

- Publications & Manuscripts
- Databases & Internet Lists
- Interpret or Extract Original Records

Reliability & Accuracy of Sources

- Why are Primary Sources Preferred?
- Are Original Records Foolproof?
- We are Inconsistent & Prone to Error
- All Sources must be Interpreted
- Distance from Event = Greater Error

Creators of Original Records

- Families
- Governments
- Churches
- Businesses
- Organizations & Institutions

Federal, State & Local Government Records

- Census Enumerations
- Tax Assessment & Collection
- Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage & Death)
- Court Records
- Real Property (Land) Records

Federal, State & Local Government Records cont.

- Election Records
- Public Welfare Documentation
- School & Educational Records
- Immigration & Citizenship Records
- Penitentiary & Institutional Records

Where are Government Records?

- Contact Appropriate Office
- National Archives
 - Washington D.C.
 - Branch Archives
- State Archives
- Local Government Archives

Government Records in Other Formats

- Historical Societies & Associations
- Libraries
- Internet
- Commercial Outlets

Church Records

- Birth & Baptismal Records
- Marriage Records
- Death & Burial Records
- Membership Lists
- Disciplinary Records

Where are Church Records?

- Individual Churches
- Regional Church Archives
- National Church Archives
- Other Locations
 - Historical Societies & Associations
 - Libraries
 - Internet
 - Commercial Outlets

Business Records

- Employment History
- Personnel File
- Health Record
 - Residency
 - Vital Statistics
 - Family
 - Fiscal
 - Health

Where are Business Records?

- Business Archives
- Government Archives
- Libraries
- Local Historical Societies & Assoc.
- Internet & Commercial Pubs

Organizational & Institutional Records

- Clubs & Societies
 - Ethnicity
 - Language
 - Interests
- Medical Facilities
- Labor Unions & Trade Associations
- Sports Leagues

Let's Review!

- Research Method
- Organizing Information
- Beginning with Family Sources
- Primary & Secondary Records &
Where to Locate Them

Where Do I Go from Here?

- Continue to Educate Yourself
- Find a Mentor
- Join Relevant Organizations
- Have Fun & Share
- Revisit Basic Research Method

Where Do I Go for Help?

- Archives
- Libraries
- Historical Associations
- Genealogical Societies
- Users Groups

Final Tips

- Walk the Lands of Your Ancestors
- Don't be Library-only Genealogist
- Don't be in a Rush – Lifetime Pursuit
- Destinations are Great , but the true
Pleasure is in the Journey!

The End

Thanks!