

## **Family Search at the Hessian State Archives of Marburg**

The State Archives of Marburg preserve a great variety of documents relevant for family search. However, as a start we would like to give you some general information about the records we are in charge of. The State Archives of Marburg is the public record office for the northern and eastern parts of the State Hesse and of the historical territories in this region, i.e. the territory of the Landgraves (Landgrafschaft) and later Electorates of Hesse (Kurahessen, until 1866), afterwards the Prussian province of Hesse-Nassau (1866-1945). Between 1807 and 1813 the Electorate of Hesse was occupied by Napoleon and part of the Kingdom of Westphalia, which was ruled by his youngest brother Jerome. Furthermore, it comprises the territories of the abbey of Hersfeld (since 1648), the county of Hanau (since 1736), the abbey and later diocese of Fulda (since 1815), the principality and later republic of Waldeck (since 1929), and a few other territories. Besides the records from state administration, the State Archives of Marburg keep collections of private, municipal, and other origins.

Access to the documents is granted for everyone following the rules of the archival law (Hessisches Archivgesetz) and other regulations including the scale of charges. Currently, we charge 8.- Euro per day (or 40.- Euro per month, or 120.- Euro per year) for the research for private purposes in our reading rooms including the tracing of family history. The printing of xeroopies from microfilmed material at the readerprinter costs 0.30 Euro per sheet. To a limited extent we also offer to do research for you. However, we charge 15.- and 18.- Euro respectively for every quarter of an hour. If you intend to visit our archives, we recommend that you inform us about your visit in advance and provide us with as many details as possible of what you are interested in. Doing so, we will be able to provide the relevant material for you.

Genealogical research should be started with the recording of the family tradition, i.e. the papers passed on from generation to generation. The next step should be printed genealogical sources, followed by civil and church registers and finally supplementary archival sources. Printed sources are the genealogical lists published by the association of genealogical societies in Hesse in their periodicals and books (see the appendix). Each volume has an index of names. There are also genealogical surveys of villages and towns (so-called Ortssippenbücher, i.e. for Marburg in 23 volumes) which are not published but available as manuscripts in the local archives or libraries.

Since 1874 municipalities in Prussia and since 1876 municipalities in the German Reich were obliged to register births, marriages and deaths in civil registers (Geburts-, Heirats- or Sterberegister). Copies of these registers (so-called Zweitbücher) were kept by the administrations of the various counties from all the municipalities situated in the counties. The original birth-registers younger than 110 years, the marriage-registers younger than 80 years and the death-registers younger than 30 years are still kept at the local authorities (so-called Standesamt). The law restricts the right to consult these registers to direct descendants. You have to apply to the Standesamt of the municipality concerned. The ones beyond these time limits are kept at the municipal archives, whereas the copies are kept at the Personenstandsarchiv Hessen, which is a department of the State Archives of Marburg. It is open to the public since 2011. It is important to note: The Personenstandsarchiv is in charge of the copies of civil registers from the State of Hesse as a whole and not only from its northern and the eastern parts. It is the central archives for genealogical questions as far as civil registers since 1874/76 are concerned. The acquisition of the copies (Zweitbücher) is currently in progress; the ones that are accessible are listed on the homepage of the Personenstandsarchiv ([www.staatsarchiv-marburg.de](http://www.staatsarchiv-marburg.de) > Favoriten für Sie > Personenstandsarchiv Hessen) and can be researched in our online-database HADIS ([www.hadis.hessen.de](http://www.hadis.hessen.de)).

Already during the short period of the Kingdom of Westphalia, the mayors of cities, towns and villages were obliged to keep civil registers. These are also available in the State Archives of Marburg (record groups 315 z and Protokolle).

Jewish communities were obliged to keep civil registers from 1824 to 1874/76; you can find them partly in the State Archives of Marburg (record group Protokolle) and partly in the Hessian Main State Archives in Wiesbaden (Hessisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, record group 365: Judenregister aus hessischen Gemeinden).

