

Meyer's Gazetteer Abbreviations

Germany "How to" Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

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OBJECTIVE

This guide will teach you to decipher entire entries in "Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs," or Meyer's gazetteer.

INTRODUCTION

From time to time, you will want to understand Meyer's gazetteer entries in greater detail. Meyer's gazetteer uses many abbreviations and you will need to know what they stand for in order to decipher an entry. Every entry is basically a series of abbreviations and punctuation. You learned in the "Meyer's Gazetteer" "How to" Guide that commas and semi-colons separate items within the entry. Now you need to learn what lies between all those commas and semicolons.

Before completing this guide, you should have completed the following "How to" Guides: "Fraktur," "German Spelling Variations," and "Meyer's Gazetteer."

INSTRUCTION

The FamilySearch wiki has a list of abbreviations and translations for Meyer's gazetteer. To access "Abbreviation Table for Meyers Orts und Verkehrs Lexikon Des Deutschen Reichs," click on the following link or search the wiki for "meyers abbreviation."

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Abbreviation_Table_for_Meyers_Orts_und_Verkehrs_Lexikon_Des_Deutschen_Reichs

Read the introductory material provided with the abbreviation table on the wiki. The abbreviation table gives you the alphabetized abbreviations, what they stand for, and English translations of the German terms. See the example below:

Abbr.	Original	Former entry
Ansdl.	Ansiedlung	Settlement
Anst	Anstalt anstalt	Institute institution (also as part of a

You may also want to read the introductory material in the version of Meyer's gazetteer with introduction and abbreviations by Raymond Wright. This is where you should go if you are ever stumped by an entry. The abbreviations in the book are given in Fraktur which will be helpful for some of the characters that didn't translate well onto the wiki abbreviation table. This version of the gazetteer is available in two red volumes on the B1 floor of the library in the reference

section by the pager admin desk. The library call number is: 943 E5mo 2000.

Before you try to translate an entry with the abbreviation list, look at the extract below. In this extract there are five consecutive entries from the gazetteer. Take a look at the entries and read the entry format descriptions given in the table below the image.

Helpful hint! Items within the entry are set off by commas and semi-colons. Make sure you treat everything between commas and semicolons as one item. Otherwise you may get lost. Remember, if you see an abbreviation for an office, church, etc., but no town is given between the commas/semicolons, then the location of that office, church, etc., was the town of the entry.

Lützelberg, Kap., G., U. Breisach, i. Sasbach Kaiserstuhl.

Lützelbuch, D., Sa.=C.=G., UrA. AG. P E 4,9 km Coburg, BAdo. Gotha; 367 G., F, StdA.; Armenh.

Lützelburg, 1) D., Bah., RB. Schwaben, BA. AG. BAdo. Augsburg, P E 5,7 km Gablingen; 498 G., F, StdA., kath. Pff. — Dazu Wtr. Mutttershofen, E 7,5 km, 31 G.

— 2) Loth., D., r/d Rhein-Marne Kanals; Elz.=Loth., B. Loth., Kr. Saarburg, Rt. AG. Pfalzburg, BAdo. Saargemünd; 692 G.; P, E (L.=Bhf.) 1 km: Zabern-Saarburg, L.-Drulingen (mit EPs L.=Dorf); Ldepl.; StdA., Bnmeist.; ev., kath. Pff.; Ofen-, Schleiffstein-, Kunstlederfbr.; Brenn., Mn., Sandsteinbr.

— 3) Wtr., BA. Bilsbiburg, i. Wurmsham.

	Lützelberg	This is a short-form entry. Notice that the standard information is not given (province, parish, civil registration). The end of the entry says, “s. Sasbach Kaiserstuhl.” This refers you to the entry for Sasbach Kaiserstuhl. You can assume that most of the information given for Sasbach Kaiserstuhl also applies to Lützelberg.
	Lützelbuch	This is a standard entry. The Province (Sa.=C.=G.) and StdA (Lützelbuch) are given, and we know that there were no parish churches because we do not see the abbreviations “ev.”, “kath.”, or “Pfk.”
	Lützelburg 1	This is a standard entry, however, notice that there were also two other towns by the same name. If you don't know more details about the location you are searching for, you may find that you have to search in multiple places.
	Lützelburg 2	This is a standard entry, however, since the entry begins with “—2)” instead of the name of the town, you could miss it. In cases like this, make sure you look for multiple entries with the same name. If you assume this is all part of

	the entry above, you might extract the wrong information.
Lützelburg 3	This is another short-form entry. The information specific to the town is given, and then we are referred to the entry for Wurmsham for additional information.

