



German Research: Alsace-Lorraine

Germany “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Activity

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INSTRUCTIONS

Refer to the following “How to” Guides on the *FamilySearch* Wiki to help you solve this activity:

- [Alsace-Lorraine: Translating German and French Names and Place Names](#)
- [Alsace-Lorraine: Department Archive Records Online](#)
- [Alsace-Lorraine: Converting French Republican Calendar Dates](#)

QUESTIONS

1. Translating given names:

What is the French equivalent of the German male name Friedrich? Hint: Review the Translating German and French Names and Place Names handout.	
What is the French equivalent of the German female name Margaretha? Hint: Use the First Names Translator on NamepediA .	
What is the German equivalent of the French male name Guillaume?	
What is the German equivalent of the French female name Françoise?	

2. Translating surnames:

What is the French equivalent of the German surname Weber?	
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<p>Hint: Double-check that the translated word is a French surname by looking it up on geopatronyme.com.</p>	
<p>What is the German equivalent of the French surname Petit?</p> <p>Hint: Use an online translator, such as Google Translate.</p>	
<p>What is the French equivalent of the German surname Schäfer?</p>	
<p>How many people in Haut-Rhin have the surname Berger between 1916 and 1940?</p> <p>Hint: Look up Berger on geopatronyme.com, select the year range, and look at the department list on the right.</p>	

3. Translating place names:

<p>What is the French commune equivalent of the German Gemeinde Maursmünster?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Communes d'Alsace-Lorraine FranceGenWeb Wiki page.</p>	
<p>What is the German Gemeinde equivalent of the French commune Magny?</p>	
<p>What is the French commune equivalent of the German Gemeinde Jungholz?</p>	

4. Accessing records on the [Archives du Bas-Rhin website](#):

<p>Is the commune of Ringendorf in the department of Bas-Rhin?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Communes of the Bas-Rhin Department Wikipedia page. There are 514 communes in Bas-Rhin.</p>	
<p>Does the commune of Dachstein in Bas-Rhin have a Catholic parish, a Protestant parish, or both?</p>	

<p>Hint: Look up Dachstein on the Bas-Rhin website and see which religion is listed above the image of the books on the shelf.</p>	
<p>What is the name of the child being baptized in the Catholic parish of Tieffenbach on 26 July 1788, and what town are his parents residing in?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Latin Genealogical Word List to look up the date. The name and town are in the column to the left of the baptismal entry.</p>	
<p>Open the 1840 civil marriages book for Tieffenbach. In entry #4, who is Christine Eberhard marrying, and how might her husband's name be written if he is German?</p> <p>Hint: Locate entry #4 (listed with N° 4 in the column to the left of the marriage entry; note that the surnames here are listed first). Then use NamepediA to translate the French name into its German counterpart.</p>	

5. Accessing records on the [Archives du Haut-Rhin website](#):

<p>Is the commune of Rahling in Haut-Rhin?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Communes of the Haut-Rhin Department Wikipedia page. There are 366 communes in Haut-Rhin.</p>	
<p>What is the French name for the German Gemeinde of Ottendorf in Haut-Rhin?</p>	
<p>What is the name of the person who died in Courtavon on 14 December 1866?</p> <p>Hint: Look at the small yearly index directly after the 1866 Courtavon death records.</p>	
<p>What image is Agathe's death record on?</p>	

6. Republican calendar practice:

<p>What date is 3 December 1800 (Gregorian calendar) in the French Republican calendar?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Napoleon.org calculator for the French Republican Calendar.</p>	
<p>What date is 30 Messidor an V (French Republican calendar) in the Gregorian calendar?</p>	

7. Putting it all together: Find **Willmann** (the husband's surname) in the "**1793–an X**" decennial marriage table (i.e., ten-year marriage index) of **Walf**. Translate his **given name** and convert the **marriage date** to the current/Gregorian calendar.

<p>What is the French commune equivalent of the German Gemeinde Walf?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Communes d'Alsace-Lorraine FranceGenWeb Wiki page.</p>	
<p>What French department of Alsace-Lorraine is the commune in the previous question in? (This lets you know which department website to refer to for records.)</p> <p>Hint: Use the various commune Wikipedia pages, such as the Communes of the Bas-Rhin Department page.</p>	
<p>What years does the first decennial table for marriages in Valff cover?</p> <p>Hint: Type Valff into the search bar on the Archives du Bas-Rhin website. Right-click on the website and select Translate to English.</p>	
<p>Open the "1793–an X" marriage decennial book. What image is the surname Willmann found on, what is his given name, his marriage date, and his bride's name?</p> <p>Hint: The index is pseudo-alphabetical by the husband's surname— all the surnames starting with the letter V are listed together, but otherwise not alphabetically.</p>	

<p>What date is 21 Floréal 10 in the Gregorian calendar?</p> <p>Hint: Use the Napoleon.org calculator for the French Republican Calendar.</p>	
<p>What is the German equivalent of the French male name Jacques?</p> <p>Hint: Review the Translating German and French Names and Place Names handout or use the First Names Translator on Namepedia.</p>	
<p>Open the “an X” civil marriage record book. What image is Jacques Willmann’s marriage located on, and how is his name written? Who is he marrying?</p> <p>Hint: The names are written in the margin.</p>	

[Click here](#) to check your work against the Answer Key. Remember, this will let you know you’ve mastered the Guide!