For the period between the 16<sup>th</sup> century and 1874/76 church registers are the principal source for genealogical research. Most of them are still kept in the parishes. Some are in the diocesan archives (protestant: Landeskirchliches Archiv, Lessingstr. 15a, 34119 Kassel; Zentralarchiv der evangelischen Kirche in Hessen und Nassau, Ahastr. 5a, 64285 Darmstadt); catholic: diocese of Fulda (Bistumsarchiv, Paulustor 5, 36037 Fulda) or diocese of Limburg (Weilburger Str. 16, 65549 Limburg). Generally the diocesan archives keep microfilms of the parish registers; it is very convenient to use these materials.

A few church registers are also kept in the State Archives of Marburg (record groups Ki, 315 k, 318). There is a list of all the older civil, parish and Jewish registers found at our archives; it is organized according to places and can be consulted on our website (Bestände&Benutzung > Genealogie > Standesamtsregister und Kirchenbücher > Verzeichnis genealogischer Quellen). To be able to find the right civil or church registers you have to know the place where your ancestors were born, where their marriage took place or where they died. Without this knowledge it is impossible to trace your ancestors in registers because there is no general index of names in our or other archives.

Ancestors who served as soldiers in the Hessian army may be traced in military registers: so-called Militärgrundbücher (record group 10 d), Maß- und Rangierbücher (10 c) of the regiments; officers in the seniority rolls (Anciennitätslisten, 10 a). To trace private persons and non-commissioned officers it is necessary to know their unit. A (handwritten) survey of the history and filiation of the Hessian armed forces is available in the reading room (record group 10 c, lists).

Troops from Hesse-Kassel, Hanau and Waldeck, which were hired by the British government to fight the American insurgents during the War of Independence, are listed in alphabetical registers called HETRINA which are available in the reading room. The lists provide basic biographical data and the shelf mark of the records from which these data were drawn. The records themselves, of course, provide more information.

Biographical data of emigrants from Kurhessen between 1830 and 1866, from Hanau since 1770 and Fulda since 1764 are in a database in our archives which is not online, yet.

Ancestors who had positions in civil administration are listed in official handbooks (so-called Staatshandbuch) which existed between 1764 and 1930.

For clergymen and their families see the literature in the appendix.

Ancestors who studied at the University of Marburg can be found in the matricula of the university kept at the Archives of the Philipps-Universität Marburg (record group 305 m). Until the year 1830 these are published. They can be consulted in the reading room of the State Archives of Marburg (see also: [www.uni-marburg.de/uniarchiv](http://www.uni-marburg.de/uniarchiv)).

Further genealogical information can be gathered with the help of registers of possessions (so-called Salbücher – record group S, and Kataster – record groups Kat. I and Kat. II-III, 127), registers of contracts and mortgages (Währschafts- und Hypothekenprotokolle – record group Protokolle), registers of marriage contracts (so-called Konsistorialprotokolle, Ehestandsbücher – record group Protokolle). Moreover, court records (Gerichte) and those of prosecution officers (Staatsanwaltschaften) provide information about individuals. Further important record groups are those of the county administration (Landratsämter, 180) and municipalities (Städte, 330; Gemeinden, 331).

The greatest obstacle for your research besides the German language may be the ancient German handwriting which was in use until 1941. Reading aids can be found on websites and are provided as xerocopies in our archives. Ideally, you should have a reading knowledge of German.

## Appendix

### Supplementary Information on Institutions, Literature und Archival Documents - A Selection -

Institut für Personengeschichte, Bensheim ([www.personengeschichte.de](http://www.personengeschichte.de))  
Gesellschaft für Familienkunde in Kurhessen und Waldeck e.V., Kassel ([www.gfkwd.de](http://www.gfkwd.de))  
Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen, Berlin ([www.berufsgenealogie.net](http://www.berufsgenealogie.net))

#### Literature and Archival Documents:

Periodicals on Hessian Genealogy:

Nachrichten der Gesellschaft für Familienkunde in Kurhessen und Waldeck, 1925-1941  
Hessische Familienkunde, 1948 ff.  
Forschungen zur hessischen Familien- und Heimatkunde, 1948 ff.  
Hessische Ahnenlisten, 1960 ff.  
Trauregister aus Kurhessen und Waldeck, 2004 ff.