ACTIVITY

In this activity, we will look at the same extract from Meyer's gazetteer and decipher it together. This time, the entries from the extract are presented one at a time. You will notice that some things are more difficult to decipher. Don't get caught up in understanding every item in the entry. Just do your best and you will learn a great deal about the format and value of this gazetteer.

Lützelberg, Kap., H., A. Breisach, i. Sas-
bach Kaiserstuhl.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
Kap.,	Kapelle	Chapel
H.,	Haus	House
A.	Amt	Government office
s.	Siehe auch	See also
Lützelberg was a location with a chapel and a house. The Amt (or government office) was at Breisach. See also Sasbach Kaiserstuhl		

Lützelbuch, D., Sa.=C.=G., LrA. AG. P E
4,9 km Coburg, BKdo. Gotha; 367 E., F,
StdA.; LArmenh.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
D.	Dorf	Village
Sa.=C.=G.	Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha	Saxony-Coburg-Gotha [Province]
LrA.	Landratsamt	Office of Landrat or county commissioner
AG.	Amtsgericht	Lower court, county court
P	Postanstalt	Post office
E	Eisenbahnstation oder Haltestelle	Railroad station or stop
BKdo.	Bezirkskommando	Military district command
E.	Einwohner	Residents [population]
F[T]	Fernsprecher und telegraph	Telephone and telegraph
StdA	Standesamt	Civil registrar's office
LArmenh.	Landarmenhaus*	State poorhouse
Lützelbuch was a village in Saxony-Coburg-Gotha. The county commissioner's office, county court, post office, and train station were 4.9 km away in Coburg. The military district command was at Gotha. Lützelbuch had 367 residents, a telephone and a telegraph, and a		

civil registrar's office. The state poorhouse was in Lützelbuch.

*LArmenh. is not on the abbreviation list. In cases like this, you need to think through the abbreviation. Since A is capitalized, I assume that L and Armenh create a compound abbreviation. L. is on the abbreviation list. It stands for Land, meaning State. Armenh is not on the list. But if you look it up in a German dictionary, you will see that it is short for Armenhaus, which is a poorhouse.

**Lützelburg, 1) D., Bay., RB. Schwaben,
 BA. AG. BKdo. Augsburg, P E 5,7 km Ga-
 blingen; 498 E., F, StdA., kath. Pfl. — Dazu
 Wlr. Muttershofen, E 7,5 km, 31 E.**

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
D.	Dorf	Village
Bay.	Bayern	Bavaria [Province]
RB.	Regierungsbezirk	Administrative district
BA.	Bezirksamt	District office
AG.	Amtsgericht	Lower court, county court
BKdo.	Bezirkskommando	Military district command
P	Postanstalt	Post office
E	Eisenbahnstation oder Haltestelle	Railroad station or stop
E.	Einwohner	Residents [population]
F	Fernsprecher	Telephone
StdA.	Standesamt	Civil registrar's office
kath.	Katholisch	Catholic
Pfk.	Pfarrkirche	Parish church
Wlr.	Weiler	Hamlet
E	Eisenbahnstation oder Haltestelle	Railroad station or stop
E.	Military district command	Residents [population]

Lützelburg was a village in Bavaria. The administrative district was Schwaben. The district office, county court, and military district command were at Augsburg. There was a post office and a train station 5.7 km away at Gablingen. There were 498 residents, a telephone, a civil registrar's office, and a Catholic parish church. Includes the hamlet Muttershofen, which was 7.5 km from the train station and had 31 residents.

