Researching digitized civil registers

In 1874 (prussian territories) respectively 1876 (entire German Empire) it was initiated to keep registers of births, marriages and deaths. According to legal requirements the civil registers of all hessian cities and municipalities are kept in a central Archive, called "Hessisches Personenstandsarchiv" (Hessian Archives for birth, marriage and death registers), which is part of the Hessisches Landesarchiv. In order to meet the commitments of data protection a time line for opening them to public was established. Since January 1st 2009 the records are accessible after these time periods have passed:

- Birth registers: 110 years

- Marriage registers: 80 years

- Death registers: 30 years

For further information check out Arcinsys (www.arcinsys.hessen.de), the online-finding aid of the Hessian state archives Marburg. The civil registers can be found in the collections 900-926.

Please visit www.arcinsys.hessen.de

→ *Staatsarchive*

→ *Hessisches Staatsarchiv Marburg*

→ *H. Personenstandsarchiv Hessen*

The digitization of the registers and the necessary preparations for its availability on the internet are in progress. The copies of the already completed registers are also available on Arcinsys.

First, choose the county (*Landkreis*) of the community you are interested in.[1] Please note: To be able to find the right civil or church registers you have to know the place where your ancestors were born, where they were married or where they died. Since

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[1] Simple search offers the „Historical Gazetteer" (*Historisches Ortslexikon*) on LAGIS (www.lagis-hessen.de).

there is no general index of names in our or other archives, it is impossible to trace your ancestors in registers without this knowledge.

After clicking on the „Navigator"-option on the right, a list of all civil registry offices (*Standesämter*) in this county opens.

Click on the „+" sign on the left of the civil registry office concerned.

Choose the type of register – birth (*Geburtsnebenregister*), marriage (*Heiratsneben-register*) or death (*Sterbenebenregister*) you want to see, click „Detailseite" on the right. A thumbnail of the digital copy is visible:

Click on the thumbnail, and the digital copy gets provided via the „DFG-Viewer" which offers comfortable browsing functions. If there is no thumbnail, the register hasn't been made available online yet.

The Hessian Regional History Information System LAGIS (www.lagis-hessen.de) offers an overview about the digital copies provided by the *Personenstandsarchiv*. On the English version of this site, please choose the link „Hessian Vital Record" to search for the registers.

Please note: Neither on Arcinsys nor on LAGIS you can search for names of persons; the registers haven't been indexed yet.