Hessian Civil Servants:

Karl E. Demandt: Der Personenstaat der Landgrafschaft Hessen im Mittelalter. Ein „Staatshandbuch“ Hessens vom Ende des 12. bis zum Anfang des 16. Jahrhunderts (VÖ der Historischen Kommission für Hessen und Waldeck, Bd. 42), Marburg 1981  
Franz Gundlach: Die hessischen Zentralbehörden von 1247-1604. Dritter Band. Dienerbuch (VÖ der Historischen Kommission für Hessen und Waldeck, Bd. 16), Marburg 1930  
Thomas Klein: Leitende Beamte der allgemeinen Verwaltung der preußischen Provinz Hessen-Nassau und in Waldeck 1867-1945 (Quellen und Forschungen zur hessischen Geschichte, Bd. 70), Darmstadt und Marburg 1988

Civil Servants of Waldeck:

Hermann Steinmetz: Die Waldeckischen Beamten vom Mittelalter bis zur Zeit der Befreiungskriege, in: Geschichtsblätter für Waldeck 44 (1952) bis 64 (1975)  
Staatsarchiv Marburg, Bestand M 91 (Steinmetz, Hermann): genealogische Auswertungen

Ministers:

Die althessischen Pfarrer der Reformationszeit, bearb. v. Oskar Hütteroth mit Nachträgen von Hilmar Milbradt, Marburg 1966  
Kurhessisch-Waldeckisches Pfarrerbuch (VÖ der Historischen Kommission für Hessen, Bd. 33); Bd. 1 Kirchenkreis Wolfhagen, bearb. v. Gerhard Bätzing, 1975; Bd. 2 Sprengel Hanau, bearb. v. Max Aschkewitz, 1984; Bd. 3 Kirchenkreis Homberg, bearb. v. Gerhard Bätzing, 1988; Bd. 4 Kirchenkreis Kassel-Land, bearb. v. Ernst Werner Magdanz, 2002; Bd. 5 Kirchenkreis Hofgeismar, bearb. v. Jochen Desel, 2004

Professors and Students of the University of Marburg:

Catalogus professorum academiae Marburgensis. Die akademischen Lehrer der Philipps-Universität in Marburg von 1527 bis 1910, bearb. v. Franz Gundlach, Marburg 1927; Bd. 2 von 1911-1971, bearb. v. Inge Auerbach, Marburg 1979; Bd. 3,1.2. von 1971-1991, bearb. v. Inge Auerbach, Marburg 2000-2001

Personen- und Ortsregister zu der Matrikel und den Annalen der Universität Marburg 1527-1652, bearb. v. Wilhelm Falckenheiner, Marburg 1904

Suchbuch für die Marburger Universitätsmatrikel von 1653 bis 1830, bearb. v. M. E. Habicht, Darmstadt 1927.

Catalogus studiosorum scholae Marpurgensis 1527-1636, 1653-1830, ND in 2 Bden, Nendeln 1980

Friedrich Wilhelm Strieder: Grundlage zu einer Hessischen Gelehrten und Schriftstellergeschichte, 1.-15. Band, 1781-1806 (Fortsetzung von Dr. Ludwig Wachler u.a.)

Emigrants:

Karl Stumpp: Die Auswanderung aus Deutschland nach Russland in den Jahren 1763 bis 1862, Tübingen 1974

Schiffslisten von USA-Einwanderern: [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org)

Hamburger Passagierlisten: [www.hamburger-passagierlisten.de](http://www.hamburger-passagierlisten.de)

Bremer Passagierlisten: [www.passagierlisten.de](http://www.passagierlisten.de)