**— 2) Loth., D., r/d Rhein-Marne Kanals;
 Elz.=Loth., B. Loth., Kr. Saarburg, Rt. AG.
 Pfalzburg, BKdo. Saargemünd; 692 E.;
 P, E (L.=Bhf.) 1 km: Zabern-Saarburg, L.-
 Drulingen (mit EPs L.=Dorf); Ldepl.;
 StdA., Bnmeist.; ev., kath. Pfl.; Ofen=
 Schleifstein-, Kunstlederfabr.; Brenn., Mn.,
 Sandsteinbr.**

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
Loth.	Lothringen	Lorraine [district]
D.	Dorf	Village
r/d	Rechts der	To the right of
Els.=Loth.	Elsaß-Lothringen	Alsace-Lorraine [province]
B.	Bezirk	District
Kr.	Kreis	District
Kt.	Kanton	County/state
AG.	Amtsgericht	Lower court, county court
BKdo.	Bezirkskommando	Military district command
E.	Einwohner	Residents [population]
P[T]	Post und Telegraph	Post office with telegraph service
E[T]	Eisenbahnstation mit Telegraph	Railroad station with telegraph service
L.=Bhf.	Lützelburg-Bahnhof	Lützelburg railroad station
L.	Lützelburg	Lützelburg
EPs	Eisenbahnstation nur mit Personenverkehr	Railroad station with only passenger traffic
L.=Dorf	Lützelburg-Dorf	Lützelburg village
Ldepl.	Ladeplatz	Loading dock
StdA.	Standesamt	Civil registrar's office
Bnmeist.	Bahnmeisterei*	Residence of track-master
ev.	Evangelisch	Lutheran
kath.	Katholisch	Catholic
Pfk.	Pfarrkirche	Parish church
Ofen=	Ofenfabrikation**	Furnace manufacturing
Schleifstein=	Schleifsteinfabrikation**	Grindstone manufacturing
Kunstlederfbr.	Kunstlederfabrikation** [fbr. Fabrikation]	Faux leather manufacturing
Brenn.	Brennerei	Distillery
Mln.	Mühlenebenstelle	Mill branch
Sandsteinbr.	Sandsteinbruch	Sandstone quarry
<p>Lützelburg was a village in the district of Lorraine, in the province of Alsace-Lorraine. The village was on the right side of the Rhein-Marne Canal. It was in Kreis Saarbürg and the Kanton of Pfalzburg. The county court was at Pfalzburg. The military district command was at Saargemünd. There were 692 residents, a post office with telegraph service. Lützelburg was on two rail lines. The Zabern-Saarbürg line stopped at the Lützelburg railroad station which was 1 km from the village and had a telegraph service. The Lützelburg-Drulingen line stopped in the village and only accommodated passenger traffic (no freight). The town had a loading dock, a civil registrar's office, and a track-master's station. There was a Lutheran parish church and a Catholic parish church. Lützelburg had oven, grindstone, and faux leather manufacturing. There was also a distillery, a mill branch, and a sandstone quarry.</p>		
<p>*"Bn" is not in the abbreviation list. However, the entry contains two other references to the railroad. Context should help you determine that "Bn" is probably "Bahn," or railroad. Using a dictionary, you can determine that "meist." is probably an abbreviation for "Meisterei," or a maintenance depot. A little extra internet research will tell you that a Bahnmeisterei was the center of operations for the track-master, who was in charge of the maintenance of a defined stretch of track. In addition to being the track-master's professional base of operations, the Bahnmeisterei was also probably his residence.</p>		
<p>**The abbreviation is "fbr" which according to the abbreviation list is "fabrikation." You have to add "fbr" to the two previous words in the list. For example, in English you might say, "In my town we have corn syrup, soap, and candle manufacturing."</p>		

— 3) Wl., BA. Vilsbiburg, j. Wurmsham.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
Wlr.	Weiler	Hamlet
BA.	Bezirksamt	District office
s.	Siehe auch	See also
Lützelburg was a hamlet. Its district office was at Vilsbiburg. See also, Wurmsham.		